

A Shamanic Solstice Story Summer 2007

by Xia

CAST LIST

Soundscape Artists, Music Director: David Jacks

David Jacks, Miranda Rondeau, Farva, Sherry Howey, Nichole Howey, Chokae',
Kathleen Forrest, Howard Hanson, Jean Rogers

Greek Chorus

Pat Lentz, Lora Cain, Jeaninne Payne, Christine Papalexis

Sun Goddess

Haize

Mother Demeter

Marcella Lentz-Pope

She-ro/First Daughter

Kathryn Payne

Fire-Bowl Dancers

Kathryn, Zach, Ariel, Patrick

Animal Guardians (In Order of Appearance)

DOG – Patrick Humphreys

BUTTERFLY – Karen Tate

PIG – RA

CAT – Ariel Miasnik

ANT – Drew Carroll

RAVEN – T'Lark Galeas

COYOTE – Zach T-N

TURTLE – Pythia

SPIDER – Kamala

[Opening Music begins as Greek Chorus and players get into place.]

Opening Places: Haize from Garden. Kathryn, Drew & Patrick—stage right. Ariel & Zach (with fire bowl)—stage left. Marcella—stage right. Dog—stage right. Butterfly—stage left. Pig—stage right. Cat—stage left. Ant—stage right. Raven—stage left. Coyote—rear center. Turtle—stage right. Spider Woman—stage left.

Christine: Long ago, in a time when creation was alive with great magic, people of the Earth awoke as the light of the Sun Goddess showed her bright and beautiful face upon the land.

[Pause. Haize, as Sun Goddess, enters from her Garden during the above. Music, now with drumming, continues as Sun Goddess dances. Lighter drumming continues throughout dance.]

Christine: Each day the Sun Goddess danced her magical dance across the sky. As she swirled, her magnificent luminosity sent waves of glorious life upon the people.

[Kathryn, Drew, & Patrick enter stage right. Ariel & Zach (with fire bowl) enter stage left and dance with and around the Sun Goddess.]

Christine: She made their crops grow and the people knew that without her light and love, they would be in darkness and their lives would be cold and empty. Their children would know hunger and despair. And on the longest day of the year, when her light seemed to burn eternally, the people would build bonfires in honor of her gift of warmth and light. They would sing and dance and leap across the fire rejoicing in the power of the Sun.

[Christine, give one breath and then begin song and choir members from music area & Greek Chorus sing the following while the young people jump the fire. No guitar needed.]

Power of the Sun we honor you this night.
We leap across the fire to keep our spirits bright.
Power of the Sun we honor you this night.
We leap across the fire to keep our spirits bright.

Christine: After their night of Solstice revelry, when the bonfires burned low, the people rested and dreamed.

[All but Kathryn exit tiredly back the way they came. Zach carries fire bowl with him stage left and leaves it in designated place. Dream Music. Kathryn lays down to sleep center stage. Enter Marcella stage right as Demeter, the Earth Mother, moving and dancing gently.]

Lora: And in their dreaming the Earth Mother visited them. The Woman of Growing Things danced lovingly among the trees and flowers, calling the young plants from the ground, encouraging them to fullness. She moved gently among her human children too, touching them, nourishing them for the great work that lay ahead.

Lora: They dreamt blissfully, remembering the journey they'd made in the spring to find courage to plant the gardens of their dreams. While they dreamed, the Mother gave to each a golden cloth she'd made into a magical bag, a Golden Pouch of Power, knowing that Summer's journey would require great strength. She softly blessed them to remind them they had all they needed within to grow the garden of their heart's desires. She told them there were teachers all around, to look to the knowledge of the plants and trees. She showed them images of their animal kin who would offer them great lessons in strength and how to live with the changing nature of the seasons.

Lora: At last the Earth Mother gently shook the First Daughter saying, "Awaken daughter, the Sun is showing her face and it is time to begin Summer's journey. Your garden is growing, but weeds are choking your young plants. The ground has grown dry and the roots are crying in thirst. There is much work to be done."

Jeaninne: The young maiden stretched from her sleep and said in a small voice to the Earth Mother, "I can't. It's too much work. I have no strong muscles. I am not big. I cannot grow the garden of my dreams."

Lora: The Earth Mother tilted her head in knowingness, "Daughter, strength to make your world a garden does not come from size or muscles. Now rise. The day has begun."

Jeaninne: "Then what is strength and where do I find it?" she asked folding her arms with just a little petulance.

Lora: The Woman of Growing Things placed a Golden Pouch of Power around her neck saying, "That, Daughter, is a journey each person must make for themselves. Now, you must be off and find that which you seek." And the Earth Mother withdrew to continue her magical work.

[Earth Mother exits stage right and Patrick enters as DOG stage right bounding from behind piano and woofs after "woofed loudly "line.]

Pat: The First Daughter had barely begun her journey when a friendly Dog bounded over the hill and abruptly stopped beside her and woofed loudly.

Jeaninne: “Well, hellooo you cute boy,” said the Maiden as she scratched behind his ears.

Pat: “Hello, what ‘cha doing?” asked the excited dog.“

Jeaninne: “I’m looking for strength so that I might care for the garden of my dreams,” said the young girl.

Pat: “Oh that’s easy,” said the hound as he jumped happily around. “Strength is love. When someone scratches my tummy or behind my ears I feel soooo strong.” The Maiden scratches his tummy and he woofs again saying, “me love me love me love me. Aahhhhh, that’s good! That’s why I collect these rose petals to remind me that strength is compassion and unconditional love.”

Jeaninne: “Oh,” said the Maiden, “may I take a rose for my Pouch of Power so that I might have the strength I need to grow my garden?”

Pat: “Woof” said the dog as the young one placed the rose petal in her bag.

[Dog exits stage right and Karen enters stage left as Butterfly Woman.]

Christine: As the happy hound bounded away, a beautiful Butterfly appeared to the maiden and fluttered gently around. “What is it you seek, young one?” asked the Butterfly Woman.

Jeaninne: “I journey to find strength. I just met a Dog who told me that strength is love and gave me roses to aid me in my quest.”

Christine: “Yes,” said Butterfly Woman. “Strength is love, but it is so much more. For me, strength is surrender.”

Jeaninne: The Maiden looked at the Butterfly with disbelief. “How could surrender be strength?”

Christine: “Well,” said the wise Butterfly, “change is inevitable and when it is time for me to transform from a caterpillar to the form you see before you now, I must surrender to change—yes, even die in order for this transformation to happen. So I keep these hibiscus flowers to remind me of the great power that can come with surrender. Come Daughter, take a flower as a sweet reminder to embrace the power of transformation.”

[During this next Butterfly exits stage left and RA enters stage right as Pig.]

Jeaninne: As the Butterfly Woman drifted away, the Maiden saw coming down the path towards her a contented Pig and could not help but ask, "Greetings, Sister Pig. I journey in search of strength and could not help but wonder what strength you carry."

Pat: The Pig snorted with immense satisfaction saying, "Oh that's easy. I carry this alfalfa to remind me to awaken every day and be grateful for my prosperity. Why, just look around and see all the abundance given to us. I am a prosperous child of the Earth Mother. Please sister of mine, share my alfalfa, and let us be grateful for all the abundance and prosperity that comes to us every day. That is great strength."

[Pig exits stage right and Ariel enters stage left as Cat.]

Lora: With pleasure the Pig wandered on and around the corner came a sleek, self-assured Cat that looked around her as if she knew the secret to everything. She paused and listened as if hearing what none other could hear. She stretched, her paws reaching out to the Maiden and looked deeply in her eyes. "Meowwww," she drawled lazily. "Can I help you?"

Jeaninne: The young Maiden tentatively reached out to stroke the beautiful black fur. "Well, I'm on a journey to find strength to grow the garden of my dreams and so far I have found that strength is love, gratefulness, surrender, and transformation."

Lora: "Meowwww. Yes, but strength is also intuition and trusting yourself, what some call psychic powers." She stopped and began cleaning her fur. "Hhmmmm, sometimes it's self-reliance," and then rubbing against the First Daughter, "and sometimes it's letting someone scratch behind your ears. Meowwww. Here take some of my witch hazel to remind you to listen to your intuition and to always trust yourself."

[Cat exits stage left. Enter Drew stage right as Ant. During the first exchange Ant keeps walking with steadfast focus until Maiden steps in front of him.]

Jeaninne: As the sassy Cat sauntered off, the Maiden caught sight of an Ant walking past her. "Hey, Mr. Ant. . . Excuse me. Hey." But the Ant would not stop. "EXCUUSSE ME," she said stepping in front of him.

Pat: The red Ant came to an abrupt halt. "What?" he said. "I have things to do."

Jeaninne: "Well," said the young girl, "I just wanted to ask you what makes a tiny guy like you able to carry things heavier than you are? What's the secret of your strength?"

Pat: “Oh, well,” said the Ant, “some call it tenacity, some say I’m single-minded . . . like that’s a bad thing. Some have called me a workaholic. I like to think of it as . . . purpose-driven. When you have purpose, and it’s important to you, you just never give up. I bet if you had something you believed in, you’d never give up either. Look, I gotta run but please take some of my wormwood to remind you that strength isn’t about size, it’s determination.”

[Ant exits stage right.]

Jeaninne: “Whew, he could really exhaust a girl,” said the Maiden as the Ant continued with his never-ending task-list. Then out of the shadow came a loud caw.

[T’Lark caawwws as she enters as Raven from stage left.]

Pat: “Caaww,” said a sleek black Raven as she walked over to the Maiden looking with great admiration at her golden Pouch of Power. “Caaww. Pretty. Pretty gold. Pretty. What for?” asked the Raven.

Jeaninne: “Well,” said the First Daughter, “It was a gift from Earth Mother when she sent me on this quest for strength. What makes you so strong, that with feathers alone you can lift yourself above the land and soar among the winds?”

Pat: “Caaww. Strength is shape-shifting, understanding of law. . . caaww . . . only through understanding what is, can you shift it, create what you want it to be. That is magic and what could be stronger than the law of Natural Magic. Gravity says I should not ride the winds but by understanding gravity, I make it work for me. Caaaww. Here take some of this oak bark to remind you of the law that exists all around you and if you respect it, work with it, you can find great strength in its Magic.” And with a final Caaww, the great and majestic bird lifted away.

[Raven exits stage left. Zach enters as Coyote from rear down center aisle howling.]

Lora: It was then that the Maiden heard the howl and laughter of a Coyote who came dancing along the path. As the Coyote got closer, the Maiden realized the silly Coyote was actually chasing its own tail and she began to laugh. Her laughter stopped the Coyote in mid-twirl. “Hey, what’s so funny?” he asked. And then started after the offensive tail once again.

Jeaninne: “You, silly. Going around in circles, chasing your tail. Stop please, I’m laughing so hard my side hurts,” said the Maiden.

Lora: “You should try it. It’s good to make people laugh. It’s good to laugh at yourself. I’ve found great strength in laughter so I’ve learned not to take myself too seriously.” So the Coyote and the Maiden began chasing their tails, then they began chasing one another, laughing and hugging one another.

Jeaninne: “Thank you,” the Maiden said. “I needed that.”

Lora: “Here,” said the Trickster Coyote, “take this mugwort to remind you that a sense of humor is a sign of strength.” Then the Coyote skipped happily away content with his role in the world. As he passed a Turtle on the path he gave a great bow before going his merry way.

[Coyote exits center rear. Pythia enters as Turtle stage right.]

Jeaninne: As the Maiden sighed happily, she greeted the turtle, “Hello Madam Turtle. Do you have any advice on the matter of strength? I know you are slow and your legs are quite short but perhaps your shell gives you strength.”

Christine: The Turtle Woman slowly gazed at the young girl and said, “Don’t ever discount strength because of size. What some call slow, I call . . . thoughtful deliberation. Yuupp. . . fewer mistakes with a little deliberation. My legs are short but that keeps me grounded in the Earth Mother. And my beautiful shell allows me to set my own boundaries. There is great strength in all these qualities. Please, share my rosemary which reminds me to honor the strength I carry . . . even if no one sees it.”

[Turtle exits stage left. Kamala enters as Spider Woman stage left.]

Jeaninne: As the Turtle Woman moved along, the Maiden saw a Spider weaving an intricate web around her. “Wow,” said the young girl. “That’s a beautiful web, but is it strong?”

Pat: “Aahh,” said the Spider Woman. “Like the web of life, it’s as strong as it needs to be. See how all the strands are connected. Notice when I touch the web here, it vibrates the entire web. Everything is affected. The web reminds us that we weave the patterns of our lives. Here, daughter, take some willow bark to remind you that your strength lies in your connection to all living things.” And with that the Weaver of the Web spun her way into the safety of the green wood.

[Spider exits stage left. Marcella as Demeter enters stage right again during the following.]

Lora: The Maiden looked at her Pouch of Power, remembering all that she had learned on her journey to find strength. Earth Mother, with pride, smiled at her. “So Daughter, have you found that which you sought?”

Jeaninne: “Well,” said the Maiden. “I learned that size or muscles are not what makes a person strong. Strength is many different things. It’s found in the smallest *and* the largest. It is the tenacity to do the work to bring my dreams to harvest. It’s also love, and trusting yourself. Sometimes strength is the courage to surrender to change and staying grounded in your own truth. It also means being aware and understanding all that surrounds you as well as the connection between things. I learned that laughter is strength and most importantly, I learned that strength is thankfulness. I want to wake each day with gratitude in my heart for the abundance I have.”

Lora: “Are you ready to do the work necessary to create the Garden of your Dreams?” asked the Mother.

[During the following, the Maiden goes to altar and pulls a weed, then takes a ladle and waters the garden.]

Jeaninne: Clutching her Pouch of Power, the Maiden smiled saying, “Now, on this longest day of the year, I have the strength to weed the fears that choke my dreams and limit my harvest. I carry in me the constancy to nurture my dream seeds with the waters of creativity and hope.”

[After this last, Mother Earth turns to the audience.]

Lora: We invite you to join us in dance, in movement, in contemplation. Receive your own Pouch of Power and visit the animal guardians who will share their herbs of strength and power. Go into the Garden of Luminosity where the Sun Goddess will bless your pouch and in celebration of the Sun, leap across the fire with joy and courage. When you are ready, go to the altar and symbolically water your garden with commitment and creativity, then remove a weed that represents any residual fears you want to release. Come dance your thankfulness, dance your intentions, Dance. Dance. Dance.

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