

EXTRACT

WOLF

Tobsha Learner

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NOTE ON THE SCRIPT

This is an unedited manuscript as provided to us by the playwright. We distribute it in good faith; however it may contain layout inconsistencies or typographic errors.

CHARACTERS

DANIEL LUPUS, the Wolf, aged 14, 24, 34, 44. In 1959 he is a school boy; in 1969, an art student; in 1979, an art lecturer and painter; and in 1989, a graphic designer.

TONI, in 1959 she is a school girl; in 1969, a University student; and in 1979 and 1989, an advertising executive.

To be played by the same actress, mid-thirties:

YOLANTA, an attractive Russian woman in her early thirties.

DEIDRE, married to Daniel. In 1969, she is a student leader; and in 1979 a shadow minister in the Fraser government.

To be played by the same actress, early twenties:

ZOE, in 1969, she is a University student.

CELIA, in 1979, she is an art student.

MIRANDA, in 1989, she is a fashion model.

To be played by the same actor:

BART, in 1969 he is a draft-dodger; in 1979, Daniel's art dealer.

PLEASE NOTE: The doubling has deliberate significance. There should only be five performers in the cast.

SETTING

The set in all eras is a kitchen. The consistent prop is the kitchen table, whose appearance is slightly abstracted by the wolves' feet. It is important that the table bleeds and that leaves blow in from off stage, everything else should be naturalistic, minimal and transportable.

ACTING STYLE

As the bulk of the action is a projection of Daniel's life flashing past in the last five minutes before his death, there is room for a slightly expressionistic approach. I leave this up to the director's discretion.

Wolf was first performed by the Playbox Theatre Company at the Beckett Theatre, Melbourne, on 4 April 1992 with the following cast:

DANIEL LUPUS	John Diedrich
TONI	Leigh Morgan
YOLANTA, DEIDRE	Jillian Murray
ZOE, CELIA, MIRANDA	Natasha Herbert
BART	Mark Pegler

Directed by Kim Durban
Designed by Richard Jeziorny
Music composed by Stuart Greenbaum
Lighting by Rachel Burke

at The CUB Malthouse
Premiere performance 4 April 1992

CAST

John Diedrich
Natasha Herbert
Leigh Morgan
Jillian Murray
Mark Pegler

Daniel
Miranda, Zoe, Celia
Toni
Yolanta, Deidre
Bart

Director
Designer
Composer
Lighting Designer
Production Manager
Stage Manager
Wardrobe Co-ordinator
Theatre Technician
Set Construction

Kim Durban
Richard Jeziorny
Stuart Greenbaum
Rachel Burke
Linda Aitken
Armando Licul
Katherine Spence
Stuart McKenzie
Colin Orchard
Ivan Smith

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

It is 1989. There is a slightly old-fashioned dining table with carved dog's feet at the end of each leg. Above the table is a sixties style painting. It appears to be an egg shape being penetrated by a winged phallus. There are chairs and a radio. BART, a middle-aged man dressed sombrely in a dark suit, gazes mournfully out downstage. TONI, an attractive woman in her early forties, sits at the table, with a glass of red wine in her hand.

TONI: Damn!

[BART turns around.]

I've just spilt wine on my dress.

BART: Red on black. No one will notice.

DANIEL [off]: I'll just see if I can find this album!

BART [sitting]: Not that bloody album, not today.

TONI: I didn't know Deidre had a sister.

BART: Do you recognise this table?

TONI: What about the priest, eh? I hate the way they always give an abridged version of your life at top speed – 'a dedicated leader committed to equal opportunities for both men and women . . .'

BART: She was. Committed.

[He looks underneath the table.]

It's the same table. I thought it was.

TONI: What are you talking about?

BART: We fucked under it. Remember?

DANIEL [off]: I found it!

TONI: Ancient history.

BART: For some.

[TONI *tries to rub the wine stain off her skirt.*]

Thank God Daniel only married the one. Otherwise it'd be funerals every second week.

TONI: How is Simon?

BART: Fine. How's Spot?

TONI: Got over the mange, poor dog. You look well.

BART: Happiness. Nothing too dramatic.

[DANIEL *enters. He is a good-looking man, somewhat drunk. Under his arm he's carrying a large photo album, in the other he has a bottle of red wine. He places both on the table.*]

DANIEL: Nimbin, 1970 to 1974.

BART: Spare us.

DANIEL: Well, Toni's interested, aren't you Toni?

[*He opens the book.*]

There you go. Deidre.

[TONI *peers at the photo.*]

TONI: Topless and ... who's this?

[DANIEL *peers at the photo.*]

DANIEL: Helen. I think. Runs a corner store in Innisfail now.

BART: And Daniel in his element, surrounded by breasts.

[DANIEL *pulls the book away and closes it.*]

DANIEL: It wasn't like that.

BART: No. It never is. Why didn't you go and see her at the end?
She wanted it.

[DANIEL *pours three more glasses of wine.*]

DANIEL: I prefer Catholic funerals, they're the only ones that understand ritual. Them and the Jews.

BART: Cancer's not contagious. Neither is Death.

DANIEL: I know.

TONI: They should've had flowers.

DANIEL: Cacti, Deidre loved cactuses.

BART: She was lucid right up to the end. She asked me several times, where's Daniel?



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