

The Indian Queen

Costume / dress:

- All wear all-black – smartish but comfortable for movement. Any neckline. Women may wear trousers.
- You will all have a red cloth for the sacrifice scene (except **Inca, Orazia** who are in blue, and Zemp, Trax, High priest, Acacis, Montezuma and Garucca, who are in their 'costumes'.
- In addition, some will have blue cloths for the opening fight where **half of you are Incas (including Alison, Tom, Jacqui and Montezuma)** and **half are Mexicans (including Sally, Rohan) in your red cloths**.
- These cloths can be worn any way you like – belts, sashes, pashminas, scarf, made into waistcoat – you need to be able to put them on and take them off easily.
- You need to make sure they do not fray: hem them, put nail varnish on the edge, or something.
- We also **all** are spirits in the God of Dreams / spirits scene: make a white eye-mask (Robin, Rohan and Mark have sequins on) from the felt and elasticate it. When we are spirits we are not Incans or Mexicans and so take off our 'team colours'.
- We are also all in the final masque (no team colours): red or pink felt eye-masks. Soloists – Hymen, Cupid, their followers – have sequins. Sally and Stan may take their masks off for their bit but should have them on for choruses.
- All the changing (e.g. from cloths to masques) is quite open, not surreptitious – leave things on your chairs.

Summary of chorus action

(characters may be doing / wearing other things):

FIRST HALF

1. orchestral prologue – fight tableau: **red** and **blue** opposing each other. Sit down only after the boy + girl duet. Note: on Thursday, sit after Rohan's solo as the duet won't happen.
2. Zempoalla's glory / Fame / Envy scene: you are all **Mexicans in red**. Sit only at the end of the second *Zempoalla's glory* chorus.
3. Ismeron / god of dreams / spirit scene: you are all spirits in white masks, no coloured cloths.

INTERVAL

1. Sacrifice scene: you are **all Mexicans**. Then you welcome back Garucca and Amexia with cheers.
2. Then change for the final masque: **pink / red** masks, all colours off.

Outline of music and plot

Music 1: Orchestra: 2 sections of music. All singers seated on stage.

Music 2: Orchestra: 2 sections of music, during which: **ACTION:** family only: Zempoalla deposes her brother, helped by Traxalla, though Acacis tries to stop her. Second section: Amexia gives baby to Garucca and they run to safety (sit).

Music 3 (18 bars): chorus ACTION: the two nations fight: RED and BLUE. Chorus walk forward, and following Alison's lead, take up 'fight' positions, opposite each other but slightly facing the audience, with 2 at the back closer together. Incas (with Montezuma) beat the Mexicans (with Acacis and Traxalla). Stay on stage as after a battle (*we have not set this position yet*).

Music 4: Orchestra, trumpety tune. From the fighting, a boy and a girl (one from each side) emerge (staying on opposite sides of stage).

Music 5: Boy sings out front

Music 6: Girl sings out front

Music 7: duet: (moving together slowly, eventually holding hands). When finished, they merge back into the chorus and all sit down (note: blue chorus now change to red).

Narration: recalling the story so far; telling how Montezuma defects from the Incas to the Mexicans and leads them to victory over the Incas; how Montezuma loves Orazia. How Zempoalla offers sacrifices to the Gods if her son Acacis is returned to her. How the Mexicans capture King Inca and Orazia. Cue for chorus to get ready:

TRAXALLA: it was Queen Zempoalla who claimed the glory for the conquest over the Incan people – though I don't see what she had done to deserve it.

MUSIC 9 martial music (10 bars): Chorus all come forward in RED, led by Fame, in tight formation (*we have not set this position yet*). During Fame's solo Zempoalla comes to stand on the block or front of stage gloriously.

MUSIC 10 Fame and chorus to Zempoalla's glory: stand still. Remain in position through next narration (short).

Narration: How Traxalla wants Montezuma dead and how he resents Zempoalla's power. **Cue to hiss** (and for Envy + followers to change masks):

GARUCCA: Oh how that pleased the envious, proud Traxalla!

MUSIC 11 Envy and Fame etc. with chorus of hissing. Envy and his followers wear green masks; chorus (and Fame) in red still. During the first song, Envy + followers advance on and surround

Traxalla. Fame comes forward just slightly to sing. Envy + followers sing back to him.

MUSIC 12 Fame advances on Traxalla, Envy + followers, who retreat before him.

MUSIC 13 orchestra 2 x 12 bars: Traxalla with Envy + followers either exit through the audience or retreat back to their places. Masks off, join chorus.

MUSIC 14 chorus: Zempoalla's glory. Fame stands in front of (or with) Zempoalla. All sit at end, including Zempoalla.

Narration: How Zempoalla is in love with Montezuma; Acacis is in love with Orazia; and how Acacis feels the guilt of his mother's regicide on his shoulders. Traxalla urges the sacrifice of Montezuma but Zempoalla refuses. All sit, including narrators. Cue for Zempoalla to rise: Traxalla: But she would be advised by no-one but herself.

MUSIC 23 Zempoalla: (*alone on stage*) I attempt from love's sickness to fly in vain.

Brief narration: Zempoalla calling on Ismeron to interpret her dream, and having doubts over her own fate. Traxalla stays sitting during this and next scene.

MUSIC 16 orchestra Ismeron leads Zempoalla ceremoniously to the side and takes up an impressive stance.

MUSIC 17 Ismeron conjures the god of dreams (*incl. 2 lines of dialogue*).

MUSIC 18 The god of Dreams rises (23 bars of orchestra) Chorus, (Ismeron retreats and changes to spirit) with white spirit masks on (no red), come forward and take up position – like a triangular statue, God of dreams in the middle, 2 people kneeling at his sides, some up on block at the back, others gathered in.

MUSIC 19 The God of dreams sings. When finished, he merges back into the chorus.

Brief narration to sum up the state of the characters and plot as it stands. Cue for spirits to come forward:

Garucca: Montezuma imprisoned; Inca and Orazia doomed to be sacrificed. (*Narrators join chorus*)

MUSIC 22 spirits duet and chorus.

Exeunt. solo spirits lead off, followed by spirits.

INTERVAL

MUSIC 20 **overture.** Everyone on stage sitting, except: Garucca in narration position; Traxalla leading **Orazia** over to **Montezuma** (standing).

Narration: they all fight over Montezuma and Orazia (who has fallen for Montezuma). Acacis is wounded by Montezuma. Zempoalla initiates the sacrifice of Orazia and King Inca. Cue for chorus to stand:

TRAXALLA And I will prove those joys in vengeance, which I lack in love.

MUSIC 27 **long sacrifice scene: Ismeron and chorus.** Orchestral intro (13 bars): victims (**Orazia**, **Inca**, **Montezuma**) come to kneel at front. **Zempoalla**, **Traxalla**, come to stand behind. Chorus (**in red**, and **Acacis**) in semicircle behind. **High priest** comes to his prominent position after the first chorus (during 5 bars instrumental). At end of scene, **victims** and **chorus** retreat into a standing crowd at the back, to watch the action. **Garucca and Queen Amexia** get ready to come on.

Narration: Traxalla is now rejecting Zempoalla's authority; Acacis tries in vain to stop the sacrifice and so kills himself.

The chorus has been watching Acacis die but now (**cue**: TRAXALLA: To Zempoalla's horror and agony, Acacis dies, with Orazia's fair face the last image in his eyes): **Queen Amexia and Garucca** return, to the joy of **the Mexican people, who see them coming in amazement then cheer heartily**. Garucca tells of how Montezuma is the rightful king of Mexico (cheer!). Zempoalla gives Montezuma the knife and he kills Traxalla. Zempoalla kills herself. All is resolved (characters stand in their alliances to illustrate the resolution). As the narrators introduce the final masque: all take off their colours and lay them on the chairs. Pick up **masque** masks.

MUSIC 28 **Symphony (17 bars):** chorus (**masked**) in informal groups as if chatting. Fill the stage! **Hymen** at front. Cupid unobtrusive at back. Chorus reacting, enjoying this whole scene, during music and choruses and solo singing.

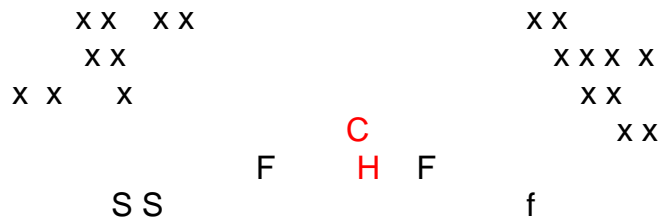
MUSIC 29 **Hymen** sings

MUSIC 30 **followers of Hymen and chorus:** 2 followers flank Hymen to sing.

MUSIC 31 **2 married people.** 2 followers protect Hymen from the grumps as they complain.

- MUSIC 32** **Hymen** takes husband to one side, wife to other, and stands back with his followers.
- MUSIC 33** **2 married people:** work their way back to one side together (but not too close).
- MUSIC 34** **Cupid:** emerges and sings front; at the end, joins hands of husband and wife. Stays at the side with them.
- MUSIC 35** **Cupid's follower:** sings out front at the other side from Stan and Sally. During this, Sylvia leads Hymen to stand near block at back and she stands to one side of him. Martine then takes Cupid to stand on the block and stands the other side of Hymen.
- MUSIC 38** **Chorus:** standing still in final positions:

X = followers: informal clumps
 S S = Stan and Sally
 C = Cupid (on block)
 H = Hymen
 F = follower of Hymen
 f = follower of Cupid



NOTE: BOWS: all take masks off. No solo bows as it is very much an ensemble production. Come forward in 2 rows – make sure you can be seen – bow once, twice. Gesture to Helena and orchestra for their bow. Bow a third time.