



OWEN & MZEE

By Michelle Elliot and Danny Larsen

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**OWEN & MZEE**  
**By Michelle Elliot and Danny Larsen**

*MUSICAL #1- I AM HOME*  
*(COMPANY)*

*(Throughout the song, the villagers transform into a group of animals at a watering hole.)*

**ALL ANIMALS**

JUA LA CHOMOZA! ETI! JUA LA CHOMOZA, TENA!

**FLAMINGOS (1 SOPRANO, 2 PUPPETS (Pre-Recorded))**

*(Preening their feathers and shaking the sleep out of their wings)*

So-KAY-KO-KO, OCONOCO-TA! TA!

**HIPPOS (1 ALTO, 1 BARITONE)**

*(Waddling into the river and finding a good spot in the mud)*

HEE-PO-PO, HEE-PO-PO.

**ZEBRAS (1 TENOR, 2 PUPPETS (Pre-Recorded))**

*(Jumping from place to place, always on alert. They only drink or graze for a moment.)*

BO-IIIIIIING! BING-BING! BO-IIIIIIING! BING-BING! BO-IIIIIIING! BING-BING!

**1 CROCODILE (BASS, PLAYED BY MZEE/NARRATOR)**

*(Yawning and stretching out his massive jaws)*

KACHOMP, MAAAAAA-YOM-PA

*(Counterpoint of the above)*

**ALL ANIMALS**

NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU.

NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU.

NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU.

NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU.

NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU.

NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU.

NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU.

NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU.

*(repeats as prerecorded track underneath the following verse)*

**FLAMINGOS & MOTHER HIPPO**

THE SUN IS CLIMBING TO THE SKY.

IT BRINGS A BRAND NEW DAY.

**ZEBRAS, FATHER HIPPO & CROCODILE**

THE WIND IS BLOWING THROUGH THE TREES.

**ALL**

I SEE THE BRANCHES SWAY.

GREET THE MORNING, FEEL THE SUNSHINE.  
SEE THE RIVER AND ITS FOAM  
HERE WE GATHER, ‘MIDST THE GRASSES,  
WITH OUR FAMILY, WE ARE HOME.

**ALL ANIMALS EXCEPT HIPPOS**

*(sung and repeated underneath the scene below.*

NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU.  
NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU.  
NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU.  
NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU. (etc.)

*(MZEE/NARRATOR, steps forward.)*

**MZEE/NARRATOR**

In Africa, in a land called Kenya, where the river meets the sea, many animals have come to drink and eat, including a young hippo called Owen.

**OWEN**

Mom! Dad! Wait for me!

*(OWEN enters, out of breath.)*

I’m here and I’m huuuuungry!! Point me to the good grasses and I’ll start chomping! These? Or how about these over here? Tell me which ones!

**MOTHER HIPPO**

MANY DIFFERENT GRASSES GROW  
BENEATH THE GREAT BLUE SKY.

**FATHER HIPPO**

IT’S TIME TO LEARN WHICH PLANTS TASTE GOOD  
TO HIPPOPOTAMI.

<b>MOTHER AND FATHER HIPPO</b>	<b>OTHER ANIMALS</b>
UNDER BLUE SKY, OUR DEAR SON,  OH, WHEREVER YOU MIGHT ROAM,  WE’LL PROTECT YOU FROM DANGER.  WHEN YOU’RE WITH US, YOU ARE HOME.	NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU, NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU. NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU, NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU. NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU, NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU. NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU, NIPO NYUMBANI KWANGU.

**OWEN**

THERE'S SO MUCH ABOUT THE WORLD  
THAT I STILL NEED TO KNOW  
LIKE WHAT TO EAT, WHERE TO WALK,  
WHY FLAMINGOS ALWAYS SQUAWK?  
WHICH MUDDLES ARE THE DEEPEST,  
AND WHICH HILLSIDES ARE THE STEEPEST?  
AND WHY HIPPOS DON'T HAVE WINGS,  
AND A MILLION OTHER THINGS...  
BUT LUCKILY, MY FAMILY  
WILL HELP ME WHILE I GROW.

**OWEN & MOM & DAD**

IN OUR MUDDY, LITTLE CORNER,  
NEAR THE RIVER AND ITS FOAM.  
THERE IS COMFORT WITH EACH OTHER,  
WITH OUR FAMILY...

**ALL**

GREET THE MORNING, FEEL THE SUNSHINE  
UNDER HEAVEN'S SHINING DOME.  
HERE WE GATHER, 'MIDST THE GRASSES.  
WE BELONG HERE, WE ARE HOME.

**MOTHER HIPPO**

Do not go far, Owen, it is time for your swimming lesson.

**OWEN**

Aw, mom, do I have to?

*(Suddenly, the animals are on high alert. The birds fly away, followed by every but the HIPPOS. There is a fear in the air and a sense of danger.)*

**OWEN**

What is wrong?

**MOTHER HIPPO**

Something is coming.

**FATHER HIPPO**

Stay close to us, son.

**MZEE/NARRATOR**

Animals are very sensitive. Unlike humans, animals know when a storm is coming, or an earthquake, or... a tsunami, before it has even started.

*MUSICAL #2- THE TSUNAMI  
(MZEE/NARRATOR and Ensemble)*

A tsunami is a giant wave, bigger than a hippo, bigger than a car, bigger even, than a house. On this beautiful morning, the animals feel that such a wave is on its way.

*(The ensemble, as VOICES of the wave, enter and begin to vocalize and physicalize the great tsunami.)*

**MZEE/NARRATOR and ENSEMBLE**

DEEP...

DEEP...

1/2 ENSEMBLE	OTHER 1/2 ENSEMBLE
UNDER THE WATER, THE EARTH CRACKS AND QUAKES!	(CHINI YA BAHARI...)  ...QUAKES!

**ALL**

DEEP...

DEEP...

1/2 ENSEMBLE	OTHER 1/2 ENSEMBLE
UNDER THE WATER, THE OCEAN FLOOR SHAKES!	(CHINI YA BAHARI...)  ...SHAKES!
HIGHER VOICES	LOWER VOICES
IT BRINGS A WAVE,  A GIANT WAAAAVE!!!	(WIMBI KUBWA)  (WIMBI KUBWA) HAPA INAKUJA WIMBI KUBWA! HAPA INAKUJA WIMBI KUBWA!

*(A wave comes. OWEN is rolled about, back and forth. He barely keeps his head above water.)*

**OWEN**

*(spoken underneath the following)* Mom! Dad!! Help me!!

BASS/BARITONE	ALTO		
AHHH-LUM! AHHH-LUM! AHHH-LUM! AHHH-LUM! AHHH-LUM! AHHH-LUM! AHHH-LUM!	WHUM HA! WHYM HO! WHUM HA! WHUM HA! WHYM HO! WHUM HA! WHYM HO! WHUM HA!	<b>SOPRANOS</b> NOM A WY NA NOM A WAY! NOM A WY NA NOM A WAY!	<b>PRE-RECORDED VOICES</b> HAPA INAKUJA WIMBI KUBWA! HAPA INAKUJA WIMBI KUBWA! HAPA INAKUJA WIMBI KUBWA! HAPA INAKUJA WIMBI KUBWA!

AHHH-LUM! AHHH-LUM! AHHH-LUM! AHHH-LUM!	WHYM HO! WHUM HA! WHYM HO! WHUM HA!	NOM A WY NA NOM A WAY! NOM A WY NA NOM A WAY!	HAPA INAKUJA WIMBI KUBWA! HAPA INAKUJA WIMBI KUBWA! HAPA INAKUJA WIMBI KUBWA! HAPA INAKUJA WIMBI KUBWA!
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**ALL**

HAPA INAKUJA WIMBI KUBWA!  
HAPA INAKUJA WIMBI KUBWA!  
HAPA INAKUJA WIMBI KUBWA!  
HAPA INAKUJA WIMBI KUBWAAAAA!!!!

*(The wave crests and passes. OWEN is tossed until he crawls up onto a small reef. As soon as he catches his breath, he is on his feet, looking for his parents.)*

**OWEN**

Mom? Dad? Where are you? Mom? Dad?

*(OWEN wanders around the small space on his sandbar for a moment, trying to figure out what to do. A couple of birds land nearby.)*

**BIRD 1**

Oh, that wave was something.

**BIRD 2**

Umm hmm.

**BIRD 1**

Made me glad I can fly, I tell you what. I would NOT want to get these feathers wet.

**BIRD 2**

Ummmm hmmmm.

**BIRD 1**

*(Noticing OWEN)* Little hippo, what are you doing on our reef?

**OWEN**

The wave washed me out here. I am looking for my mom and dad. Have you seen them?

**BIRD 2**

All the animals we have seen were heading to higher ground to escape the wave.

**OWEN**

Higher ground? Then that is where I need to go. Can you point me in the right direction?

**BIRD 1**

You see the land waaaaaay over there?

**OWEN**

That is higher ground?