



2009

### The Taste of Sunrise

Rebeca Wallin

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

---

#### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Wallin, Rebeca (2009) "The Taste of Sunrise," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 30 : Iss. 6 , Article 20.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol30/iss6/20>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [scholarsarchive@byu.edu](mailto:scholarsarchive@byu.edu), [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).

Zeder, Susan. *The Taste of Sunrise*. Anchorage Press, 1996. ISBN 0876024010. Contact publisher regarding price. 81 p.

Reviewer: Rebeca Wallin

Reading Level: Intermedite, Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Plays; Historical plays;

Subject: Sign language--Juvenile drama; Deaf schools--Juvenile drama; Scarlet fever--Juvenile drama; Drama--Reviews;

Theme: You must learn to be your true self before you can help others.

Production Requirements: Minimalistic set with platform and chairs, bright lighting.

Acts: 2

Run Time: 90 minutes

Characters: 9

Cast: 5 F, 4 M (including 1 M Deaf actor-required & 1 M Deaf actor-strongly suggested) with doubling, or up to 21 + (6 F, 5 M, including 1 M Deaf actor-required, 1 M Deaf actor-strongly suggested, 10 + Either) with roles distributed

Time Period: 1920s-1930s

The story focuses on Tuc, a deaf man; Nell Hicks, a reclusive woman; and Maizie, a teenager. The play begins with Mother Hicks saving baby Tuc's life when he contracts Scarlet Fever. The fever causes Tuc to lose his hearing, and when he turns ten he is sent to a school for the deaf to learn to read lips and speak. While at the school, Tuc meets and becomes friends with Maizie, a hearing girl with deaf parents who works at the school. After attending school for several years, Tuc returns home to his dying Father. After his father's death, the orphaned Tuc stays with Mother Hicks for awhile. Later, through a misunderstanding, he ends up at the Illinois State Home. He is rescued by Maizie, who is also there and very pregnant. They escape together and return to Mother Hicks who helps Maizie deliver her baby. Maizie eventually leaves, leaving her baby with a family in town.

The prequel to Zeder's *Mother Hicks* and second in a trilogy of plays, this multilingual ASL and spoken English play presents challenges for production. However, if the challenges are taken on, it could be an extremely powerful piece of art. As all lines for the show are translated into either ASL or spoken English, all of the actors need to be able to sign. The author specifies that Tuc should always be played by a deaf actor. The powerful and poetic writing will engage audiences, and the strong characters will make it an enjoyable experience for actors. The production elements are extremely simple, with just some chairs and levels on the stage so that the world of the play can be created through strong staging and acting.

Volume 30, no. 6 (July/August 2010)