

Twelve Angry Pigs

One-Act Play
by Wade Bradford

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STORY OF THE PLAY

In this comical yet surprisingly educational parody of "12 Angry Men," a certain wolf is on trial for blowing down a pair of houses owned by the Three Little Pigs. A Jury of Swine must now decide if they will oink in favor of conviction, or declare the wolf not guilty. Throughout the deliberation, most of the angry pigs believe the wolf is big and bad. However, an ensemble of story book characters helps the pigs review the testimony, and Pig #8 asks some tough questions. Questions that will make the rest of the pigs realize that the witness testimony of Little Boy Blue is nothing but hogwash!

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Flexible cast of 18-28.)

PIGS 1-12: Either Gender, various personalities. Pig #3 is the most stubborn of the bunch. Pig #8 is the most thoughtful and open-minded.

WOLF

LITTLE BOY BLUE (or LITTLE GIRL BLUE)

THE THREE LITTLE PIGS: (PETER, PAUL and MARY) Feel free to adjust the names depending on whether male / female performers are cast.

ENSEMBLE:

STRAW MAN

STICK MAN

BRICKMAN

SIMPLE SIMON

CONSTABLE

BAILIFF

JUDGE

LITTLE RED

GRANDMOTHER PIG: Nonspeaking.

WOLF SCOUT: Nonspeaking.

CHARLOTTE SPIDER: Nonspeaking.

SETTING

A table and twelve chairs are all that is needed to establish the jury's room.

During some of the play, the characters will refer to past events related to the trial. These will be considered Story Time sequences and they can take place on another part of the stage or directly in front of the jury, downstage. Simple / cartoony two-dimensional houses of straw, stick, and brick are placed left of center.

NOTE ABOUT COSTUMES

In past productions, some groups have opted for elaborate pig costumes and masks, while other drama troupes chose to have no hint of swine whatsoever. The choice is up to the director and crew; however, I recommend costume pieces that don't hide too much of the face, yet give strong hints of the pig qualities of the characters within this fractured fairy tale. Snouts and piggy ears might be all that is needed. The rest of the costume could be contemporary clothing.

PROPS

Notes
Straw
Sticks
Bricks
Pie
Bucket
Pizza box
Backpack with cookies and inhaler

OPTIONAL SFX

Strong wind
Animal sounds
Door slam

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(AT RISE: The twelve PIGS enter, single file. They approach the large table. A few sit, most of them stand. Some of them walk around. They are a combination of shy, uncomfortable and irritated, at least at first.)

PIG #1: *(Fanning himself.)* Boy, I tell you, it's hot.

PIG #2: I thought it was hot in the courtroom, but this room is like an oven.

PIG #3: Do I smell bacon? Oh wait – that's just me.

PIG #4: So what are we supposed to do?

PIG #5: Weren't you listening to the judge? We vote.

PIG #4: Vote?

PIG #5: We decide whether or not that wolf is guilty or not guilty.

PIG #6: He looks guilty to me.

PIG #7: Me too.

PIG #8: What do you mean, he looks guilty?

PIG #9: Did you see those teeth?

PIG #10: Those wolves have sharp teeth.

PIG #11: The better to gobble you up! Right? Am I right?

PIG #12: But the wolf isn't on trial for gobbling up someone.

The trial is about him blowing down those two houses.

PIG #4: I thought there were three houses.

PIG #6: Only two houses got knocked down.

PIG #5: *(To PIG #4.)* Don't you listen?

PIG #3: He huffed and puffed and blew down the houses of those innocent little pigs.

PIG #11: Those poor swine.

PIG #6: Why, those little pigs are lucky to be alive!

PIG #10: I tell you, those wolves are dangerous!

PIG #2: I wish it wasn't so hot in here. Isn't there a fan or something?

PIG #7: We should get the Big Bad Wolf in here to huff and puff and blow us a cool breeze!

(The other PIGS laugh, except PIG # 8.)

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PIG #8: You know, the Big Bad Wolf... that's not his real name, just what the press has been calling him.

(The laughter quickly dies and the other PIGS realize that PIG #8 takes things very seriously.)

PIG #1: All right, let's get down to business. Now, since I am the foreman—

PIG #7: Don't you mean forepig?

PIG #4: What's a foreman?

PIG #1: It means that I am the spokesperson of the jury here. When we go back into court, I'll be the one doing the talking.

PIG #3: So, I guess that makes you the head hog?

PIG #1: No, but I do get to read the verdict.

PIG #4: Oh. What's a verdict?

PIG #1: It's the decision that we make as a jury.

PIG #4: Oh. What's a jury?

PIG #5: *(Not happy being next to PIG #4.)* Can I trade seats with somebody?

PIG #12: Can we just get on with this?

PIG #1: Very well. We have heard the trial. Now we need to determine whether the Big Bad Wolf is guilty or not guilty.

PIG #8: I don't think we should call him "big bad." He hasn't been convicted yet.

PIG #1: All right, just "wolf" then.

PIG #5: So let's vote.

PIG #1: All those who believe the wolf is guilty, say "oink."

ALL: *(Except PIG #8.)* OINK!

PIG #1: Anyone else?

PIG #8: Not oinking.

PIG #7: What's that?

PIG #8: I'm not oinking because I'm voting not guilty.

(EVERYONE else groans.)

PIG #3: You think that the Big Bad Wolf is innocent?

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PIG #8: Well, I haven't made up my mind yet. There have been so many stories about wolves doing terrible things. Maybe we've paid more attention to those fairy tales, and not enough attention to the evidence?

PIG #4: Uh... what does that word mean?

PIG #5: What word? Fairy tale?

PIG #4: No. "Evidence."

PIG #5: Did you sleep through the trial? Evidence is the stuff that proves whether or not somebody is guilty!

PIG #8: And there should be enough evidence to convince us all of the wolf's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

PIG #3: There's plenty of evidence!

PIG #8: Well, I'd like to hear what all of you think.

PIG #1: Okay, that sounds fine. Let's take turns and some of us can explain to our fellow pig why we think the wolf is guilty. *(To PIG #2.)* Why don't you go first?

PIG #2: Me? Oh, well, I guess I just think he looks awful scary. I can just picture him huffing and puffing and blowing down those houses.

PIG #8: But you didn't see him do it.

PIG #3: But you didn't see him not do it.

PIG #9: *(Standing up for PIG #8.)* But you didn't see him not do it.

PIG #3: Huh? Look, if you examine the facts of the case, the whole thing is very easy to visualize. *(Looks at notes.)* These three little pigs, just like you and me, they move away from home. They build houses out of straw, sticks, and bricks and stuff. And then what happens? This wolf comes along and – WHOOSH! Down goes the house of straw. The little pig runs to his brother's house made out of sticks. The wolf follows and WHOOSH – down goes house number two! Clear case of destruction of property. And it's a good thing their sister pig made a house out of bricks, because it was strong enough to protect them from being eaten up by that BIG BAD wolf!

PIG #1: Thank you for sharing. *(To PIG #4.)* What about you?

PIG #4: Me? Oh I guess since everyone else thinks he's guilty he must be.

End of Freeview

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