

THE PEOPLE v. B.B. WOLF

By Jim Brigleb

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STORY OF THE PLAY

B.B. (Big Bad) Wolf is being tried for the murder of two of the little pigs. With his reputation, what chance does he have? An easy-to-stage courtroom is the setting for the trial where several fairy tale characters are called upon to be witnesses in the case. Hilarious flashbacks provide opportunity for the audience to see the testimony as told by the witnesses. From the overbearing judge, to the vindictive Little Red Riding Hood, this fun play races to a dramatic appeal from B.B. Wolf for understanding.

SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

SCENE 1 — Courtroom
SCENE 2 — Classroom
SCENE 3 — Courtroom
SCENE 4 — Street
SCENE 5 — Courtroom
SCENE 6 — Street
SCENE 7 — Courtroom

CAST (16 characters)

BAILIFF - Court bailiff
JUDGE MENTAL - Court judge
BIFF BLAIRITAL - Reporter
PROSECUTOR #1 - Attorney
PROSECUTOR #2 - Attorney
DEFENSE COUNCIL #1 - Attorney
DEFENSE COUNCIL #2 - Attorney
B.B. WOLF - Defendant
LONE WOLF - Teacher
PORTLY - One of the Three Little Pigs
SUEY - Another
WILBUR - Another
MS. PYG - Mother of the Pigs
MAYOR HUFFENPUFF - Witness
LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD - Witness
JOHN Q. EXPERT - Witness

PROPS

All lawyers-briefcases, notepads
Judge-gavel
Biff-camera, disguise
Prosecutor #1-map of Little Pig Heights
Bailiff-easel, dictionary, copy of the script
B.B.- napkin
Wilbur & Portly-Groucho Marx glasses

SET DESIGN

The judge sits at an elevated bench USC. To the SR and SL are tables and chairs for the 3 attorneys and B.B. Wolf. Behind the attorney tables were chairs for the witnesses. Next to the judge's bench is the witness stand. The audience is assumed to be the jury when addressed by the judge and attorneys.

Flashbacks may occur DS of the "courtroom", or if space permits, on the floor in front of the stage. Flashbacks are initiated by actors freezing in position, dousing the lights on stage, mysterious music coming on (a strobe light would be great). Actors involved in the flashback leave their frozen position and move into place for their participation in the flashback. Actors not in flashback remain frozen in courtroom. At the end of the flashback, the mysterious music resumes and actors go back and re-establish being "frozen"— then the stage lights come back on and the courtroom scene continues.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Courtroom. The ATTORNEYS and WITNESSES are seated.)

BAILIFF: (*Striding to CS*) All rise. (*EVERYONE does so. BAILIFF glares at the audience.*) I said ALL rise! Now stand up and come to order! The Super Court of the State of California, Department 1 is now in session, the Honorable Judge Mental presiding. Please be seated and come to order.

(*JUDGE MENTAL, adorned in black robe, comes in, sits down, pounds his gavel three times, pauses, looks at the gavel then pounds out a beat to amuse himself.*)

JUDGE: Ladies and gentlemen, we are here to hear a most serious case. Have you heard it before? Neither have I, but if the bailiff would just hum us a few bars, I'm sure we'll all be able to follow along. Never mind. The case now pending before you, is a case of gravitational importance; whatever that means. Would the defendant please rise? And no howling in my courtroom. The young wolf before you has been charged with two counts of murder as well as huffing and puffing in a reckless and wanton fashion. (*Turning to the defendant*) Would you state your name before the court? (*At this point a reporter, BIFF BLAIRITAL, dashes up before the defendant with a camera and flash and takes a picture. The judge raps his gavel.*) Order, order. You may not take pictures in the courtroom. It's an invasion of the protection for the defendant. We can't have his picture smeared all over the newspaper! The Constitution guarantees the defendant the right to a fair trial.

BIFF: The public has a right to know, your honor. The Constitution guarantees the right to a free press.

JUDGE: Fair trial!

BIFF: Free press!

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JUDGE, BAILIFF, PROSECUTORS, and DEFENSE: Fair trial!

BIFF and WITNESSES: Free press! *(BIFF snaps another picture and assumes a belligerent expression.)*

JUDGE: Throw him out!

BIFF: *(Being escorted from the courtroom by the BAILIFF)*
You won't get away with this!

JUDGE: My courtroom, neener, neener, neener! Would the defendant please state his name?

B.B.: My name is B.B. Wolf.

JUDGE: Thank you, baby. How do you plead to said charges?

B.B.: Said charges? I didn't know I was being charged with any said charges.

JUDGE: Don't take that tone with me, young wolf. It's just an expression. Are you pleading guilty or not guilty of the murders of the said pigs and reckless huffing and puffing?

B.B.: Said pigs? I thought they were the Little Pigs!

JUDGE: Did you do it or not?!?

B.B.: Not guilty, your honor!

JUDGE: That's more like it! Now, are there any pre-trial motions in this matter?

PROSECUTOR #1: Yes, your honor. The people would like to introduce, as evidence, this map which illustrates the location of Little Pig Heights.

JUDGE: What people? It seems to me that you're paid well enough to do that for yourself without dragging a lot of other people into this mess.

PROSECUTOR #1: It's just an expression your honor. It means that, on behalf of the people of California, we wish to use it as evidence.

JUDGE: I knew that. Any objections from the defense. *(Doesn't wait for a response even though the DEFENSE counsel begins to stand to respond.)* Good, let's get this baby rolling.

(The BAILIFF retrieves the map and displays it on an easel.)

End of Freeview

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