

**SCENE 1: Ethiopia**

NARRATOR The Place: Hadar, Ethiopia. The Time: 1974. Two scientists, Tom Gray and Don Johanson discover a complete skeleton of one of our early ancestors from over 3 million years ago.

(Music plays during dialogue) (*Tut/Taki are shining flashlights to see where they are going - sometimes at the audience, sometimes at their own faces, sometimes at their partner's face; using loud stage whispers.*)

TAKI Whoa! It's dark in here. There it is! This way, Tut! This is the best thing you've ever seen.

TUT But Taki! I can't see a thing! It's so scary in here!

TAKI Your basement is scary in the dark to you, Tut. You've got to see what we found yesterday. I'm telling you, it must be the greatest archeological discovery ever!

TUT But why do we have to look for it in the dark?

TAKI Because Doctor Gray and Dr. Johanson probably wouldn't like us poking around in their dig before they announce their discovery. Besides, it's spookier this way. This is a show you know.

(*Backing toward one another in center of stage, Tut and Taki bump into a skeleton. Both scream.*)

TAKI & TUT AHHH!

TUT Wha...Wha...what is it, Taki? (*Music fades out*)

TAKI It's bones, Tut! Bones! According to our carbon dating, they're more than 3 million years old!

TUT Wow! Three million years old! That makes it one of the oldest skeletons ever found. Can I touch it?

TAKI We...e..ll, I don't think that's a very good idea.

(*Tut slowly reaches to touch the skeleton anyway and Lucy comes alive and giggles*)

TUT What was that?

TAKI I don't know, but it's not funny

TUT Who's laughing?

(*Taki touches the skeleton under her chin.*)

LUCY (*giggling*) Hee hee hee...ah, cut it out!

TAKI & TUT Yikes!

TAKI (*to Tut*) Cut what out? What are you talking about?

TUT I didn't say anything.

(*They both look at Lucy. They lean their faces in very close to hers to get a better look.*)

LUCY BOOO!

TAKI & TUT AHHHHH!

(*They run into each other and fall down*) *Lucy moves freely now and stands between the two of them*

LUCY Hello! My name is Lucy! What's yours?

(*After a moment's hesitation, Taki and Tut look at the audience and scream again.*)

TAKI & TUT AHHHHH!

LUCY Kinda jumpy, aren't you guys? What's the matter? Haven't you ever seen a real fossil before?

TAKI & TUT AHHHHH!

LUCY Good grief! Look, I've been lying around here for 3 million years. Talk about boring!

TUT But you're a...a...skeleton!

LUCY (*sarcastically, talking to the audience*) Boy we've got a smart one here! Is that your final answer or do you wanna use a lifeline?

TAKI But skeletons can't talk...can they?

LUCY (*playing dumb*) Duh! Well I don't know. Let's see...am I talking or not? Wait 'til I decide to sing...sister, you ain't heard nothin' yet!

TAKI & TUT Wow!

LUCY In a way, all fossils can talk. By studying us, you can tell a whole lot about things that happened in the world a long time ago.

TAKI I know that studying history is a good way to learn about where we came from, where we are, and where we are going.

LUCY Now you're talking, sister! So, let's start again, I'm Lucy. (*reaches out to shake their hands and help them up*)

TAKI (*tentatively shaking her hand*) I'm Taki.

TUT And I'm Tut!

LUCY Charmed, I'm sure. Now come on! Let my friends and me show you a little of what has happened in the world since I lay down here so long, long ago.

TAKI & TUT (*in awe*) Weird! Totally Weird!

### **SONG: "So Long Ago"**

If you really want to know. Pay attention to our show.  
When you do, we think you'll see you can learn from history.  
We can look at Greece or Rome. And the folks who called it home.  
If you give your brain a turn There is just so much to learn  
From long ago. So long ago. Gee, it happened long ago.

We can travel up the Nile. Take a cruise Egyptian style.  
Maybe hike on the Great Wall. If you like, we'll do it all.  
There's so much to history. Take a tip from Ptolemy.  
From Iraq to Hackensack This is your chance to get back  
To long ago. So long ago. Gee, it happened long ago.

What can we learn from the past that we don't already know?  
What will we see? What will we hear when we dance back through the years? Let's go!

What can we learn from the past that we don't already know?  
What will we see? What will we hear when we dance back through the years?  
So long ago. So long ago. Gee, it happened long a... see, it happened long a...  
Gee, it happened long ago! Gee, it happened long ago!

## SCENE 2: Mesopotamia

NARRATOR Seven thousand years ago, the people who lived between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers created what are thought to be some of the earliest communities in the history of mankind. The word Mesopotamia comes from the Greek language and actually means “the land between two rivers.” Our friend, Lucy, is happy to show Taki and Tut this part of history.

*(Lucy, Tut, and Taki are on one side of the stage.)*

*(The stage fills with dwellers from early Mesopotamia. They have garden tools, baskets full of goods, etc)*

LUCY You know, there is a lot we can learn from the past.

TUT Who are those people over there, Lucy?

LUCY Ahh, good question, Tut! Those are Sumerians from the land of Mesopotamia. What you’re looking at is pretty typical for 3,000 B.C. That guy is the famous Gilgamesh.

*(The trio watch as the scene is played out centerstage.)*

GILGAMESH *(flamboyant and stuffy...clapping his hands to get everyone’s attention)* People! People! Work with me now! We’ve got to work together!

*(All of the farmers, nomads, and merchants stop and pay attention.)*

WORKERS Who died and made *him* king?

GILGAMESH I heard that! Now look, I know you’re all used to working independently and getting along just fine. But it’s 110 degrees here and this land is dry as a desert!

ENKIDU Ahem! Sir! Sir!

GILGAMESH What is it, Enkidu, my valiant friend and servant?

ENKIDU *(Enkidu whispers in his ear)* This IS a desert!

GILGAMESH Okay, so this IS a desert. But, if we just work together a little bit, I think we can survive here and maybe even create one of the first great civilizations.

*(A murmur goes through the crowd and they all look doubtfully at each other.)*

ENKIDU Gilgamesh is right, everybody. Working together, we can make sure that nobody messes with Mesopotamia!

GILGAMESH Well put, Enkidu! Well put!

ENKIDU Thank you, sir!

GILGAMESH Now, look, we’ve got rivers on both sides of this plain. And what are they called?

ALL *(with conviction)* Rivers!

GILGAMESH *(exasperated)* I know that! But what are the names of these rivers.

ALL *(as though reciting something they’ve said a hundred times)* The Tigris and the Euphrates.

GILGAMESH *(as if a teacher)* “A” Plus! Those rivers have allowed our production of farm goods to go way up. So what’s the problem?

ENKIDU The problem, sir, is that we need a more efficient way to transport these goods to market.

GILGAMESH Right! Right! Right you are, Enkidu. Well, who’s got a suggestion?

WORKER 1 *(rolling a wooden wheel in front of him)* Sir, if I might suggest...I’ve been working on a small, round invention that I think might have great possibilities.

GILGAMESH (*looking doubtfully at the wheel*) Hmm! Can't see it myself, but let's go ahead and give it a try. Now what's next?

WORKER 2 (*holding a sack of tokens*) Well, sir, I've been working on a system of currency that I think might help us keep track of what we trade and what we owe.

GILGAMESH (*takes the sack, looks at it, and stuffs it into his robe pocket*) Hmm...a capital idea! Write it down!

ALL (*looking at each other doubtfully*) Write it down?

ENKIDU Write it down, sir?

GILGAMESH (*perturbed*) Figure it out, Enkidu! I can't do everything around here! (*dusts hands and turns to others*) I'm so proud of all of you! At this rate, we should be able to build a civilization that lasts for thousands of years...right here between our own two beautiful rivers!

### **SONG: "The Land Between Two Rivers"**

Rivers flow, makes things grow. Living through all kinds of weather.  
We all know the seeds we'll sow are bringing the people together.

Two rivers, many people. Come together on the land.  
One vision, all people. The land between two rivers is our home.

Day by day, year by year. Building a land like no other.  
Never stop. Never fear. Build for your sister and brother.

Two rivers, many people. Come together on the land.  
One vision, all people. The land between two rivers is our home.

*(spoken narration)*

NARRATOR: In the land between two rivers, the creative and intelligent Sumerians built farming villages and irrigation systems from as early as 5,000 B.C. Archeologists have even found evidence of great cities and a very complex civilization as early as 3500 B.C.

WORKER 2 Farmers produced food.

WORKER 1 The Mesopotamian plain gave rise to one of the first great civilizations.

GIL & ENK And it all happened on the Land Between Two Rivers.

*(Song resumes)*

Two rivers, many people.  
Come together on the land.  
One vision, all people.  
The land between two rivers is our home.  
We are home.

**SCENE 3: Egypt**

NARRATOR Egypt 2,000 B.C. Grain is scarce and people are suffering. The king decides that the answer to all the problems is to build a pyramid. Although it may seem like a ludicrous priority to our modern ears, but in truth, the relationship between the ancient Egyptians, their kings, and their gods was fundamental.

*(Egyptian laborers enter slowly. They are carrying boxes that they will gradually put together into a pyramid)*

TUT What do we get to see next, Lucy?

TAKI Yeah, I never knew history could be so...so... alive!

LUCY Alive? *(she smiles)* Well, we'll see about that. Listen up! Here comes King Zoser of Egypt and his trusted servant Imhotep.

TUT Wow, they look pretty good considering they lived *four thousand years ago!*

*(The trio watches the scene centerstage)*

IMHOTEP *(Explaining...very worried)* King Zoser! Grain is scarce.

PEASANT 1 *(in anguish)* I've got not grain!

IMHOTEP The fruit is all dried up.

PEASANT 2 *(desperate)* Look at my fruit! It's completely dried up!

IMHOTEP People are so desperate that they are robbing their neighbors.

*(Two peasants are standing together. One is holding a sandwich.)*

PEASANT 1 Wow! look at that! *(points to the sky)*

PEASANT 2 *(looks to where he is pointing)* Huh?

*(Peasant 1 takes peasant 2's sandwich and runs off as peasant 2 chases him)*

ALL *(crying children and wailing people)* Woe is me!

IMHOTEP Children are crying, and people are sad as can be! What are we going to do?

ZOSER *(happy)* I know! Build me a pyramid!

*(Imhotep and rest of cast look at audience in disbelief.)*

ZOSER *(very serious)* But first, I must learn the name of the God of the Nile. Then we can offer sacrifices to that god and he will help us. *(pause)* Everybody! *(all look at him)* Go to sleep at once!

*(Everybody lays down and goes to sleep. Dream music plays. Enter the god KHNUM)*

KHNUM *(in a big god-like voice)* I am Khnum. That's K-H-N-U-M. *(aside to the audience)* The H is silent. I know the River Nile. When it covers the fields, it gives them life. Now the Nile will pour over the land without stopping. Plants will grow and trees will bow down with fruit. The years of starvation will be over. Thank you and good night!

*(Khnum exits, music stops)*

ZOSER Ladies and Gentlemen, my fellow Egyptians. (*everybody wakes up*) I have had a marvelous, and rather brief dream. The name of the God of the Nile is Khnum. That's K-H-, oh, never mind! We must offer him gifts. The years of hunger have ended. Now we can build the great Egyptian civilization that people will talk about for generations to come. I know you're hungry, but first things first. So, we'll start with a giant pyramid - which will be my tomb!

**SONG: "In My Tomb"**

There I was just a sitting by the Nile  
 Long came a Pharoah and he stayed a while.  
 Said, "Build a pyramid clear up to the sky,  
 so I have a place to lay me down  
 if ever I should die."

In my tomb. In my tomb.

Got to get ready for the after life  
 I'd like to take some guards along  
 and my newest wife!  
 Now I'll have to have some food,  
 but I won't need a car.  
 Put my drinks in a urn  
 and my organs in a jar.

In my tomb. In my tomb. In my tomb.

I like a lot of jewelry, and if I have a vote,  
 put me in a mask and don't forget a boat.  
 Bury me with gold and a million candlesticks.  
 They can learn a lot about me with your hieroglyphics.

In my tomb. In my tomb. In my tomb.

I like a lot of jewelry, and if I have a vote,  
 put me in a mask and don't forget a boat.  
 Bury me with gold and a million candlesticks.  
 They can learn a lot about me with your hieroglyphics.

In my tomb. In my tomb. In my tomb.

**SCENE 4: Greece**

NARRATOR Perhaps no civilization has had such a direct influence on our American lives as the Ancient Greeks. This is especially true in regards to architecture, literature, and the rest of their rich culture.

*(A group known as the chorus enter. They speak rhythmically in unison all the time.)*

CHORUS We are the chorus of the Ancient Greeks  
We have to act together so we practice for weeks.  
Listen very carefully, for when we speak  
We will tell you of the wonders of the Ancient Greeks.

SOPHOCLES *(like the director of a play)* No, *no*, that will never do! Nobody will believe you if you don't give it more emotion! Now please... one more time with feeling!

CHORUS *(with more emphasis, overacting like crazy)*  
We are the chorus of the Ancient Greeks  
We have to act together so we practice for weeks.  
Listen very carefully, for when we speak  
We will tell you of the wonders of the Ancient Greeks.

HERODOTUS How's it going, Sophocles? Is the play almost finished?

SOPHOCLES Terrible, just terrible, Herodotus. The play festival in Athens is less than a week away and I can't get this chorus to work together for anything.

HERODOTUS Well, what's the new play about anyway?

SOPHOCLES It's supposed to be about all of the wonderful things of Greece that will be around thousands of years after we are all dead and gone.

HERODOTUS Sounds interesting.

SOPHOCLES It IS interesting. But I can't seem to come up with the right hook to tie it all together.

HERODOTUS How about...*(dramatically as though he sees the name in lights)* "The Odyssey?"

SOPHOCLES No. Homer beat me to it.

HERODOTUS *(again with drama)* How about "Greece: The Musical?"

SOPHOCLES It'll never fly.

BOTH *(scratching their heads)* Hmmm!

CHORUS How about Greece is the word?

SOPHOCLES What? What did you say?

CHORUS Greece. Greece is the word.  
And give it a good dance groove.

SOPHOCLES That's it!

CHORUS We're glad you thought of it! *(entire chorus rolls their eyes)*

**SONG: “Greece is the Word”**

There are so many groovy things that we got from the Greeks.  
 Comedy and tragedy and even words we speak.  
 I could tell you all of them but it could take a week.  
 And though it all may seem absurd: Greece is the word!

So you see there really is so very much to learn.  
 What is an Acropolis and what’s a Grecian urn?  
 Everything is “Greek to me” so Greece is my concern.  
 Why don’t you take a turn? For... Greece is the word.

Ai, yi, yi, yi, everybody dance.  
 Ai, yi, yi, yi, come and take a chance.  
 Ai, yi, yi, yi, stamp and clap your hands (stamp&clap).  
 Do the Grecian dance along with me.

From them came Olympics and the first democracy.  
 Not to mention Baklava and even botany.  
 Architects and algebra and sweet Antigone.  
 I think it’s plain to see... Greece is the word.

So you see there really is so very much to learn.  
 What is an Acropolis and what’s a Grecian urn?  
 Everything is “Greek to me” so Greece is my concern.  
 Why don’t you take a turn? For... Greece is the word.

Ai, yi, yi, yi, everybody dance.  
 Ai, yi, yi, yi, come and take a chance.  
 Ai, yi, yi, yi, stamp and clap your hands (stamp&clap).  
 Do the Grecian dance along with me.

Ai, yi, yi, yi, everybody dance. Ai, yi, yi, yi, come and take a chance.  
 Ai, yi, yi, yi, stamp and clap your hands (stamp&clap).  
 Do the Grecian dance along with me.

(faster) Ai, yi, yi, yi, everybody dance.  
 Ai, yi, yi, yi, come and take a chance.  
 Ai, yi, yi, yi, stamp and clap your hands (stamp&clap).  
 Do the Grecian dance along with me.  
 Do the Grecian dance along with me.  
 Do the Grecian dance along with me.  
 \*OPA!\*

**SCENE 5: Rome**

- TAKI           Gee, I had no idea that Ancient Greece had such a lasting effect on the world.
- TUT            This is just great, Lucy. No bones about it, you really know your stuff. No bones about it? Huh? Get it?
- LUCY          I get it, kid. *(turning her back on Tut)* You're right, Taki. Greece did have a huge impact on the world, as did the Ancient Romans.
- TUT            Oh, I remember! The Romans were the first to try a real Republic?
- LUCY          Not to mention expanding to one of the most powerful Empires that ever existed. Why, you can still see signs of Ancient Rome as far away as Morocco, Iraq, and even England.
- TAKI & TUT    Wow!
- LUCY          Wow is right! And legend says it all started with twin brothers and their dream to build a new city.
- NARRATOR    Meet twin brothers, Romulus and Remus, who were rescued from a basket floating in the reeds and raised by a wolf. Here, we find them arguing over the location of the new city, which would later be called Rome.
- REMUS         No, Romulus! I'm telling you, I had a dream. And in this dream, I saw six vultures flying over the exact spot where we should build the city.
- ROMULUS      No Remus! I, too, had a dream. And in my dream I saw 12 vultures flying over the spot where we were found as babies in that basket. Twelve vultures is more than six vultures - so that's where we should build.
- REMUS         No way! Six is an omen from the gods that I chose the right spot!
- ROMULUS      But twelve is a bigger omen!
- REMUS         6!
- ROMULUS      12!
- REMUS         6!
- ROMULUS      12!
- REMUS         I'm telling Mom!
- ROMULUS      What does SHE care? She's a WOLF. What could SHE do? Now I must KILL YOU with this ROCK.
- (Romulus picks up a rock and hits Remus over the head with it. Remus dies a dramatic death.)*
- ROMULUS      *(proudly, he unrolls blueprints, envisioning the city)* And I'll call it... ROME!

*(A couple of romans walk in.)*

ROMAN 1 Hey Romulus, how's Rome coming along?  
 ROMAN 2 Yeah, Romulus! Heard you were having some problems with your aqueducts?  
 ROMULUS Look guys! It can't be build in a day, you know!  
 ROMAN 1 No need to be snippy, Romulus!  
 ROMAN 2 I just hope it's ready for Caesar's big bash on Saturday night.  
 ROMAN 1 Oh rats! I forgot all about the big party. And I don't have a thing to wear!  
 ROMAN 2 Don't worry. Word is out that dress is white Toga, so you're all set.  
 ROMAN 1 Togas! Great! I have a linen closet full of them!  
 ROMAN 2 Well then, what are we waiting for? Let's go!

**SONG: "Toga Party Tonight!"**

LUCY: Come on, everybody. Can't you feel the beat?  
 Grab a chum and have some fun. Toga party tonight!

Here's your invitation. Dress to beat the heat.  
 Get a sheet, and knot it neat. Toga party tonight, oh yeah Toga party tonight!

Everyone will have some fun. Toga party tonight!  
 In the rain or in the sun; Toga party tonight!

We won't quit 'till everyone... Toga party tonight!  
 ... hops around the Parthenon. Toga party tonight!

LUCY Come on! Here we go now!

GIRLS: Gotta get a toga and head for the party tonight. BOYS: Toga party, toga party.  
 GIRLS: Here to Saratoga, everything's gonna be alright. BOYS: Toga party, toga party.  
 ALL: You really ought to see 'em down at the Coliseum. Toga party tonight!

Everyone will have some fun. Toga party tonight!  
 In the rain or in the sun; Toga party tonight!  
 We won't quit 'till everyone... Toga party tonight!  
 ... hops around the Parthenon. Toga party tonight!

GIRLS: Toga party! BOYS: Toga party! GIRLS: Toga party! BOYS: Toga party!  
 GIRLS: Toga party! (others) BOYS: Toga party! GIRLS: Toga party!

You really ought to see 'em down at the Coliseum  
 Toga party tonight! (The latest fashion!) Toga party tonight! (I feel a breeze!)  
 Toga party tonight! (One size fits all!) Toga party tonight... party tonight! Yeah!

**SCENE 6: The Future**

LUCY Well, that's probably about enough for one day, guys. These old bones are aching and needing a rest.

*(She borrows on of their canteens and starts to pour them each a glass of water.)*

TAKI This has been such an amazing adventure, Lucy. I feel like we've learned so much.

TUT No Kidding! My brain can't hold another thing!

LUCY The great thing about studying the past is that you can learn so much about who we are and who we might become.

TAKI Doesn't it make you feel very, very small and insignificant, Lucy?

LUCY Not really, Taki. It just makes me feel part of something bigger than myself. It makes me realize that everything anybody ever did before me, changed the world for me.

TUT That means that everything we do will change the world for those who follow us!

TAKI That's awesome!

ALL We matter!

*(They hold up their glasses.)*

TUT So here's to the past, both big and small!

TAKI And here's to the future for one and all!

LUCY *(looking at her bones and the cup of water)* I really don't know if this is going to work.

**SONG: "Here's to the Future"**

Here's to the future. Here's to the past.  
 Here's to the memories. We pray they'll last, oh...  
 We keep on moving and as we grow.  
 Here's to the future, and on we go.

Here's to tomorrow. Here's to today.  
 Through joy or sorrow we'll be okay, oh...  
 We keep on dreaming and as we do.  
 Here's to tomorrow. Dreams do come true

Here's to the future. Here's to the past.  
 Here's to the memories. We pray they'll last, oh...  
 We keep on moving and as we grow.  
 Here's to the future, and on we go.

(1) Here's to the future. (2) And on we go. (1) Here's to the past. (2) And on we go.

(1) Here's to the future. (2) And on we go. (1) Here's to the past. (2) And on

ALL: we go.

**REPRISE: “So Long Ago”**

Thanks for coming to our show!  
Now we really have to go!  
But we think you must agree,  
you can learn from history.

Take a look at Greece or Rome  
and the folks who called it home.  
When you give your brain a turn,  
there is just so much to learn  
from long ago!

Yeah, it happened long ago!  
Yeah, it happened long ago!  
Yeah, it happened long ago!  
Gee it happened long ago!

See what we've learned from the past  
    See what we've learned  
That we did not really know.  
    We did not know  
So much to see  
    So much to see  
So much to hear  
    much to hear  
When we danced back through the years!

So long ago!  
Yeah, it happened long ago!  
Yeah, it happened long ago!  
Yeah, it happened long ago!  
Gee it happened long a-  
See it happened long a-  
Gee it happened long a-  
Gee it happened long ago!