

# TALKING POINTS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: CALL OF THE WILD: ILLUSTRATED EDITION

## Show & Theater Company:

*Call of the Wild: Illustrated Edition* by Theatre Heroes

## Art Form:

A one-person show using multimedia

## Context:

- Based on the Jack London 1903 novel *Call of the Wild*, about a dog named Buck who is stolen from his California home to become a sled dog in Alaska. Over the course of the story, Buck becomes more and more wild and distanced from civilization.
- The story is set against the historical backdrop of the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush.
- ? What do you already know about this time in history?
- ? How does telling the story from a dog's perspective add new information?

## Main Concepts:

- *Call of the Wild* is now historical fiction, but at the time it was very recent history.
  - ? If you were writing a story about current history through the eyes of an animal, what might that say? What animals might have interesting stories to tell about today?
- This version for the show uses minimal set, props, and costumes, and instead relies on the actor's skills and on multimedia screen projections to set the scene.
- ? How does the screen projection technique compare to traditional live theater sets?
- ? Can you think of other ways modern technology is used in theater?

## Special Things to Look for:

- This is a one-person show, which means the main actor has to play multiple characters. Watch for he shifts his acting to show what a new character thinks, feels, or does.
- ? How do the actor's choices this make the story more interesting?

## Virtual Theater Etiquette:

As you watch this show, try to immerse yourself as you would if you were at the theater in person.

- Find a quiet space to watch.
- Respect your space – in the theater, we don't put our feet on the seats in front of us or jump and down in our chairs; wherever you're watching this, treat your space with the same level of respect.
- Limit distractions.
- Use the restroom before the show starts so you won't miss anything.
- Put any other electronic devices away.
- Clap when you see something you love!

Show info: *Call of the Wild: Illustrated Edition* • February 1 – 28, 2022 • Grades 7-10