

Tata Sol

Script based on a Native American folktale from Costa Rica

Adapted by Karin Stein

Setting: in the center, the sky and clouds. On the sides: an Indian village with corn fields. Tata Sol sleeps among the clouds.

Narrator 1 The Cabecar (Cah-BEH-car) Indians of Costa Rica know that the sun makes everything grow. The sun brings warmth and light, and its color is captured by the golden ears of corn that the Cabecar Indians rely on year after year for their subsistence.

Narrator 2 Because the sun is so important to the Indians, they call it “Tata Sol” (Tah-tah SOLE), or “Father Sun.”

Narrator 1 Tata Sol shines his light all day long, and at the end of the day, he is very tired. He falls into a deep, deep sleep.

Narrator 2 The Cabecar children know that if it weren't for the mischievous Hurricane Children in the clouds, Tata Sol would not be able to wake up and do his work. Every morning, the Cabecar children get up before the sun and look at the sky.

A few children peer at the clouds from the sides.

Narrator 1 They want to see if the Hurricane children are doing their job. The Hurricane children are called that because they are always swirling among the clouds, looking for ways to tease and cause trouble, the way some children love to do it!.

Tata Sol starts snoring loudly. His long, yellow and orange mustache strands are lying on his cloud mattress and on his chest, all messy and curled.

(You might want to sew four colored ribbons onto an elastic band loop that the actor wears around his head, just below his nose.)

Narrator 3 *Walks on stage for the first time.*

You see, the Hurricane Children tug at Tata Sol's long mustache hairs to wake him up. Oh, here comes the first one! We'll see she/he's up to.

The first of the four Hurricane Children tiptoes on stage, looks around, points at Tata Sol, and giggles. He/she tiptoes up to Tata Sol, picks up one of his mustache strands, straightens it out and tugs at it lightly. Tata Sol doesn't stir. The Hurricane Child tugs again (not too hard, as not to hurt Tata Sol's face!).

Hurricane Child 1 Tata Sol, wake up! *(In a normal but strong speaking voice.)*

Tata Sol lets out one big snore and rolls the other way. Keeps tugging lightly while action continues.

Narrator 3 Uh-oh. I believe we need some help here. Ah, there comes the second Hurricane Child!

As Hurricane Child (HC) 2 approaches, HC 1 signals to come quicker.

HC 1 Come, help me!

HC 2 tiptoes quickly over to HC 1, bends down to grab another mustache strand straightens it out. Both Hcs tug at the straightened-out color ribbons. Audience should be able to see ribbons straightened out away from the ground.

HC 1 & 2 Tata Sol, wake up! *(Together, a little louder than the first time.)*

Tata Sol lifts his head once, then slumps back onto his mattress. Meanwhile, the Cabecar children who have come out to see the sun rise, start pointing to the sky as they talk among themselves from the Indian village. Then they sit still again, watching the action in the sky.