

# IT'S RAINING TAMALES!

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A musical comedy for young audiences by  
Kit Goldstein Grant

Based on a New Mexican folktale

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

### Man 1

HECTOR, male, a woodcutter. Range: G2-E4.

### Man 2

RAFAEL, male, a robber. Range: F2-Eb4.

ENSEMBLE (Band/Imaginary Chef)

### Man 3 (or Woman)

EL GATO, the cat.

LUIS, male, Hector's friend. Range A2-Eb4.

### Woman 1

INEZ, female, Hector's wife. Range: G3-E5.

ENSEMBLE (Villager)

### Woman 2

TERESA THE MILLER, female. Range: C4-D5.

SCHOOLMISTRESS, female. Range: B3-D5.

WAITRESS, female.

ENSEMBLE (Band/Imaginary Chef)

### Young Adult 1

LOLA, female, Teresa's daughter. Range: C4-D5.

ENSEMBLE (Band/Imaginary Chef/Villager)

### Boy (pulled from audience)

NICOLAS, male, a schoolboy.

### Girl (pulled from audience)

SUSANA, female, a schoolgirl.

## SETTING

A small village in the New Mexican territory, around 1840.

## NOTE ON SCENE CHANGES

The scene changes in *It's Raining Tamales* are meant to occur smoothly during the action/dialogue as much as possible, as indicated in the script, to allow each scene to run smoothly into the next scene. Since this will not always be practical, depending on the set, the piano/vocal score and accompaniment tracks include scene change music that can be used or omitted at the discretion of the director. Please note that the accompaniment tracks usually run longer than the piano/vocal score, and may be faded as needed. Suggested cue lines are also included.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank the original producers of *It's Raining Tamales!*, the Schenectady Theater for Children and Dee Mulford. Thanks also to original director Johnny Martinez, to Doc Salvatore for orchestrations, and to Alexander Percy and Lorena Ramírez-López for their advice and help with the Spanish portions of the script! Any errors are, of course, my own.

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

**Intro:** Instrumental

**Something Great:** Hector & Inez

**Scene Change Music/Bandit Theme:** Instrumental

**Something Great [Scene Change]:** Instrumental

**Take the Money and Run:** Hector, Inez & Company

**Take the Money and Run [Playoff]:** Instrumental

**Take the Money and Run [Scene Change]:** Instrumental

**Stolen Away:** Teresa & Lola

**Tamale Factory [Scene Change]:** Instrumental

**Tamale Factory:** Inez & Company

**It Rained Tamales:** Hector & Inez

**It Rained Tamales II:** Inez

**It Rained Tamales [Scene Change]:** Instrumental

**Clever and Smart:** Teresa, Hector & Company

**Clever and Smart [Playoff/Scene Change]:** Instrumental

**Fiesta!:** Hector, Luis & Company

**Fiesta! II:** Luis & Company

**Fiesta! III:** Luis & Company

**A Bad Bandido:** Rafael

**A Bad Bandido [Playoff]:** Instrumental

**A Bad Bandido [Scene Change]:** Instrumental

**Loco, Loco, Loco:** Inez

**Tamales/Clever and Smart Reprise:** Hector

**Loco, Loco, Loco II:** Rafael & Inez

**Loco, Loco, Loco III:** Inez

**Fiesta [Finale]:** Company

**Tamale Factory [Curtain Call]:** Instrumental

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**SCENE 1**

*(The kitchen of a small, humble cottage in a village in the New Mexican territory of Mexico. You can see both inside and outside the cottage.)*

**Intro**

*(A ball of yarn bounces on stage. EL GATO, a cat, bounds in after it. He catches it and bats it around. Suddenly, he spies the audience.)*

**EL GATO:** Ahhh! Buenos días! Mucho gusto! I am El Gato—the Cat. Hssss! Do not be alarmed! I jest, I jest. I am really a very friendly cat. See?

*(He rubs his back on a table leg and purrs.)*

But you are not interested in me. You are interested in my master and mistress, and the time it rained tamales. Todo está bien, I will tell you all about it. Here is my mistress.

*(INEZ enters.)*

She is very clever.

*(El Gato goes to her, rubs against her leg and purrs.)*

**INEZ:** What's the matter, kitty? Would you like some milk?

*(Inez sets a dish of milk on the floor, and El Gato eagerly laps it up and purrs. HECTOR enters.)*

**EL GATO:** And now, here is my master.

*(El Gato goes to him, rubs against his leg and purrs.)*

**HECTOR:** What's the matter, kitty? Would you like a nice, red-hot chili pepper?

*(He holds out a chili pepper. El Gato makes a face and bats it away.)*

**INEZ:** Hector! Cats don't like hot chili peppers!

**HECTOR:** No? Well, cats don't know what good is.

*(He eats the chili pepper. It is too hot and burns his mouth.)*

Ay, ay, ay! Hot! Hot! Hot!

*(He leaps around, whimpering, and then grabs the empty dish of milk and licks it.)*

**EL GATO:** My master, he is not very clever. But he means well. Why, he'd sit and rub my belly all day, if he didn't have to go out and chop wood to support us. And that is where our story begins—on a day Hector went out in the forest to chop wood, and he found...but I'm not going to tell you what he found! You will have to find that out for yourself.

*(El Gato exits. Inez opens a sack and pours out a cup of rice. She tries to get more out, shaking it upside down, but it is empty.)*

**INEZ:** Well, this is it, Hector. We're down to our last cup of rice, a measly handful of beans, and we're out of coffee. This is it, Hector. Terminamos.

**HECTOR:** You say that every day, Inez. And every day we somehow manage to find one more cup of rice, another handful of beans, and a few grounds of coffee.

**INEZ:** Hector, you need to use la cabeza! Where will it come from? This is the end of us. Estamos terminado.

**HECTOR:** You go out in the garden and see what you can dig up—maybe a few tomatoes ripened overnight. I'll go out and chop firewood to sell, and we'll survive another day. Todo está bien, Inez. Don't worry.



**Something Great**

I KNOW WE'VE NEVER HAD ENOUGH,  
WE'VE ALWAYS NEEDED MORE,  
BUT THOUGH WE'VE ALWAYS HAD IT ROUGH,  
JUST THINK OF WHAT COULD BE IN STORE!  
FOR YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT TOMORROW WILL  
BRING  
IF YOU ONLY WAIT!  
FOR AROUND A CORNER, BEHIND A CHAIR,  
THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING GREAT!  
WE COULD STRIKE IT RICH: THERE IS GOLD IN THE  
HILLS  
OR BY THE GARDEN GATE!  
SO KEEP ON A-LOOKIN', 'CAUSE ANYWHERE  
THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING GREAT!

**INEZ:** WE'VE ALWAYS HAD TO JUST GET BY  
ON THE LITTLE THAT WE EARN.  
BUT I GUESS THAT THAT'S THE REASON WHY  
IT'S TIME OUR LUCK SHOULD TURN!

**HECTOR & INEZ:** THEN WE'LL LEAVE OUR CARES AND  
OUR TROUBLES BEHIND!

**INEZ:** FILL THAT EMPTY PLATE!

**HECTOR:** AND I'VE GOT A FEELING – IT'S IN THE AIR! –  
TODAY'S THE DAY  
THAT WE WILL FIND SOMETHING GREAT!

**HECTOR & INEZ:** WE WILL FIND SOMETHING GREAT!

*(Hector takes an axe and exits. The scene begins to turn into the woods as El Gato enters, in narrator mode.)*

**Scene Change Music/Bandit Theme**

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**EL GATO:** And so Hector set out for the woods. But as he went someone else ran into the woods before him: a bad bandido, a robber, being chased by the villagers.

*(El Gato exits, and we are in the woods.)*

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**SCENE 2**

*(The woods. There is a tree, with a hole in the trunk. In front runs a robber, RAFAEL. He carries a bag of money. Several VILLAGERS, including TERESA THE MILLER and her daughter LOLA, run on, chasing him.)*

**TERESA:** There he goes!

**LOLA:** Catch him! Catch him!

**TERESA:** Ladrón! Ladrón! Stop, thief!

**RAFAEL:** Stand back! I'm armed...with salsa!

*(He pulls out a dish from under his cloak.)*

Stay away unless you'd like to get tomato sauce all over your nice, clean clothes!

**TERESA:** This is a new skirt!

**LOLA:** Tomato sauce never comes out!

**TERESA & LOLA:** You wouldn't!

**RAFAEL:** Try me!

*(He brings the dish back, ready to toss.)*

**TERESA, LOLA & VILLAGERS:** *(Ad lib:)* Vámonos!!

*(They run off.)*

**RAFAEL:** Hee, hee, hee! I did it!

*(He dances around.)*

Look at this nice, big bag of money! There must be thousands of pesos in here! What a haul! *(To bag:)* I love you, you know that? Sí, my pretty little cutesy-wootsy snookey-poo. You're mi amor, my dearie, darlingest bag of money.

*(He gives the bag a big, loud smooch. El Gato enters at the side and watches.)*

Now, where to hide you? ...No te preocupes, I'll come back for you in a few days, but for now it is better that we part. Ah, there's a hole in this tree. Perfecto! Nobody would think to look here, so the money will be safe.

*(He puts the bag into the hole in the tree.)*

Well, my dear cutesy-ootsums, I shall see you soon. Till then, adiós, mi cariño, mi señorita.

*(Blowing kisses, he dances off. El Gato inspects the tree.)*

**EL GATO:** A good hiding place. Not a bad idea, to hide the money in a tree. Who would think of looking here?

*(Hector enters, carrying his axe over his shoulder, singing to himself a cappella:)*

**HECTOR:** AND I'VE GOT A FEELING – IT'S IN THE AIR!...

*(He yawns hugely, and wipes his brow and sets down his axe.)*

Well, I think I've chopped enough firewood to buy us another cup of rice. And now, I've earned a small siesta. This tree looks nice to lean against.

*(He sits down and leans his back against the tree. He tips his hat forward over his eyes and stretches and yawns loudly. He leans his head back to rest on the tree trunk, and it falls in the hole. Hector struggles and shouts, his voice echoing out of the top of the tree.)*

Help! Help! The tree has got my head! Help! Help!

*(He twists around until he is standing bent over, puts his hands and leg up on the tree to brace against it, and with a mighty tug pulls his head out.)*

Ay, ay, ay! Are my ears still on?

*(He checks. They are.)*

You wicked tree, trying to eat mi cabeza!

*(He angrily gives the tree a big thump. It makes a "CLUNK"! noise. He stares at it, puzzled, then tests it by giving it another thump. Another "CLUNK"! He cleans out his ears, then tests it a third time. A third "CLUNK"! He peers inside, cautiously at first, but gradually sticking his entire head into the hole.)*

Ay! Ay! It's got me again! ...Look, there's something in here!  
Now let me go, you wicked tree!

*(He again braces himself and pulls his head out. This time he holds the bag in his teeth. He takes it out of his teeth and curiously inspects it.)*

**EL GATO:** What have you got there, Hector?

**HECTOR:** *(The bag of money still in his mouth:)* I don't rightly know.

*(He opens the bag and gasps.)*

Money! It's full of money! Why, there must be thousands of pesos in here! Hurra! Soy rico!

**EL GATO:** But wait, Hector: stop and think. That must be *someone's* bag of money. Money doesn't just grow in trees, you know.

**HECTOR:** That's true. But whose could it be? Perhaps there is a clue someplace.

*(He hunts through the bag, and pulls out a tag attached to the inside.)*

Well, there is some kind of label with writing on it, but who can read? Not me. Well, I'd better get this money home to Inez right away. Just think how surprised she'll be!

**Something Great (Scene Change)**

*(Hector takes the bag and his axe and runs off. El Gato steps forward, as the set begins to change behind him.)*

**EL GATO:** And so Hector ran home with the bag of money, as happy as could be.

*(Hector enters and, crossing the stage, stops to say...)*

**HECTOR:** I am as happy as could be!

**EL GATO:** See, what did I tell you? And when he got home, he could not wait to tell Inez the good news.

*(The set is by now back to Hector and Inez's house.)*

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**SCENE 3**

*(Hector and Inez's house. Inez stands in the kitchen, cutting up two small, unripe tomatoes. Hector runs in, hiding the bag behind his back.)*

**HECTOR:** Inez! Inez! Have I got a surprise for you!

**INEZ:** What is it? Did the barn collapse? I knew it, the barn collapsed! Everything happens to me!

**HECTOR:** No, no, just look, the barn did not collapse. It's a different kind of surprise!

**INEZ:** What is it? Did your axe break?

**HECTOR:** No, no, my axe is fine.

**INEZ:** Did the forest burn down?

**HECTOR:** No, no, the forest is still standing.

**INEZ:** Then what is it? Did you hurt your back? I knew it—you hurt your back. Hector, how many times have I told you, you are too old to go out chopping down trees! Come here, mi pobrecito, and lay down en la cama. I will stretch your back out for you.

*(Hector drops the bag as she pushes him down on the bed on his stomach. She gets out a rolling pin, and begins to roll his back.)*

**HECTOR:** No, no, Inez. My back is fine. That was not the surprise!

**INEZ:** Mi pequeño bebé, no need to pretend. You can always tell me of your troubles. Now hold still—this may hurt for a moment.

*(She draws her arm way back and holds the rolling pin high in the air, ready to whack him. Hector leaps up.)*

**HECTOR:** No, no! My back is fine, I tell you!

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**INEZ:** Hector, don't be afraid! Lie back down, you big bebé!

*(Hector runs to the bag, and holds it up.)*

**HECTOR:** Inez, this is the surprise. I found this in the woods!

**INEZ:** A bag.

**HECTOR:** Sí!

**INEZ:** A burlap sack.

**HECTOR:** Sí!

**INEZ:** You found a burlap sack.

**HECTOR:** I know! Isn't it wonderful!

**INEZ:** *(Monotone:)* Oh joy. Oh happy day.

**HECTOR:** Don't you wonder what's inside?

**INEZ:** What is inside?

**HECTOR:** Guess!

**INEZ:** Dirt?

**HECTOR:** No.

**INEZ:** Dried weeds?

**HECTOR:** No.

**INEZ:** Dead bugs?

**HECTOR:** Come and look!

**INEZ:** Hector, if this is some kind of joke...

*(Inez goes to the sack, and together they look inside. She gasps.)*

Money!



**HECTOR:** Money! What have I been telling you, all along! I knew something good would happen!

**INEZ:** Look at all this money!! Oh, Hector, we're rich!

**HECTOR:** I guess I'm not such a fool as you thought me, after all! Get your *vestido de fiesta*, and we'll go down to the village! We'll tell everyone of our good fortune! *Vamos a celebrar!*

**INEZ:** Oh no, Hector! We cannot tell anyone about this money. No, not anyone.

**HECTOR:** Why not?

**INEZ:** Hector, you need to use *la cabeza!* If you found this money in the woods, this money must have been stolen.

**HECTOR:** *Sí*, that is true. We'd better try to find out who it belongs to, so we can return it.

**INEZ:** Return it? Oh no, Hector, this is our money now.

**HECTOR:** (*Stubbornly, starting toward the door:*) Unless we can find who it belongs to. Come on, *vámonos!*

**INEZ:** (*Desperate:*) But if a robber stole this money and that robber hears we have found it, he'll come to our house and steal it back again.

**HECTOR:** We can't hide it, Inez. It isn't right. I'm going down to the village myself, this minute, to tell everyone about it.

**INEZ:** You wouldn't!

### Take the Money and Run

WHEN DID WE TWO GET A BREAK IN THIS WORLD?  
WHY SHOULDN'T WE HAVE IT GOOD FOR ONCE?

WE'VE CAUGHT IN THE HEAD EVERY ROCK FATE  
 HURLED!  
 WHY SHOULDN'T WE TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN?  
 TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN.  
 TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN.  
 WHY SHOULDN'T WE  
 TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN?  
 WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN POOR, BUT I'VE NEVER  
 COMPLAINED.  
 BUT NOW WE GET OLDER FROM YEAR TO YEAR.  
 I ACHE IN MY JOINTS AND YOUR BACK IS STRAINED.  
 WHAT CAN WE DO? TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN.

*(El Gato enters to the side, with a MARIACHI BAND.)*

**INEZ, EL GATO & BAND:** TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN.  
 TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN.  
 WHAT CAN WE DO?  
 TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN.

**INEZ:** AWAY WE'LL GO THROUGH MEXICO,  
 OR SPAIN OR THE BAHAMAS!  
 WE'LL WARM OUR FEETS ON WOOLEN SHEETS,  
 AND MAYBE RAISE SOME LLAMAS!  
 YOU'RE GRANTED A GIFT, THEN YOU DON'T MAKE A  
 FUSS,  
 AND NOBODY KNOWS WHERE THIS GOLD IS FROM.  
 IT'S LIKE WE WERE TOLD IT BELONGS TO US!  
 THIS IS OUR CHANCE! TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN.

**INEZ, EL GATO & BAND:** TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN.  
 TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN.  
 THIS IS OUR CHANCE!  
 TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN.

**HECTOR:** *(Gradually becoming convinced:)* WE'LL TRAVEL

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FAR FROM WHERE WE ARE  
AND SWAT NO MORE MOSQUITOES!  
WE'LL HAVE THE MEANS FOR BAGS OF BEANS,  
AND BEEF IN OUR BURRITOS!

**INEZ & HECTOR:** YOU'RE GRANTED A GIFT, THEN YOU  
DON'T MAKE A FUSS.

AND NOBODY KNOWS WHERE THIS GOLD IS FROM.  
IT'S LIKE WE WERE TOLD IT BELONGS TO US!  
THIS IS OUR CHANCE! IT'S OUR DAY IN THE SUN!  
THIS IS OUR CHANCE! TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN.

**INEZ, HECTOR, EL GATO & BAND:** TAKE THE MONEY  
AND RUN.

TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN.

THIS IS OUR CHANCE!

IT'S OUR DAY IN THE SUN!

THIS IS OUR CHANCE!

TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN!

*(Inez and Hector exit and the Band disperses.)*

### **Take the Money and Run (Playoff)**

**EL GATO:** *(To audience:)* I know what you are thinking. You are thinking, what a nice story: a poor couple is sad. They find a bag of money in the woods. Then they are happy. But what does all this have to do with the delicious food, tamales? Is this play called "The Time Hector and Inez Found a Bag of Money in the Woods and They Were Happy"?

*(He displays a title card with that name.)*

Or is it called "It's Raining Tamales"?

*(He discards the first title card and pulls out another, reading "It's Raining Tamales!")*

That's right, it's called "It's Raining Tamales!" But to understand how tamales fit into the story, first you must understand that Inez knew Hector could not keep his mouth shut, even though he promised he would.

*(Hector and Inez enter.)*

**HECTOR:** I promise I will keep my mouth shut.

**INEZ:** Hmm...

**EL GATO:** And so Inez came up with a secret plan. She said...

**INEZ:** Hector, now that we are wealthy, I don't want to worry one more day about going hungry. Here, take some of this money and go right to Teresa the Miller and buy for me one hundred pounds of corn flour.

*(She takes some money from the bag and hands it to Hector.)*

**HECTOR:** One hundred pounds of masa! Why, that's enough to make thousands of tamales!

**EL GATO:** See? I told you tamales would come up!

**INEZ:** Well?! We are rich now—we can afford it. If you're worried about carrying it all, bring the wheelbarrow. And don't worry—if you hurt your back, I can fix it!

*(She holds up the rolling pin.)*

**HECTOR:** *(Hastily:)* I won't hurt my back!

**INEZ:** You poor, sweet darling—you are so brave. Now go! Go!

**HECTOR:** I'm going! I'm going!

*(He exits, grabbing a wheelbarrow from the garden on his way out.)*

**EL GATO:** And off he went to see Teresa the Miller. (*Calling off:*) We need the mill now! Bring in el molino!

*(As the set turns to the mill, Teresa and Lola enter.)*

This is Teresa, a hardworking miller, and her daughter, Lola. Son gente amable, I think you will like them.

**Take the Money and Run (Scene Change)**

*(The mill is in place, and El Gato exits as Teresa and Lola set down to work.)*

**SCENE 4**

*(The mill. There is a large wheel in the center of the room. Teresa is arduously turning the wheel. Lola is scraping corn off of the cobs and laying it out to dry.)*

**TERESA:** Lola! Another sack of corn, por favor.

**LOLA:** Sí, Mamá.

*(She picks up a heavy sack and struggles over to the wheel with it.)*

**TERESA:** Look at you, my poor bebé. You should be en la escuela, not scraping corn off of cobs and hauling around heavy sacks.

**LOLA:** I don't mind, Mamá.

**TERESA:** Ay, if I ever get my hands on that bandido who took our money, cuidado!

**LOLA:** What would you do, Mamá?!

**TERESA:** I'd get down the harness and I'd hook him up to this wheel, like a burro. He'd make quite a good donkey, eh?

*(Teresa imitates the robber, Rafael, twirling an imaginary moustache and speaking in a deep voice.)*

Ay, I am a bad bandido. Hee haw! Hee haw!

*(Lola laughs. Hector enters, with his wheelbarrow.)*

**LOLA:** Hola!

**HECTOR:** Hola, Lola! Buenos días, Teresa. One hundred pounds of corn flour, por favor!

**TERESA:** One hundred pounds? Hector, Hector, why do you mock a poor widow who has lost everything?

**HECTOR:** No, no, I am in earnest—one hundred pounds. I can pay for it.

**TERESA:** Hector, yesterday you could not pay for even the one pound I gave you. But now that a bandido has robbed us of everything, everyone must make a mockery of poor Teresa. Go! Get out of here!

**HECTOR:** But my corn flour—

**TERESA:** Not another word! Leave us to our misery. Vete!

*(She points dramatically to the door. Hector takes from his pocket a handful of money, and shows it to Teresa.)*

Lola! One hundred pounds of corn flour, por favor.

*(Lola takes the wheelbarrow to the far corner of the room and begins stacking sacks of flour in the wheelbarrow.)*

**HECTOR:** A hundred pounds is a lot of flour. I should help.

*(Teresa grabs his arm, and prevents his moving.)*

**TERESA:** Hector, you are a true friend.

**HECTOR:** Sí, sí.

*(He attempts to remove her hand.)*

It is so many sacks!

**TERESA:** So many people have abandoned me in my time of need. But you would never do that!

**HECTOR:** *(Still trying to get away from her:)* No!

### Stolen Away

**TERESA:** EVERY SINGLE COIN,  
EVERY CENT I WORKED FOR,  
GONE LIKE A LEAF ON A WINDY DAY -

STOLEN AWAY.

**HECTOR:** Lola, be careful!

*(Lola drops a sack. Hector winces. Teresa puts a hand on Hector's chest, to keep his attention.)*

**TERESA:** EVERY BIT OF GOLD,  
EVERY PRECIOUS PESO,  
LOST AS A DROP IN AN ENDLESS BAY –  
STOLEN AWAY.

**HECTOR:** I am sorry to hear it, Teresa. Now, my wheelbarrow is tipping...

*(He tries to escape once more, but before he can get there the wheelbarrow falls over.)*

...over.

*(Lola patiently begins loading it again.)*

**TERESA:** WE HAD PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.  
LOLA WENT TO SCHOOL.  
NOW SHE MUST STAY HOME AND LABOR,  
LIKE HER MOTHER, ONE MORE FOOL.

**TERESA & LOLA:** FOR WE'LL GRIND THE GRAIN  
DAWN TO DUSK FOREVER.  
NEVER A DAY WE CAN LAUGH OR PLAY  
NOW THAT OUR HOPE IS  
STOLEN AWAY...  
STOLEN AWAY...

*(Lola finishes loading the wheelbarrow, and brings it to Hector. Hector holds out a large handful of money.)*

**HECTOR:** Is this enough for the flour?

**TERESA:** Hector! It is too much! I couldn't accept!



**HECTOR:** For Lola's education –

**TERESA:** (*Taking the money:*) – Okay.

**HECTOR:** I'm only sorry I can't help you more.

**TERESA:** Hector, you have a heart of gold. With this money, Lola can at least go back a la escuela. I wish she could go on to the university, but how can we hope for a miracle?

*(Hector takes the wheelbarrow and exits. Teresa hugs Lola.)*

**TERESA & LOLA:** NOW THAT OUR HOPE IS  
STOLEN AWAY...  
STOLEN AWAY.

*(They go back to work, as El Gato enters.)*

**EL GATO:** (*Clapping his hands:*) Away! Away! Vete, molino!  
We must hurry back to Inez with the flour!

### **Tamale Factory (Scene Change)**

*(Teresa and Lola exit as the set begins changing back to Hector and Inez's house. Hector reenters with his wheelbarrow and begins hurrying back and forth across the front with it.)*

**EL GATO:** She will be tapping her foot already impatiently, and saying, "Where could Hector be? He always takes so long! He cannot do anything right."

**HECTOR:** I'm sorry! But when the wheelbarrow is so full of a hundred pounds of flour, it is a little bit hard to handLEAEIII...!!

*(The last word turns into a yelp as the wheelbarrow tips and spills out sacks of flour. Hector hastily stoops to pick them up.)*

**EL GATO:** (*To Hector:*) "Ay caramba! Can't you do anything right, Hector?" (*To audience:*) At least that's what Inez would

say. For myself, I could not care less if Hector takes all day to get home. Ah, here we are, en la casa!

*(Hector has picked up all the sacks, and the set is now the house.  
El Gato exits as Hector goes into the house.)*

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**SCENE 5**

*(Hector and Inez's house. Inez is standing in the kitchen, tapping her foot.)*

**INEZ:** Hector! There you are at last!

**HECTOR:** Sí, here I am.

*(He sets down the wheelbarrow and painfully stretches his back.)*

**INEZ:** Ay, mi pobrecito! Your back hurts!

**HECTOR:** *(Hastily:)* No it doesn't!

**INEZ:** Well, in any case, you must be tired after such a journey. And look how late it is—evening already! Well, I have made you a nice taza de chocolate to drink, and then you should get right to bed.

**HECTOR:** That's nice of you, Inez. It has been quite a day...

*(Yawning broadly, he goes to the cocoa and drinks it.)*

And now, I think I'll turn in.

**INEZ:** You do that. I'll just stay up for a bit, scrubbing the pots and pans. Rico o pobre, my work is never done.

**HECTOR:** *(Yawning sleepily:)* Buenas noches, Inez.

**INEZ:** Buenas noches. Sleep soundly.

*(Hector goes to the bed and climbs in and goes right to sleep. Inez loudly scrubs a pot, then surreptitiously looks over at Hector.)*

*(To audience:)* Is he sleeping?

*(Hector lets out a big snore.)*

Sí, sí, he is sleeping. But just to be sure...

*(She gets out a big feather and tiptoes over to him. She holds it over his face and watches it go up and down as he breathes.)*

And one final test.

*(She tickles him with the feather. He giggles and turns over, but stays asleep.)*

Sí, he's sleeping good.

*(She goes back to the kitchen.)*

Here, kitty, kitty, kitty!

*(El Gato enters, in "cat mode" on all fours, and goes to Inez.)*

**EL GATO:** Meow?

**INEZ:** Kitty, do you know what we're going to do tonight, while Hector sleeps?

**EL GATO:** Meow?

**INEZ:** We are going to cook! And what are we going to cook? I'll tell you!

### **Tamale Factory**

I'VE GOT A PLAN! A WONDERFUL PLAN  
 THAT THERE'S NOT A SINGLE HITCH IN,  
 SO FIND ME A CORN HUSK,  
 AND GET OUT A PAN,  
 AND SETTLE IN THE KITCHEN.

*(El Gato helps Inez by carrying the sacks of flour over to her in his teeth, and together they cook throughout the song.)*

FOR TONIGHT THIS WILL BE  
 A TAMALE FACTORY!  
 WE WILL COOK UNTIL WE'RE SORE,

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THEN WE'LL COOK, AND COOK SOME MORE!  
THERE IS EFFICIENCY  
IN MY TAMALE FACTORY!  
NO ONE SHIRKS OR TAKES A NAP  
TILL I TELL 'EM, "THAT'S A WRAP!"  
SO HEAT THE WATER, MIX THE FLOUR!  
NEVER MIND THE MIDNIGHT HOUR.  
JUST ONE THING NOT WORTH IGNORING:  
CHECK THAT HECTOR STILL IS SNORING.

*(El Gato ad libs mewed interjections during the next verse.)*

IF HE IS, WE CAN SNATCH  
TIME TO MAKE ANOTHER BATCH.  
IN THE MORNING THERE WILL BE  
SAY TWO HUNDRED, MAYBE THREE!  
THAT WILL BE ENOUGH FOR ME  
IN MY TAMALE FACTORY!

Look how many tamales we have already! This is like a real tamale factory! Can't you just picture poor Inez's kitchen filled with professional chefs?

*(Several IMAGINARY CHEFS enter, and join in the cooking.)*

THIS IS HOW I DREAM IT!

**IMAGINARY CHEF #1:** WRAP IT UP AND STEAM IT!

**IMAGINARY CHEF #2:** KEEP THE DOUGH FROM  
SPILLING!

**IMAGINARY CHEF #3:** THIS COULD USE A FILLING!

*(Inez is distracted, piling finished tamales on the table, and running to catch them when they begin to tip over. El Gato leaps up, back in narrator mode for a moment, and addresses the audience.)*

**EL GATO:** EVERYTHING IS LOOKING TASTY AND DELICIOUS.

(HOPE I'M NOT THE ONE WHO HAS TO DO THE DISHES.)

*(El Gato goes back to cat mode and continues to help cook, occasionally meowing along with the song. El Gato, Inez and the Imaginary Chefs make piles and piles of tamales.)*

**INEZ & CHEFS:** FOR TONIGHT THIS WILL BE A TAMALES FACTORY!

WE WILL COOK UNTIL WE'RE SORE,  
THEN WE'LL COOK, AND COOK SOME MORE!

**INEZ:** THERE IS EFFICIENCY  
IN MY TAMALES FACTORY!  
NO ONE SHIRKS OR TAKES A NAP  
TILL I TELL 'EM, "THAT'S A WRAP"!

**INEZ & CHEFS:** SO HEAT THE WATER, MIX THE FLOUR!  
NEVER MIND THE MIDNIGHT HOUR.  
JUST ONE THING NOT WORTH IGNORING:

**INEZ:** CHECK THAT HECTOR STILL IS SNORING.

*(She tickles Hector with a feather again, and he giggles and turns over in his sleep.)*

**INEZ & CHEFS:** IF HE IS, WE CAN SNATCH  
TIME TO MAKE ANOTHER BATCH.  
IN THE MORNING THERE WILL BE  
SAY TWO HUNDRED, MAYBE THREE!

**INEZ:** THAT WILL BE ENOUGH FOR ME  
IN MY TAMALES FACTORY!

**INEZ & CHEFS:** TAMALES FACTORY!

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*(By now all the surfaces are covered in piles of tamales, and all the sacks lie empty on the floor. A clock chimes five times, and the Chefs exit.)*

**INEZ:** Ay caramba! Five o'clock already! Hector will be getting up soon. Rápido, kitty, help me with these tamales. We are going to take them outside, and we are going to put them— everywhere!

### **Tamale Factory (Underscoring)**

*(Inez takes the tamales outside, where she starts tossing them all over. She even climbs up to put a few on the roof. El Gato balances a stack of tamales on his head and follows her outside, scattering tamales every which way. Soon the whole place is covered in tamales. Ad lib:)*

Y uno aquí... Y uno por aquí... One would be good there...

*(Hector's hat is outside, and she artistically places a tamale on top of it.)*

Y uno allí. I think that does it!

*(Hector wakes up. He scratches and yawns and gets out of bed.)*

**HECTOR:** Inez? Inez, where are you? Is there any coffee today?

**INEZ:** I'm outside! Just cleaning up this mess!

**HECTOR:** What mess? What's happened?

*(Hector stumbles outside and looks around, sleepily.)*

What is it? What's happened?

**INEZ:** Oh, there was a storm in the night. It made an awful mess, I tell you. It's going to be quite a job to clean up.

**HECTOR:** A storm?

**INEZ:** Yes, a terrible rainstorm. Just look!

**HECTOR:** The ground is covered in something, but it doesn't look like raindrops.

**INEZ:** Well, of course it isn't *raindrops*, silly!

**HECTOR:** Well, then what is it?

**INEZ:** Tamales. Now get a rake, and help me clean up.

*(Hector takes a rake, but stands there, scratching his head with it.)*

**HECTOR:** But why are there tamales all over?

### **It Rained Tamales**

**INEZ:** LAST NIGHT IT RAINED TAMALES;  
 THE SKY WAS GRIM AND GREY.  
 IT OFTEN RAINS TAMALES  
 FROM FALL TO EARLY MAY.  
 I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU PUZZLE  
 AT HOW THIS CAME TO BE.  
 FOR WHAT IS THERE TO WONDER  
 WHEN YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE:  
 TAMALES HERE! TAMALES THERE!  
 SÍ! TAMALES EVERYWHERE!  
 THEY'RE ON THE GROUND! THEY'RE ALL AROUND!  
 SINCE IT RAINED TAMALES!  
 SINCE IT RAINED TAMALES!

**HECTOR:** I didn't think it could rain tamales.

**INEZ:** No?

**HECTOR:** No. I thought it rained...

**INEZ:** What?



**HECTOR:** Well – raindrops.

**INEZ:** (*Laughs:*) Raindrops?! During the dry season?! When does the ground get wet during the dry season?

**HECTOR:** Never?

**INEZ:** Exactly! And what does the ground do when it rains raindrops?

**HECTOR:** It gets wet.

**INEZ:** Sí! And is corn flour wet?

**HECTOR:** No.

**INEZ:** And what are tamales made of?

**HECTOR:** Corn flour.

**INEZ:** And so, during the dry season, it rains tamales. Hector, you need to use la cabeza!

**HECTOR:** I NEVER KNEW TAMALES  
WERE SOMETHING THAT IT RAINS.  
BUT LATELY I'VE DISCOVERED  
THERE'S SO MUCH THAT EXPLAINS.  
I GOT NO EDUCATION.  
I GUESS THAT THERE'S MY FLAW.  
FOR HOW CAN I DENY IT?  
WHEN I AWOKE AND SAW:

**HECTOR & INEZ:** TAMALES HERE! TAMALES THERE!  
SÍ! TAMALES EVERYWHERE!  
THEY'RE ON THE GROUND! THEY'RE ALL AROUND!  
SINCE IT RAINED TAMALES!

**INEZ:** THEY ALL WERE FALLING FROM THE SKY!

**HECTOR:** THE ONLY RAIN THAT'S WARM AND DRY!  
AND YOU CAN BET I WON'T FORGET

THE TIME IT RAINED TAMALES!

**HECTOR & INEZ:** SINCE IT RAINED TAMALES!

**INEZ:** Hector, it has shocked me to the core that you didn't know about tamale rain. I always knew you were a fool –

**HECTOR:** Sí, I know it, too.

**INEZ:** But I didn't realize you were ignorant. Pero todo está bien. I have a plan to cure you of your ignorance: you will have to go to school.

**HECTOR:** Escuela?! But, Inez, just look at me! I'm too old to go to school. Los niños will laugh at me!

**INEZ:** That's a chance I'm willing to take. Now, here's your slate, and chalk, and your lunch, and a nice, shiny manzana para la maestra. You'd better hurry – you don't want to be late on your first day!

*(She piles a slate, chalk, lunch sack, and apple into his arms. He struggles to balance them all.)*

Ya sé bueno, and be careful not to slip on the tamales!

*(Hector reluctantly exits, still struggling with his pile of school supplies, and tottering as he slips on tamales. Inez sings triumphantly and dances with El Gato, who meows interjections.)*

### **It Rained Tamales II**

**INEZ:** TAMALES HERE! TAMALES THERE!

¡SÍ, TAMALES EVERYWHERE!

SINCE IT RAINED TAMALES!

SINCE IT RAINED TAMALES!

### **It Rained Tamales (Scene Change)**

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*(Inez picks up a tamale and nibbles it as she exits, still humming, as the set turns to a small one-room schoolhouse.)*

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**SCENE 6**

*(A schoolroom. There is a blackboard in front, and a table with a pile of books and an apple on it. Several small chairs face the blackboard. A SCHOOLMISTRESS hurries around helping to set up the classroom. Lola, NICOLAS, and SUSANA run around, playing tag, and El Gato joins in. Hector enters and stands by, awkwardly. The Schoolmistress rings a bell.)*

**SCHOOLMISTRESS:** *(Ad lib:)* Tiempo para la escuela! Time for school! Niños, settle down. Lola, you sit here. Nicolas, here, and Susana, here. Perfect.

*(Lola, Nicolas, and Susana sit in the chairs. The Schoolmistress stands at the front of the classroom, and motions to Hector to join her. He does so, reluctantly.)*

Buenos días, class. Today I have a special treat for you—a new classmate! His name is Hector. Can everyone say "Hola, Hector"?

**CLASS:** Hola, Hector.

**SCHOOLMISTRESS:** Hector, can you say "Hola" to the class?

*(Hector turns red and twists his hat in his hands. Finally, he squeaks, very quickly.)*

**HECTOR:** Hola.

**SCHOOLMISTRESS:** Now, siéntate al lado de Susana, and we'll begin.

*(She turns to write the lower-case alphabet on the board, while Hector goes to a chair and sizes it up. He awkwardly sits. He cannot figure out what to do with his legs. He puts them this way and that, tries kneeling, stretching them out, crossing them—nothing works. Finally he tips off and falls to the floor. The Class laughs.)*

Hector, this is no time for clowning around! We are at school now—we must behave ourselves. Now, come up here—you will have to sit on this table by me.

*(He goes to the table and sits on it—on top of the apple. He jumps off, and knocks the pile of books to the floor.)*

Hector! Hector, sit down and be quiet! Today we will be reviewing the alphabet. Lola, can you tell me what letter this is?

**LOLA:** "A."

**SCHOOLMISTRESS:** Very good. That's an "A." Nicolas, can you tell me what this letter is?

**NICOLAS:** "B."

**SCHOOLMISTRESS:** Correct. That's a "B." Susana, what is this letter?

**SUSANA:** "C."

**SCHOOLMISTRESS:** Sí, "C," sí, it's a "C"! Now, Hector, what is this letter?

**HECTOR:** It's a wheelbarrow.

**SCHOOLMISTRESS:** No, no, Hector. This is a letter, not a picture.

**HECTOR:** Of course you don't recognize it, because you have drawn it without a wheel, and on its side. But you can't fool me so easily. That's a wheelbarrow. I don't wish to brag, maestra, but I could draw a better picture of a wheelbarrow myself.

**SCHOOLMISTRESS:** Hector, haven't you ever learned the alphabet? It goes...everybody say it with me: "A...B...C...D."

This, Hector, is a "D." I can see we'll need to start at the beginning with you. You, Hector, have a lot to learn.

**Clever and Smart**

YOU NEED TO LEARN TO USE YOUR HEAD,  
SO YOU CAN LEAD AND NOT BE LED,  
YOU NEED TO PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER.  
YOU NEED TO THINK OF WHAT MAKES SENSE,  
AND LEARN TO SIFT THE EVIDENCE,  
AND SOON YOU'LL BE CLEVER AND SMART!

**SCHOOLMISTRESS & CLASS:** CLEVER AND SMART!  
CLEVER AND SMART!

READING AND WRITING, SCIENCE AND ART  
ALL HAVE A TURN. READY TO LEARN?  
SOON YOU'LL BE CLEVER AND SMART!

**SCHOOLMISTRESS:** IF YOU SHOULD FACE A  
QUANDARY,  
AND YOU ARE FEELING PONDER-Y,  
THEN TAKE YOUR TIME SORTING OUT THE ANSWER.

**HECTOR:** YOU'RE TELLING ME TO THINK IT THROUGH?  
THEN THINK IT THROUGH IS WHAT I'LL DO,  
AND SOON I'LL BE CLEVER AND SMART!

**SCHOOLMISTRESS & CLASS:** CLEVER AND SMART!  
CLEVER AND SMART!

YOU MAY NOT BE MUCH GOOD AT THE START  
BUT IN A BIT YOU'LL BE A HIT!  
SOON YOU'LL BE CLEVER AND SMART!

**SCHOOLMISTRESS:** SO DON'T DESPAIR OR TEAR YOUR  
HAIR,  
THOUGH I CAN SEE YOU'RE STRUGGLING.  
JUST PRACTICE AND YOU'LL SOON BE DOING

COMPLEX MENTAL JUGGLING!  
FOR YOU CAN NEVER BE TOO OLD  
TO BUST ON OUT AND BREAK THE MOLD!  
IT'S TIME TO TRY REACHING YOUR POTENTIAL!  
YOU'VE LOTS OF TIME FOR HIGH DEGREES,  
WE'LL START WITH JUST THE ABCs  
AND SOON YOU'LL BE CLEVER AND SMART!

**ALL:** CLEVER AND SMART! CLEVER AND SMART!  
YOU CAN HAVE LOTS OF GOOD IN YOUR HEART,  
BUT IT'S A MESS, HARD TO EXPRESS,  
TILL YOU ARE CLEVER AND –

**HECTOR:** TILL I AM CLEVER AND –

**ALL:** TILL YOU ARE CLEVER AND SMART!

**SCHOOLMISTRESS:** Now, Hector, what is this letter?

**HECTOR:** It's a "D."

**SCHOOLMISTRESS:** Muy bien! Come to school every day,  
Hector, and pretty soon you'll be reading and writing!

**ALL:** SOON YOU'LL BE CLEVER AND SMART!  
SMART!

*(El Gato grabs the school bell and rings it.)*

**EL GATO:** School's over! Time to go home! Terminó la escuela!

**Clever and Smart (Playoff/Scene Change)**

*(The Schoolmistress and Class begin removing the classroom.)*

**EL GATO:** Hector, time to go home!

**HECTOR:** Oh, I don't think I'll go home quite yet.

**EL GATO:** No? Where will you go?

**HECTOR:** Down to the village café, to see my friend Luis, I think.

**EL GATO:** Hector, are you sure that's smart? You will no doubt want to tell Luis of your good fortune, and you have promised to keep your mouth shut.

**HECTOR:** I know! I will keep my mouth shut, don't worry!

**EL GATO:** All right, then I guess we need the village café. *(Calling off:)* The village café, por favor!

*(Hector exits, as the set begins changing to the café.)*

Ah, but now you must excuse me por un momento. You see, I am El Gato, the Cat, but I am also going to play Luis. Why does Luis not play Luis, you ask? I don't know, he was busy, he was tired, he did not want to come. Okay, okay, I forgot to ask him. But don't worry, I will be an excellent Luis! My acting skills, they are enormous!

*(He begins putting on a costume, and narrates as he does so. His outfit includes a big moustache and giant sombrero.)*

A serape, to cover up my fur; a giant sombrero to cover up my ears; and a moustache to cover up my whiskers. I am very handsome, sí? Ah, and here we are, at the café!

*(The set is now the café. El Gato as LUIS goes into the café and stands at the counter.)*



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**SCENE 7**

*(The village café. Luis stands at the counter. A WAITRESS is behind the counter, and a VILLAGER chats with her. Hector enters. Luis greets him loudly and flamboyantly.)*

**LUIS:** Hector! My friend, my compadre, my amigo! How good to see you! Come here! I kiss you on both cheeks.

*(He does so.)*

**HECTOR:** How are you, Luis? It is nice to see you again. What have you been doing lately?

**LUIS:** Oh, a little of this, a little of that. Mostly sitting in this café and sipping water. It is all I can afford. I wish so much for a cup of coffee, but I'm stone broke, so I'm sorry, but it's no use asking me to buy you a cup.

**HECTOR:** *(To Waitress:)* Dos cafés, por favor!

*(He hands her a gold coin. She takes it and gets them coffee. Luis watches in amazement.)*

**LUIS:** Hector! Since when do you have money?!

**HECTOR:** Oh, it's nothing. Just a little bit.

**LUIS:** "A little bit"?! In all our years of knowing each other, I've never seen you with an escudo to your name, and now you are waving around a handful of gold coins? What happened? Did you sell your house?

**HECTOR:** No, we still have the house.

**LUIS:** Did you strike gold in the mountains?

**HECTOR:** No, I didn't strike gold in the mountains.

**LUIS:** Did you suddenly turn into an artist and paint a fantastic mural depicting the struggle of Mexico against its Spanish oppressors during the Mexican War of Independence

of 1810 to 1821 and sell it to a wealthy and patriotic art collector for twenty thousand pesos?

**HECTOR:** No...that didn't happen either.

**LUIS:** Well, then I give up. What did happen?

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