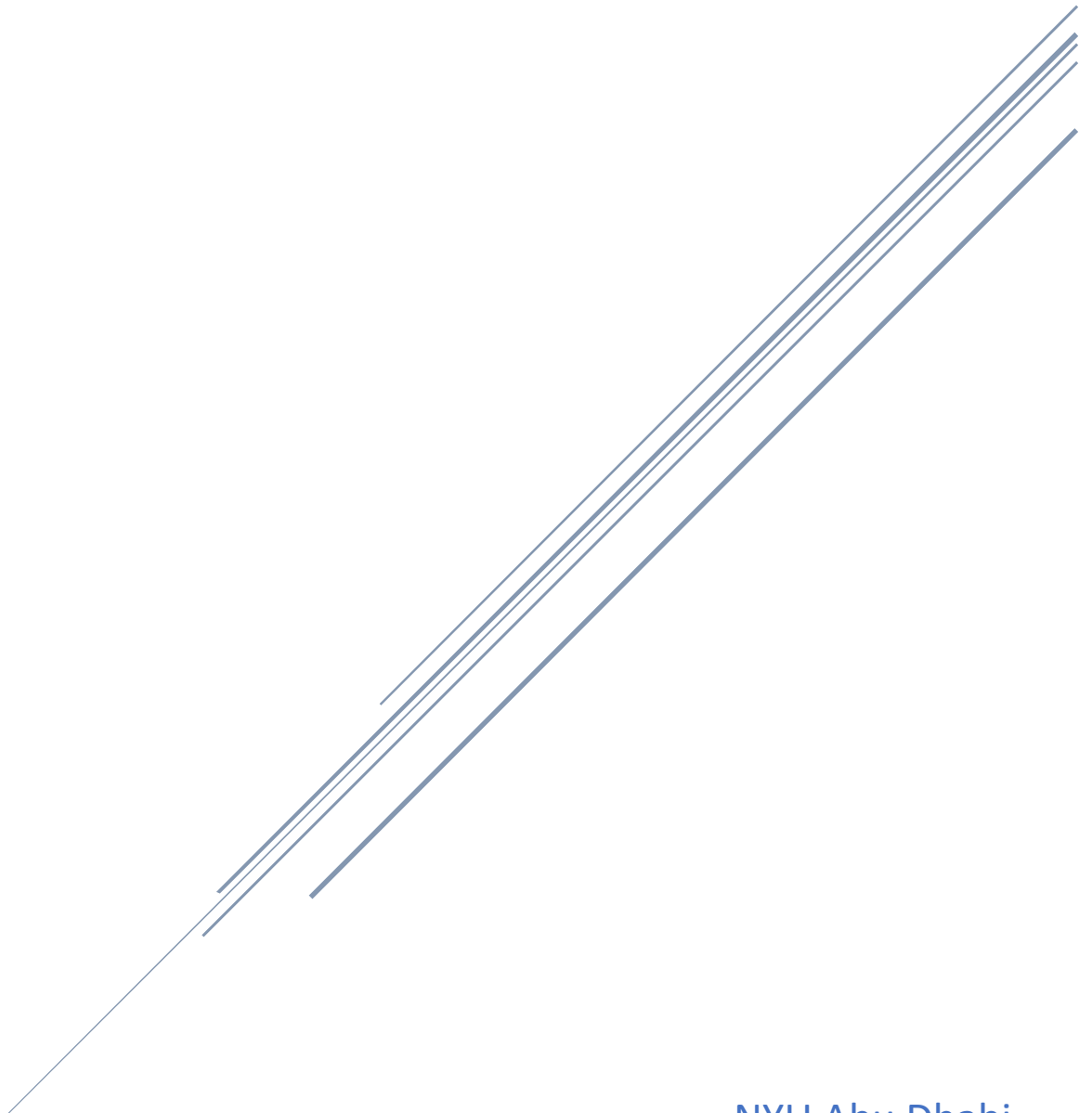


SOUCOUYANT STORIES

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Scene 1 : (Granny Louis)

Hello Dears! Come to pay Ol' Granny Louis a visit eh?

Well have a seat, have a seat.

What's your name? Go on, go on...

[Audience responds name]

Ahh! What a nice name! Your fadda name you that ent! Yes yes!

And you?

[Granny continues to ad lib asking for names for all 3-5 audience members]

Well good man... thank you for coming to see an old dry up woman like me...

How about I tell you a couple of stories eh... you'd like that?

But hold on....

(Yelling to the side)

Nailah! Bring something for these children to eat! And pour out some lime juice too eh! I don't want them choking!

(Enter 'Nailah'¹ with snacks...possibly banana bread)

Anyway... where was I?

Yes yes...lemme tell you about the time they found a Soucouyant in the village...

One morning at about 2 o'clock a farmer got up when he heard a strange noise from his yard. He went to see what was wrong and saw blood dripping down from one of his cow's neck. As he walked closer, he saw a ball of fire flying away. He realise it was Soucouyant coming for his cows.

Now every couple month they would find a Soucouyant coming to suck the blood of animals and people. Some people also call her the Ol Higue. But the people of the village would always catch her before she could do more damage.

This time the villages hid at night and when the ball of fire flew in the air, they followed it all the way to the old shack at the edge of the village where a wicked old woman lived.

The saw the old lady pitting on her skin... cause that's what the Soucouyant did... they would take of their skin and turn into a ball of fire before looking for food.

¹ Either a helper/intern on one of the douens

The next night when the old woman was flying about... the villages went and rub salt and pepper inside her skin. When the Soucouyant came back and put on her skin, it burns so much she started to hop and sing: Kin Kin you don't know me! Kin Kin you don't know me!

The villages push her into a barrel and rolled it into the pond and from then on nobody see a Soucouyant in years.

Hahaha... what you think? Oh gosh don't be frighten... that was year and years ago...Hahaha
You want to hear another one? Don't worry... this one not so scary. In fact, it actually very nice.
It hadda a time Papa Bois saved a deer...

Yes yes... one day deep in the forest, Papa Bois was cooking his dinner in front of his little hut. All kinds of animals was playing around him. They were happy because they were safe.

You see Papa Bois was the protector of the forest. He was very funny looking... he had to short horns, bright eyes and a gentle manner. His feet were like the hooves of a deer so he could run very very fast indeed.

Anyway, while Papa Bois was making his dinner, he heard a gun shot in the distance. There was a hunter in the forest. All the animals stop playing and on Papa Bois' signal, they all went and hide among the branches and holes. He blew his horn to warn the animals far away too.

Suddenly he saw a little deer limping and panting in his direction. He could hear a dog barking in the distance. Papa Bois hid the deer and made a new trail in an opposite direction to mislead to hunter and his dog. The dog picked up the false sent and very soon he and his master were very very lost.

Three days later a village search party found the hunter wandering around the forest hungry and tired. They realized Papa Bois had saved the deer and condemn the hunter. They left the forest and went back to the village

As for the deer... he lived happily with Papa Bois and the other animals for years and years.

You see! A happy ending...so the hunter got a lil roughing up. He know better than to be going after animals before they fully grown.

But it getting late...is best you be off now before the douens come for you...

What's that look you giving me there? You don't know what a douen in?

Well you see a douen is a little child who does lure other little children into the forest. They does be naked except for a big straw hat that does cover their hair. The strangest part is that their feet turn backwards so that from their footprints they look like if they walking in one direction when they really going in the opposite direction.

Now if a douen hears a child's name especially if they not christened the will try to steal them away to turn them into a douens. So I hope allyuh christened cause you don't want no douens coming after you.

Anyway children... my old bones need to go in meh bed and allyuh should be going to sleep anyway. Run along now... and I hope your dreams as exciting as my little stories Hahahaha

[VO: and so, they were]

Scene 2: (The Soucouyant)

**NB: This scene is does not have dialogue and is only dance but the backing track would be the Ol' Higue Poem*

Ol' Higue

- *Mark McWatt*

You think I like all this stupidity
gallivanting all night without skin
burning myself out like cane –fire
To frighten the foolish?
And for what? A few drops of baby blood?
You think I wouldn't rather
take my blood seasoned in fat
black-pudding, like everyone else?
And don't even talk 'bout the pain of salt
And having to bend these old bones down
To count a thousand grains of rice!

If only babies didn't smell so nice!
And if I could only stop
Hearing the soft, soft call
Of that pure blood running in new veins,
Singing the sweet song of life
Tempting an old, dry-up woman who been
Holding her final note for years,
Afraid of the dying hum...

Then again, if I didn't fly and come
to that fresh pulse in the middle of the night,
how would you, mother,
name your ancient dread,
And who to blame
for the murder inside your head...?
Believe me –
As long as it have women giving birth
A poor ol' higue like me can never dead.

Scene 3: Douens

Douens work as a call and response, gradually getting more and more excited in each line

Douen 1: Hello
Douen 2: Come and Play
Douen 1: Come and Stay
Douen 2: Not too far away

Together: Come (Insert name 1) Come!
Together: Come (Insert name 2) Come!

Douen 1: Come (Insert name 3) Come!
Douen 2: Come (Insert name 4) Come!

Together (Overlapping): Come, Play, Stay, Away

Together (different names): Don't be scared (names)!

Douen 2: The forest is very pretty
Douen 1: Yes very very pretty

Douen 1: Hello

(both douens start laughing gradually building to hysteria)

Douen 2: Let's play a game!
Douen 1: Ring around a roses a pocket full of poses... ashes ashes
Douen 2 (stopping): No no no, they don't want to play that...
Douen 2: Trinidad numbers here we go:

(both douens start the clapping game individually)

Douen 1: Let's play police and thief. We'll be the cops, you (pointing at audience) will be the thief.

(the douens start chasing each other and the audience)

Douen 1: Freeeze!!
I know the perfect game... let's play..... Red Over
Douen 2: Yes Yes Yes

(both douens start laughing gradually building to hysteria)

Douen 2: Red Over, red over send Douen 1 right over

Douen 1: Red Over, red over send Douen 2 right over

Together: Red Over, red over send [insert name] right over

Douen 1: Well go on... yes go go go

(Pointing in the direction of the next room)

Douen 2: Go Go Go... into the forest you go

Douen 1: All of you must go.. quick quick

(Douen 2 joins in)

Together: Go Go into the forest you go go

Go Go into the forest you go go

(Both douens laugh hysterically cornering the audience into the entrance to the next scene.)

Scene 4: Papa Bois

**NB: This scene is does not have dialogue and is only dance. The backing track would be Papa Bois by Asheba*

Scene 5: Gallery

This scene will be a self-exploration room. After 10 minutes the audience would be asked to exit.

At the exit there will be a QR code that will lead to a short form to get feedback on their experience and which part of the performance resonated with them the most.