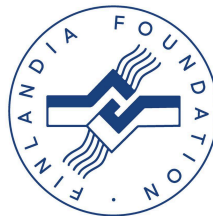


An Operetta by Ruth Andrews and Bev Smith



**Finlandia  
Foundation.  
National**

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*Nixie Out of the Water*

An Operetta

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Cast

Waitress/Aino	youngish woman
Water	mature woman
Yo (Joukahainen)/Yo Dragon/teen Nixie	older teen/youngish man
Sini the Dragonfly	any age or gender
Child/Kati the Dragonfly/little Nixie	10 – 12 years roughly
Father/Nixie	mature man

Water

The stream is made of yards of sheer water-colored fabric, enough to stretch across the entire length of the stage.

Music

Inspired by Beethoven, for keyboard and occasional drum and flute.

**1. The Kalevala Melody**

**Introduction by the Dramaturg**

Before our story begins we'd like to acknowledge our debt to the Kalevala, the epic poem and creation story of Finland. The music you just heard is called the Kalevala Melody. The Kalevala is not a unified narrative, rather it is a collection of wonderfully poetic folk stories about Finland, fen land, the land of water.

Why should we care about the Kalevala, you might ask. It's just a myth.

A myth is a story from our collective imagination that reveals our deepest hopes, desires and fears. Every myth is symbolic. Stories are passed down through generations, yet they change to incorporate new challenges. You may blunder into a myth when you least expect it.

**2. Water Music in Five**

**Scene 1**

*Three café tables are spread across the stage with two or three chairs at each. The Dramaturg welcomes the audience, tells them the play opens in a coffee shop and volunteers are needed to sit at the tables as customers. The Dramaturg selects five or six people including Father and child (seated in the audience) to sit at the tables and instructs them to talk to each other about something that happened during their day. Father and child have a single, brief exchange. Then he looks at his phone and child is absorbed in her book. The waitress begins to deliver their orders and engages in small talk at the tables. She arrives at Father's table last.*

**Waitress** (delivering drinks)

Let's see, I've got a double latte frappuchino here (*sets it in front of child, child ignores it and continues to read*) and a water no ice (*Places it in front of Father*) That all you're having?

**Father**

All? Water is everything.

**Waitress**

Sure, yeah. Like sixty percent of your body, right?

**Father**

Like seventy-one percent of the surface of the earth. Have you ever really thought about water?

**Waitress**

Well, yeah. We use a lot of water here.

**Father**

Where does it come from? Where does it go?

**Waitress**

I guess it gets recycled.

**Father**

Water has been recycling itself since the very beginning.

**Waitress** (laughing)

You're drinking recycled dinosaur pee.

**Child** (*looks up, interested*)

Ewww!

**Father**

Yes, well, they say that water has memory. I'm not sure I believe it, but this kiddo and I, we're planning to follow a drop of water from \_\_\_\_\_ (*name a local river*) all the way to Lake Michigan, through the Great Lakes to the St. Lawrence Seaway.

**Child**

Maybe even to the Atlantic.

**Waitress**

For real?

**Child**

Yeah. We're kayakers. But if we had a Viking Ship we could cross the Atlantic.

**Waitress**

Crossing the Atlantic in a Viking ship? Sounds horrible! You'd freeze. It would take forever and you might drown. Why would you want to do that?

**Father**

She's on this kick to—

**Child**

Dad! It's not a kick. It's my *quest*. (*Flute plays Quest theme.*)

**Father**

Excuse me. Ever since she found some old book she's been on a *quest* to go to Finland.

**Child**

Dad! I told you!. Don't call it an old book! It's the Kalevala. (*flourishes the book*) "The maiden of the air descends into the sea. There she is seduced—"

*Dragonfly enters and flies about.*

**Waitress**

Damn fly! (*She chases with flyswatter.*)

**Child**

Whoa! It's a *dragonfly*! (*She chases.*)

*Waitress knocks over Father's water. Sound of rushing water is heard. Lights go to intense blue. Dramaturg comes and advises all the customers to leave the coffee shop. All exit. Water (fabric) streams across the stage. Music. Lights fade to black. The tables and chairs are removed.*

**Water** (*spoken in darkness, [Water Music in 5 Reprise](#) underneath*)

Desire.

A surge

A mighty inward urge  
readies me for singing.  
Comes now the beginning.

Molecular desire  
and vital incantation  
chemical attraction  
the story of creation.

simple and elegant  
Water Mother  
future of all living elements.

*Lights up.*

## **5. Maiden of the Air**

### **Water**

The maiden of the Air descends (*stream rises*) into the Sea, there she's seduced by the Wind and Air. I am the Mother of Water.

### **Sini**

A Dragonfly descending  
T'ward the Water Mother  
Comes a-flying hither-thither.  
Where to safely make her nest?

Flies she eastward, flies she westward,

### **Water and Sini**

Circles northward, circles southward,  
Where to safely make her nest?

### **Water**

The Dragonfly builds her nest upon my knee, and lays her eggs. (*stream recedes. Little dragonfly is born.*) They hatch and form the earth,

### **Water and Sini**

sky, sun, and moon and clouds.

### *Short Dance*

### **Sini**

All is well with the elements.  
Frolicking, fluttering in their orbits.  
Flitting, fluting through the seasons

### **All**

Peaceful times can never last.  
Peaceful times can never last.

### **Water**

Warmer grows the water round me  
Hotter still my ocean bed  
Oh! My backbone has been kindled  
And my belly also burning  
Fire in every vein is coursing ... (screams)

### **Sini**

Water gave birth to a son!

**All**  
Nixie! Nixie! Nixie!

**Sini**  
Hail to thee O son of Water.  
Who are you?  
What will you do?

**Water**  
Now at last my life is full.  
Together we will chart vast kingdoms,  
frolic in them, we will sing!  
then  
he will listen to my stories.  
Our legends will live on in glory!  
Nixie will become a minstrel.

**Sini**  
Singing to the fish!

**Water**  
God, grant me just one wish:  
May Nixie live with me forever.

**Sini**  
What did you say?  
That sounds like trouble!  
Sons must leave their mothers.

**Water**  
No!

*(little Nixie comes in swimming wrapped in water-gauze)*

**Sini**  
Nixie is a curious boy-o  
and his questions do annoy her.

**Nixie**  
Mother, tell me, who's my father?  
Is he somewhere?  
Not in water?

**Water**

Such a silly question, darling.  
Am I not enough?

**Nixie**

*(Nixie runs to Water and throws his arms around her.)*  
Yes ... but

**Water**

But what? Do not make trouble.

**Sini**

Sons must leave their mothers.

*(Little Nixie is replaced by Teen Nixie)*

For ten more years he swam beside her  
And she taught him

**Water**

Billows  
Whirlwinds  
Dripping, dropping

Bathe, baptize, cascading

You haven't yet perfected swishing  
And your undulating's choppy

No!

**Teen Nixie**

Swirls  
Typhoons  
roaring, roiling  
Gurgling, burbling  
hiss  
Burst

In your lore I've been immersed.  
Now that I know all these things  
Won't you tell me who's my father?

I am tired of trying to copy.  
Let me go a wander.

*6. Nixie's Anger Dance, occasionally shouting percolate, pound, plunge or whip.)*

**Sini**

Yet he remained.  
*(Teen Nixie is replaced by adult Nixie)*  
for ten more years,  
till floating on his back one night  
viewing stars and planets  
he dreamt he rose above himself  
to join the living constellations.



Pulsing, throbbing, multitudes,  
reverberating pitter-patter,

**Deep Reverberating Male Voice**

Nixie, Nixie

**Sini**

Divine Bear knew him by name.  
Nixie recognized his father.

**Nixie**

I must leave you, Mother.

**Water**

No! (her voice changes from defiant protest to acceptance within the one word)

**Sini**

Yes.

**7. Nixie's Birth**

**Water**

I tried to keep him underwater.  
tried to keep him with me.

**Nixie**

She kept me with her underwater  
Thirty summers under the sea.

**Sini**

Thirty summers under the sea!

Never did he see the sunlight  
Nor behold the golden moonlight.  
And the winters also thirty  
How, unborn, to live and flourish?  
How to live and flourish.

**Nixie**

Take me, Moon, I pray, take me.  
O take me, sun above me.  
From this dark and liquid place  
O take me now O Bear of Heaven

### **Water**

Bursts he through the outer portal  
Escapes my blue and purple jail  
On his knees he finds the air.

Sini and Water:  
Burst

Forsake  
Escape Forsake  
will walk upon two legs

### **Nixie**

On my knees I leave the ocean  
Stand in golden moonlit air  
So I may see Heaven's Bear

Now I must leave her

Now I will flourish  
will walk upon two legs

### **Sini**

Thus the wonderful enchanter  
Was delivered from his mother  
For the second time.

### **Water**

Oh, Nixie  
Have you no heart?  
How can you forsake me? (*Sobbing, she subsides to the floor.*)

### **Sini**

Come, now, Nixie,  
Flex your muscles  
Show us what you can do.

### **Nixie**

From island to inland to mountaintop  
I spread the seeds, I sow the forest

## **8. Green World**

### **Sini**

Fir trees Pine trees  
Birches Shrubs  
In the lowlands  
Loose soil of the moist earth  
On the banks of streams  
Junipers and mountain ash  
Fir trees, pine trees, birches shrubs  
The plants are populated  
The Green World is created.  
created populated created

Fir trees pine trees birches shrubs  
In the lowlands loose soil of the moist earth

On the banks of streams  
Junipers and mountain ash  
Fir trees pine trees  
birches shrubs

The plants are populated  
The Green World is created

(spoken) and yet

### **Nixie**

I sow upon the mountains  
and hilltops  
I sow in every valley and Marsh

I sow alders and lindens  
in hilly regions  
Willow and hawthorns  
in virgin places

The plants are populated  
The Green World is created

and yet

(duet)

Beautifully grows the living forest  
Hung about with vines and blossoms  
Birds are shouting from the treetops  
Golden flowers in the meadow  
Plants populated  
Green World created  
Golden flowers in the meadow  
Plants populated  
Green World created

And yet

And yet

**All**

And yet.

*(Lights fade out.)*

## **Scene 2**

### **Water**

My own Nixie, son of water  
Has forsaken me  
These many years he's lived upon land.  
Look, he's become an old man!

**Nixie** *(now an old man with a long beard, sings)*  
On the plains of Kalevala

**Sini and Nixie**

Singing in the dusk of evening  
Singing till the dawn of morning

**Water**

Sings the legends of creation  
Tales of ages long forgotten.  
Nixie's become an old man.

Nixie, oh, my prodigal son,  
Remember when you sang with me?  
It's time to return to the sea.

**Nixie**

*(mockingly)* Do I hear a brook babbling?

All these years I've been a hero,  
leaped where others didn't dare  
Now I rest upon my laurels,  
play the zither, sing the stories  
in harmony with Divine Bear.

**Sini**

Far away in dismal Northland  
Lives the singer, Joukahainen.  
We will call him Yo.

Once upon a time when feasting  
*(You and Aino come onstage with stemmed goblets for the dragonfly and themselves.)*  
Dining with us, bug and sister  
Comes upon his ears this story

**Aino**

Brother, listen, such a story,  
It's said there lives a sweeter singer, sweeter yet than Yo  
on the plains of Kalevala.

**Sini**

Aino, you are such a lovely sister,  
why would you provoke your brother.  
Causing him to boil and blister.

**Aino**

Truth be told ... I'm bored.  
It's so easy to provoke him by a bit of harmless teasing.

## 9. The Bard of Lapland

**Nixie**

I am the mythic monster  
Murdered by man

**Yo**

I am the bard of Lapland and I sing the best.  
I will go to Kalevala and put Nixie to the test.

**Aino**

Don't go, brother. Here we love you.  
Don't go brother, he will trick you.

**Yo**

You don't think I will win.

**Aino**

Your chances are quite slim.

**Yo**

If you loved me  
You'd support me.

**Aino**

I'm afraid of losing you.

**Yo**

You don't think that I'll win.  
My song will transform him, turn his feet to stone.

**Aino**

He'll turn your feet to clay! You'll walk home backward all the way.  
Oh, dear brother, beautiful singer, here we love you. Please do stay!  
Don't take your songs away. Oh brother, please do stay!

**Yo**

Oh, dear sister, you don't believe me.  
If you believed in me you would let me go.

**Aino**

Oh, please don't go!

You'll fail the test!

Don't take your songs away.

**Yo**

I sing the best!

I am the Bard of Lapland

Please don't go away.  
Don't take your songs away,  
Please don't go away.

I'll challenge Nixie to a test!  
I am the Bard of Lapland.  
I will prove that I'm the best.

**Sini**

Heeding not his sister's words  
He's going to the stable.  
She follows close behind  
To stop him if she's able.

**Sini** (*Yo mounts his hobby horse. Aino throws up her hands, grabs the goblets and exits.*)

Mounts impetuous his horsie  
Strikes his courser with his birch whip.

**Water**

All day long  
and the next day  
Till the third day

**Sini**

he gallops onward  
and the next.  
twilight brings him

**All but Nixie**

To the plains of Kalevala

Urging still his foaming courser  
Dashes down upon the singer

Does not turn aside in meeting  
Meeting then in full collision

(*Yo gallops full speed at Nixie, who doesn't turn aside. They collide and land on the ground.*)

**All**

Ouch-a-Kal-a-ouch-a-vala!

**Nixie**

(*slowly picking himself up off the floor.*) Who the hell are you?

**Yo**

(*springing to his feet.*) I am youthful You Know Who.

**Nixie**

Hoo hoo hoo!

**Yo**

I know you  
Knock knock, who's there  
Sorcerer, minstrel, Divine Bear.

Let us now begin our singing.  
Challenge the other till the dawn.  
Let us sing our ancient legends  
In a war of wizard-song.

*(Yo circles Nixie, striking poses. Nixie ignores him. Yo strikes pose, sings grandiloquently)*

#### 10. Yo Boast Song

Every roof must have a chimney  
Fireplace a hearthstone  
Salmon do love the river's bend.  
Whitings do live in the quiet shallows.

##### **Nixie**

Boo hoo, You.  
Women's tales and children's wisdom  
Do not thrill an old greybeard.  
Tell the story of creation.

##### **Water and Sini**

Tell us of the world's beginning  
Give us some philosophy.

##### **Yo** *(strutting to build himself up)*

I was present as a hero  
When heaven was created  
When was arched the beauteous rainbow

**Water**  
Liar!

**Nixie**  
Liar!

**Sini**  
Liar!

Thou wert never seen or heard of

when the world was created

Lord of all the hosts of liars!

Loser!

Loser!

Loser!

##### **Yo**

*(Humbly)* Then, sir, since I fail in wisdom  
*(Very angrily)* With the sword I offer battle.  
*(draws sword, assumes position.)*

**Water and Sini**

Nixie, sing you now enchantment

**Nixie**

**You**

## 11. Quicksand

**Nixie**

I sing You into Quicksand

*(Nixie sings wordlessly. Sini begins wrapping Yo like a mummy in brown gauze up to his knees. Yo struggles but is unable to free himself.)*

*(spoken)* I hate quicksand!  
Cease I pray thee this enchantment  
I will pay a golden ransom.

**Nixie**

For thy gold I have no longing  
I have all the wealth I need  
*(more wordless singing)*

**Water**

Deeper into mud and water  
Deeper into slough of torment  
Sorrow laden, thus enchanted  
Fear-enchained, full of anguish  
In the mire, beard bedrabbled  
Mouth once boastful full of seaweed

*(Sini wraps Yo up to his chin.)*

**Yo**

Only turn away thy magic  
Lift me from this stifling torment  
Clear my eyes of mud and water  
I will give thee ...

**Sini**

What will you give?

I will give thee

**Nixie**

What will you give me?

I will give thee Sister Aino.

*(Long dramatic scream from offstage continuing until Aino arrives to face Yo and Nixie.)*



**Aino**

(to Yo) Who are you to offer me? (Yo cowers)  
(Nixie embraces her but she pushes away.) Who are you to take me prisoner?  
My spirit will be free!

**Water**

Yes, you shall be free.  
Come, my lovely daughter-in-law,  
You can live with me. (Offers her hand.)

**Nixie**

I offer you a beautiful home  
All will be love within  
rainbows above and diamonds below  
I can offer ... children!

**Aino**

Seriously? You are old.

**Yo**

I will keep you safe from harm  
I too have lots of money  
I offer the hearth that you know, that you love

**Aino**

That, my dear brother, is funny.  
You think you know just what I want.  
How's this, here's that, and I must choose.  
What if I want to be a Queen  
and maybe, if I'm in the mood, I'll offer you a choice or two.  
(looks at Nixie, looks at Yo, takes Water's hand)  
I will live with Water.

**Aino**

Into the sea

**Water**

Into the water

I will be your daughter. (Aino disappears with Water, who calls back to them.)  
You will not see her again.

**You and Nixie**

Aino! (They began sobbing dramatically on each other's shoulders.)

**Sini**

From their tears come the rivers, come the birches, come the cuckoos,

who still sing these songs of sorrow.

*(Nixie begins to move off.)* **Yo**

Nixie, Brother in Sorrow, you're not planning on leaving me in quicksand, are you?

**Nixie**

Rot in Hell. *(He runs to the end of the stage after Water and Aino.)* Aino was my destiny.

**Sini**

This has turned into a mess.  
(to Yo) Still, you're quite a handsome guy.  
Let us strike a compromise:  
I will let you out of the muck  
but  
you'll be a dragonfly.

*(12. Transformation in background while Sini begins unwinding Yo)*

**Yo**

A bug?

**Sini**

A dragon. With wings.

**Yo**

Will I fly?

**Sini**

Yes.

**Yo**

And then...I will die.

**Sini**

Yes.

Well. It's possible we will mate.

And then you'll die.

But don't worry.

Dragonflies have perfected the art of resurrection.

At first it feels like you are dead

You sink beneath the veil.

Then it comes, an inner impulse

Sweeping you from head to tail

*(Sini finishes unwinding as Yo shivers violently)*

**Yo**

I break forth from the veil! *(he does)*  
But wait, I'm just a naiad.

**Sini** *(attaching wings)*  
Be patient my friend,  
You are not in control.  
Naids become dragons  
In translucent plates of mail.  
These wings are wet but they will dry.

**Dragonflies**

A living flash of light we fly!

**13. Dragonfly Dance:**

*(They fly around. Perhaps mating. Nixie returns, very angry.)*

**Nixie** *(calls after Water)*

Mother!  
For thirty years I was your minnow  
Swimming in your shadow.  
Till burst I forth, the hero, Nixie!

From island to inland to mountaintop  
I spread the seeds, I sowed the forest

**14. Victory**

**Dragonflies**

Fir trees, Pine trees, Birches, Shrubs

**Nixie**

There was just one thing I didn't know  
The love of beauteous Aino!

How can I be a hero without *(groans in agony)*

You won the victory.  
You've had your revenge.  
I can never more be happy.  
Mother, this is not the end!

*(Child comes on laughing. Nixie wraps himself in water. Child sticks a toe in water. Nixie splashes her. They play. Nixie beckons and lures her into the water. The lights go purple as he drowns her.*

### 15. Funeral

*A funeral occurs underwater with Dragonfly flitting above, sobbing. Music fades out. Nixie and child exit. Lights up. Aino comes on.*

**Aino** (very upset)

Why did he drown the beautiful child? She wanted to live!

**Water**

He's angry.

Heros do stupid things when they're angry,  
Sometimes they become villains.

**Aino**

What about me?

You think I'm not angry?

I got to choose between a man who drowns children  
and Underwater Mama.

I might as well be ...

### 16. No One Believes

**Water**

*Once you've drowned you can never return*

**Aino**

*Once you've drowned you can never return  
never return*

*(Spoken)* That is why a mother, nowadays, before her children go into the water says

*(Sung)* *Nixie out of the water, children into the water.*

*(Spoken)* And when the children are done swimming she says

*(Sung )* *Nixie into the water, children out of the water.*

Both: So the children are always protected.

*(Looks around warily.)* Where is Nixie now?

**Water**

*No one knows.*

**Aino**

*No one cares.*

*No one believes these stories anymore.*

*No one believes this story anymore.*

*(Lights fade out.)*

### **Scene 3**

#### **Sini**

And so Death entered the green world.  
Folks thought it was natural.  
They said we've seen this before.  
Nothing really dangerous, just another metaphor.

*(Lights up to dim blue. Water and Aino are underwater.)*

#### **Water**

The blue world isn't happy either.  
I used to be a Goddess,  
A powerful Creator.  
Now I'm just an element.  
A has-been second-rater.

#### **Aino**

*(Lets out a long sigh/yawn/groan.)*  
Underwater is boring.

#### **Water**

It's *fine* underwater, it's actually *better* underwater. *(Sighs)* Remember, you are free.

#### **Aino**

It's different. And you've been great. Really.  
But  
(frustrated) I would trade some freedom  
for a little more friction,  
I'll give you swirly swills and swails  
For some interdiction.  
(yearning) I want to walk beneath the trees,  
milk some cows and plant some seeds,  
kiss a man and dance and play.  
Could you give me just one day?  
Just one day out of the water?

*(Water sighs, lifts the edge of water; the lights come up full, and Aino crawls, giddy with happiness and begins to skip about.)*

### **17. Queen Song**

#### **Aino**

I am walking  
walking outside  
outside

*(music repeats phrase, creatures buzz the melody as they dance)*

**Sini and Yo Dragon**  
with the busy bugs

**Water**  
Blub blub blub blub

**All**  
La la la la  
*(music repeats phrase, creatures buzz the melody as they dance)*

**Aino**  
Busy bugs  
are marvelous things

**Dragonflies**  
Are marvelous things

**All**  
Are marvelous things.

*(a small Nixie tumbles across stage)*

**Aino**  
Something odd  
Went tumbling by

**Yo Dragon**  
a little tornado

**Sini**  
or large tumbleweed.

**Aino**  
I'm absorbed with making myself perfect  
I give no mind

*(Nixie appears on stage)*

**Dragonflies**  
The thing returns.

**Aino**  
I give no mind.

**Dragonflies**  
Now it is bigger!

**Aino**  
I do not care! I'm full of grand thoughts. And poetry.

*(Nixie exits. Aino and Dragonflies dance. Music resolves. Lights fade to black.)*

**Scene 4**  
*(Lights up on Nixie, center stage. Three dragonflies occasionally appear.)*

### 18. Mythic Monster

**Nixie**  
I am the mythic monster,  
murdered by men,  
resurrected by children.

*(Aino enters. Ignores Nixie.)*

I will seduce this one,  
Queen of all she surveys.

Am I furry?  
Am I fast?  
Scales that shimmer,  
Fangs that flash.

Do you worry?  
A little doubt,  
a large regret lurks in your eyes  
better look out.  
*(Lights fade.)*

**Scene 5**  
*(Lights up. Nixie is hiding behind Water – he can be seen by audience. Aino enters, look around.)*

### 19. Seduction

**Nixie:**  
  
I'm a thing that likes to play  
Guess where I am.

**Aino:**  
Good. He's gone.

**Water**  
Blub, blub, blub, blub blub

Scratch, scritch, scratch, scritch scratch

In the water?

In a tree?

**3 Dragonflies**  
Flitter, flutter

In the sky?

Just let me be!

Who? Let you be who?

This is rich!  
You, strange creature,  
are asking the Queen who she is?

Who?  
Hoo hoo!

What nonsense!

Is it?

You don't exist!

Name me.

Tumbleweed.

Definitely not.

Tornado.

No no doe!

How can I name something that does not exist?

What's so hard?  
People do it all the time:  
Grendel

**Dragonflies**  
Pegasus

No sus!

**Water**  
Medusa

No nodusa!

Loch Ness

**Aino and Dragonflies**  
Nessie! Yes! Yessie!

(Spoken) NO! These are not my names.



**Nixie**

**Aino**

Enough about you.  
Let's talk about me.  
In spite of my beauty  
I am sad.

Aha! You are searching for

What am I searching for?

Tragedy.

Love.

Enough enough enough enough  
about you.  
What are my attributes?

I dare not say.  
(studies creature)  
Are you herbivore or carnivore?

I am hungry!

Ooh! Have you a backbone?

Hematovore.

Gills?

On Tuesdays.

Wings?

Fridays.

Special occasions.  
Would you like to know what else?

I don't think so.

Probocis.

Just a nose.

Incisors. And anticoagulants.

### **Water and Dragonflies**

*This is going in the wrong direction.*

*(Nixie offers Aino his hand. She accepts it. He leads her into a wild dance, she whirls her around as Aino gasps or screams.. Lights fade.)*

### **Scene 6**

*(Lights up on Nixie wearing a sheer detachable cape. Aino can be seen inside. Music. They dance in sync. Nixie is tired, he keeps trying to sit them down on a wheeled cart but Aino refuses.)*

**Aino**

What's the matter, monster? Are you tired? You wanted me, you got me, now you've got to dance!

**Nixie**

We've been dancing two thousand years  
The floor is puddled by your tears  
And riddled by our constant tread  
the world we knew has gone to bed.  
It no longer exists.

**Aino**

What?

**Dragonflies** (*a repeated, whispered chant*)

Fear                      Panic                      Crisis                      Alone in a riot

**Aino**

The fir trees?

**Dragonflies** (*slightly louder*)

Fear                      Panic                      Crisis                      Alone in Fear  
Panic                      Crisis                      Alone in a riot

**Nixie**

Gone

**Aino**

No birches, no pine trees?

**Nixie**

Shrubs, maybe.

**Aino**

Why didn't you tell me? This is horrible! What happened to the Green World?

**Nixie**

Betrayed.

**Dragonflies**

Fear                      Panic                      Crisis                      Alone in a riot

**Aino** (*She sinks down and they sit on the wheeled cart back-to-back.*)

Do you know what I wish?

**Nixie**

You want to go back in time. Join the club. *(He yawns, falls asleep.)*

**Kati**

Psst! Aino! We bring news!

**Aino**

I already know. The Green World has been destroyed.

**Yo Dragon**

Listen: you really are a Queen. You have power!

**Aino**

What nonsense. I'm trapped! If only I hadn't been so ...

## **20. Curiosity**

**Aino**

Curiosity, curiosity,  
Now I live inside a monstrosity  
Isn't it rich? Isn't it rich?  
I'm in a monster that doesn't exist.

### **Dragonflies:**

Glaciers melt, waters warm  
Children die, no insects swarm.  
All is harm, all is harm.  
Woe woe is me  
Woe, woe are we.

### **Water:**

Glaciers melt, waters warm  
Children die, no insects swarm  
Woe, woe are we.

You must confess, you must confess  
He captured you, Queen Curious  
He lured you in your loneliness.  
Without you, the world is a mess.

### **Dragonflies and Water:**

Glaciers melt, waters warm.  
Children die, no insects swarm.  
Woe, woe, woe, woe,  
Woe woe, woe, woe,  
Woe woe are we!

**Aino:**

Alas, I was thinking of my self  
And no one else, nothing else did matter.  
I neglected my precious elements,  
The land, the sea, the air!

You tell me of my power.  
I feel it, I know it.  
What good is my power  
When I'm stuck in here?  
Woe is me, woe is me.

**Dragonflies:**

We must try to set you free.  
How are we to set you free?

**Aino and Dragonflies:**

Woe, woe are we.

**Water:**

Freedom is a state of mind.  
If you are brave, you will be free.

**Dragonflies**

What good is bravery  
when you're stuck inside  
a mythic monster?

**Water**

Dragonflies, you have bright ideas  
Then you flutter flutter  
If you want Aino to be released  
You must make a sacrifice.  
Let's find out what you're made of.

Wait, you really are a Queen?

**Aino**

So they say.

**Dragonflies**

Let the old myth fall away.  
Queen, we need a her-story.  
We need to save the world.

**Aino**

Hmm.  
Maybe we can time travel,  
Return to the Kalevala,  
Where plants are populated.

**All**  
Where we are re-created.

*(Nixie awakes.)* **Nixie**  
Why is everyone looking at me?

**21. Chorale**  
**Dragonflies**

O, great and powerful monster, hear our humble plea.  
If we complete an impossible task,  
Would you release, would you release, would you release our Queen?  
Would you release our Queen?

**Nixie**  
Only if you fulfill this quest.

*21. Quest*

**Nixie**  
A quest, for you. For you, a quest.  
To free your queen, I give you a quest:

**Nixie** (two voices, Aino's voice reverbs Nixie's)  
Your quest: place a word at each of my four corners. And tell me my name.

**Kati and Yo Dragon**  
A quest? For me? For us, a quest!  
Bugs are never ever sent on quests.

**Yo Dragon**  
It's always the poor woodsman's youngest son.

**Kati**  
I've always wanted to go on a quest.

**Sini**  
(to Nixie) But...  
you don't have four corners and I don't have words  
If I found them, how would they stick?

**Nixie**  
Just shut up and go on your quest! (turns so that only Aino can watch the action.)

*(Dragonflies and Water put on swim goggles. Water gets on cart.)*

**You Dragon**

I hope this quest is fun,

**Kati**

I hope it's fun for me.

**Both**

It will be fun to solve the mystery..

**Water**

*(Water swims back and forth across the stage on her wheeled cart. First sitting comfortably. When the music pauses she gets into different swimming positions.)*

Follow the Water.

Listen to the Water

Water remembers

Water speaks.

*(Dragonflies follow Water back and forth across stage, beating their wings frantically. Water and the Dragonflies become covered with black oil.)*

**Sini**

Water, where did you lead me?

I'm getting frantic.

Look where Water did lead me,

from \_\_\_\_\_ (place of performance) to the Atlantic.

*(Now Water and Dragonflies are covered with sediment, which sticks to the oil coating)*

**Kati**

Yuck! What's this stuff?

**Aino**

Just tiny bits of rock and soil. It's natural.

**Little Dragonfly**

But it stinks.

**Aino**

Possibly poo poo.

**Simi**

Yo, Kati.

My wings are oiled and heavy.

I don't think I'm going to make it.

Promise me you'll carry on  
if I die before we're done.

**Yo**

Um. I'm not really a dragonfly ...

**Kati**

I promise to fulfill the quest.  
I will never give up.

**Sini**

My wings are oiled  
I'm terribly tired  
Water leads me past the Atlantic  
To the North Sea.

*(Water and Dragonflies are weirdly glowing and near dead.)*

**Aino**

Wow, cool. How do you make yourselves glow like that?

**You Dragon**

Nuclear waste.

**Sini**

To the North Sea from the Atlantic  
I followed Water to the Baltic.  
Now I have to rest.

*(Looks at Water, shoves her off the cart and sits down.)*  
I hope this ends my quest.

*(Nixie/Aino appears.)*

**Nixie**

You look a little worse for wear.

You look like you don't have much longer.

Did you find words for my four corners?

**Sini**

You're looking at a hero.

**Kati**

Seven more days at least.

**Yo**

We rounded the square  
We followed the water

**Kati and Yo Dragon**

We followed ourselves  
We are the water.

**Aino**

You did it!

**Nixie**  
Prove it!

### 23. The Answer

**Sini**  
We rounded the square and  
We followed the water:

**Water**  
Northeast corner.  
At-lan-tic  
Northeast Corner  
Atlantic

**Dragonflies**  
Northeast Corner  
Atlantic  
Atlantic

**Nixie**                      One!                      *(three beats)*

Northwest corner  
North Sea  
Northwest Corner  
North Sea

Northwest Corner  
North Sea  
North Sea

**Nixie:**                      Two!                      *(three beats)*

**Water**  
Southwest Corner  
Baltic Sea  
Southwest Corner  
Baltic Sea

**Dragonflies**  
Southwest Corner  
Baltic Sea  
Baltic Sea

*(three beats)*

**Nixie** *(really pissed)* Three!

And then  
we came inland to

**Nixie:**  
FINLAND!

**All**  
Four!



*(Great anger, spoken)* You tricked me,  
you ridiculous dragons. So then, what's  
my name?

**All**

You're the one who's tricky!  
We know your name is Nixie!

**Kati**

We did it.  
We fulfilled the quest.

**Yo Dragon**

The bugs fulfilled the quest.

**Water**

Don't forget, you had some help.

**Kati**

Yay for us.

**Yo Dragon**

With our tiny brains

**Sini**

And our fragile wings

**Dragonflies and Water**

Water connects all living things!

**Dragonflies**

You must release the Queen,  
You must release the Queen

**Water**

It's not Nixie  
but we, ourselves,  
We have the power to release the Queen.

Queen out of the water  
Nixie into the water.

**All**  
Queen out of the water  
Nixie into the water.  
*(Aino emerges from Nixie.)*

20. Finale

**Dragonflies**  
All Hail the power of the Queen of land and sea!

**Queen/Aino**  
I am the beautiful Queen of ev'ry thing I see, *(to Water)* thanks to you.

**Water**  
Thanks to me!  
*(to Nixie)* Now, my son, you'll stay with me, not making grief,  
No more to leave.

**Nixie**  
All my monster days are done.  
Now children swim and have their fun.

**Dragonflies**  
We won the victory

**Water** *(to Nixie)*  
Now you are here with me.

**Dragonflies**  
We won the victory.

**All**  
All living things are free!

*Dance: (Queen/Aino dances with dragonflies, Nixie with Water)*

**25. Green World (Reprise)**

Beautifully grows the living forest, hung about with vines and blossoms.  
Birds are shouting from the tree tops.  
Golden flowers in the meadow.  
Plants populated, Green World resurrected.  
Golden flowers in the meadow.  
Plants populated, Green World resurrected.  
Green World Resurrected!

*As they dance they all become smeared with oil, sediment and nuclear waste.)*

**Water** *(to the drumbeats of Green World.)*

I am the source.

I am the future.

**Nixie**

Gods and heroes struggle onward.

**Aino**

Freedom in dancing, freedom in living.

**Dragonflies**

*(all dancers come together)*

See the Green World resurrecting.

**All**

Be the Green World resurrecting.

*(Sini withers and dies. Lights fade.)*

End

**Dramaturg**

The play has ended but the story continues.

After a brief intermission it will be our turn to do the talking.