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Babe, the Sheep-Pig

Rebeca Wallin

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Wood, David. *Babe, the Sheep-Pig*. Samuel French, 1997. ISBN 0573051151. \$9.95 / script; \$75 / performance fee. 51 p.

Reviewer: Rebeca Wallin

Reading Level: Toddler, Preschool, Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Plays; Humorous plays; Fantasy plays;

Subject: Swine--Juvenile drama; Sheep dog trials--Juvenile drama; Children's plays, English; Drama--Reviews;

Theme: Manners matter

Production Requirements: Sound

Acts: 2

Run Time: 1 hour

Characters: 43

Cast: 10 actors, at least 3 female

Time Period: Present day

The plot for this charming play follows the basic structure of the classic children's book by Dick King-Smith. Farmer Hogget, a sheep farmer, wins a pig at a county fair. He takes it home where his wife plans to fatten it up for Christmas dinner. The sheep-dog Fly adopts the pig, Babe. Eventually Fly convinces Mrs. Hogget to train Babe to be a sheep-pig. Babe excels as a sheep-pig, especially because he speaks politely to the sheep. In the course of the play, the pig saves the sheep from some sheep-rustlers and then some worrier-dogs. In the climax Babe wins the Grand Challenge Sheep-Dog Trials.

This play is extremely well written. The action is quick moving and will keep the attention of young and old audiences alike. The dialogue is free-flowing and easy. Wood successfully captures the animals' characters through interesting speech patterns, especially with the sheep, making it seem perfectly natural that the animals would be speaking. The characters are well developed and interesting. A good mix of humor and heart.

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