

PERUSAL SCRIPT

THE ADVENTURES OF HIIAKA

A Story from the Mythology of Hawaii

Adapted by Genevieve Aichele

Theatre Tales from Around The World *SERIES*



Newport, Maine

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THE ADVENTURES OF HIIAKA

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CHARACTERS — 5 F, 3M, 9 either

Narrators (2), M or F

Pele, (*PAY-lay*) goddess of fire & volcanoes, F

Lohiau, (*Low-hee-AH-oo*) King of Kauai, M

Hiiaka, (*Hee-ee-AH-kah*) Pele's youngest sister, F

Hopoe, (*Ho-PO-ay*) friend to Hiiaka, F

Pau-o-palae, (*PAH-oo-oh-pah-LAH-ay*) goddess of ferns, Hiiaka's companion, F

Wahine-omao, (*Wah-HEE-nay-oh-MAH-oh*) Hiiaka's companion, F

Mahiki, (*Mah-HEE-Kee*) the Whirlwind, M

Village Chief, M or F

Pili (*PEA-lee*) & **Noho** (*NOH-ho*), the Dragons, M or F

2 Bird Scouts M or F

Pana-ewa, (*PAH-nah-AY-wah*) Reptile Man, M

2 Dragons, M or F

Elementals (Fire, Ferns, Water, Fog, Wind, Villagers), M and F

Source material: *Myths & Legends of Hawaii*, by W.D. Westervelt, 1987

PRONUNCIATION OF HAWAIIAN NAMES: with two or more vowels following each other in a word, each vowel is pronounced as a syllable as in Hiiaka as Hee-ee-AH-kah.

THE ADVENTURES OF HIIAKA by Genevieve Aichele. 5f, 3m, 9either. About 20 minutes. Fantasy costumes. Several locations on the islands of Hawaii and Kauai. Hawaii's rich mythology and lore provide the story for this script dealing with love, honor, and friendship. Pele, Goddess of fire—now residing in the volcano Kilauea, on the island of Hawaii—sends her little sister, Hiiaka, on a quest to rescue Pele's lover, Lohiau, from the island of Kauai. Pele gives special gifts of power to her little sister to help accomplish the tasks appointed to her, along with two companions. In return, Pele promises to keep Hiiaka's mortal friend Hopoe safe. Hiiaka and her companions battle many minor gods and annoyances along the way, but it takes them much longer than expected. When Hiiaka finally returns with Lohiau, she finds that Pele has become impatient and broken her promise to her little sister. Lohiau sees Pele's true nature and marries Hiiaka instead. This is only one of many tales in the epic sagas about Pele and her family. Part of the TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD SERIES. **ORDER #3142**

Genevieve Aichele is Founding Executive Director of New Hampshire Theatre Project in Portsmouth, and has performed, directed and taught theatre arts both nationally and internationally for over 35 years, including 20 years of directing the NHTP Youth Repertory Company.

Genevieve has written dozens of story theatre scripts for use both onstage and in the classroom. Her adult scripts include *Neighborhoods* (2001 Portsmouth Spotlight Community Arts Award); original adaptations of *Lysistrata* and *Finding the Prince*; and *Dreaming Again*, commissioned in 2011 by the NH Humanities Council.

As a storyteller, Genevieve performs with musician Randy Armstrong in *World Tales*. Their two CD's have won numerous national and international awards. Her first audiobook recording, *Forest Secrets* by Tracy Kane, was released in 2012. *Ocean Secrets*, her first novel for young readers co-written with Tracy Kane, was released in May 2014.

Genevieve received the 2001 New Hampshire Governors Award for Excellence in Arts in Education and the 2008 NH Theatre Award for her work with youth. In 2002, she received an award for Outstanding Achievement in American Theatre from the New England Theatre Conference.

THE ADVENTURES OF HIIAKA

SCENE 1 – Pele Comes to Hawaii, and Hiiaka Meets Hopoe

NARRATOR 1: Pele, Goddess of Fire, left her parents and journeyed around the South Sea islands, seeking a permanent home. She arrived on the beautiful island of Kauai in Hawaii, where she fell in love with the king of Kauai, named Lohiau.

LOHIAU: Marry me, Pele, and stay here on Kauai forever.

PELE: You are a good lover, Lohiau, but I must find a home of my own.

NARRATOR 2: Pele continued her travels until she came to the largest island of Hawaii, where she dug an enormous firepit. This mighty volcano is named Kilauea and it became her permanent home.

PELE: Warm and cozy!

NARRATOR 1: Pele summoned all the members of her family to join her.

PELE: Brothers and sisters, come and live with me in Kilauea!

NARRATOR 2: Pele's family came from all over the South Seas, including her youngest sister Hiiaka. Hiiaka was very beautiful and sweet-natured, and she did not care for living in the middle of the volcano.

NARRATOR 1: One day, Hiiaka wandered down to the seashore. She saw a young woman dancing.

HIIAKA: Excuse me, but what is that beautiful dance you were doing?

HOPOE: It is a very old dance, called the hula.

HIIAKA: I would like to learn that dance.

HOPOE: Let me teach you! I am called Hopoe.

HIIAKA: And I am Hiiaka.

HOPOE: (*kneeling*) Hiiaka, the sister of Pele. You are a goddess!

HIIAKA: (*helping HOPOE to rise*) Please, please, I am only the youngest sister. I would like to have a friend.

NARRATOR 2: So the two of them became friends. Hopoe taught Hiiaka the ancient hula dances. She showed her how to make leis from the fragrant flowers, and how to weave sweet-scented skirts from hala fronds.

NARRATOR 1: They wandered in the lovely gardens eating mountain apples, and swam in the blue, blue ocean, seeking the fish of the coral caves.

HOPOE: Sweet Hiiaka, I will be your friend forever.

HIIAKA: Even if I live in a volcano?

HOPOE: No matter what, I will always be your friend.

HIIAKA: And I, Hiiaka, pledge my eternal friendship to you also, Hopoe.

NARRATOR 2: But one day, Hiiaka heard her sister Pele calling to her.

PELE: *from offstage*) Hiiaka, little sister, come home to me now.

HIIAKA: I must go, Hopoe, but I will return as soon as I can.

HOPOE: Farewell, dear friend.

SCENE 2 – Pele Sends Hiiaka On a Quest

NARRATOR 1: Hiiaka went to the home of her sister Pele, deep in the pit of molten lava, filled with leaping fire and sulphur smoke. The goddess Pele was her usual imperious, moody and demanding self.

PELE: Well, little sister, you certainly took your time getting here. And what are those things around your neck?

HIIAKA: This is a lei necklace, made for me by my dearest friend, Hopoe.

PELE: Dearest friend? Do you love her better than your own sister?

HIIAKA: No, no, of course not, Pele. You are my sister and I love you deeply.

PELE: Good, because I have a task for you. I am burning with love for Lohiau, the king I left behind on the island of Kauai. You must go and get him for me.

HIIAKA: But why must I go, Pele? Why not one of our other sisters?

PELE: Because I know you will obey me, little sister, when no one else will. Go to Kauai and get my husband. You have forty days only, no longer. Go now, without another moment's delay.

HIIAKA: Alright, sister, I will go. But you must give me your oath that you will look out for my friend Hopoe while I am gone.

PELE: Oh, I will most certainly take care of your little friend.

NARRATOR 2: So Hiiaka climbed out of the volcano pit, chanting as she left:

HIIAKA: The traveler is ready to go for the loved one,

The husband of the dream.

I stand, I journey while you remain.

NARRATOR 1: When Pele heard the loving words of her sister, she called out:

PELE: Wait, Hiiaka. I want to give you a gift.

NARRATOR 2: Pele gave Hiiaka some of her divine powers, and also a pa-u, a magic skirt with the power of flashing lightning.

PELE: These will help you defeat the demons and dragons you will meet on your journey.

NARRATOR 1: Pele also gave Hiiaka two companions: Pau-o-palae, Goddess of the ferns.

(PAU-O-PALAE enters.)

PAU-O-PALAE: : I will be your kapu, Hiiaka, your protector.

NARRATOR 2: And Wahine-omao, a human woman.

(WAHINE enters.)

WAHINE: I will be your companion forever, Hiiaka.

NARRATOR 1: Hiiaka welcomed her new companions, but in her heart she missed Hopoe.

HIIAKA: She is my aikane, my bosom friend.

PELE: Come, little sister, it is time to leave on your journey to Kauai.

SCENE 3 – The Journey Begins

NARRATOR 2: So Hiiaka and her two companions journeyed to Kauai to find the lover of Pele. On the way, they had many, many adventures. The land was filled with all sorts of ancient monsters, who brought much sorrow to the people of Hawaii.

HIIAKA: We must free our beautiful land from these evil demons.

NARRATOR 1: The first demon they fought was Mahiki, the Whirlwind, who lived in the Waipio Valley.

(MAHIKI enters in a swirl of wind.)

NARRATOR 2: When Mahiki saw Hiiaka and her companions approaching, he fled inland and hid himself in a cloud of dust.

MAHIKI: Come and get me, little Hiiaka!

NARRATOR 1: The three girls chased Mahiki, but each time they came close to him, he fled swiftly to a new place.

MAHIKI: I'm over here!

(HIIAKA and her companions follow.)

No, over here!

(They follow again.)

Ha! Ha! Fooled you again!

NARRATOR 2: Hiiaka was angry that they could not catch Mahiki.

HIIAKA: We must continue on our journey and can spend no more time here. But I will destroy you, Mahiki, if I can.

MAHIKI: Ha! You'll never catch me, little goddess!

SCENE 4 – The River

NARRATOR 1: Hiiaka and her companions continued on until they came to a waterfall on the river Wailuku. Many villagers were gathered here, laying fish, sweet potatoes and other kinds of food on two large logs in the river.

HIIAKA: Greetings, friends, we wish to cross this river.

CHIEF: This river is haunted by two dragons, Pili and Noho. You must offer them gifts if you wish to cross.

PAU-O-PALAE: : Is that why you are putting food on these logs?

CHIEF: The logs are the tongues of Pili and Noho. If we give them food, they will sometimes act as a bridge and take us across the river.

WAHINE: Sometimes?

CHIEF: Not always. They are dragon-gods and very capricious.

HIIAKA: These are evil creatures. I will destroy them.

CHIEF: How will you do that, little girl?

PAU-O-PALAE: : This is Hiiaka, sister to the goddess Pele.

WAHINE: She has many powers.

NARRATOR 2: Hiiaka walked to the river side. The dragons called to each other:

PILI: Here comes a little goddess, one of our family.

NOHO: What of that? She can cross only if she pays, like everyone else.

HIIAKA: Dragons, I wish to cross this river.

PILI: Sorry, cousin!

NOHO: Pay up if you want to cross.

HIIAKA: I will pay you nothing. I am a goddess and you are my servants.

PILI: Servants, did you hear that?

NOHO: How dare you speak to us that way?

NARRATOR 1: The angry dragons churned the water into whirlpools.

CHIEF: These are dragon-gods, and yet you dispute with them!

HIIAKA: Yes, they are dragon-gods, but when I attack them they will die.

CHIEF: I bet all the wealth of my village that you cannot defeat these dragons, little girl.

HIIAKA: I have no property, but I wager my life against your property. The dragons will die.

NARRATOR 2: A great battle began. Hiiaka struck the dragons with her magic skirt in which was concealed the divine power of lightning.

NARRATOR 1: Pili and Noho tried to escape, but Hiiaka struck them again and again until their bodies were changed to blocks of stone.

CHIEF: You have done it! You have defeated them!

HIIAKA: I have made the way safe for you and your people. Now I give you back your property and the land of the dragons.

NARRATOR 2: The people cheered for Hiiaka.

(CHIEF and VILLAGERS cheer.)

NARRATOR 1: But Mahiki the Whirlwind Demon blew in and showered her with dust, then blew away again.

MAHIKI: You can catch dragons, Hiiaka, but you'll never catch me!

3 more scenes and 5 more pages to the end:

NARRATOR 2: But that, my friends, is another story.

THE END

NOTES ON STAGING

The Elementals are a group of actors who play non-speaking “extra” roles. These can be additional actors, or characters from other scenes can double as Elementals. The movement of the Elementals adds magic and mystery to a production without the need for elaborate scenery or set pieces, and also adds important roles for shy young actors who don’t want to memorize or speak.

Staging examples:

- Elementals with strips of red and gold fabric can be the fire surrounding Pele.
- Elementals with strips of grey fabric can become the wind around Mahiki.
- Elementals holding a “river” of blue cloth can be the river where the dragons live. Another strip of brown cloth can be the “bridge.”
- Pan-e-wa’s “fog body” can be created with strips of white fabric.
- Elementals can hold cardboard lightning shapes and/or slapsticks or thunder sticks for the storm.
- Elementals with strips of green become Pau-o-Palae’s ferns and branches.
- Dragons and other large creatures can become larger with Elementals forming their bodies using cloth or cardboard pieces.

Other plays in the **THEATRE TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD SERIES**

The Adventures of Hiiaka (Hawaii) Order #3142

The Children of Lir (Celtic) Order #3141

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