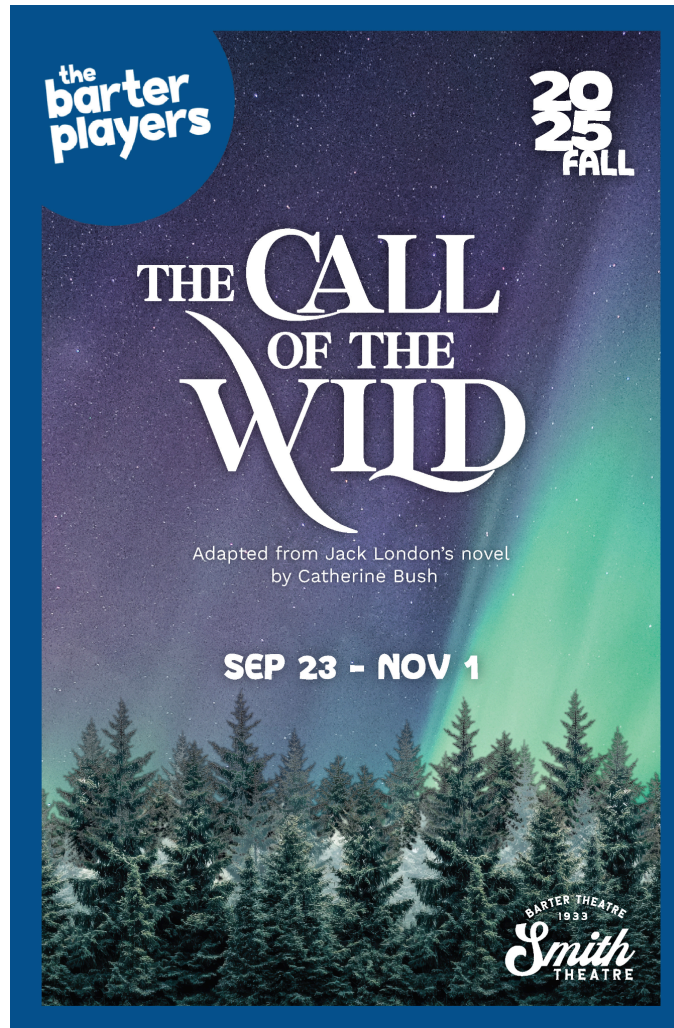


the
**barter
players**



Social Narrative for:

The Call of the Wild

Adapted from Jack London's novel
by Catherine Bush

Barter's Smith Theatre
Fall 2025



I'm going to see a play called *The Call of the Wild* at Barter's Smith Theatre! This play is about a dog named Buck who is suddenly uprooted from his California home and sold to be a sled dog in the cold Alaskan frontier during the 1890's Gold Rush.



Seeing a play is like seeing a movie. The play will be performed by people right in front of me on stage. They are called actors, and the people they are playing are called characters.



Once arriving at the theatre, I will go into the lobby where I will get my tickets. If I am early, I can wait in the lobby or lounge. Other people will also be waiting for the show to begin.



Next, I'll enter the theatre and choose a seat for the show. I'll sit in a seat and wait for the show to start. Other people will be doing the same thing. We will all wait together for the performance to begin.



Just before the performance begins, some of the actors will come out to talk about things we use in the play that help us tell the story, like props, costumes, lights, and sound.



If at any point during the show I have a question or want to leave, I will ask for help quietly. There will be ushers who can help me, too. An usher is someone in a white shirt who works at the theatre.



If anything ever gets too loud I can put on my ear protection or cover my ears with my hands.



I'll know the performance is about to begin when the lights dim around me and someone on stage makes an announcement. After the announcement the lights will change again and I'll know the play is about to start.



Keish and Carmack find gold in the Klondike river, along the Alaskan Frontier! This news reaches California. People are looking for The Lost Mine and dogs are needed to pull their sleds.



In California, Manuel owes money to Hugo. Hugo makes him promise he will get the money by midnight, forcing Manuel to make a difficult decision. He hears about the gold and has an idea to sell a dog.



Judge Miller and his beloved dog, Buck, are out hunting. Manuel offers to take Buck inside, but instead he steals Buck to sell and send to Alaska.



Manuel takes Buck away from his home and everything he knows. He sells Buck to a strange man, who strangles Buck with a rope. *Even though the characters fight, the actors are completely safe. It is important to remember no one is actually getting hurt, and the actors are pretending. This is true of every fight in the play.* Buck boards a ship to Alaska. Buck is confused, angry, and hurt.



When Buck arrives in Alaska he is greeted by Red Sweater, who teaches him the “law of the club” by repeatedly hitting Buck with the club.



Buck meets the other sled dogs, Spitz and Curly. Curly is very friendly, but Spitz does not like Buck and wants to hurt him.



Perrault is a mail carrier looking to buy sled dogs to carry the mail. He buys the three dogs, Buck, Curly and Spitz.



Soon after, huskies appear and fight Curly, and she dies from her injuries. Buck is shocked that she fell down and is now dead. Buck says he must never fall down.



Perrault buys a new dog named Sol-leks. Sol-leks has a lot of experience being a sled dog. Perrault takes his new team on their first trip. At first Buck does not like pulling the sled but he quickly gets used to it.



Buck here's a wolf cry, and Sol-leks explains that sound is the Call of the Wild. Sol-leks teaches Buck about how wolves became dogs, and tells him that Man protects dogs. Sol-leks also tells Buck about the great beast called Moose, and how no dog can take down the moose.



The next day, Spitz attacks Buck, and the huskies appear again. Determined not to fall down, Buck chooses to fight Spitz. It's a fight to the death, Buck kills Spitz.



Perrault buys another dog named Dub to replace Spitz. With Spitz now dead, Buck insists on being the new lead dog.



Buck pulls the sled very well. Perrault says he is the best sled dog in Alaska! Hal and Mercedes, a married couple looking for the Lost Mine, arrive. They buy the dogs and sled from Perrault. Perrault tells them the dogs need rest, but Hal does not listen.



Dub gets injured on the trail. The dogs are overworked and starving. Hal and Mercedes are almost out of food and have to make it to camp by spring. Hal kills Dub because he is injured and cannot work anymore.



Buck and the team finally make it to camp. The dogs are worn out and starved. They meet Thornton, who tells Hal to stop travelling because the ice is melting, which makes the trail very dangerous.



Hal refuses to listen, and forces Mercedes and Sol-leks to continue on. Hal tries to force Buck to move by hitting him, but Buck refuses. Hal hits Buck repeatedly. Thornton threatens to kill Hal if he doesn't leave Buck alone. Hal, Mercedes, and Sol-leks continue on, fall through the ice, and die.



Thornton saved Buck's life. Buck loves Thornton.



Some time passes, and Thornton knows that Buck is the strongest sled dog in Alaska. He makes a bet with a store owner that Buck can pull a 1000 pound sled, and Buck wins him the bet! Thornton says never was there such a dog as Buck.



With his winnings, Thornton, O'Brien, and Buck set out to find the gold. They come across the river filled with gold!



Even though Buck is happy with Thornton, he still is drawn to the cry of the wolf. He follows the wolf into the forest, and even takes down the great Moose. This is where Buck belongs! They run together, but something calls Buck back to the campsite where Thornton is.



Back at the camp, the Yeehats attack and kill O'Brien and Thornton. Buck arrives just after this, and he kills every single Yeehat. Buck is devastated by the loss of Thornton but promises to never forget him.



Buck joins the wolf pack. Every summer, Buck returns to the Valley of the Yeehat and sits by the river of gold to remember Thornton. Buck continues to run at the head of the pack, singing The Call of the Wild.



The play is about 50 minutes long. If at any point during the show I think something is funny I can laugh. If I ever think the actors did a good job I can clap. I'll know the play is over because people around me will start clapping their hands, and I can clap too if I want. Then the lights will come all the way back up, and I can leave the theatre.

CHARACTERS IN *The Call of the Wild*

Here are the names and photos of the characters you'll see in *The Call of the Wild*!

BUCK



PERRAULT



RED SWEATER



CURLY



DUB



SOL-LEKS



SPITZ



HAL



MERCEDES



THORNTON



MOOSE

