



2013

The Tiger Who Came to Tea by David Wood

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Author: Wood, David

Title: *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*

Year of Publication: 2008

Publisher: Plays for Young Audiences

of pages: 66

Rating: Outstanding

Reading/Interest Level: Toddler; Preschool; Primary

Keywords: Children's Theatre; Judith Kerr; Animal Stories; Classic Children's Literature; Humorous Plays; Tigers; Eating

Production Requirements: 1960's costumes and realistic Tiger costume, some special effect props, sound/music requirements, simple kitchen set with some moveable set pieces.

of Acts: 1

Estimated Runtime: 55 minutes

of Characters: 6

Cast Requirements: 2 women, 1 man

Time Period: 1960's

Review:

The script very closely follows the charming children's book of the same title by Judith Kerr. A mother and daughter sit down to tea when a hungry but friendly tiger arrives and proceeds to eat and drink everything in the house. When the father returns to a home empty of food they go out to a café for a nice dinner.

Though originally a very short story, Wood fleshes it out while staying quite true to the original with some character meetings. Additional scenes with "Daddy" and some daily routine scenes fit well in the world of the book. The addition of songs also helps to flesh out the short story. As can be expected with Wood, he knows his audience well and starts the play with friendly actors on stage beforehand to meet and talk to young audience members who are quite possibly coming to their first play. This sets the stage for the audience interaction throughout the play. Scenes are quick paced with easy, flowing dialogue, interesting characters and some magical moments which will keep audience members' attention locked on the action. The play was written with touring in mind and would travel well.

Reviewers Name: Rebeca Wallin

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