

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



Little Red

by Barry Kay

EXTRACT

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CAST LIST

Little Red Riding Hood
Wolves (at least 4 or 5)
Mother
Farmer
Son
Girl 1
Girl 2
Girl 3
Boy 1
Boy 2
Boy 3
TV Reporter
Chief of Police
Hunter
Daughter
Mother (different to first)

LITTLE RED – “I’m not wearing that!”

MOTHER – “Oh, yes you are. You’re not going off wearing your underwear.”

LITTLE RED – “Mum!”

MOTHER – “Go on then. Off you go. And remember what I said. Don’t talk to strangers. And stay on the path.”

The wolf pack circles.

Instant ‘echo’

A FARMER and his SON trying to herd the flock of ‘sheep’-

FARMER – “Stay on the path! What are you doing!? Stay where you are. No! Get around the other side. The other side. No, no, the other side!”

SON – “What? Make up your mind.”

FARMER – “Steady now! Don’t rush ‘em. Nice and easy. No. Stop. Look out - behind you! They’re getting away!”

SON – “Where? Don’t yell at me. I can’t hear what you’re saying.”

FARMER – “Quick! What are ya doin’? Over there! They’re getting away! Quick! Quick! Don’t- Oh geez! Now look. It’ll take ages to get ‘em back together. You’re hopeless.

LITTLE RED

2007

SCRIPT
DRAFT TWO
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Darkness. Lots of voices in the distance all around calling – a search party. The voices calling draw nearer. Beams from torch lights appear all around the audience, searching. People urgently calling and calling "Little Red Riding Hood!" A little girl is lost and this is the search party. The searchers close in together as they move to the centre of the stage. We see some of the torch lights illuminate the searchers. Wait, is that a...? Yes, it's a wolf. What's a wolf doing in the search party? There's another wolf. And another. They're ALL wolves! This isn't a rescue party... it's a hunting party!

At the back of the stage, a small figure. The torch lights all fall on her – it's Little Red Riding Hood!

She moves forward. The torch lights follow her. The 'wolves' part to let her through and then surround and loom over her.

WOLF – "Let's party!"

High energy, fast tempo dance music. The 'wolves' chase LITTLE RED – the 'chase' at times appears to be a dance and at other times becomes more dangerous and menacing.

A voice starts to cut through the music – it is LITTLE RED's MOTHER. She throws a switch to turn on the lights and turn off the music. The menacing pack of 'wolves' instantly become a docile flock of sheep.

LITTLE RED – "What's the matter?"

MOTHER – “Couldn’t you hear me? I’ve been calling and calling you.”

LITTLE RED – “I was here.”

MOTHER – “Well, you should tell me where you’re going. I need to know where you are.”

LITTLE RED – “I’ll be all right. I can look after myself. What do you want?”

MOTHER – “Your Grandma is very sick. I want you to take this basket of goodies over to her.”

LITTLE RED – “Do I have to? I’ve got plans.”

MOTHER – “Yes, you do have to. It’s just one simple thing. It won’t hurt you. She’s your Grandmother, for goodness sake.”

LITTLE RED – “All right, all right then.”

MOTHER (*Hands her the basket*) – “Good girl. Here. Now stay on the path – no detours.”

LITTLE RED – “Yes, mother.”

MOTHER – “And don’t talk to strangers!”

LITTLE RED – “I won’t.”

MOTHER – “What are you wearing? Put that cleavage away. Here.”

She hands LITTLE RED a little red riding hood that covers her up.