



MLIMA'S TALE VISUAL STORYBOARD

The Cast



GABRIELLE BROOKS

plays

**Mumbi, Githinji, Patience
Wainana, Aziz Muhammed,
Angie, Mrs Cheung**



BRANDON GRACE

plays

**Rahman, Andrew Graves,
Chief Mate, Customs
Agent, Thuy Fan, Alice Ying**



NATEY JONES

plays

**Geedi, Wamwara Machau,
Hassan Abdulla, Captain
Ramaaker, Hong Feng**



PUI FAN LEE

plays

**Fu Guoxi, Ship Crew, Hua
Huynh, Master Yee, Li Jun**



IRA MANDELA SIOBHAN

plays

Mlima

The Characters

Mlima: A Kenyan elephant. His name means The Mountain, due to his size. He lives in Kenya, Africa. He is the oldest of his tribe of elephants.

In the second scene, he is killed by poachers with a poison arrow. In the rest of the play, Mlima is either a spirit or representing his tusks.

The other actors play more than one character. Each change of clothes is a different character.

Mumbi: A Kenyan elephant & Mlima's partner. We see and hear a glimpse of her in the first scene.

Rahman: A Somali poacher

Geedi: A Somali poacher

Githinji: A corrupt chief of Police in Mombasa, Kenya. He hires the poachers to kill elephants so he can sell the ivory.

Wamwara Machau: A Kenyan regional warden, in charge of protecting the Elephants in the Mombasa National Park. He is also Githinji's nephew.

Andrew: White Kenyan. Wamwara's boss, the Director of Wildlife in the Mombasa National Park

Patience Wainana: A Kenyan news reporter

The Characters

Fu Guoxi: Works for the Chinese Embassy in Kenya, for Information and Public affairs

Hassan Abdullah: A Nigerian Businessman, he runs his own company 'HB Global Group'

Aziz Muhammed: A Nigerian exporter of international goods

Captain Ramaaker: An American ship captain

Jim Baxtor: Chief Mate, an American sailor who works on Captain Ramaaker's ship

Hua Huynh: A corrupt Vietnamese Customs Officer. His job is to stop people bringing illegal things on ships.

Thuy Fan: A Vietnamese Ivory trader

Angie: Thuy Fan's American wife

Master Yee: A Chinese Buddhist artist who makes carvings out of ivory

Alice Ying: A very rich Chinese woman

Mrs Cheung: An English saleswoman of an upscale Ivory shop in China, The Golden Pavilion

Hong Feng: A Chinese friend of Alice

Li Jun: A Chinese friend of Alice

Other Characters

Long Ears: An older elephant in the tribe

Koko Mkimbiaji: An elephant, an enemy turned friend

Yare: A friend of Rahman

Moses: Githinji's son- in- law

Nigel: A KWS Ranger, seriously injured in a confrontation with poachers

KWS Rangers: Workers for the Kenya Wildlife Service. They protect and manage Kenya's wildlife for the Kenyan people

Mr Xu: An important businessman, associated with both Hassan and Fu Guoxi.

Abubar: Aziz Muhammed's brother

Mr Loc: A businessman, Aziz Muhammed puts his name on the secret boxes with Mlima's tusks

Dung Nguyen: Thuy Fan's father, a master carver

Cui: Alice Ying's husband

JinJing Jin: A super rich ostentatious billionaire

References

Ivory / Tusks: Elephants have two long teeth called tusks. The tusks are made out of ivory. The ivory is very smooth and a light colour. It is worth a lot of money. People make it into jewelery, or decorations called carvings. Buying and selling new ivory is a crime, because it means killing the elephants. You can only buy and sell old ivory, from before there was a law against killing elephants.

Poachers: Someone who catches and kills animals illegally. They usually do this to harvest the animal's natural resource like tusks or fur.

Savanna: A savanna is a wide area of land with lots of grass and some small trees, with two distinct seasons - Rainy or Dry. Large herds of animals thrive here on the abundance of grass.

Acacia trees: Acacia trees are small thorny trees found in African and Australian grasslands whose seeds, flowers and young leaves can be eaten by both animals and humans.

Maasai: Maasai people come from Kenya and Northern Tanzania. Traditionally, they speak the Maa language and live by farming cattle in the savanna, with meat and milk as their most important foods.

References

Big tusker: An Elephant with tusks so large, they scrape the floor.

Park: Some protected areas in Kenya, where animals can live freely in the wild and are protected from harm by rangers, are known as wildlife parks.

Mombasa: A big port in Kenya from which things are shipped overseas.

Nairobi: The capital of Kenya.

Embassy: An embassy is where people officially representing another country live and work. Eg, people representing the government of China in another country will work at the Chinese Embassy.

Manifest: An official list of all the goods and cargo that are being carried on a ship.

CITES / “the ban”: An international law passed in 1989 making it illegal to trade in ivory. CITES stands for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

Song Lyrics and Meaning

Mumbi's Song:

malaika nakupenda Malaika

A line from a popular Swahili love song

Translation: Angel, I love you, Angel

Poachers Song:

Even the Mountain must fall,

Be you a beast, be you a man

Even the Mountains must fall

Mourning Song:

O D'ale, ooo

Erin Ajanaku

O'Dale ooo-ooo

Erin Ajanaku

Father, son, brother, friend

Good night kin of our kin

Rest easy this is not the end

We will stand, beautiful mountain

Translation:

Erin means Elephant in Yoruba

Ajanaku is a praise-name for the elephant meaning 'Killer of Ajana'. Ajana was a hunter who, according to legend, tried to capture alive one example of every kind of animal, but was trampled to death by the elephant.

Mapping Mlima

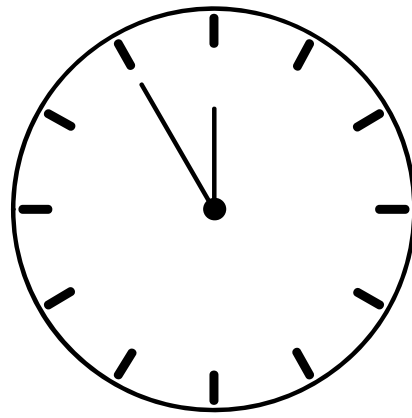


Through Kenya



Through the world

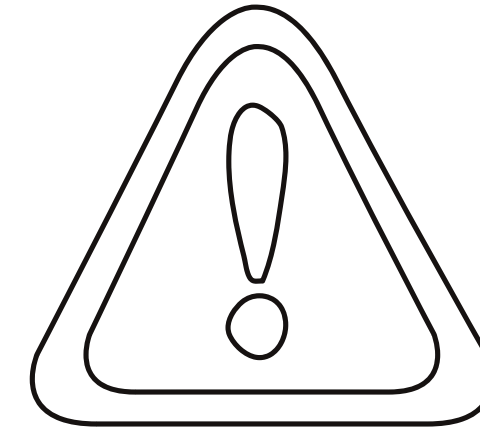
Show Notes



Running Time

The show is approximately 90 minutes.

There is no interval.



Content and Trigger Warnings

- Loud noises, strobe lights, haze and replica weapons including firearms.
- Strong language.
- Depictions of murder.
- Themes of Corruption, Greed, Ivory Trade, Poaching and Capitalist exploitation

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Visual Story



The action is set in different places as we follow Mlima.
The play starts with Mlima living in a wildlife park in Kenya.

1. Mlima recalls his life story so far: the lessons he learnt, the friends he made, his partner Mumbi and the family they created. He also tells of how his tusks which became longer than everyone else's meant he would always be in danger of the 'men'. He is suddenly in pain, he has been shot with a poisoned arrow.



2. We meet Rahman and Geedi, the poachers who just shot Mlima with the arrow. They watch Mlima's struggle against death.

Rahman and Geedi need to sell Mlima's tusks for money to feed their family.

Geedi kills Mlima with a machete and cuts out his tusks, and the ivory falls to the stage.

Other elephants come to mourn Mlima with a song. Mlima's spirit rises.



For the remainder of the play, Mlima either represents his tusks, or his spirit.

3. Githinji is angry because he gave Geedi and Rahman food and guns to go and bring him 8 tusks, but they are late and have only brought two. Geedi gives him Mlima's tusks. He thinks Githinji will be happy because the tusks are so big.



But Githinji is still angry, because he is worried. Mlima was a very famous elephant, and he knows the police will be looking for Mlima's killer. As punishment he only gives Geedi half of what he expects, and threatens him to accept it. But when Geedi leaves, we see Githinji is actually happy. He knows the tusks are worth a lot of money.



4. Wamwara is sad and worried because Mlima is dead. His job was to protect the Elephants.

Wamwara asks his uncle, Githinji, if he knows who killed Mlima. Githinji lies, he says no.

Wamwara says although he could not save Mlima, he will work to stop anyone selling Mlima's tusks. He wants to find the tusks and bury them with Mlima.



Githinji wants Wamwara to stop talking about Mlima, so he tries to give him some money.

Wamwara gets angry about this. He asks Githinji for any information to help save his job. When Githinji doesn't help, Wamwara warns him that everyone will be looking for them.



5. Andrew is practising a speech he has to make at a news conference about Mlima's death.

He is angry with Wamwara because he still hasn't found Mlima's tusks or the poachers that killed him.

Wamwara caught some other poachers trying to kill elephants. Andrew decides to pretend that those poachers killed Mlima, so that he can tell the news reporters they have found the killers.



6. At the news conference, the reporters Patience and Guoxi ask Andrew difficult questions about why the Kenyan Wildlife Service couldn't stop Mlima being killed.



7. Guoxi goes to a party and meets Hassan Abdulla, a rich businessman. They talk about Mlima being killed, and how big Mlima's tusks were. Guoxi describes her grandfather's beautiful ivory statue, that was destroyed, and she has always wanted to replace it.



As she is at the party for work reasons, and they are discussing breaking the law, she shuts the conversation down quickly. Hassan Abdulla says that Guoxi should come and visit him on her day off, because she might be interested in what he has to sell.



8. Hassan Abdulla goes to see Aziz Muhammed. Aziz is worried because he needs more money for his little brother's wedding.

Hassan tells Aziz he has got Mlima's tusks from Githinji, and Guoxi wants to buy them for a lot of money and send them to China.

Hassan wants Aziz to secretly put the tusks on the next ship he is sending to China.



Aziz Muhammed is worried they will get caught, and thinks they should wait until the search for the tusks has calmed down or sell them at auction. But Hassan tells him they will make a lot of money and Aziz agrees to ship the tusks this week.



9. Aziz Muhammed goes to the port and asks Captain Ramaaker to put the box with Mlima's tusks on his ship to go to China.

Captain Ramaaker says no, he is worried because of the increased police presence at the port, and it is too last minute.

The Chief Mate tells Aziz Muhammed he will sneak the tusks onto the ship without the captain seeing, if Aziz will give him a lot of money. Aziz Muhammed agrees.



10. The box of Mlima's tusks is on the ship, far out at sea. He hears the spirits of many other elephants who were killed for their tusks.



11. Captain Ramaaker's ship has stopped in Vietnam. Hua Huynh calls Captain Ramaaker to his office because he has found Mlima's tusks on the ship under the name Don Loc Enterprises. Hua Huynh tells him that as he does not have the right paperwork for the tusks, he could go to jail. Captain Ramaaker says he knows nothing about the ivory and he does not care what happens to it. Hua Huynh steals the ivory and lets the ship and the Captain go.



12. Hua Huynh goes to see Thuy Fan, who asked him to look out for Ivory shipments. Thuy Fan checks to see there is no microphone on Hua Huynh in case he is working with the police. Then Thuy Fan agrees to buy the tusks and excitedly calls Master Yee to tell him he has found some big tusks.



13. Thuy Fan takes the tusks to the Ivory carving artist Master Yee. Master Yee asks if the tusks are old ivory, because he is a Buddhist, and doesn't believe in killing. Thuy Fan lies, promises him they are very old and no elephant has been killed. Master Yee carves the tusks to make them even more beautiful.



14. Alice Ying goes to Mrs Cheung's shop to buy a show-stopping ivory piece. She doesn't like anything she sees in the shop, until she sees Mlima's carved tusks. Alice buys the carved tusks for 7 million yuan. 7 million yuan is the same as 700 000 pounds.

15. Hong Feng and Li Jun have arrived at Alice's apartment for a party. Alice reveals her new carvings for her guests to an applause.

16. Mlima recalls his legacy, and warns all other elephants.

Audio Story

The Audio Story provides information about what to expect from the music and sounds in the play. It shows the volume changes throughout the performance and highlights loud and quiet moments and when the sound changes suddenly.

