



## Performance Notes for The Young Hunter and the Old Woman of the Woods

### THREE WAYS THAT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CAN UTILIZE THIS PLAY

- 1.** *Students can read the play aloud while sitting in the classroom.* Ask the readers to skip all bracketed stage directions. You may prefer to rotate your actors to give all students a chance to read the speaking parts.
- 2.** *Students can perform the play in the classroom.* Clear an area that can be used as the stage. Have the audience sit on the floor in front of the stage. Students in the play can make simple costumes and/or sets as described below. When the scene change, the characters "on stage" simply walk to the back of the room where they wait until their next appearance "on stage."
- 3.** *Students can perform the play on stage.* Refer to the production notes that follow. Ask the actors to enter from the back of the room and move through the audience as they approach the stage.



### COSTUMES

- NARRATOR— Perhaps a nice shirt and slacks, a nice blouse and skirt, or a nice dress.



- OLEN— Brown or tan winter parka, white turtleneck, dark pants, winter boots, and wool fedora-style cap.
- OLD WOMAN— A long dark colored skirt, light color peasant blouse, boots, a simple heavy shawl and an apron.
- DEER— All brown or tan. A headband with small brown or tan ears, and antlers. Ears and antlers can be cut from cardboard and attached to a headband with hot glue.



## PROPS

### Scene 1

- Simple bag for OLEN. This can be a duffle bag, a satchel, or a canvas backpack.
- Bow and arrow set for OLEN (Can be plastic or made from cardboard).

### Scene 2

- Water bottle or canteen for OLEN to give to OLD WOMAN. This can be kept in OLEN'S bag, or if it has a strap it can be worn over the shoulder.
- Handkerchief for OLEN. This can be kept in OLEN'S bag or in his pocket.
- Two plain bowls or large mugs, preferably clay, ceramic, or wooden.
- Two spoons, one for OLD WOMAN and one for OLEN.
- A soup pot for OLD WOMAN.
- A ladle for OLD WOMAN.
- Folded wool or fleece blanket.
- A bowl and a spoon for OLEN'S breakfast. These can be the same bowl and spoon he used for soup.
- Rag for OLD WOMAN to clean table with.
- Broom for OLD WOMAN.



### SETS

The stage is split into two sections, the woods on one side and the Old Woman's House on the other side. If you want to make a backdrop you can paint it to show both locations, or you can just rely set pieces.

- **Scene 1**— The woods, on one side of the stage. You can cut a few trees from tall cardboard boxes and paint them. Leaves can be made from construction paper and glued on. Trees can be propped up against stools, chairs, or milk crates, duct taping or tying them in place.

- **Scene 2**— Old Woman's house/The woods.

For the outside of the house, there is a rocking chair towards the middle of the stage, so that it is close to the house interior, but doesn't block any of the furniture. You can also add other "exterior" items near the rocker, such as a milk jug, a bucket, a butter churn, or small wicker outdoor table.

For the inside of the house, there is a simple table and a long bench (like a picnic bench) on stage. If you do not have a bench, you can put a few chairs together in a row, just as long as the actor playing OLEN can safely lie down across them. There can also be another, small table, on which you can set the soup pot, the ladle, the bowls, the spoons, and the cleaning rag.

For the action that takes place in the woods, use the same space as in Scene 1.

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

**Finnish Folksong** – The character of OLEN sings a folksong during the play. The lyrics are to how English speakers would use words like La-la, Diddly-do. Actor is welcome to make up his or her own tune to the song, but if they would like to use a song for reference, a link to folksong on YouTube has been provided



for reference. The lyrics match roughly to the part of the song that is one minute in.

Feel free to vary the lyrics or use other part of song if preferred.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ySEwZN78nc>)

Song is called: Ievan Polkka (Translation: Eva's Polka)

**About the Saams** — The Saams live largely above the Arctic Circle. This area spans across the Scandanavian countries of Norway, Sweden and Sweden and part of Russia.

They are also known as the Saami, Sami, and Lapps. The name "Lapp" from which Lapland is commonly derived, is believed to have been introduced by the Vikings in the 9th or 10th centuries. The Saams themselves consider the name Lapp derogatory.

While there is no official census of the Saam population, estimates put their numbers at between 80,000 – 135,000 across the Nordic region, of which, approximately 6,000-9,000 reside in Finland.

The Saams are recognized as the indigenous people of Scandinavia.

