



2013

A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas by Laurie Brooks

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Author: Brooks, Laurie

Title: *A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas*

Year of Publication: 2004

Publisher: Little House Heritage Trust

ISBN: 1583423184

of pages: 57

Rating: Excellent

Reading/Interest Level: Primary; Intermediate

Keywords: Laura Ingalls Wilder; Christmas; Pioneers; *Little House on the Prairie*; Historical plays

Production Requirements: Bare stage with large transformational box center. Minimal props. Period costumes.

of Acts: 1

Estimated Runtime: 60 minutes

of Characters: 7

Cast Requirements: 5 female, 2 male

Time Period: 1876

Review:

Familiar *Little House on the Prairie* characters Ma, Pa, Laura, Mary and Carrie Ingalls appear in this Christmas story that is not told in the book series. After poor crops and the death of a baby the Ingalls family is forced to move back East to manage a hotel. The family struggles to find happiness in the unwanted situation. Laura befriends Mrs. Starr, a wealthy woman in the town who offers to adopt her to ease the family's financial situation. Laura overhears the offer and worries that she will be given away. By Christmas day the family has begun to accept their situation and all grow closer.

The characters and feel of the *Little House* books are portrayed very well with dialogue that captures the speech of the day as well as the younger characters' childhood spunk. Characters are interesting and well-developed in the short scenes that are artfully woven to combine tragedy, humor and life lessons seamlessly, creating a satisfying story. The included simple songs (all from *The Laura Ingalls Wilder Song Book*,) contribute to the world of the play and add authenticity. The mostly bare stage, minimal props and costumes, and shorter running time make it an ideal show for touring.

Reviewers Name: Rebeca Wallin

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