

Title of Work: The Last Kingdom

Choreographer: Tong Wang

Costumes: Jewel toned for the women and Earth tones for the men.

Length: 15 minutes

Summary of Concept:

This is a coming of age story of a girl from the Mosuo culture in China. Our story begins with her sitting beside a stream of water she drifts off to sleep. In her dream, she meets a man with whom she falls in love. The audience is introduced into this dream world, where we see a lively culture of people existing and thriving. The dream takes place throughout the course of a day. The characters are introduced at first light, as they move slowly through the space in the silhouette of first light. Sunlight streaks through a few sparse clouds, interrupting the cool stillness of the early morning.



Image 1

It is cool, but beautiful in the contrast between the trailing nighttime and the warm colors of first light. (Image 1) It is in this sensual first light world that the girl first meets the man who steals her heart.



Image 2

The women then come forward to perform a dance of their culture in the hours of the early morning. It is a dance about the start of a day and the eagerness, but tenderness with which we greet the day. This section feels like the stretching of your body in the morning. It is very satisfying to feel the sun warm your bones from a long sleep. We feel this stretch and warmth begin to develop across the stage. (Image 2) We still have the satisfying moments of silhouette from the previous section, but now combined with the entering sunlight and visibility of the day. The girl joins in the dances at this point, unsure if she is dreaming, but enjoying the journey.

Next, the men showcase their strength and energy, in a grand display of virility, within the bright and expansive world that is midday. The mountains are visible beyond them on the cyc, a symbol of this bold masculine energy, as well as supporting the verticality of their movements. The world is cooler and crisper, the sweetness of the morning hours faded away, but in its place there is kineticism and power. This is the climax of energy for the work. (Image 3)



Image 3

Then, at sunset, the girl tries to find the man with whom she fell in love at the beginning

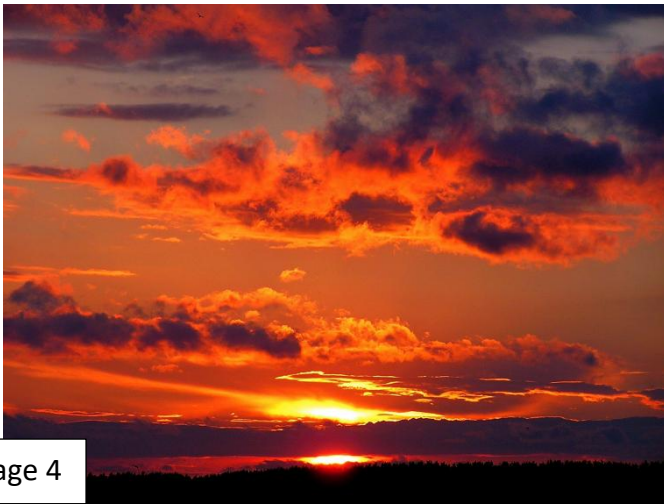


Image 4

of the day. We feel her sense of knowing that time is running out. The sunset is the hotspot of the sun, fighting its inevitable setting at the bottom of the cyc. It is trailing away slowly, red with the pressure of time. (Image 4) The sun eventually fades and by the light of the moonlight, she is seen alone, slowly returning to the reality of her life by the stream of water. The moonlight is a soft but firm, single source,

sweeping across the stage. As the girl makes one last frantic search for her lover. (Image 5) We are unsure if she ever is reunited with the man and becomes a woman or not. We also do not know if she ever wakes up. The shadows and silhouettes of the many characters she has met on her journey trail across the stage as she drifts back to reality, which for us is into a slow blackout.



Image 5