

Dandi Orchestra Productions

The Twins and the Monster

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE TEXT

The Twins and the Monster is an old-fashioned fairy tale that was told to its author, Tololwa M Mollel by his grandmother as he was growing up in Tanzania, Africa.

The Story

“The Twins and the Monster” tells the story of Aziza and her twin brother Azizi. Many years ago, they lived in a peaceful village beside a beautiful, lush forest. But the village has been devastated by a ruthless monster who dwells deep within the forest.

One day, a parrot fools Aziza by singing her brother’s song – a song that the twins use to indicate it is safe to open the door. Alas, the parrot leads Aziza to the monster, who kidnaps her and takes her back to his dark cavern.

When Azizi comes home to an empty house, his despair is conquered only by the courage he needs to follow the trail his clever sister has left. Helped by the animals, the forest and the elements, Azizi is repaid for the care with which he tends the forest.

Upon finding the monster’s cave, Azizi must use the twins’ song to find his sister. Once reunited, Aziza comes up with a plan to drive the monster away for good.

The twins become heroes, and their triumph helps the village to grow again.

Media Release Info

Based on a traditional African folk tale, this triumphant story travels through dark forests, vast plains and spooky swamps to deliver a thrilling tale of family unity and courage. The exciting original score uses the rhythms of Africa to drive the fast-paced presentation, and the twins use their own song (in Swahili) to find each other just when things look hopeless. The story is acted out to the accompaniment of a full orchestra-score, by a solo performer using beautiful carved masks, singing and movement. Dramatic lighting and costuming create an exotic atmosphere, as powerful music sweeps the young audience to a faraway land.

This energetic tale was **written by Governor General Award-winning author Tololwa M Mollel** and was adapted for orchestra by Doug McKeag, Artistic Director of Dandi Productions. The lush, entertaining **score is by John Estacio**, and the **World Premiere was produced and directed by Dandi Orchestra Productions** with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, conducted by David Hoyt. The masks were created by **The Old Trout Puppet Workshop**.

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