

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

Show & Theater Company:

- *Call of the Wild: Illustrated Edition* by Theatre Heroes, based on the book by Jack London

Art Form:

- A one-person show using multimedia

Context:

- The show is based on the novel *Call of the Wild*, about a dog named Buck who is stolen from his California home to become a sled dog in Alaska.
- The story is set in Alaska during 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:

- When *Call of the Wild* was written, the setting was very recent history.
- ? What animals might have interesting stories to tell today?
- Nature and civilization: Over the course of the story, Buck becomes more and more wild and distanced from civilization.
- ? Can you think of a time that you felt far from civilization? How did it feel?
- ? What are some of the ways humans have changed their environment? What are some of the benefits and drawbacks of those changes?

Special Things to Look for:

- 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?

Theater Etiquette:

- Respect the theater, one person to a seat, limit bathroom breaks, do not kick the seats, no food or drink in the theater (bottled water okay), and turn off cell phones/no texting.
- ? How is watching live theater different than watching a movie or TV?
 - We can't pause, rewind, or fast forward with live theater.
 - Live theater is exciting because each performance is unique.
 - Students are in the same room as the performers. Moving around and making sounds can affect the performers and other members of the audience.