

The Seasoned Veteran

A Climatical Musical

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PLOT SUMMARY

The Seasoned Veteran is a story of how the world loses winter. Monsoon and Drought live in peace with their kids, Zima and Vera, until the siblings grow hostile due to their different weather conditions and from excavating their parents' past.

After constructing Earth for three billion years, Drought hosts a housewarming party. But only one friend shows up: Monsoon. It comes as a surprise as Drought last saw them during Monsoon's deployment into the stardust clouds. Monsoon's housewarming gift is red algae, Earth's earliest life form. Drought's air conditioner soon overloads, resulting in Earth getting frozen out. Monsoon stays in for an ice age. They end up falling for each other and conceiving Zima and Vera ("Signs of Life").

A billion years pass. Monsoon returns from a campaign to go hiking with Drought and their kids. Zima is winter and Vera is spring. Zima plays with their toy mammoths while Vera plays with their toy dinosaurs ("Spring Into Action").

Zima and Monsoon are close due to their rainy nature. Vera envies this. Vera breaks Zima's mammoths. In a fit of rage, Zima crushes Vera's dinosaur with a boulder. Monsoon and Drought push away Zima to tend to Vera. Zima runs off into Harvest Mountain where they meet a cloud for the first time. They let the cloud share the world with them. Zima sees suffering in the world, but Monsoon stops them from seeing more ("Head in the Clouds").

At home, Zima and Vera develop an animosity towards one another ("Throw Caution"). In the meantime, Drought has grown to be a toymaker and tries to fix Zima and Vera's toys. They turn Zima's mammoths into elephants while they gift Vera a human doll.

Monsoon teaches Zima to master water. Unfortunately, Vera has no capability to make water ("Dihydrogen Monoxide"). Vera sees Zima regularly sneak out to visit the cloud. There, Zima learns to design and drop snowflakes, miniature shuriken for the earthly masses ("Cold Snaps"). Vera asks their human doll for advice. They go mad as the human is an evil influence ("Precipitous").

Time passes. After an ice age, Zima and Vera are now teenagers and start questioning their family and Monsoon's constant departures ("Get Wind of This"). So, Drought highlights that Monsoon is true to themselves and the world ("True as Monsoon").

Monsoon returns to celebrate the anniversary of the solar system's orbit around the Milky Way galaxy. Vera offers to do everyone's laundry in preparation. While in Drought's workshop,

Vera finds their old dinosaur figures have melted into oil over time. Vengeful, Vera soaks Zima's clothes in it ("Fossil Fuel").

To prepare, Zima and Monsoon bond by cooking together. As Monsoon strikes the pan with their newfound lightning, Zima catches on fire ("Seasoning"). Monsoon focuses so much on the fighting out there, that they do not pay attention to the fighting at home. Zima runs off to Harvest Mountain, where they finally let the cloud take them ("Head in the Clouds, Reprise").

The next act starts off visiting Monsoon's backstory as a water peacekeeper. With their platoon, Monsoon traversed the cosmos to bring rain to the downtrodden. Monsoon wished for gratitude from life's creatures who often take it for granted. Over time, their comrades are decimated by each planet's transition into their nuclear age. They once wiped out a world with floods in retaliation. Now, Monsoon is reassigned to Earth and frequents it with rain. Sadly, Earth is following many other planet's downfalls through loss of weather systems ("Wars Over Water").

In the present, Zima is now a warrior who tours Earth to bring snow to force an appreciation for rain among its inhabitants ("Peace in Snow"). Zima would also torment Vera every waking moment. The human doll suggests the nuclear option, which Vera initiates by giving Zima the silent treatment. This treatment symbolizes a global extinction event caused by a nuclear world war ("Nuclear Winter"). Zima leaves a note to meet at Harvest Mountain for a truce. Vera hikes alone ("Weather Conditions").

As Vera arrives at the top of the mountain, Zima waits for them, clad in war armor. Zima breaks Vera's bones like Vera had broken their mammoths. Monsoon arrives, clad in a peacekeeper uniform. Zima envies Vera being the attention of Monsoon's affections in their absence. Monsoon safeguards Vera despite Zima fighting for Monsoon to be appreciated around the world. Monsoon and Zima clash. They will not lose another child. They have no choice but to slay their "favorite" precipitous child, Zima. In the battle, Zima impales Monsoon with an icicle umbrella. As a result, Monsoon overly weeps. Zima melts and drowns in Monsoon's tears. The Seasons loses winter for good ("Break the Ice").

Time passes. Monsoon and Drought have long passed. Vera faces the world alone without their sibling, whom they have grown to wish for the love they could have had. Vera drops the human doll into the void in order to move on ("Forgive and Forecast").

Adapting the seasons as a family drama, physicist-turned-dramatist David Quang Pham explores sibling rivalry, parental negligence, peace versus war, weather to climate, loss of winter, and water with his musical, *The Seasoned Veteran*.



CAST OF CHARACTERS

MONSOON SEASON, adult, a precipitous parent, and veteran peacekeeper and paratrooper

Wacky, Negligent, Assertive

DROUGHT SEASON, adult, a dry-humored parent and toymaker

Burnt-out, Funny, Easygoing

ZIMA, kid to adult, Monsoon and Drought's snowy child

Headstrong, Cold

PRIMAVERA, kid to adult, Monsoon and Drought's flowery child

Hotheaded, Jumpy

Elemental Ensemble

DROPLETS, dancers personifying water

SNOWFLAKES, dancers personifying snow

WASTES, dancers personifying oil, fire, and nuclear waste

⊕ Androgyny Climatology: Each character resembles the androgynous nature, with open-ended vocal requirements

⊕ People of the Global Majority most represent the experiences of these seasons; cast accordingly

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

1. "Signs of Life" Drought, Monsoon
2. "Spring into Action" Monsoon, Drought, Zima, Vera
3. "Head in the Clouds" Zima
4. "Throw Caution" Monsoon, Drought, Vera
5. "True as Monsoon" Drought, Vera, Monsoon
7. "Cold Snaps" Zima
8. "Perennial" Vera, Zima
9. "Home and Dry" Zima, Monsoon, Drought, Vera
10. "Fossil Fuel" Vera
11. "Seasoning" Monsoon, Zima

Act II

12. "Free Rein" Zima, Monsoon
13. "Head in the Clouds, Reprise" Zima
14. "Nuclear Winter"
15. "Weather Conditions" Zima, Vera
16. "Break the Ice" Monsoon, Drought, Zima, Vera
17. "Precipitous" Zima, Monsoon
18. "Forgive and Forecast" Vera, Monsoon, Drought

- . "Catch Wind of This"
- . "Come and Go"

ACT I

SCENE 1

EARTH, THREE BILLION YEARS AGO

1. "SIGNS OF LIFE"

The Earth is a freshly built land.
There is a house in the distance.

The Stardust Cloud docks itself on
the young planet, anchoring itself
and giving off a lasting thunder.

MONSOON steps off the Stardust
Cloud, holding an opened umbrella
while lugging a waterkeeper helmet
and knapsack. They close their
umbrella as they look upon a
puddle. They pick up the puddle
like fabric and gift it to an
AUDIENCE MEMBER. They gesture the
AUDIENCE to pass the water around.

MONSOON

SIGN... YOU ARE LIFE.
WHEREVER THERE'S WATER, THERE ARE SIGNS OF LIFE.
WHEREVER THERE'S WATER, EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT.
WHEREVER THERE'S WATER, THERE ARE TONS OF MUD.
WHENEVER THERE IS MUD, THERE IS TIME FOR FUN!

MONSOON plays in the muddy fabric.

The DROPLETS are not present.

DROPLETS (OFFSTAGE)

PROTECT THIS BLOOD WITH OUR LIVES.
FEED EVERY CHILDREN IN SIGHT.
WATER, FOR YOU, WE WILL DIE.

MONSOON sees a volcanic patch of
land. They cover it with cloudlike
foam, extinguishing its flames and
leaving leafy greens.

MONSOON

I HAVE SIGNED AWAY MY RIGHTS.
RAIN BLESSES ALL THAT'S DIVINE.
WATER, YOU ARE WHAT MAKES LIFE.

MONSOON sees the house in the
distance. They trek towards it.

End of "SIGNS OF LIFE"

SCENE 2

TERRA-CE

DROUGHT frantically makes some finishing touches on Earth's housewarming party.

DROUGHT

Earth, I'll protect you with my life! This world, it's dry or die. It's me or the end. I'm here to make it on my own. It's here to make anyone at home. I'm over the Moon. The Moon broke apart too soon. At this housewarming, there's room!

MONSOON knocks at the door.

DROUGHT opens the door.

MONSOON

Drought. It's Monsoon!

DROUGHT

Back so soon?

MONSOON

That's a dry hello. It's only been a few eras.

DROUGHT

Billions of years too long.

MONSOON

Nice place you've got here.

DROUGHT

It's just Terra.

MONSOON

That's what you call this world?

DROUGHT

I've been trying to reach you...

MONSOON

It's hard to get in touch when one's deployed.

DROUGHT

Rest assured, this ain't a ploy. I didn't think I'd see you again.

MONSOON

Stop. I'm not fighting wars. I've just been preventing them.

DROUGHT

You've been near war zones.

MONSOON

I've been in the zone.

DROUGHT

There's no life without home.

MONSOON

There's more to life out there.

MONSOON holds up their knapsack.

DROUGHT

A souvenir?

MONSOON

Life is soothing and near.

DROUGHT takes out the red algae
from the knapsack.

MONSOON (CONT'D)

Red algae. To decorate your home!

DROUGHT

Red will give it personality.

MONSOON

The first sign of life.

DROUGHT displays the red algae.

DROUGHT

A rainy day gift.

MONSOON

That's a dry thank you. And speaking of sign of
life... Is anyone else coming?

DROUGHT

I invited the entire Universe.

MONSOON

Want me to shower them with invites?

DROUGHT

All good. The world ain't ready as it needs to
be. Terra is missing that special something.

MONSOON

And what is that?

MONSOON and DROUGHT get closer.

DROUGHT
(Plurally)

Life.

MONSOON
It's so warm in here.

DROUGHT
Don't worry! I've installed an air conditioner.

DROUGHT turns on the AC.

MONSOON
Dang. We should get one of these overseas with these solar flares.

DROUGHT
That reminds me: you should be on your way. You have a Stardust Cloud to catch.

MONSOON
I just can't leave without a dry hug.

DROUGHT hugs MONSOON. They open the door. Ice blocks the doorway.

DROUGHT
You give me chills.

MONSOON
Let's chill out.

DROUGHT checks the AC.

DROUGHT
Not the AC! It overloaded.

MONSOON
We'll just have to wait out the ice for ages.

DROUGHT
How was the clouds of gas and dust?

MONSOON
The ride was rough.

DROUGHT
Where did you go, eight billion years ago?

MONSOON
Where were we?

The world darkens.

SCENE 3

UNIVERSE, TWO BILLION YEARS YOUNG

A cosmic lightning brightens the space.

MONSOON and DROUGHT, a youthful couple, stand by the Stardust Cloud.

DROUGHT

Where will we be?

MONSOON

I will be somewhere that needs me.

DROUGHT

I need you.

The space gives off thunderous tidal and wavy sounds.

MONSOON dons their waterkeeper helmet. They board the Cloud.

MONSOON

My Cloud is setting sail. Into the cosmic sea I go.

DROUGHT

Be safe. You are my hero.

MONSOON

Rein in your emotions, love. I'm just sharing my gifts to those who lack rain. Power is in the water.

MONSOON sails off into the chaotic universe on the Stardust Cloud.

SCENE 4

TERRA-CE

DROUGHT stands alone.

DROUGHT

(Narrating)

You may think as dry as I am that I have nothing to say, but dryness leaves space for the wind and therefore room to speak.

Once reconnecting after so long, Monsoon stayed for an ice age. Life happened. We made life...

(MORE)

DROUGHT (CONT'D)

But as soon as the ice melted, Monsoon returned to coming and going. Red algae will do.

DROUGHT plants the red algae in a pot. It instantly grows massive.

Shadows show MONSOON and DROUGHT occasionally growing old together.

DROUGHT (CONT'D)

Monsoon brought drums and roses. Music and life. Two important things in our lives. And eventually, they gifted me two of the most important lives in our lives.

The Cloud roars in the distance.

DROUGHT (CONT'D)

Off-winter and offspring! Zima and Vera, Monsoon is home!

ZIMA and VERA jump out from behind the red algae.

ZIMA holds a toy mammoth named Winter.

VERA holds a toy Brachiosaurus named Spring.

ZIMA & VERA

It's been forever since they reined us in!

VERA

What'd you think Monsoon is having us do, Zima?

ZIMA

Beats me.

VERA

Monsoon wouldn't.

ZIMA

It's an expression, Vera...

VERA

Oh.

ZIMA

Monsoon probably brought us another board game.

VERA

I'm so bored of games...

ZIMA

There's no other game in the world.

MONSOON opens the door.

ZIMA & VERA
Monsoon! Where have you been?

MONSOON
Rain got away with me.

ZIMA & VERA
You always say that.

MONSOON
I got something new to say and it's to announce
that it's that time in your lives. You game?

ZIMA & VERA
What time? What game?!

DROUGHT brings out some hiking
gear. They push ZIMA and VERA out
the door.

MONSOON is holding some paddles.

PREHISTORIC NATURE TRAILS AND RIVER

MONSOON
We're going rowing!
Rowing? Rowing?!
These kids have been
landlock, Drought.

DROUGHT
We're going hiking!
Hiking? Hiking?!
You know I hate being away
from land, Monsoon.

MONSOON (CONT'D)
We'll make a quick stop at Harvest Mountain.

2. "SPRING INTO ACTION"

MONSOON
WILL YOU TWO GET READY?

VERA
THIS IS GETTING WEIGHTY.

ZIMA
YOU'RE NOT HOLDING STEADY.

DROUGHT
LOOKS LIKE WE ARE READY!

MONSOON
WHAT DO WE DO
IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY?

ZIMA & VERA
SPRING INTO ACTION!

DROUGHT

WHAT DO WE DO
WITH INJURIES?

ZIMA & VERA

SPRING INTO ACTION!

DROUGHT

HOW ABOUT A CREATURE ATTACK?

ZIMA & VERA

SPRING INTO ACTION!

MONSOON & DROUGHT

THE SEASONS ARE WITH YOU AHEAD.

MONSOON and DROUGHT takes their children, Zima and Vera, through the prehistoric nature trails leading up to Harvest Mountain.

ZIMA and VERA play with their toy mammoth and toy dinosaur.

MONSOON

WHAT DO WE DO
IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY?

ZIMA & VERA

SPRING INTO ACTION!

ZIMA trips and falls.

DROUGHT

WHAT DO WE DO
WITH YOUR BOO BOOS?

VERA bandages ZIMA up.

VERA

SPRING INTO ACTION!

DROUGHT

HOW ABOUT A CREATURE ATTACK?

A creature prowls and lunges at the SEASON FAMILY.

MONSOON fights the creature, with Zima's help. MONSOON and ZIMA win.

MONSOON, DROUGHT, ZIMA, VERA

SPRING INTO ACTION!

End of "SPRING INTO ACTION"

DROUGHT

That's new. Peacekeeping sure teaches you some survival skills.

MONSOON

I have some good news, love: I've been reassigned to our Earth.

DROUGHT

You're resigning?

MONSOON

No. They *reassigned* me to work at home.

DROUGHT

Don't the other worlds need water?

MONSOON

My colleagues will take care of it. There's no other world for me.

DROUGHT

You're staying busy?

MONSOON

I'll watch over these lands. It's nothing. The biggest responsibility is raising *our* children.

VERA gets their toy Brachiosaurus to chomp on their palm.

VERA

Monsoon, Monsoon! Look at what my Brachiosaurus is doing to me. They're herbivores, after all!

MONSOON

That's great, honey.

VERA has the Brachiosaurus chomp on MONSOON.

VERA

My my... Spring the Dinosaur is thirsty.

MONSOON

Zima is also holding water. Zima's water is fresh and fruitful.

VERA has the Brachiosaurus chomp on ZIMA.

ZIMA

Your dinosaur is so primitive, Vera.

VERA goes and plays with DROUGHT.

ZIMA (CONT'D)

Monsoon. Where do you often go whenever you're away?

MONSOON

I went wherever and whatever creatures need me.

ZIMA

What do they need?

MONSOON

Life needs water.

ZIMA

Does life want water?

MONSOON

I don't know if they ever wanted me. But, I want to be here. I need to be here.

ZIMA

You're taking care of the creatures on Earth?

MONSOON

I'm not going anywhere far anymore.

ZIMA

Will I go far like you did?

MONSOON

Someday, you'll share your gifts with the world. You and I can drop vapors, like that.

MONSOON and ZIMA hold water together.

VERA seems jealous of the attention that MONSOON gives ZIMA.

VERA

Can I drop vapors?

MONSOON

(Lying)

You sure can.

ZIMA

No need for this elephant in the room... Vera, you cannot rain it in like Monsoon or me.

VERA snaps the mammoth's trunk.

ZIMA (CONT'D)

MONSOON & DROUGHT

Winter!!!!

Vera!

VERA

That's one less mammoth in the room.

MONSOON

Vera, apologize to your sibling at once!

VERA

Zi- Zi- I'm-

The Storm Cloud enters and floats far in the distance. It reads: "No mercy."

ZIMA notices the Storm Cloud's message.

ZIMA

No need...

ZIMA takes a boulder and drops it onto the dinosaur.

VERA

Spring!!!!

ZIMA

And there's no more dinosaurs in the world!
You'll never be precipitous like Monsoon, Vera.

VERA cries.

ZIMA runs off into the mountain.

MONSOON and DROUGHT tend to VERA.

SCENE 4

HARVEST MOUNTAIN

ZIMA runs up to the peak of Harvest Mountain. They cry with genuine remorse.

A dark and ominous Storm Cloud shows themself to ZIMA.

ZIMA

Monsoon told me not to talk to strange clouds!

The Cloud lightly thunders.

3. "HEAD IN THE CLOUDS"

ZIMA and the Storm Cloud speak.

ZIMA

THE CLOUD SPEAKS...
OF HOUSING MY DREAMS...
WHAT COULD ALL OF THIS POSSIBLY MEAN?
YOU'RE NOT WHAT YOU SEEM.
THIS FOG WREAKS.
YOU'LL LIE THROUGH YOUR TEETH.

This Storm Cloud gets vulnerable
and comfortable with ZIMA.

ZIMA (CONT'D)

BUT YOU HAVE NO NEED
TO HIDE THE WORLD THAT YOU HAVE FORESEEN.
WHAT DO YOU CLOUDS SEE
THAT MAKES YOU WEEP?
CLOUDY?

Conflict, fighting, war, and
suffering are audible.

ZIMA sees floods of bloodshed in
humanity. Mankind clouds ZIMA.

ZIMA (CONT'D)

THIS IS IN YOUR HEAD.
THE CLOUD, ALL IS IN YOUR HEAD.
THE CLOUD, TRUTH IS IN MY HEAD.
MY HEART'S NOT IN THE CLOUDS.
I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH.

IT'S ALL IN YOUR HEAD.
DEAR CLOUD, STOP HURTING MY HEAD.
MANKIND, YOU'RE SHROUDING MY HEAD.
MY HEART BREAKS IN THE CROWD.
MEMORIES, I HATE LOSING YOU.

MY HEAD IS IN THE CLOUDS...
MY HEAD IS IN THE CLOUDS.
MY HEAD IS NOT TOO PROUD.
AHEAD IS A WORLD CLOUDED BY DEATH.

The Cloud writes: "Wipe them out."

End of "HEAD IN THE CLOUDS"

MONSOON

Zima! Get off the cloud!

MONSOON drags ZIMA out of the
Storm Cloud.

The Storm Cloud floats away.

ZIMA

Monsoon?!

MONSOON

You're in trouble, young Season!

ZIMA

What's the reason, Monsoon?!

MONSOON

Hanging out with strange clouds. That Storm
Cloud is a bad influence.

ZIMA

The world is in trouble- The world is troubled.

MONSOON

What did you see?!

ZIMA

Trouble. I don't know what you see in that
world, but it's not worth it.

MONSOON

It's not a world for a kid to see. We're going
home. You're not seeing that Cloud ever again.

ZIMA

Monsoon?!

MONSOON

Zima.

DROUGHT and VERA enter.

VERA is holding a broken mammoth.

DROUGHT

Apologize to Vera.

VERA

Sorry, Zima...

SCENE 5

TERRA-CE

The home and its couches are set,
where ZIMA and VERA tensely sit.

MONSOON toys with a fish bowl.

ZIMA

You're not sorry.

MONSOON

Drought is fixing your mammoth, Zima.

VERA

It's impossible for the dinosaurs to come back.

ZIMA

And who's fault was that?

MONSOON looks upon VERA.

VERA

A big giant rock. But fire will get back at you and all your figurines.

ZIMA

Whatever you make of the situation, Vera.

DROUGHT enters, hiding a human doll behind their back.

DROUGHT

I made you something, Vera. Walla!

DROUGHT reveals a human doll.

VERA

Man... What is that?

DROUGHT

You can call it whatever you want.

VERA

Who are you *man*...?

DROUGHT

Who man?

VERA

Hue- Human!

ZIMA

People! Where's my mammoth?

DROUGHT

Your mammoth is still in the shop. Unfortunately, all their fur shedded while trying to fix their trunks.

ZIMA

A mammoth with no fur?! Ugh, elephants.

VERA

Monsoon. Stop swimming with the fishes, and check out um Human...

MONSOON

I've seen these creatures more and more. I guess Drought's been listening to my anecdotes.

DROUGHT

These creatures sure were hideous to replicate.

MONSOON

They were made in our image after all.

DROUGHT

You speak of evolution.

MONSOON

Isn't the weather so delightful?

VERA

You made clothes for Human?

DROUGHT

Human make their own clothes. They may be ugly, but they are smart.

MONSOON

I wouldn't say that.

DROUGHT

Give them grace.

VERA

Grace... What a lovely name for Human!

ZIMA

Why wouldn't you say that?

MONSOON

Hmm... They do have urges...

ZIMA

What urges?

DROUGHT

(to MONSOON)

You said these creatures are violent... and...?

MONSOON

Adult urges. Which reminds me: *I'm so wet...*

DROUGHT

Does someone need a dry hump?

MONSOON

Make it extra dry, Drought.

DROUGHT

You can't ask any sooner, Monsoon!

DROUGHT and MONSOON sensually
chase each other out of the room.

ZIMA

Monsoon and Drought are getting heated.

VERA

Not us! Truce?

4. "THROW CAUTION"

End of "THROW CAUTION"

MONSOON

I got to tell you something... We lost Zeus recently.

DROUGHT

Your squadmate? How are the others coping?

MONSOON

They're not.

DROUGHT

That's dry...

MONSOON

They can't when they're also gone.

DROUGHT

Oya...?

MONSOON

I'm the last waterkeeper in my platoon.

DROUGHT

What happened?

MONSOON

Nuclear annihilation.

DROUGHT

From the very things that you all were trying to feed and protect?

MONSOON

I don't get why when life forms get so smart, so intelligent, so complex... They need to doom themselves. I've returned for my- Our safety. This Earth is tame and nice.

5. "DIHYDROGEN MONOXIDE"

End of "DIHYDROGEN MONOXIDE"

ZIMA

Monsoon... What makes you do what you do?

MONSOON

Singularity. The creator of the Universe. They have called upon us, waterkeepers, to bring life to the cosmos.

ZIMA

Oh yeah... *Ellipses*. The story of Singularity and Gravity.

MONSOON

Your favorite bedtime story.

ZIMA

I wish Gravity did not take Singularity's oldest child away from them.

MONSOON

They had to have that falling out. We're only here because of it.

ZIMA

So, Gravity was a fallen angel?

MONSOON

You can say that. Maybe, Gravity just wants to be free from Singularity.

12. "HEAD IN THE CLOUDS (REPRISE)"

The WASTES enter from the audience.

Projection: Prints and media show the destruction that humans do to the environment.

The SNOWFLAKES are behind the Storm Cloud, sailing in like the Mongolian sea invasion of Japan. They march into the AUDIENCE, handing out snowy fabric. They slay the WASTES with their flakes.

Projection: Prints and media show the destruction that snow does to humanity from avalanches, hypothermia, freeway pile ups, and winter warfare. News reporters speak on how winter is starting later with each passing year. Scientists are stating that there someday will be no snow.

Blackout.

End of "HEAD IN THE CLOUDS (REPRISE)"

END OF ACT

ACT II

SCENE 1

ANOTHER WORLD, LONG AGO

12. "WAR OVER WATER"

The DROPLETS enter on a Stardust Cloud, like an LCVP during D-Day. They march off and dance a rain dance. They gift watery fabric to the AUDIENCE to pass around.

MONSOON parachutes onto the land. They spring into action.

MONSOON

WHEREVER THERE'S WATER, EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT.

Nuclear explosions are audible. Muddy fabric is thrown about.

The WASTES enter and fight the DROPLETS, laying waste to the lands. They steal back the watery fabric from the AUDIENCE.

Another waterkeeper helmet rolls into the space.

DROPLETS (OFFSTAGE)

Zeus down! The world killed Zeus!

MONSOON hugs their fallen comrade's helmet. They toss a lightning flashbang which starts a fire. Armed with an umbrella, they beat, shoot, and kill the WASTES left and right.

MONSOON

WHATEVER STOPS WATER, THERE'LL BE LOTS OF BLOOD.
WHATEVER SPILLS THE BLOOD, THIS WILL END IN FLOODS!

MONSOON floods the world with DROPLETS who fight back and eventually marches off.

MONSOON (CONT'D)

Why are you all having wars over water? Water is plentiful and renewable. You can share it! Stop fighting over it. We have given you the recipe for life! But, you've used this ingredient to create death and destruction!

(MORE)

MONSOON (CONT'D)

Whenever you kill each other, you also kill
your climate, the people supplying you water.
You creatures of this world are so ungrateful!

MONSOON speaks into a cloudy radio
that gives thunderous responses.

MONSOON (CONT'D)

This world is a lost cause. With every nuclear
blast is water left undrinkable and
incondensable. I await a reassignment.

I don't know how much more waterkeepers needs
to die for these monsters. We have lost Indra,
Zeus, and even Oya in my platoon alone.

I'd like a chance at this young planet called
Earth. I know that Drought got their non-
moisturized hands all over it. Paperwork is
going to take billions of years? So be it.

War has gotten less personal. So impersonal
that by a push of a button, sheer numbers of
people are killed. It kills me to have to need
a reassignment.

Yes, I understand the world I need amounts to a
retirement... Discharged?! The cosmos will
always need me to hold the water!

MONSOON hangs up and exits the
wastelands.

End of "WAR OVER WATER"

SCENE 2

EARTH, PRESENT

Eras have passed since ZIMA's
disappearance. At this point, ZIMA
and VERA are now teenagers.

ZIMA rides their Storm Cloud in.
They have become a warrior, clad
in armor and a helmet that
embodies soldiers of past eras.

13. "STORMING PEACE"

ZIMA and the Storm Cloud stops in their tracks upon seeing a sculpture of MONSOON. They take off their helmet and pay their respects.

The Storm Cloud roars.

ZIMA resumes their conquest. They exit with the Storm Cloud.

End of "STORMING PEACE"

SCENE 3

TERRA-CE

VERA, now an everyday teenager, enters and slips on ice.

VERA

You have not forgotten that I will not be forgiven...

VERA places Grace on a table.

14. "A FALL FROM GRACE"

End of "A FALL FROM GRACE"

15. "NUCLEAR WINTER"

End of "NUCLEAR WINTER"

SCENE 4

TERRA-CE

Falling from above, a large model of a snowflake strikes the floor, wall, or furniture near VERA.

VERA, cautiously approaches the model snowflake and reads.

VERA
(Reading)
My beloved sibling, Vera.
(Mocking)
Beloved?
(Reading)

16. "WEATHER CONDITIONS"

End of "WEATHER CONDITIONS"

DROUGHT
Family comes first.

MONSOON
Caring is second nature...

DROUGHT
But, love comes first.

17. "FIRST NATURE"

End of "FIRST NATURE"

DROUGHT
Vera... They are not in their room.

MONSOON stares out to Harvest
Mountain in the distance.

MONSOON

We've got a cloud to catch.

MONSOON and DROUGHT run off.

SCENE 5

HARVEST MOUNTAIN

18. "BREAK THE ICE"

VERA reaches the mountain's peak, where the warrior ZIMA is waiting for them.

VERA hands ZIMA an olive branch.

ZIMA hands VERA a jagged ice ball.

VERA

This ball of ice is sharp. I wish you are.

ZIMA swiftly closes Vera's hand.

VERA cries out in pain.

ZIMA whips VERA across the face with the olive branch.

VERA and ZIMA fight. ZIMA gets the upper hand and beats the living daylight out of VERA.

ZIMA

It's not about the mammoth, Vera. It's about your lifelong elephant in the room named "arrogance."

VERA

Grace. It's only me and Grace.

ZIMA

I never wanted to kill you, Vera. But your huma-

VERA

Grace is my pride and joy.

ZIMA

What has that thing ever done other than corrupt you?!

VERA

Says the fool with their head in the clouds.

ZIMA breaks VERA's bones.

ZIMA

This fool has a cloud at their disposal. You
won't be saving Grace nor will they save you!

The Stardust Cloud enters.

MONSOON jumps out of the Stardust
Cloud, uniformed as a waterkeeper.

The DROPLETS enter from the
Stardust Cloud and joins MONSOON.

DROUGHT timidly enters.

MONSOON

Spring into action. Not up the mountain. Spring
does not belong here. Vamos, Vera!

DROUGHT brings VERA to safety.

MONSOON (CONT'D)

My fallen angel...

ZIMA

I believe in Gravity. Why can't you?!

MONSOON

THIS FAMILY HAS BROKEN APART.
YOU WILL NOT BREAK ANOTHER BONE.
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, ANYMORE!

ZIMA

I AM YOUR FAVORITE CHILD!

MONSOON

LONG AGO, YOU BROKE MY WATER. IT'S TIME, I BREAK YOUR ICE!

The Stardust Cloud and the Storm
Cloud collide.

Giant models of literal snowflakes
land about.

The SNOWFLAKES rush in.

The DROPLETS and the SNOWFLAKES
choreographically fight. The
SNOWFLAKES eventually
incapacitates the DROPLETS.

VERA runs back into the zone.

ZIMA takes out an umbrella. Like a
spear, they throw it towards VERA.

MONSOON steps in front of VERA.
They catch the umbrella and stab
it into the ground.

DROUGHT rushes in and takes VERA
away from danger.

ZIMA kneels in defeat.

MONSOON levels with ZIMA.

MONSOON (CONT'D)

We can be one big happy family again.

MONSOON hugs ZIMA.

ZIMA takes a moment. They push
MONSOON into the speared umbrella.

The SNOWFLAKES cheer on MONSOON's
demise.

ZIMA

You're grounded.

MONSOON lies, impaled, in shock.
They weep.

ZIMA (CONT'D)

Vera always stands in the way, but not you too,
Monsoon. I miss your weeps. You shed more tears
than you do blood!

MONSOON's tears revive the
DROPLETS and force the SNOWFLAKES
to suddenly become the DROPLETS.

The rainstorm swallows everything.
The DROPLETS dance, killing off
the SNOWFLAKES. The snow melts.
The mountain floods. The water
catches ZIMA off guard. The
DROPLETS surround ZIMA.

ZIMA gurgles. They are a glacier
who accepts their inevitable melt.
They tend to and embrace MONSOON,
with the Droplets impaling ZIMA
into the umbrella as well. They
soon drown in MONSOON's tears.

MONSOON holds their dead child.
They weep for all eternity.

The fog sends off ZIMA's body.

The blue curtains close, drowning out everything.

End of "BREAK THE ICE"

SCENE 6

19. "FORGIVE AND FORECAST"

VERA and DROUGHT enter, traversing the front of the curtains.

MONSOON enters and embraces VERA and DROUGHT.

MONSOON and DROUGHT depart with the foggy Stardust Cloud, leaving Vera alone with Grace.

DROUGHT (OFFSTAGE)
(Narrating)

Monsoon stopped raining the moment Zima stopped snowing. Monsoon did not want to do anything other than to give water to the land and its children once again. We said goodbye to Zima for good, but goodbye to Monsoon for better and for worse. I will miss Monsoon. I hope the world will, too, like they have Zima.

The curtains open slightly, revealing three graves marked by seasonal characteristics.

DROUGHT (CONT'D)
(Narrating)

When the rain no longer dropped, we knew that Monsoon's life has stopped. Tides took away my offspring, but time took away me.

I could've toyed around the idea of retiring on another world. But I wanted to live my final eras on the world that I have created. Eventually, I joined my love, Monsoon, as we died of broken hearts.

VERA drops Grace off the stage.

VERA

Rain and snow took care of the world, but the world never took care of them.

The curtains fully open to unveil a new world, unable to be rebuilt.

VERA spends the last moments of Earth, wandering and wondering.

End of "FORGIVE AND FORECAST"

END OF THIS WORLD