

SCENE 1

CURTAIN OPENS ON THE GATHERING PLACE

A low, distant horn sounds out. MANDEROOTH, a buffalo, scrambles in. Centerstage, he stops. He listens. A second buffalo, JIEN-HEE, rushes in.

JIEN-HEE

That it?

MANDEROOTH

Sh! Listen.

A second, rumbling horn-blast sounds out.

MANDEROOTH (CONT'D)

That's it!

JIEN-HEE

It's time! It's time!

One after another, horns sound out.

MANDEROOTH

Up, up, up! Everybody up!

SONG: DAY OF ALL DAYS

MANDEROOTH (CONT'D)

TO THE MEADOWS BY THE WATERS
TAKE YOUR SONS AND BRING YOUR DAUGHTERS
COME ALONG DON'T SHY AWAY
NOT TODAY NOT TODAY

JIEN-HEE

WE'LL FILL THE AIR WITH CLANK AND CLATTER
PARENTS RUSH WHILE CHILDREN SCATTER
PUSH YOUR TROUBLES FAR AWAY
NONE TODAY NOT TODAY

From all directions, buffalo enter. They come bearing bundles of bounty. As they come, they sing. As they sing, they set the stage for a grand celebration. Today it begins. The Festival of the Nation.

ENSEMBLE (ROUNDS)

TO THE MEADOWS BY THE WATERS
TAKE YOUR SONS AND BRING YOUR DAUGHTERS

COME ALONG DON'T SHY AWAY
NOT TODAY NOT TODAY

WE'LL FILL THE AIR WITH CLANK AND CLATTER
PARENTS RUSH WHILE CHILDREN SCATTER
PUSH YOUR TROUBLES FAR AWAY
NONE TODAY NOT TODAY

TODAY WE WILL SEE A NEW DAY OF ALL DAYS
WE HAVE WAITED ALL YEAR FOR THIS MOMENT
AND NOW IT IS ONLY A BEAT AWAY
WE'VE HAVE WAITED ALL YEAR
WAITED ALL YEAR FOR THIS DAY

POUND YOUR HOOVES ON THE GROUND LIKE THUNDER
PUT A LITTLE RHYTHM IN IT PUT A LITTLE RHYTHM IN IT
DUST FLIES UP AS SUN BEATS DOWN
LOOK ABOVE AT THE SKY WE'RE UNDER
GOT A LITTLE MAGIC IN IT GOT A LITTLE MAGIC IN IT
WE'VE BEEN WAITING ALL YEAR FOR THIS DAY TO COME AROUND

POUND THE GROUND POUND THE GROUND
WE'VE CELEBRATED THIS DAY SINCE LONG AGO
POUND THE GROUND POUND THE GROUND
IT'S A BRAND NEW START IN THE HEART OF THE BUFFALO

POUND THE GROUND POUND THE GROUND
WE'VE CELEBRATED THIS DAY SINCE LONG AGO
POUND THE GROUND POUND THE GROUND
FIRST DAY ON THE WAY TO A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

TODAY WE WILL SEE A NEW DAY OF ALL DAYS
WE HAVE WAITED ALL YEAR FOR THIS MOMENT
AND NOW IT IS ONLY A BEAT AWAY
WE'VE BEEN WAITING ALL YEAR
WAITING ALL YEAR FOR THIS DAY

A small fanfare sounds out. THORN,
younger brother to QUEEN WILLA
MAH, enters.

THORN

Oh my goodness. How fabulous!

MANDEROOTH

Good morning, my prince. We were just--

THORN

You, there. Jonkie.

JIEN-HEE

It's Jien-Hee, sir.

THORN

Take all of these to my quarters.

MANDEROOTH

B-But my prince, this is all for the festival.

THORN

B-But Manderooth, my *sistah's* the queen.

Manderooth bows.

MANDEROOTH

Yessir. Sorry, Sir. All right everyone, you heard. Move it out.

With grumbles and mumbles, the herd gathers things up. Thorn continues his "shopping".

THORN

There we go. Now, let me see. I'll have these. And these. And big, fat bundle of those.

Thorn steps downstage.

THORN (CONT'D)

It's almost too easy. I adore being me.

THE LIFE DELUXE

I WAS BORN TO THE FAMILY ROYALED
I WAS RAISED BEING PAMPERED AND SPOILED
TAUGHT TO LIVE THE LIFE LUSH
IN A STYLE SOFT AND PLUSHY
WHILE EACH OF MY HOOVES WAS WELL-OILED
I WAS BORN TO THE FAMILY ROYALED

ENSEMBLE

OON DIKKA-DIKKA, OON DIKKA-DIKKA, OON DIKKA-DIKKA
OON DIK

THORN

I WAS MADE FOR THE LIFE DELUXE
ONE OF THOSE HAPPY-GO LUCKY-DUCKS
I'M A PRINCE BATHED IN GLORY, A FABULOUS STORY
UNLIKE ALL THESE OTHER HARD-LUCKS, AW SHUCKS
I WAS MADE FOR THE LIFE DELUXE

ENSEMBLE

OON DIKKA-DIKKA, OON DIKKA-DIKKA, OON DIKKA-DIKKA
OON DIK-A PRINCE BATHED IN GLORY
UNLIKE THE HARD-LUCKS
HE WAS MADE FOR THE LIFE DELUXE

MANDEROOTH (UNDER HIS BREATH)

HE'D SELL OUT HIS MUM FOR A COUPLE-A BUCKS

JIEN-HEE (UNDER HIS BREATH)

MUCKY-MUCKS AND THEIR LIFE DELUXE

THORN

Hm?

ENSEMBLE

TIPPY-TIPPY-TOO, TIPPY-TIPPY-TEE
TIPPY-TIPPY-TOO, TIPPY-TIPPY-TEE, TIPPY-TIPPY-TOO
BORN TO LIVE THE LIFE DELUXE!

THORN

NOW, I KNOW IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT ME--

A royal fanfare blasts.

THORN (CONT'D)

Hello. I'm in the middle of a song, here.

MANDEROOTH

It's the Chief.

JIEN-HEE

The Chief!

Drums Roll, horns echo. The herd
turns to greet THE CHIEF, common-
born king of all buffalo.

THE CHIEF

Good morning! Good morning, everyone!

ENSEMBLE

Good morning, Sire!

Thorn takes a shallow bow.

THORN

Sire.

THE CHIEF

Isn't this marvelous? Have you ever seen such
bounty? Today will begin the greatest festival
ever!

ENSEMBLE

Hooray!

THE CHIEF

Quickly now. We've no time to lose. Let's
spread the goodies around!

The Chief grabs a basket. The herd
follows suit. They set everything
back in its place.

THORN

Excellent idea, Sire. I was just saying --

AUNTIE (OFFSTAGE)

Where is he?! Hello!

THORN

Do I get to finish anythi--?

THE CHIEF

Auntie?

MANDEROOTH

It's Auntie!

JIEN-HEE

There, Sire! There she is!

AUNTIE, royal elder and aunt to
Thorn and Queen Willa-Mah,
stumbles in.

THE CHIEF

Auntie!

The Chief rushes to catch her.

THE CHIEF (CONT'D)

I've got you. Are you all right?

Auntie giggles.

AUNTIE

Yes, yes. I'm fine. A little clumsy is all.
But, you. Oh, my dear.

THE CHIEF

Me? What is it?

Auntie leans in, closer to the
Chief's ear. Manderooth
eavesdrops. The crowd gathers.

AUNTIE (WHISPERS)

You're going to be a daddy.

THE CHIEF

What?

Manderooth shouts to the crowd.

MANDEROOTH

Queen Willa-Mah's having her baby!

ENSEMBLE

Hooray!

AUNTIE

This is so exciting!

THE CHIEF

Auntie, where is she? Where's Willa-Mah?

AUNTIE

She's headed for the trees. She'll be there any minute.

THE CHIEF

I'm going to be a daddy. I'm gonna be a daddy!

AUNTIE

Hurry, now. Get going. Go, go, go!

THE CHIEF

Don't worry, Willa-Mah! I'm coming!

The Chief rushes off.

MANDEROOTH

This calf changes everything.

JIEN-HEE

Half royal.

MANDEROOTH

And half one of us! Three cheers for Queen Willa-Mah!

JIEN-HEE

Hip-hip!

ENSEMBLE

Hooray!

JIEN-HEE

Hip-hip!

ENSEMBLE

Hooray!

JIEN-HEE

Hip-hip!

ENSEMBLE

Hooray!

AUNTIE

Hurry now. Quickly. There isn't a moment to lose.

The herd lines up behind Auntie.

AUNTIE (CONT'D)

Oh, Thorn, a baby. A shiny, brand-new baby!

THORN

Yay.

JIEN-HEE

All at the ready?

MANDEROOTH

Move out!

Singing as they go, the herd
exits. Thorn stays behind.

ENSEMBLE

SONG: DAY OF ALL DAYS (REPRISE)

POUND YOUR HOOVES ON THE GROUND LIKE THUNDER
PUT A LITTLE RHYTHM IN IT PUT A LITTLE RHYTHM IN IT
DUST FLIES UP AS SUN BEATS DOWN
LOOK ABOVE AT THE SKY WE'RE UNDER
GOT A LITTLE MAGIC IN IT GOT A LITTLE MAGIC IN IT
WE'VE BEEN WAITING ALL YEAR FOR THIS DAY TO COME AROUND

The singing fades out.

THORN

A baby. Ha! Some mixed-blood, half-n-half calf.
And this *Chief*? Not royal. Common as dirt.
You're a traitor to your kind, Willa-Mah.
You're a traitor to your class! I need to get
rid of these fools. But how? The common-born
folk just love 'em.

THORN (CONT'D)

LIFE DELUXE REPRISE

THERE'S A SPARK IN THEIR HEARTS I MUST SMOTHER
THEN I'LL LIGHT THE WORLD WITH ANOTHER
I'LL GET RID OF THIS CHIEF, HE'S A FRAUD, HE'S A THIEF
TAKE HIS CROWN IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER
THEN WITH ORDER RESTORED LIVE A LIFETIME ADORED
NO MORE COMPETING ONCE I'M DONE UNSEATING
THIS CHIEF--

THORN (CONT'D)

And this new little *Mother*. Hey! Wait for me!

Thorn rushes off after the herd.

SET CHANGE TO THE WOODS

ACT 1

SCENE 2

THE WOODS

Puffing her breath, WILLA-MAH works her way toward a stand of ancient trees. Suddenly, she doubles over.

WILLA-MAH

Oop! Ohhh. All right, little one. It's time. Let's get to work.

Willa-Mah slips behind a tree. The Chief rushes in.

THE CHIEF

Willa-Mah? Willa-Mah, where are you?

A newborn cries out.

THE CHIEF (CONT'D)

Willa-Mah!

WILLA-MAH (OFFSTAGE)

No! Wait! Stay there. Wait.

THE CHIEF

Willa-Mah, what is it? What's wrong?

Willa-Mah, steps out. In her arms, she cradles a tiny calf, covered nose-tip to tail with white, orange and black spots. Off in the shadows, a pair of red eyes blinks on.

THE CHIEF (CONT'D)

Oh. Oh, Willa-Mah.

WILLA-MAH

How? I don't understand.

THE CHIEF

My sweet girl, I am so sorry.

The Chief slips the calf into his arms.

THE CHIEF (CONT'D)

We're young, Willa-Mah. There will be others.

The chief covers the calf. He turns to walk away.

WILLA-MAH

What are you doing? Where are you going? Wait!

THE CHIEF

We can't wait. It's the law.

WILLA-MAH

The law. It's nothing! An old cow's tale from a dark and ignorant time.

THE CHIEF

It makes no difference. Look at him. Look! This calf couldn't blend. Can't hide. These colors will shine like a beacon. Every wolf in the land would stream in for the kill. This little one wouldn't stand a chance. And neither would anyone near him. We've no right to put others at risk. We can't keep him.

The Chief steps into the water.

WILLA-MAH

No. STOP!

Startled, the calf cries. The Chief stops. He buries his face in his son's colors.

THE CHIEF

I can't. We're ruined, Willa-Mah. I can't do it.

Willa-Mah runs to him.

WILLA-MAH

No. No, my love. Of course you couldn't. How could you? Here. Let me take him.

Willa-Mah slips the calf out of the Chief's arms.

WILLA-MAH (CONT'D)

Look at us. Me and my two boys. We're a mess. Shhh. There, there. Don't cry. Shhh.

Willa-Mah comforts her boy. She hums an old buffalo lullaby (Wrapped In My Heart). The calf quiets.

THE CHIEF

Willa-Mah, I --

WILLA-MAH

Shhh.

Willa-Mah sings.

WILLA-MAH (CONT'D)

SONG: WRAPPED IN MY HEART

(WILLA-MAH)

IF MY CHILD YOU GO WANDERING
SO FAR AWAY FROM HOME
YOU MAY FIND THAT THE WINTER WINDS
FEEL COLDER WHEN YOU'RE ALONE

SO IF THERE IS NO SHINING SUN
OR HERD TO KEEP YOU WARM
I'LL WRAP YOU UP HERE IN MY HEART
AND PROTECT YOU FROM THE STORM

Willa-Mah carries the calf to
shore. The Chief follows.

ON WINTER DAYS OUR MOTHER EARTH
IS WARMED BY THE GENTLE SUN
BUT WINTER NIGHTS WHEN THE DARKNESS COMES
SHE FEELS SHE'S ON HER OWN

SHE LAYS HER HEAD UNDER STARLIT SKIES
AND DREAMS BENEATH THE SNOW
THAT COVERS HER AND HOLDS HER TIGHT
WHILE THE WINTER WINDS DO BLOW

The Chief sings.

(THE CHIEF)

DON'T YOU WORRY MY CHILD
I'LL PROTECT YOU FROM THE WINTER AND THE WILD

Willa-Mah and The Chief sing
together.

(WILLA-MAH & THE CHIEF)

SO IF THAT SHIVER SHAKES YOUR SPINE
AND FEAR CREEPS IN YOUR HEART
JUST REMEMBER THIS MELODY
AND WE'LL NEVER BE APART

AND WHEN THERE IS NO SHINING SUN
OR HERD TO KEEP YOU WARM
I'LL WRAP YOU UP HERE IN MY HEART
AND PROTECT YOU FROM THE STORM

YOU'LL ALWAYS BE HERE IN MY HEART
WRAPPED UP SAFE AND WARM