

Fox Hollow Tales: Wojer and the Wizard of the Wood

©2017 Play by Jennifer Carson

Music by Will Ogmundson

Cast List:

Wojer	a young badger
Mama Badger	Wojer's mother
Lily	a young fox
Pippin	a young weasel
Pearl	a young water shrew
Jack Henry	An old hare
Ross	Pippin's little brother

Ensemble can be made up of other forest creatures

Setting: A small country town in America around 1830.

Scene 1, Act 1

A bright sunny morning at the edge of the forest

COME WITH ME TO FOX HOLLOW

JACK HENRY: COME WITH ME TO A DISTANT LAND
FAR BEYOND THE SEA AND STRAND
CLOSE YOUR EYES AND TAKE MY HAND
I WILL HELP YOU SEE.

WHERE THE MOUNTAINS KISS THE SUN
AND THE SPARKLING RIVERS RUN
IT'S A LAND WHERE EVERYONE
CAN LIVE IN HARMONY...

Wojer and his mother enter. She is scolding him for eating all the berries she'd picked to make tarts for the village picnic, maybe even dragging him by the ear, while he protests mightily. Jack Henry watches for a moment, bemused, then waves his hand. Wojer and his mother are instantly silenced, but she continues to pantomime scolding him as they exit.

JACK HENRY: (spoken) Well, almost everyone.

COME WITH ME, O, COME WITH ME
COME WITH ME TO FOX HOLLOW
COME WITH ME, O, COME WITH ME TO FOX HOLLOW

GROUP I: COME WITH ME,
COME WITH ME, COME WITH
ME

COME WITH ME, COME WITH
ME, COME WITH ME
TO FOX HOLLOW

GROUP II: COME WITH ME,
COME WITH ME, COME WITH
ME

COME WITH ME, COME WITH
ME, COME WITH ME
TO FOX HOLLOW

ME

JACK HENRY: O, COME WITH ME
COME WITH ME, COME WITH ME
TO FOX HOLLOW

WOJER trudges down the country lane. Lily pops out from behind a tree.

LILY: Where ya' goin', Wojer?

PIPPEN AND PEARL: Yeah, Wojer, where ya' goin'?

WOJER: Momma sent me to pick berries in Old Lark Meadow. Wanna come?

PIPPEN: *(shakes head)* No way!

PEARL: *(shivers)* No way!

LILY: *(teasing)* You better be careful of the wizard that lives in Old Lark Meadow. If he catches you picking his berries he'll turn you into a frog.

Lily, Pippen and Pearl run away, giggling.

WOJER: *(waggles tongue)* You'll never scare me! There's no wizard in Old Lark Meadow.

WHEN YOU ARE BRAVE

WOJER: WHEN YOU ARE BRAVE
IT DOESN'T MATTER IS YOU'RE SMALL
WHEN YOU ARE BRACE
IN THE FACE OF DANGER YOU STAND TALL
WHEN YOU ARE BRAVE
NO MATTER WHAT FATE MAY HAVE IN STORE
YOU STARE IT IN THE EYE AND LET OUT A MIGHTY ROAR!

SO I WON'T BE AFRAID
NO,NO,NO
I WON'T BE AFRAID
EVEN IF MY PAWS ARE QUIVERING
I WON'T BE AFRAID
EVEN IF MY BODY'S SHIVERING I WON'T BE AFRAID

OH, IF DANGER COMES AROUND
YOU KNOW I'LL STAND MY GROUND
'CAUSE WHEN YOU ARE BRAVE

PIPPEN AND LILLY:
BRAVE
MATTER IF YOU'RE
SMALL

ROSS AND PEARL:
BRAVE
MATTER IF YOU'RE
SMALL

WOJER: WHEN YOU ARE BRAVE
IN THE FACE OF DANGER YOU STAND TALL

PIPPEN AND LILLY:
BRAVE
OOH

ROSS AND PEARL:
BRAVE
OOH

WOJER: WHEN YOU ARE BRAVE
NO MATTER WHAT FATE
MAY HAVE IN STORE
YOU STARE IT IN THE EYE
AND LET OUT A MIGHTY ROAR

PIPPEN, LILLY, ROSS &
PEARL:
BRAVE
YOU STARE IT IN THE EYE
AND LET OUT A MIGHTY
ROAR!

WOJER: I WON'T BE AFRAID
SOLO 1: NO, NO, NO
WOJER: I WON'T BE AFRAID
SOLO 2: EVEN IF HIS PAWS ARE QUIVERING
WOJER: I WON'T BE AFRAID
SOLO 3: EVEN IF HIS BODY'S SHIVERING
WOJER: I WON'T BE AFRAID
SOLO 4: OH, IF DANGER COME AROUND

WOJER: YOU KNOW I'LL STAND MY GROUND
WHEN YOU ARE BRAVE IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE SMALL

PIPPEN AND LILLY:
BRAVE
MATTER IF YOU'RE
SMALL

ROSS AND PEARL:
BRAVE
MATTER IF YOU'RE
SMALL

WOJER: WHEN YOU ARE BRAVE

IN THE FACE OF DANGER YOU STAND TALL

PIPPEN AND LILLY:
BRAVE
OOH

ROSS AND PEARL:
BRAVE
OOH

WOJER: WHEN YOU ARE BRAVE
NO MATTER WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE
NOBODY FIGURES OUT YOU'RE REALLY TERRIFIED.

The forest path seems to grow darker and scarier as the song ends. Wojer peeks through some tall grass at the edge of a meadow. It is bright and sunny. He steals his courage.

WOJER: There's no such thing as wizards! But there are plenty of juicy berries.

BERRIES FOR ME

BERRIES FOR ME BERRIES FOR THEE
WILL YOU COME OUT AND PICK BERRRIES WITH ME?
BERRIES FOR ME AND BERRIES FOR THEE
IF YOU COME OUT AND PICK BERRIES WITH ME.

Wojer starts eating the berries instead of filling the basket.

JACK HENRY: *(Jack Henry wears a robe, a liripipe, and is carrying a bundle of clothes under his arm).* Hello there.

Wojer, scared, drops the basket, and hides behind a tree stump.

JACK HENRY: Sorry. I didn't mean to frighten you.

WOJER: *(begging)* Please don't turn me into a frog.

JACK HENRY: Great Fox Hollow! I wouldn't dream of such a thing.

WOJER: *(peeking over stump)* But that's what wizard's do.

JACK HENRY: *(chuckles)* I'm Jack Henry. *(bows removes his hat)*

WOJER: My name is Wojer. *(he looks into the hat tail)*

JACK HENRY: My hat is called a liripipe. The tail is long so you can carry things in it. See? *(he tips the hat and shows Wojer the contents)* Nothing but lunch, a bit of string and a hankie.

WOJER: What about your robe?

JACK HENRY: I spilled tea on my pants. *(points to the bundled cloth tucked under his arm)* I had to wash them in the creek.

WOJER: *(stomps foot)* Oooh! That Lily Fox. She's always trying to scare me. She told me if I picked berries in Old Lark Meadow that the wizard that lives there would turn me into a frog.

JACK HENRY: *(pulling at whiskers)* Hmm. Sounds like Lily needs a taste of her own medicine.

WOJER: But she isn't sick.

JACK HENRY: *(chuckling)* It's a figure of speech. It means she needs to be treated as she has treated you.

WHAT GOES AROUND

JACK HENRY: WHAT GOES AROUND MUST COME AROUND
I KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE
EVERY ACTION GOOD OR ILL
COMES RIGHT BACK TO YOU
CALL IT KARMA, CALL IT FATE
YOU CAN CERTAINLY ANTICIPATE
WHAT GOES AROUND ALWAYS COMES AROUND.

CALL IT KARMA, CALL IT FATE

WOJER: WELL WHATEVER IT IS
I THINK IT'S GREAT!

BOTH: WHAT GOES AROUND,
ALWAYS COMES AROUND.

WOJER: Yes! I can dress like a wizard and show up for tea. That'll give her a scare.

JACK HENRY: *(rubs chin)* Wouldn't she know it was you?

WOJER: *(thinks for a moment then snaps fingers)* I'll spend the night in the forest and Lily will think the wizard captured me.

JACK HENRY: *(scratches head)* Won't your momma worry when you don't come home?

WOJER: *(Kicks at the ground, paces, and thinks.)* I've got it! *(whispers in Jack Henry's ear)*

JACK HENRY: I think you've got a plan!

***REPRISE OF WHAT GOES AROUND**

JACK HENRY: CALL IT KARMA, CALL IT FATE
YOU CAN CERTAINLY ANTICIPATE

BOTH: WHAT GOES AROUND ALWAYS COMES AROUND

WOJER: Goodbye, Jack Henry! Thanks for the advice! *(Wojer scoots down the path and stops at a small pond. He gathers a frog)* You'll do very nicely. *(puts frog in berry basket.)*

Black out.

Act 1, scene 2

Wojer sneaks up to Lily's house. He's carrying the berry basket with a note tied to it and dressed in an oversize wizard costume. A small fabric covering keeps the frog inside. He's giggling as he puts the basket on Lily's front step and rings the bell. He then runs and hides.

LILY: *(squeals with delight)* A present for me? *(picks up basket and unrolls note)* To sweeten the taste of medicine. What does that mean? *(She lifts the covering and a frog pokes his head out. Lily screams and runs.)*

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

LILY: I ONLY MEANT TO SCARE HIM
IT WAS JUST A LITTLE JOKE
BUT DID I MAKE THE STORY COME TRUE?
WOJER PICKED THE BERRIES
HE PICKED THE WIZARD'S BERRIES
AND NOW HE'S A MUCH GREENER HUE
OH MY GOODNESS, WHAT HAVE I DONE?
I WAS ONLY HAVING A LITTLE BIT OF FUN
NOW MY FRIEND IS A FROG AND I'M ON THE RUN
OH WHAT HAVE I DONE?

Outside of Pippen's house. Pippen, Pearl, and Ross are playing Jacks. Lily runs to them and holds out the basket.

LILY: *(spoken)* What am I going to tell Mrs. Badger? It's all my fault!

PIPPEN: *(spoken)* What are you talking about? *(Lifts cover and peeks into basket. Gasps.)*
There really is a wizard in Old Lark Meadow!

LILY, ROSS, AND PIPPEN: OH MY GOODNESS, WHAT HAVE WE DONE?
WE WERE ONLY HAVING A LITTLE BIT OF FUN

LILY: NOW OUR FRIEND IS A FROG
AND I'M ON THE RUN
LILY, ROSS, AND PIPPEN: OH WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

Pippen grabs Lily's hand and they run to Pearl's house. Ross starts to call/gather all the neighborhood kids. Pippen and Lily ring the bell at Pearl's house. All the neighborhood kids are gathered around them. Pearl opens the door and Lily shoves the basket at her.

LILY: *(spoken)* I thought the wizard was just a story!
Pearl takes the basket and peeks inside.

PIPPEN: *(sniffs)* Poor Wojer.

PEARL: Poor, poor Wojer.

FOREST CREATURES: OH MY GOODNESS, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
LILY, ROSS, PEARL AND PIPPEN: WE WERE ONLY HAVING A LITTLE BIT OF FUN
FOREST CREATURES: SAFE TO SAY YOUR TROUBLES HAVE JUST BEGUN!
LILY, ROSS, PEARL AND PIPPEN: OH WHAT HAVE WE DONE?
FOREST CREATURES: YES, YES, YES, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

ROSS: Who's that? *(Points to Wojer standing at the edge of the forest. He's standing on a stump that makes him much taller.)*

LILY: It's the wizard. He's going to turn us all into frogs!

WOJER: *(jumping off the stump and pulling off the hood/hat)* I got you all!

Lily crosses her arms and pouts.

PIPPEN: You scared us good.

PEARL: Scared us. *(giggles)*

REPRISE OF WHAT GOES AROUND

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I KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE
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WHAT GOES AROUND ALWAYS COMES AROUND.

CALL IT KARMA, CALL IT FATE

PEARL AND ROSS: WELL WHATEVER IT IS
I THINK IT'S GREAT!

ALL: WHAT GOES AROUND,
ALWAYS COMES AROUND.

WOJER: I gave you a taste of your own medicine. Just like Jack Henry told me to.

LILY: Who is Jack Henry?

WOJER: *(points to Jack Henry who is standing at the edge of the forest)* He's the hare that lives in Old Lark Meadow.

PIPPEN: *(shakes head)* But no one lives in Old Lark Meadow.

PEARL: *(shivers)* No one.

Wojer waves to Jack Henry and then gasps as the hare disappears in a puff of smoke.

Curtain close.