

What's The Crime, Mr Wolf?

Junior Script

by

Mike Horth and Jan Porter

Ideal Cast Size 64

Speaking Roles 49

Minimum Cast Size 33

Duration (minutes) 70

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PRODUCTION NOTES

Welcome to ***What's The Crime, Mr Wolf?*** – our musical courtroom comedy. To help you get started with planning the show, we have enclosed notes and suggestions for the production below.

CASTING

The script is written for **49 speaking characters**:

Principal roles	5	36-77 lines
Mid-range roles	13	10-35 lines
Smaller roles	31	1-9 lines

Please note there are additionally 5 non-speaking roles who may also be used in the Chorus.

The cast can be condensed to **33 speaking characters** if some lines are reallocated or characters are given double roles with minimum costume changes:

Principal roles	6	36-77 lines
Mid-range roles	13	10-35 lines
Smaller roles	14	1-9 lines

(See page 6 for more details.)

CHORUS

The chorus parts are flexible. Three choruses have been suggested in the full (uncondensed) show: a General Chorus of cast members; a Bug Chorus of five additional children who sing *Top Of The Food Chain* and a Pig Chorus of five additional children who sing *Little Pigs*. These numbers could be increased with additional singers.

The 5 non-speaking parts could easily be chorus roles, as could the characters in the public gallery who are on stage for most of the show.

COSTUMES AND CHARACTERS

The cast is made up of animal and human characters. Most of the animals in the show could be in a dark top and leggings/trousers with 'signifiers' in the form of face paint, headdress, mask, tail, wings etc. We would suggest that actors with principal and mid-range roles with lots of lines have face paints rather than masks. When using masks they should be as light and simple as possible and not cover the nose and mouth.

See the chart on the next page for more complex animal and human costumes with suggestions for their character type.

Character	Costume	Notes
Judge Feathers	Eagle headdress and beak with judge's wig; black gown	In control of the court – stern
The Squirrels	Squirrel signifiers	Clerks of the court – scurrying and comical
Mr Mann	Barrister wig; black gown (Human).	Prosecuting council – pompous
Mr Case	Barrister wig; black gown (Human).	Assistant prosecutor – foolish sidekick
Mr Wolf	Trousers, waistcoat and tie	Defendant representing himself – dignified
Mrs Wolf	Skirt, blouse and pearls	Supports her husband in his defence.
Sparrow Hawkins	Skirt, outdoor jacket and scarf (Human)	News presenter – enthusiastic
Bramble Thicket	Trousers, outdoor jacket and scarf (Human)	News presenter – enthusiastic
Camera operator	Jeans and T-shirt (Human)	
Sound operator	Jeans and T-shirt (Human)	Needs to be able to handle the fluffy boom when Bark the dog attacks it in a comic sequence.
Johnny Mole	Mole face paint; deer-stalker and dark coat	Takes himself very seriously
Red Riding Hood	Jeans and red hoody (Human)	Lots of attitude, cheeky and insolent

Red Riding Hood's Friends	Jeans and T-shirt (Human)	As Red Riding Hood
Granny	Trendy gym/aerobics kit and headband (Human)	Very fit and active
The Naturalists	Trousers with baggy pale coloured jackets, or gilets with lots of pockets; bush hats (Human)	Academics – clumsy and uncoordinated
Inspector Green	Dark suit (Human)	
Sergeant Trunk	Police outfit (Human)	Needs comic timing
Constable Twig	Police outfit (Human)	Needs comic timing
Bark	Dog signifiers with a harness around body attached to a lead, which he can carry unless being held by Constable Twig.	Needs comic timing

STAGING

SCENERY

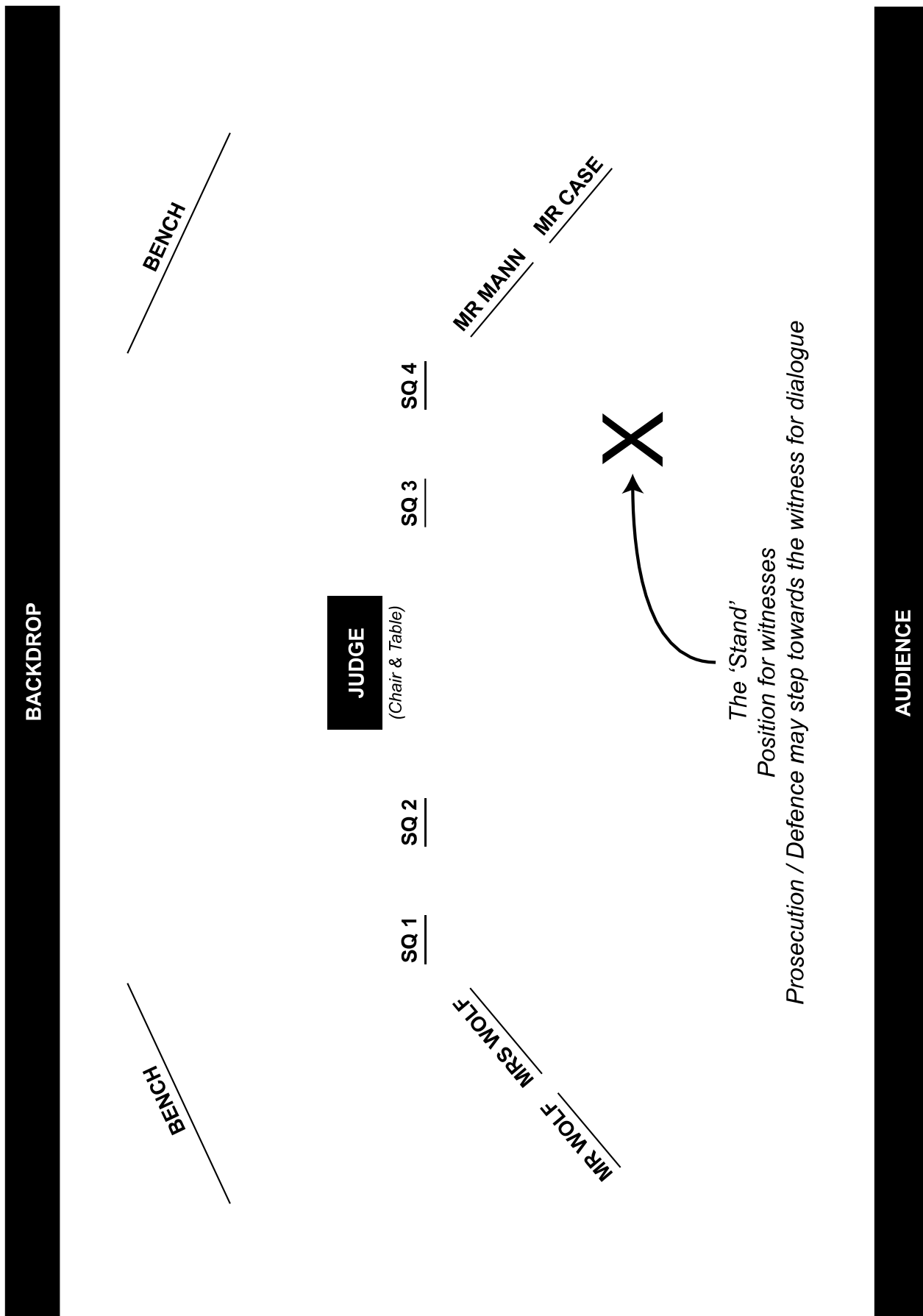
The show is set inside and outside the Fabletown Courtroom. The prologue introduces the idea of a fairy-tale village and our digital backdrops **Project It!** can be used as scenery to support this along with the interior of the courtroom when the scenes change. Alternatively, if not using digital projections, a painted backdrop of a forest would work for the whole show, suggesting the court is held in a forest glade. The pictures of mountains, cottages etc. requested by Rabbit in the Prologue could then be attached to the backdrop with Velcro or double-sided tape.

A cross marked on the stage at downstage left of centre will signal a rough position for the witnesses to stand. The cross can also be used when a character is invited to take 'the stand'. See the staging diagram for further information. Characters taking the stand should position themselves diagonally towards the Judge to avoid obscuring their faces from the audience.

STAGING FOR EACH SCENE

Prologue Outside the courtroom	Before the performance starts, the stage should be set up with two benches upstage right and upstage left where the public gallery will be seated. The benches could be made to look like a stone wall. These benches remain in situ for the duration of the performance.
Scene One Inside the courtroom	The Judge's chair and table, 4 chairs for the Squirrels, 2 chairs for the prosecution and 2 chairs for the defence should be brought in by the public gallery and the characters who are on stage, at the beginning of the scene. See staging diagram for suggested positioning.
Scene Two Inside the courtroom	No change
Scene Three Inside the courtroom	At the end of this scene all chairs and table are removed – but not the benches.
Scene Four Outside the courtroom	No furniture needed.
Scene Five Inside the courtroom	As before, the Judge's chair and table, 4 chairs for the Squirrels, 2 chairs for the prosecution and 2 chairs for the defence should be brought in by the public gallery and the characters who are on stage at the beginning of the scene.
Scene Six Inside the courtroom	No change
Scene Seven Inside the courtroom	No change

STAGING DIAGRAM



CHOREOGRAPHY

Each song lends itself to movement of some sort. The chart below lists the context of each song and gives some ideas you may wish to consider.

All Rise	The opening number tells us about the character of the Judge and how he should be respected.	The Judge leads the Chorus in a procession up a central aisle (if possible) through the audience seating, onto the stage. Characters on stage will stand for the Judge's entry and should sing as well.
Mole	Mole and the three Bonds boast about their sleuthing skills.	James Bond-type movements in an exaggerated manner.
Red Riding Hood	Red Riding Hood and her friends tell the traditional story.	The three friends sing and dance as a backing group to Red Riding Hood, in a cool 'girl band'-style performance.
Little Pigs	The Three Little Pigs and the Pig Chorus tell the court how Mr Wolf threatened them.	The Pig Chorus enters using a 'Madness-Style' walk, one pig having an inflatable saxophone on which he mimes playing during the saxophone solos.
Top Of The Food Chain	Mr Wolf and Bug Chorus explain how the food chain works.	The Bug Chorus dance on stage after the first verse. They then perform a rap with rap movements in the middle of the song.
The Naturalists	The Naturalists sing about their experience and credentials, supported by the Chorus.	Quirky folk-style dancing e.g. linking arms to turn around; do-si-do, etc.

Misunderstood	An emotional song by the Wolves who tell of their persecution and battle for survival. Supported by the Chorus.	The Wolves sing with their cubs. A dance may not be necessary for this number.
The Wildest Song	Big finale for the whole cast.	Large chorus number with actions in the middle of the song.

MUSIC

All the music required to stage this production, including sound effects and play on/play offs, is found on the Backing Track CD or mp3 download.

A high quality recording of the Vocal Tracks (either in CD or mp3 download format) and an Easy Play Score are available to purchase (see our website). These not only act as a guide, but can assist with the teaching of the songs too. A Performance Score (Grade 5/6 standard) is also available if you have the luxury of a live pianist.

A brand new product: a CD-ROM or download of all the songs called Sing it! is also available. This CD-ROM or download can teach the songs to the children without any teacher input. Children can use it at school or at home - think of the time it will save you! Most schools use it in class on an interactive white board or in the school hall on the overhead projector to allow full cast practice.