

Taniwha, Taniwha!

A Hī Hā School Production

Choreo Dances (see videos):

Tahi, Rua Toru, Whā (Anika Moa); Row, Kiwi, Row Your Boat (Pio Terei); Pūkeko (Aro); I'm a Taniwha (JGeeks); Anei Ngā Taniwha (JGeeks); One Day a Taniwha (Aunty Bea, Duan & Only)

Characters:

Dance Groups: Hipis (sheep); Taniwha 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Main Characters: Teachers: Mr T, Miss McDonald; Koroua (old man); Kuia (old lady); Students: Aroha, Jamie, JP, Rāwiri

Hipi (sheep): 1-10

Taniwha: as many students as you need to fit your Taniwha!

Costumes:

Taniwha: Box Taniwha (see video)

Main characters: pyjamas

Taniwha Dance Groups: Taniwha headbands (see template), T-shirts (production tees available for sale, or use your own)

Tamariki moving the taniwha and the river: plain black clothes

Hipi and Hipis Dance Group: Sheep masks (see video)

Hipi 1-10 should be numbered

Props: River (e.g. a long piece of shiny blue fabric. This can be held by kids at both ends and shaken so that it seems to move); a storybook; a midnight snack

Sound effects: A soft whistling, like the wind; a spooky kōauau (flute) or similar; a rattle; a fast drumbeat

Director's note: If space permits, we suggest keeping all tamariki up- and side-stage during the show for quicker turn-arounds and so they can perform the poems and actions marked by 'ALL' in the script. If this is not practical, a smaller group of children could remain onstage. Music for performances may be streamed directly from our website, but we recommend avoiding any internet connection problems by downloading the songs on Spotify or similar (search for the song titles or artists' names). 'Row, Kiwi, Row Your Boat' may be downloaded from our website. Music rights for public performance are not included; schools should hold the standard One Music Schools Licence (most schools already have this.)

SETTING: School camp at Taniwha Valley, night

[Darkness. A spooky kōauau]

ALL: Beware the dreaded taniwha a-lurking in his lair,
The monster teeth! The monster jaws!
The monster tail! The monster claws!
Do not go near! Or: snicker-snack!
You're never, ever coming back.

[Lights up. Enter TEACHERS and STUDENTS]

MR T: Haere mai! Haere mai, tamariki mā! Time for bed!

JP: Awww Mr T! We can't go to bed yet! It's the first night of school camp!

JAMIE: Yeah, no one ever sleeps the first night of school camp! We stay up and eat midnight snacks!

MISS MCDONALD: Well, sleep sounds good to me, tamariki mā! Kei te ngenge ahau. I'm tired!

AROHA: But Miss McDonald, it's dark. Really, really dark.

RĀWIRI: Don't worry, Aroha! I'll look after you. *[Shows his muscles.]*

[ALL giggle.]

MISS MCDONALD: You all need your sleep. It's a big day tomorrow. There's lots to do in Taniwha Valley!

AROHA: Miss McDonald, why is it called Taniwha Valley?

MISS MCDONALD: Oh, just some old story about a taniwha.

[A soft whistling]

MR T: Oh, I know Taniwha Valley *looks* spooky. The mountains stretching high...

ALL: The mountains stretching high... **[Action: stretching]**

MR T: The mist falling low...

ALL: The mist falling low... **[Action: falling]**

MR T: The twisting, turning river...

ALL: The twisting, turning river... **[Action: twisting and turning]**

MR T: Rattling rocks rolling...

ALL: Rattling rocks rolling... **[Action: hands rolling]**

MR T: Trees bending in the breeze...

ALL: Trees bending in the breeze... **[Action: bending]**

MR T: Ghostly footsteps running...

ALL: Ghostly footsteps running... **[Action: stamping]**

MR T: Shadows shrinking and growing...

ALL: Shadows shrinking and growing... **[Action: shrinking and growing]**

MR T: ...But you don't want to listen to that old story. There's no such thing as a taniwha.

MISS MCDONALD: Night night!

MR T: Pō marie.

[STUDENTS groan, but settle down and try to sleep. TEACHERS exit. A pause.]

ALL [calling]: Morepork! Morepork!

AROHA: Ahhhh! The taniwha!

JP: Keep your hair on, it's just a ruru!

RĀWIRI: Don't be scared, Aroha, I'll look after you. *[Shows his muscles.]*

[ALL giggle. They settle down again. A pause.]

JAMIE: Can I open my midnight snacks yet?

STUDENTS: Not now, Jamie.

RĀWIRI: Hey, let's count sheep! Counting sheep always makes me sleepy.

[Enter HIPI 1-10]

HIPI: Baaaaa!

JP: Wait, what? Are those actually sheep?

RĀWIRI: They're imaginary.

JP: Weird!

[Hipi 1-10 run across stage one by one while ALL count.]

HIPI 1: Baaaaa!

ALL: Tahi

HIPI 2: Baaaaa!

ALL: Rua

HIPI 3: Baaaaa!

ALL: Toru

HIPI 4: Baaaaa!

ALL: Whā

HIPI 5: Baaaaa!

ALL: Rima

HIPPI 6: Baaaaa!

ALL: Ono

HIPPI 7: Baaaaa!

ALL: Whitu

HIPPI 8: Baaaaa!

ALL: Waru

HIPPI 9: Baaaaa!

ALL: Iwa

HIPPI 10: Baaaaa!

ALL: Tekau

JP, AROHA, JAMIE: We're still awake, Rāwiri!

RĀWIRI: Okay, let's try counting them backwards.

JP: Do we have to? It's really boring.

RĀWIRI: That's the point, JP.

JP: Weird!

[HIPPI 10-1 run backwards across stage one by one, while ALL count.]

HIPPI 10: Baaaaa!

ALL: Tekau

HIPPI 9: Baaaaa!

ALL: Iwa

HIPPI 8: Baaaaaa!

ALL: Waru

HIPPI 7: Baaaaaa!

ALL: Whitu

HIPPI 6: Baaaaaa!

ALL: Ono

HIPPI 5: Baaaaaa!

ALL: Rima

HIPPI 4: Baaaaaa!

ALL: Whā

HIPPI 3: Baaaaaa!

ALL: Toru

HIPPI 2: Baaaaaa!

ALL: Rua

HIPPI 1: Baaaaaa!

ALL: Tahi

JP, AROHA, JAMIE: We're still awake, Rāwiri!

JP: The sheep are imaginary, right? So we can make them do whatever we want, right? Can we make them dance?

RĀWIRI: Um, I guess.

JP: Pāia! Pāia! Yeaahhh!

[Dance: Hipi Dance Group performs Tahi Rua Toru Whā]

JP: Thanks, Hipi! Haere rā!

HIPPI: E noho rā!

JP: Oh. We're still awake.

JAMIE: Can I open my midnight snacks yet?

STUDENTS: Not now, Jamie.

JAMIE: We need a bedtime story.

STUDENTS: Miss McDonald! Mr T! We need a bedtime story! Pleeeeease!

[Enter TEACHERS]

To be continued...