



Coming Home

WRITTEN BY JO DORRAS

The play has been performed using a backdrop and 10 to 15 actors.



[Two actors, a man and a woman, come on to the stage with two chairs. The young man comes up behind the girl and pinches her. She shrieks and he laughs. She takes a swipe at him and he dodges. An older man, the girl's father, walks into the acting area through the audience, the girl and boy are caught.]

Joseph: There are no flowers at the entrance to the village! Who's bringing the flowers?

Agnes: The children! They've got lots of flowers.

Joseph: Why aren't the flowers ready? He'll be here soon!

Boy: Those kids just want to play around....

Joseph: You go and tell them to hurry! Go on! *[The boy rushes off and the girl is left with Joseph]* What were you doing?

Agnes: Nothing, Father!

Joseph: You and that boy! I saw him...

Agnes: He pinched me! And I hit him, that's all!

Joseph: Get the table ready and make sure the women have finished cooking!

Agnes: Yes, Father.... *[Agnes leaves. Joseph walks up and down waiting. He mumbles a speech under his breath. Joseph hears a noise in the distance.]*

Joseph: He's here? *[The band start to play and the rest of the actors come on with Philip.]*

SONG: Welcome! Welcome home!

It's a long time you've been gone.
 The big ship carried you far away
 Now the waves have carried you home!
 You've been gone
 You've been gone
 A long, long time
 But we have never forgotten you
 Son of the village
 Child of our hearts!
 Now you are home! Yes you are home!
 Like the bird that flies across the sea,
 You have travelled far away
 But today you've come back home!

[As the song is sung, a man enters. He is walking slowly and seems a little unsteady. Agnes and the other actors come onto the acting area and shake his hand and throw flowers at him. He goes up to Joseph and they shake hands and hold one another. Everyone claps and cheers. At last Philip breaks away.]

Philip: Papa....

Joseph: Well... at last... So many years. *[Suddenly he realises that Philip has no garland, and finds his voice again]* Where's the garland? There should be a garland!



Agnes: Here it is Father! *[She runs up with it and walks up to Philip and places it over his head. He kisses her cheek quickly.]*

Joseph: We are gathered here today *[The crowd fall silent]* to greet our son, Philip... He was one of the first of our sons to go out on the great fishing boats. It was a proud day for me, when Philip was chosen to go to the marine school. Hundreds of boys wanted to go! Hundreds! And Philip was the only boy to get in from our island, the only one! I was proud of my son. But I was sorry too, because I knew he would be away a long time. Too long. A lot has happened since then. You travelled to many places, Philip. Bangkok, Cape Town, Totyu?

Philip: Tokyo, Father.

Joseph: Tokyo ... many more I don't even know the name of. You saw a lot ... you were lucky to travel the world as a young man. I never did! I never saw anything! But ... yes, some bad things happened. Your baby died. He's buried here, on the island. You never saw him. Away when he was born and away when he died. But... but today you have come back! And today you will eat drink and be happy! As happy as we can be! *[Joseph goes up and hugs him again and the crowd cheers. Then they wait for Philip to speak.]*

Philip: *[Hesitantly]* Thank you. Thank you for all this, Papa. Everyone. It wasn't an easy life on the boat. I wouldn't send my child to work on the ships. Never. *[Everyone is a bit shocked. Joseph is upset.]* I'm home now and I hope I will never have to go away again. Agnes! Little sister, it's so good to see you! *[He goes up to Agnes and holds her and then starts to cry. Joseph looks at him and everyone exits.]*



[Joseph is on stage. A man enters and walks up to him and shakes his hand.]

Harold: Where's Philip?

Joseph: Still sleeping!

Harold: He was so drunk he couldn't stand up.

Joseph: Men on the boats drink. Now he's back all that will stop.

Harold: Morris will be off to the marine school in a few weeks. I hope he'll be alright. He's always liked to drink. At least he'll be earning money on the boats. But... I don't want him going too wild.

Joseph: I told Philip that he must read the bible and find good friends. Follow the ten commandments...

Harold: It's a long time to be away. And there are temptations. Alcohol and ... prostitutes.

Joseph: A good man would never go with women like that!

Harold: After months at sea. It happens.

Joseph: It's a terrible thing! I'm glad Philip's back and away from that! I never thought about it when he went on the boats. I should have warned him. *[Philip comes out from behind the backdrop.]*

Philip: Warned me? What would you have warned me about, Father?

Joseph: Philip! You look well. A good night's sleep. That's what you needed!

Philip: What would you have warned me about, Father?

Joseph: Not to go with women like that. Those prostitutes.

Philip: Why Father?

Joseph: You know as well as I that it's a sin! Prostitutes! Evil women! Breaking God's laws.

Philip: They don't have much choice in those places, Father. They sleep with men to get the money to pay for food for their kids.

Joseph: They sleep with married men. They don't care if they commit adultery...

Philip: Neither do the men. *[Joseph is getting angry and Harold tries to defuse the situation]*

Harold: Philip, you must come and see us. Your Auntie says you must eat with us. Tell us all your stories!

Philip: Yes ... all my stories.

Harold: All the foreign places you have seen. It must be so different. Lots of houses and trucks. All sorts of people.

Philip: We saw the sea most of the time and when we got to land, we got drunk. *[Joseph looks a bit startled and Harold is embarrassed and hurriedly stands up to leave]*

Harold: I've got work to do in the garden. Come soon, Philip! *[Harold shakes hands with them both and leaves. Philip picks up the guitar and starts to strum.]*

Philip: There are a lot of things you should have told me Father.

Joseph: You found it all out didn't you?



Philip: Yes. I found it all out. *[Joseph and Philip exit]*



[Two actors playing children can be seated in the audience. There is a loud laugh to start the scene. Agnes walks on to talk to the children in the audience.]

Agnes: What are you laughing about? Miriam! Why are you laughing? We have a lot of work to do! Now I am going to write the sums on the board here and you can copy them into your books! Okay....

Miriam: It doesn't!

Child 2: Yes it does!

Miriam: Liar! Liar! Pants on fire!

Agnes: Stop! Stop this now! *[She walks angrily up to the arguing children. Philip comes on and stands watching.]* What are you two fighting about? You had better tell me! Quick!

Miriam: He says babies come out the ...

Agnes: Come out where?

Miriam: The belly button. But they don't!

Agnes: Is that what you are both so cross about?

Child 2: My dad says they come out from the belly button!

Agnes: It's not true. They don't.

Child 2: Where do they come from then?

Agnes: Do you really want to know?

All: Yes Teacher!

Agnes: Babies come out from between a woman's legs, not from the belly button. Now let's get on with our work ... *[She turns and notices Philip]*

Agnes: Philip! You've come to see us? I wanted you to come down and talk to the children about the places you've been to. You'd like that wouldn't you, children?

All: Yes!

Philip: It's almost lunchtime now... maybe tomorrow. I need to see you.

Agnes: Alright...children, we'll finish now. Write down any question you haven't done and finish it for homework. *[Philip walks to the front of the acting area. Agnes follows him and the children exit. Agnes walks with Philip. They don't talk for a moment.]*

Agnes: You think I was wrong to tell them. I'm sorry. I shouldn't have done it.

Philip: You must tell them, Agnes.

Agnes: You really think so?

Philip: Yes ... But the others won't like it. They'll say you're encouraging them to have babies.

Agnes: *[She laughs]* Kids want to know everything. If I don't tell them they just talk to each other and then.... they get it all wrong and confused. *[Philip sits with his head in his hands]* Philip, what is it?

Philip: Do you love me?

Agnes: Love my big brother? Of course I do.

Philip: Will you always love me? Whatever happens?

Agnes: Philip, what have you done? Are you in trouble?

Philip: I can't tell our father. I can't tell anyone. Only you.

Agnes: Tell me Philip. *[She puts her arm round him]* It won't change anything. You're my big brother.

Philip: I've got AIDS. *[Agnes drops her arm from round his shoulders and lets out a cry. Philip turns and looks at her.]* I'm sick. It's harder and harder to walk and I feel dizzy a lot. Food won't stay inside me. I'm getting thinner. Can't you see? I'm going to die.

Agnes: No!

Philip: I had to tell someone.

Agnes: How do you know! Maybe it's not AIDS. It's so hot. Everyone's sick....

Philip: Stop it Agnes! I'm not making this up! I need to talk before it gets so bad I can't make sense any more.

Agnes: Sorry.... Philip ...

Philip: You want to know how it happened?



Agnes: Yes.

Philip: Must have been three or four years ago now. When I'd just started on the boats. We stopped in a lot of different ports and there were always women. We boasted that no woman would make us use a condom. I thought condoms were to stop women having babies ... I didn't know you could get sicknesses through having sex! Well I'd heard but I didn't really know. And AIDS? I thought it was some sort of joke. Some lie to stop men enjoying themselves.

Agnes: How do you know you've got it?

Philip: I kept getting sick on the boat. They sent me to get a test. I didn't know what it was for. It was positive. AIDS... and then the baby died.

Agnes: He was never very strong...

Philip: He was born with AIDS! I gave AIDS to Jenny. She has it. I hear she's sick now too.

Agnes: You knew you had it? You gave it to her?

Philip: I did.

Philip: I didn't know then! You don't know you've got it! You think I didn't tell her? I wanted the baby to die? People with AIDS are evil?!

Agnes: I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I was only asking....

Philip: I told her when I came back. But she didn't want to believe me. She told me to shut up or she would tell everyone. She already had another man. She went with him.

Agnes: Oh no! That means he'll get it. Can't you tell him?

Philip: If I tell him, what will he do to Jenny?

Agnes: Philip... What are we going to do?

Philip: I am going to die and you are going to live.

Agnes: Will you tell Father?

Philip: I don't think so. What good would it do?

Agnes: He's your father!

Philip: You want me to kill him too?

Agnes: You said you're going to die. That will kill him.

Philip: He won't be ashamed of me, if I don't tell him. He can walk round the village holding his head up.

Agnes: I wish there was something...

Philip: Be with me ... Hold my hand.

[They stand up and take two steps forward holding hands then Agnes exits]



[Philip stays sitting in the acting area. He is uncomfortable and keeps shifting position as if his body is sore in strange places. Two other young men come in with a guitar and give it to him. One of them slaps him on the back.]

Philip: *[Very crossly]* Hey! Not so hard ...

Morris: What's the matter?

Philip: You want to break my back? I'm not feeling too good.

Alfred: We've come to see you! Hear all the news!

Morris: All the stories!

Alfred: Everything you got up to, on and off that boat.

Morris: We want to know ... in detail!

Philip: What do you want to know for?

Alfred: Man! Why do we want to know? We want to improve our education. This man needs to. He's off to the marine school at the end of the month.

Philip: Marine school?

Morris: Freedom! The sea! Foreign ports.... Tell us about it Philip!

Alfred: Come on Philip! Tell us about the boat and the girls!

Philip: There aren't any girls on the boat.

Morris: But there are lots of girls in the ports ...



Philip: Yeah ... lots.

[Philip turns away and starts to strum his guitar. Alfred pushes Morris to get him to ask some more questions.]

Morris: So you stay on the boat a long time?

Philip: Months and months and months. The sea gets rough and the food tastes like rubber ... and you get bored. The ship's a prison and you're praying to get off. As you get nearer land, everyone gets excited....

Alfred: And then?

Philip: A hundred men get off the boat and all they want to do is get drunk and find a girl.

Alfred: But the girls, are they pretty?

Philip: Some of them are so pretty ... Pretty and very young.

[Alfred and Morris are pinching one another and getting very excited]

So that's what you want to do? Go and sleep with the prostitutes?

Morris: Well....

Philip: You have to use condoms.

You can get AIDS. You know that?

Morris: Me?

Philip: Anyone can get it. Then you get sick all the time and one day you get so sick you die. That's the most important thing to know. Don't get AIDS.

Alfred: Ah! Come on! He's trying to frighten you Morris.

Philip: Stupid ... you don't know anything!

Morris: And you won't tell us!

Philip: You don't want to listen!

Alfred: We would listen if you told us something interesting.

Morris: No one here has ever had AIDS! Who knows if ...

Philip: Oh yeah?! Wait till the doctor tells you you've got it! Then you'll know it exists!

[Philip starts to strum his guitar again and Morris and Alfred exit]



[A group of actors come on and while they speak Philip stands and walks out between them looking at the audience all the time.]

Chorus: If only, if only, if only.

Such a stupid little thing.

And now such pain.

Can't you go back?

Back to that moment

Make it change! Make it change! Make it change!

Dark colors in your head

Your legs are weak,

Your back is stiff

Mustn't tell them

Mustn't let them see

Keep it quiet

For eternity, eternity, eternity.



[Enter Joseph. He is walking agitatedly across the stage. Agnes comes on from behind the backdrop.]

Agnes: You must rest now, Father. You didn't sleep last night.

Joseph: I slept!

Agnes: I heard you walking up and down outside.

Joseph: It was hot.

Agnes: It's been 6 days since he died and you haven't slept.



Joseph: He was only here for a few weeks. I thought he was coming back for good. I wanted him to do something with the land. It's a good piece of land. Big too. And all his. I was thinking of kava. Cut down the coconuts and plant kava. A lot of money in it.

Agnes: You can do it, Father.

Joseph: Why? What do I want to do it for?

Agnes: You said...

Joseph: I wanted him to do it! For his children! Who should I do it for?!

Agnes: He didn't want you to suffer like this, Father.

Joseph: He was so young. 24. I married late. I was thinking of becoming a priest and then I met your mother ... So many people have left me Agnes. You won't go? You'll stay here?

Agnes: Of course I will.

Joseph: I am tired, Agnes. I think I will try to sleep now. *[He strokes her head as he exits. Agnes sits and stares out over the audience. She picks some flowers near her and starts to pull of their heads and throw them across the stage. A guitar starts to play behind the backdrop.]*

Agnes: I won't forget you, big brother! You think you can run away from me? I remember too much about you! Always strumming that stupid guitar! *[She starts to laugh through her tears]* Making up crazy songs! And you kept playing even when I had homework ... Just to make me cross! Come back and make me cross! Please come back and make me cross! Philip! *[She crumples the last flowers in her hands]*



[A group of actors as children come on to the stage. They sit on the floor around Agnes.]

Agnes: This is your last year at primary school.... there are some things you should know. Things we don't learn at school. I asked you to stay behind after school so I could answer your questions and explain some things to you. Things you need to know.

Boy: What things, Teacher?

Agnes: About having babies and about some kinds of sickness that you can get if you sleep with a man or a woman. *[The children titter]*

Do you all want to have children some day?

[The children nod] Have your parents told you anything about how you make babies?

Girl: No, Teacher.

Agnes: I will tell you if you want to know. Do you want to know how babies are made?

[The children look at each other and then say yes] First, I want you to tell me how you think they are made. *[The children are silent and then one little boy puts up his hand]*

Boy: They find them under the bushes in the garden.

Boy 2: Stupid! *[The other children all laugh]*

Agnes: How do you think babies are made then? *[Boy 2 says nothing]* I think you have heard lots of stories about it. Am I right? *[The children look at each other and some start to laugh]* Shall I tell you? Shall I tell you what really happens?

All: Yes... please Teacher!

[Harold appears around the backdrop. He stands listening to Agnes. Agnes and the children do not notice him.]

Agnes: A girl and a boy must be together to make a baby. That's the first thing. Girls and boys are made differently. A girl is made to carry the baby in her stomach and the boy... he's the one who puts the baby into the girl's body....

Harold: Stop Agnes! What are you telling these children? Children! Go home! I said, go home! *[The children stand up and exit. Agnes looks at Harold and then walks angrily out. Harold comes back on with Joseph and they talk in dumb show as Agnes and the chorus come on.]*

Chorus: They don't understand

You can't explain

But you would do it again



and again

To save a life

To give them some kind of chance

In the dangerous game of life

[Harold goes out and Joseph goes up to Agnes who is now standing upstage.]

Joseph: What did you think you were doing? Talking to young children like that?

Agnes: I was telling them what they need to know about life.

Joseph: Agnes, I brought you up to be a good, Christian girl. You know the difference between right and wrong!

Agnes: I didn't do anything wrong.

Joseph: Don't answer me back, girl! You were telling those children about sex!

Agnes: They've got to know about sex, Father.

Joseph: Know about sex at that age?

Agnes: When do you want them to find out? When they're pregnant or when they've got an STD, or AIDS? When do you think they should know Father?

Joseph: Young girls are getting pregnant, because people like you are telling them about sex! In my day we didn't know anything and we didn't do anything!

Agnes: It's different today Father! What about AIDS? If young people go out into the world without knowing about it, you put them in terrible danger. AIDS kills people...

Joseph: AIDS. It's God's punishment. The Bible says '*Thou Shall Not Fornicate*'. You understand what those words mean, Agnes?

Agnes: Yes, Father.

Joseph: What do they mean Agnes?

Agnes: You mustn't have sex if you are not married...

Joseph: To have sex outside marriage is a sin! You are not a teacher in that school to teach the children to sin!

Agnes: I wasn't ... I wasn't doing that!

Joseph: Harold said they don't want you teaching in the school any more.

Agnes: No, Father!

Joseph: You didn't ask the parents did you? You decided what was best for their children without asking them. Now they are angry!

Agnes: *[She walks away, thinking]* I'm sorry...Father... I want to teach the children. I'm sorry ... I should have asked the parents, it's true. I didn't think. Will they send me away from the school?

Joseph: You must call the parents together and apologise.

Agnes: I will.

Joseph: Why do you have to hurt me like this Agnes? Haven't I suffered enough? *[Joseph exits and Agnes remains on stage. She sits down]*

Agnes: I've been a fool... such a fool!

[She sits dreaming and Philip comes out and stands behind her]

Philip: When I get a guitar, I'm going to start a band...a good one. Not one of those village bands. The kind of band that gets to play in town. Hey, Agnes, what are you going to do? Teacher?! That's boring! I want to go overseas! See things! Do things! I want to do everything! Everything! I want to do everything Agnes!

[Agnes stands and walks towards the audience. The other actors have come in as the parents and elders of the village. Joseph is also there.]

Joseph: I want you to listen to my daughter, Agnes. She has come to apologise to you. I hope and pray you have the heart to accept her apology. She knows she has done wrong and I know we can all be sure that she would never do this again.

[The crowd mumble and Joseph sits down. Agnes walks forward.]

Agnes: I have come here to apologise to you. You are my friends. You all know me and I know you. I talked to your children about life and about how a baby is made. I talked to the children who are leaving the school this year, because that is the end of their education and I didn't want them to go out into the world without



knowing...

Joseph: Agnes! You are here to apologise! Not to argue with people!

Harold: We want to know that you will not talk to the children in this way again. If you can't promise we don't want you to teach at the school any more.

[Agnes stands and looks round the room]

Agnes: If that is what you want ... I promise. *[The people in the room come up and they all shake hands with Agnes who apologises to them all]*

Joseph: And don't you forget that promise, Agnes! *[Everyone exits]*

[A band comes on stage. And people start to dance. Agnes comes in through the audience with another woman, Noleen.]

SONG: It's the village dance
And everyone is happy!
The village dance
The girls are beautiful tonight.
See the boys
In their dancing jeans
And clean shirts
Everyone is looking for
Someone to love tonight!

[Morris and Alfred are dancing. They are both trying to impress the only other actress, who is standing watching.

They pull her onto the dance floor. Morris pushes Alfred away and starts dancing with the girl on his own.]

Noleen: Morris thinks he's great! Look at him!

Agnes: Isn't that Wendy?

Noleen: Her husband's in town, working. *[Morris and Wendy go out]* What the eye doesn't see, the heart doesn't break for!

Agnes: He'll find out!

Noleen: Let's go and dance.

Agnes: I don't know...

Noleen: I don't want to stand here all night!

[Agnes and Noleen dance and Agnes looks round at the others. Albert is trying to flirt with Noleen. Another boy tries to flirt with Agnes.]

SONG: Young girls and boys
All having fun
Getting drunk
Flirting with everyone!
It's our only chance
To have a good time
At the village dance!
At the village dance!

[Agnes pulls herself away from the boy she is dancing with and goes up to Noleen who is laughing with Albert. Agnes pulls her away.]

Agnes: Noleen... Was that Belinda? Going outside with a boy?

Noleen: Belinda?

Agnes: She's still at school.

Noleen: She's old enough.

Agnes: She doesn't know anything. She's only a little girl.

Noleen: You're not her teacher tonight. Stop worrying.

Agnes: But who was the boy? He's much older....



Noleen: Look I've come out to enjoy myself. Okay?

[Noleen leaves Agnes on her own and starts to dance with Albert. Agnes watches.]

SONG: Young girls and boys
 All having fun
 Getting drunk
 Flirting with everyone!
 It's our only chance
 To have a good time
 At the village dance!
 At the village dance!
[The dancers freeze and exit.]



[Agnes is watching the children come in to class.]

Agnes: All here? Where's Belinda today? *[Some of the children start to giggle]* Is she sick? *[One of the boys shakes his head]* Do you know where she is?

Boy: She's at home!

Girl: They won't let her out!

Boy 2: Her mother keeps hitting her and she cries!

Agnes: Why? What's she done?

Boy: She was at the dance and she *[They all start to laugh]*

Agnes: It isn't funny! I'm not cross with you, but you've got to understand this isn't funny. It's dangerous. You're very young and you don't understand. But she could get pregnant. She could have a baby. But she wouldn't be able to look after it properly because she is too young. She could get AIDS. *[She tries to collect herself, knowing she has lost control]* Now... Let's get back to work. *[She turns the pages of a book]*

Boy: Can you tell us about AIDS, Miss Agnes?

Girl: You never told us about babies. You said you would.

Agnes: I can't tell you. I promised your parents. They said I couldn't tell you.

Boy: But what is AIDS?

Agnes: It's nothing to do with you! It's a sickness from another country! Now stop asking stupid questions and let's do some work for a change!

[The children bend their heads down and start to write. The little boy sniffles a bit and wipes his eyes. Agnes walks round the class.]

Philip: Agnes! Agnes! You know what? Guess! Go on, guess! I've got into the marine school! I'll be going round the world! Jenny? Yes... Okay, I'll be away 2 years ...maybe ... I can see her between trips. I'll have money. She can stay with her family in town. Don't be sad. It'll be alright. It's my chance, to see things. See the world. I can't stay in this place all my life. I'll bring you a present from every place I go. Something beautiful, Agnes. Something beautiful! *[Agnes almost falls and the children notice]*

Boy 2: Are you alright, Teacher?

Agnes: I have to go home. I'll be better tomorrow.

[She exits, hardly looking at them. Exit class.]



[Joseph is on stage cleaning Philip's grave and fixing a small cross on it. As he works, Agnes enters and walks up.]

Joseph: Agnes!?

Agnes: Father, one of the children asked me to tell them about AIDS today. I want to tell them about it.

Joseph: Didn't you hear them last time? They don't want you teaching the children these things!

Agnes: I want you to call the parents together.

Joseph: I won't! It's wrong and you have got to stop!

Agnes: I'll explain to them why the children need to know.



Joseph: There is no reason on earth why a little child should know about AIDS!

Agnes: If Philip had known ...

Joseph: Philip?

Agnes: He didn't know anything. He went away on the ship. He met women. He went with prostitutes. He got AIDS and now he's dead. *[Joseph hits her]*

Agnes: You don't want to believe it, but it's true. He could still be alive today father!

[Agnes gets up and runs out. Joseph takes the cross on the grave and breaks it into pieces. He exits with the broken cross.]

[A woman and Harold come on to acting area. They are talking.]

Harold: Thirty days. It goes so quickly.

Woman: Poor Joseph. Time's passed slowly for him.

Harold: *[He shouts towards the backdrop]* Hey, Joseph! Joseph!

Joseph: *[He comes out putting on his shirt and looking as if he isn't taking care of himself]* What do you want?

Harold: *[A bit startled by Joseph's tone]* It's nearly thirty days now Joseph

Joseph: What about it?

Woman: The feast. We've come to decide who is going to bring food. Harold will kill a bullock.

Joseph: No one needs to do anything.

Harold: Joseph, it's thirty days tomorrow since Philip died. We need to prepare...

Joseph: You don't need to do anything! *[Agnes walks into the acting area and stands watching]* Waste of time!

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Harold: Joseph, I know how upset you are. It's a terrible thing the boy dying like that, but if we remember him, it will help you.

Joseph: I don't want to remember him! He's not my son! *[Noleen and Harold exchange looks of shock]*

Woman: Please Joseph!

Joseph: He's not fit to be my son! I don't want to remember him!

Agnes: You have to tell them why, Father. Why don't you want to remember him? *[Joseph remains silent]*

Harold: It's alright Agnes. We'll go. We can come back when he's feeling better. It's grief.

Agnes: It's not grief! Tell them what it is, Father!

Joseph: Philip ... Philip had AIDS. That's what killed him. He went with prostitutes. He broke God's laws. He deserved to die.

Woman: AIDS?

Harold: He's still your son whatever he did.

Joseph: What would you do if your son came home with AIDS, Harold? Welcome him? Love him? He was too cowardly even to tell me!

Agnes: He didn't tell you, because he didn't want to hurt you. I asked him to tell you. He said it would kill you if you knew. He died knowing you would hate him if you knew the truth.

Joseph: I'm glad! He knew he'd done wrong.

Agnes: You killed him father. You know that?

Harold: Agnes!

Agnes: He did! And you will kill your children too! You kill them because you don't tell them anything! They go out into the world and they have never heard of AIDS or STDs and they don't know they can catch them! And when they catch these sicknesses, you hate them for it! Jesus wasn't like that, Father! He loved the lepers. He helped the people no one else would touch. And he loved a prostitute too. But you can't even love your own son!

Joseph: He said I should have told him. He blamed me! He died blaming me.

Harold: He didn't blame you, Joseph. He didn't want to hurt you. *[He goes and stands by Joseph, who has fallen to his knees]* You can't bring him back. He's gone, Joseph.... Come. We'll make a big feast.

Joseph: Agnes... you help prepare the laplap with Auntie.

Agnes: Yes, Father. *[Harold and Joseph exit]*



Woman: AIDS? Philip had AIDS.

Agnes: That's not all you should remember Auntie. He was gentle, a good brother to me and ... so crazy...

[Music starts from behind the backdrop. Philip has a ukulele and runs on with it. The two women freeze.]

Philip: Look! I've made it! Good isn't it? The best! And just listen! *[He starts to play]*

In 1994 I went to sea

To sail on the big boats

I left my wife at home

And my family

But they stayed with me

In my heart!

[The next lines are spoken]

Especially my stupid little sister Agnes! Good eh, Agnes? I'll take it on the boat and then the nights won't seem so long. The nights won't seem so long. *[He kisses her]* Bye little sister!

[Philip exits and then the two women look at each other and hold hands. The cast comes out and walks to the front of the stage to bow.]