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The Wolf and its Shadows by Sandra Fenichel Asher

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Author: Asher, Sandra Fenichel

Title: *The Wolf and Its Shadows*

Year of Publication: 2000

Publisher: Anchorage Press Plays

ISBN: 9780876023655

Number of pages: 34

Rating: Excellent

Reading/Interest Level: Primary; Intermediate

Keywords: Wolves; Legends; Storytelling; Children's theater; Children's Plays

Production Requirements: Minimal set with a few tree trunks, some type of folk music, neutral costumes with masks and other pieces to add on.

Number of Acts: 1

Estimated Runtime: 40 minutes

Number of Characters: 15

Cast Requirements: 1 female, 2 male

Time Period: Any

Royalty: \$40

Review:

A dog and a wolf meet and, as they travel to the house of the dog's master, they meet several men - each with their own negative story to tell about wolves. The wolf counters with some positive tales. Based on several multicultural legends about wolves, their good and evil side is highlighted. Through the telling of the stories Dog is led to see through the artifice of man's stories and to an understanding of Wolf's plight. He sees that though he is fed and well cared for he pays the price through lack of freedom. They go their separate ways with an increased understanding of each other.

Using masks and puppets, the three actors play several characters to create the different stories. If child actors were used, the characters could easily be played by up to 15 different actors. Dialogue is smooth and easy and aids in character creation, wolf and dog have separate and distinct voices in their lines. Splashes of comedy throughout keep the subject matter from becoming too heavy and the fast-paced, varying plot will keep young audiences well entertained. The theme of freedom versus security is strong without being overbearing. Due to the minimalistic set and costumes this would be an ideal touring show.

Reviewers Name: Rebeca Wallin

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