

A STUDY GUIDE FOR PREPARING YOUR  
STUDENTS TO SEE OGLEBAY INSTITUTE'S  
PRODUCTION OF

**Once Upon a Wolf**  
BY STEPH DeFERIE

Produced with special arrangement with  
Baker's Plays

## **MISSION:**

CHILDREN'S THEATRE is a formal theatrical experience in which a simple, continuous story is SHOWN to children ages 5-14 by adult actors. Our goal is to provide the children with the best possible theatre experience and we promise that the play will both entertain and teach them a lesson.

## **PLOT SUMMARY:**

*Once Upon a Wolf* is a fast and furious collection of fractured fairy tales with a modern twist. It tells the story of what happens when the Big Bad Wolf decides he doesn't want to be big or bad anymore. Old Granny Stinkyfeet is trying to tell the story of Little Red Riding Hood but she keeps having trouble with the wolf. He won't cooperate and eat her like he is supposed to! Instead he wants to be the good guy for a change, so he is off on a mission to become a hero, no matter who tells him it is impossible.

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS:**

**Nancy Longo:**            **Granny Stinkyfeet**

**Rick Call:**                **the Wolf**

**Gretchen Schneider:** **Little Red, Pig #2, Androcles**

**Tim Thompson:**        **Woodsman, Pig #1, Stepmother & sisters, Lion**

## **RUNNING TIME:**

The play runs 40-45 minutes, depending upon audience participation.

## **TECHNICAL NEEDS:**

We will need 15' X 15" floor space and 10' height for the set.

## ABOUT THE CAST

**Rick Call** is a retired businessman from Steubenville, Ohio, where he began acting with the Steubenville Players in 1975. Now a veteran of well over one hundred productions, Rick has done work at many venues, including Towngate Theatre, The Cornerstone Project, Music Hall Players, Bethany, Carlow, and West Liberty State Colleges. Some favorite roles have been in *Our Town*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Tommy* and *Educating Rita*. 2008 marks Rick's seventh season with the Towngate Theatre Children's Company. In addition to acting, Rick enjoys playing guitar and clarinet.

**Nancy Longo** is very pleased to be from the beautiful Ohio River valley. She was born in Steubenville, Ohio, raised in Weirton, WV, and currently lives in Toronto, Ohio. Nancy has been doing community theatre for a very long time. It has been her privilege to create some wonderful women for the Steubenville Players, The Brooke Hills Playhouse, The Potter Players, Excalibur Productions, Towngate Theatre, and now for her third season with this illustrious group of actors in the Towngate Theatre Children's Company. Nancy portrayed the role of Gladly in last years play, *Rumpelstiltskin*. She is a member of The Ohio Community Theatre Association and has participated in many theatre festivals across the states of Ohio and West Virginia. In her spare time, Nancy loves listening to music, singing, and hanging out with her family and friends.

**Gretchen Schneider** is a recent graduate of West Liberty State College with a B.A. in Communications with a concentration in Theatre. She has many years of experience both on and off stage. Gretchen was part of the *Imaginary Factory*, a traveling Children's Theatre troupe at WLSC for her entire college career. She performed in *Aesop's Fables*, *The Brother's Grimm* and *Mother Goose*, just to mention a few. During her final semester she was given the privilege of directing *Alice in Wonderland*. She portrayed the role of Annette, the Miller's daughter, in last years play *Rumpelstiltskin*. Gretchen has found a true love for Children's Theatre and finds it most rewarding. Over the last two months, she has been directing *Leader of the Pack* at John Marshall High School.

**Tim Thompson** is the Director of Youth Theatre for Oglebay Institute. He has been acting, directing and teaching theatre since receiving his M.F.A. in acting from West Virginia University in 1985. Tim has directed *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *Charlottes's Web*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Christmas Carol 1940's Radio Show*, *Godspell*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Reluctant Dragon*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *House at Pooh Corner*, at Towngate Theatre. This is Tim's seventh touring show which includes: *Once Upon a Wolf*, *Aesop's (Oh so slightly updated) Fables*, *Rocks in my Pockets*, *the Emperor's New Clothes*, *Puss in Boots* and *Rumpelstiltskin*.

## AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

1. Teachers should introduce the basic storyline of *Little Red Riding Hood*, *The Three Little Pigs*, *Cinderella* and *Androcles & the Lion* to familiarize students with the events of the stories.
2. Choose TWO STUDENTS to play the **Cinderella and the Prince**. They should be your older students and not suffer from stage fright. Be sure to choose students who want to be on stage. I have included a copy of the script with their lines. Have the students familiarize themselves with the lines. They do not need to memorize the lines because two of our actors will walk with them and prompt them with cue cards.
3. All of the students will be asked to make **Spooky Woods Sounds**. Practice them in your classroom. Examples: wind, owl hooting, wolf howling, branches cracking.
4. Every time you hear a character say “**Rice Krispy Treats**” – the audience is to shout “**Snap-Crackle-Pop!**”
5. If time permits, we will have a short **Q & A** after the show.

**\* THE TWO STUDENTS PLAYING CINDERELLA AND THE PRINCE NEED TO SHOW UP 15 MINUTES EARLY SO THEY MAY HAVE A BRIEF REHEARSAL WITH THE ACTORS.**

## VOCABULARY WORDS:

1. Grotesque: distorted in appearance
2. Ad: an advertisement; a public notice
3. Agent: a person who works for an actor to help them find work
4. Gig: a job
5. Contract: a written agreement
6. Gyp: a fraud or trick
7. Pesky: annoying
8. Hideous: very ugly
9. Maiden: a girl or young unmarried woman
10. Ferocious: savage; violently cruel

## THEMES:

1. Always be true to yourself.
2. You don't have to be “Big & Bad” to teach a lesson
3. If you want to be good, you can!

## **LINES FOR CINDERELLA & THE PRINCE**

Mother: Did you milk the cat?  
**CINDY: YES, MA'AM.**  
Daughter: Did you wash the cow?  
**CINDY: YES, MA'AM.**  
Daughter: Did you paint the flowers a new color?  
**CINDY: YES, MA'AM.**

### **AFTER STEP-MOTHER ANNOUNCES THERE IS A GREAT BALL**

Daughter: I must have a new dress!  
Daughter: I must have a new hair-do!  
**CINDY: CAN I GO TOO?**  
Granny: Cinderella came out in her beautiful new dress.  
**CINDY: HOW DO I LOOK?**

### **AFTER POOR CINDERELLA IS LEFT ALL ALONE**

Granny: ...she sat down and cried.  
**CINDY: (SITS DOWN) BOO-HOO, BOO-HOO, BOO-HOO!!!**  
Granny: A funny looking woman appeared.  
Cinderella was surprised.  
**CINDY: WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?**  
Godmother: I'm you're fairy Godmother.  
**CINDY: WILL YOU LEAVE QUIETLY OR MUST I CALL THE POLICE?**  
Godmother: I can get you to the Ball.  
**CINDY: I DON'T HAVE A TICKET.**  
Godmother: I do.  
**CINDY: I DON'T HAVE A PRETTY DRESS.**  
Godmother: My magic can fix that!  
**CINDY: BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY SLIPPERS.**  
Godmother: Viola! Now what?  
**CINDY: I DON'T HAVE A CARRIAGE.**  
Godmother: I turned a pumpkin into a coach. Anything else?  
**CINDY: NO THANK YOU, STRANGE LOOKING WOMAN**

### **FOLLOW PROMPTER TO THE "BALL"**

Granny: The prince took one look at her and said...  
**PRINCE: YUK!**  
Granny: He did not, he said "who is that mysterious girl?"  
**PRINCE: SAYS WHO?**  
Granny: Says the narrator! Do it or I'll make you kiss her...on the lips!  
**PRINCE: WHO IS THAT MYSTERIOUS GIRL?**

## CINDERELLA & THE PRINCE DO A SILLY DANCE / CLOCK STRIKES 12

**CINDY:** I HAVE TO GO!  
**PRINCE:** NO, STAY WITH ME. I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME!  
**CINDY:** IT DOESN'T MATTER, YOU'LL NEVER CALL!  
Granny: The Prince found a slipper and realized he could use it to find his true love again.  
**PRINCE:** I'LL USE THIS SLIPPER TO FIND MY TRUE LOVE AGAIN, AND WHEN I DO, I'LL MARRY HER!

### THE NEXT DAY

Mother: What a night!...I am sure he will marry one of my girls!  
Daughter: If only that extremely ugly girl hadn't come.  
Daughter: Yes, she ruined the whole thing!  
**CINDY:** WHAT UGLY GIRL?  
Mother: A hideous girl was there. No one knew who she was.  
**CINDY:** DID THE PRINCE LIKE HER?

### AFTER THE PRINCE ENTERS

**PRINCE:** WHOMSOEVER THIS SLIPPER FITS, THEM I SHALL MARRY!  
Granny: Not very good grammar but we get the point.

### PRINCE TRIES SLIPPER ON EACH DAUGHTER AND THEN NOTICES CINDY

**PRINCE:** (*TO CINDY*) YOU MUST TRY THIS ON.  
Granny: And guess what?  
**CINDY:** IT DOESN'T FIT.

### AFTER IT FITS CINDY

**CINDY:** IT FITS!  
**PRINCE:** IT FITS!  
Daughter: It fits?  
Daughter: It fits?  
Mother: It fits!  
**PRINCE:** WILL YOU MARRY ME AND BE MY QUEEN?  
**CINDY:** SURE.  
Mother: But my girls are so much more beautiful.  
**PRINCE:** IN THEIR FACES, YES. BUT IN THEIR SOULS THEY ARE THE UGLIEST OF ALL.  
**CINDY:** THERE ARE GOING TO BE A FEW CHANGES AROUND HERE.  
Mother: Uh-oh!  
**CINDY:** MILK THE CAT, WASH THE COW, PAINT THE FLOWERS A NEW COLOR!!!

## **POST PRODUCTION QUESTIONS:**

1. Can you name the four different stories that were in the play?
2. What was your favorite story? Why?
3. Who was your favorite character? Why?
4. What did you learn from the play?
5. What was the funniest part of the play? Why?
6. What part, if any, did you not like? Why?
7. Which story was an Aesop Fable? Do you know any other Aesop Fables?
8. How would you build a house of straw or sticks? How about the brick house? Should it be different than the first two?
9. How did the Wolf change the ending of Little Red Riding Hood? Did he have to be big and bad? Did you like his song?

## **POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES:**

1. Color a picture of the “deep dark woods.”
2. Draw a picture of your favorite character.
3. Make wolf ears out of a hair-band, construction paper and glue.
4. Discover different environmental sound effects you can make with your voice. Close your eyes while you do it so you can concentrate on listening. Just sit quietly and listen to the real sounds in your environment.
5. Pick a story to act out in your classroom. Simply figure out what characters are in the story and where it takes place. Look around the room and find things that can be used for costumes, props and scenery. Use your imagination and don't get stuck being too realistic. Take turns playing the parts. Some of you should watch because without an audience, it isn't theatre.