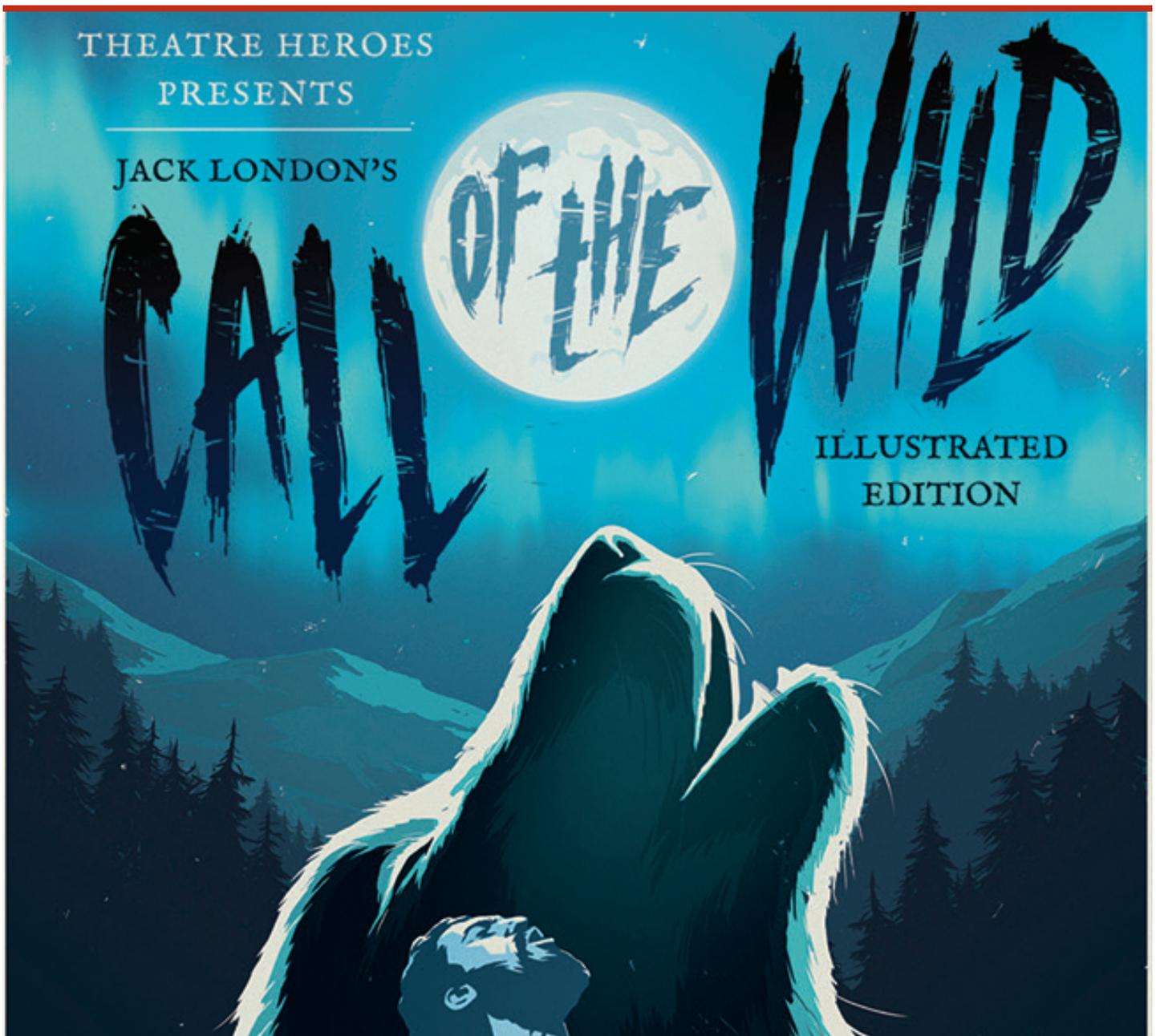


# “Call of the Wild: Illustrated Edition”

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019 AT 10 AM • 60 MINUTES  
MERRILL AUDITORIUM



Portland Ovation has brought a dynamic season of exceptional performing artists to Portland, Maine, including classical music, jazz, opera, dance, theater, and Broadway since 1931. Portland Ovation believes that cultural enrichment should be accessible to all and provides quality live performances and education experiences. Ovation collaborates with other arts organizations, nonprofits, education systems and the business sector to promote cultural enrichment and lifelong learning and celebrates the power and virtuosity of the performing arts.

In addition to live performances, we bring the exhilaration of the performing arts out into our community with season-long educational and outreach programs called Ovation Offstage. Ovation Offstage creates resonating moments when artists and audiences connect. Whether it's an unexpected "art happening," a workshop or masterclass with a visiting artist, a lively community discussion, or a pre-performance lecture, Portland Ovation invites you to join us as we explore together the relevance and connection of the performing arts to our lives.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Ovation Offstage is made possible in part with support from Culture Club-Portland, Bank of America, TD Bank, Machias Savings Bank, Unum, Maine Arts Commission, Dead River Company, and the Sam L. Cohen Foundation, Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation, and Maine Community Foundation's Frances Hollis Brain Fund."



## "Call of the Wild" STUDY GUIDE

This guide includes information about "Call of the Wild" and its broader cultural and literary connections; suggested activities designed to engage and sustain your students' learning before, during, and after the show; as well as a number of local resources to help you extend your learning. Please note connections to Common Core State Standards.

Use this guide to help your students anticipate, investigate, and reflect upon your live performance experience.

### COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS:

- Reading Literature
- Reading History/Social
- Studies Subjects
- Writing
- Speaking & Listening
- Visual & Performing Arts
- Science

# “The Call of the Wild” STUDY GUIDE



## THEATER ETIQUETTE

Audience members play a special and important role in the performance. The performers are very aware of the audience while they perform and each performance calls for different audience responses. Lively bands, musicians and dancers may desire audience members to clap and move to the beat. Other performers require silent focus on the stage and will want an audience to applaud only when they have completed a portion of their performance. As you enjoy the show, think about being a part of the performance.

- What are the differences between attending a live performance and going to a movie or watching television?
- What are some different types of live performances? Name a few as a class.
- What kind of responses might an audience give in each circumstance?
- What are the different cues that a performer will give you so that you know how to respond? For example, might they bow or pause for applause?

*Also, remember that a theater is designed to magnify sound and even the smallest whispers or paper rustling can be heard throughout the auditorium. You are part of a community of audience members and you all work together to create your theater experience.*

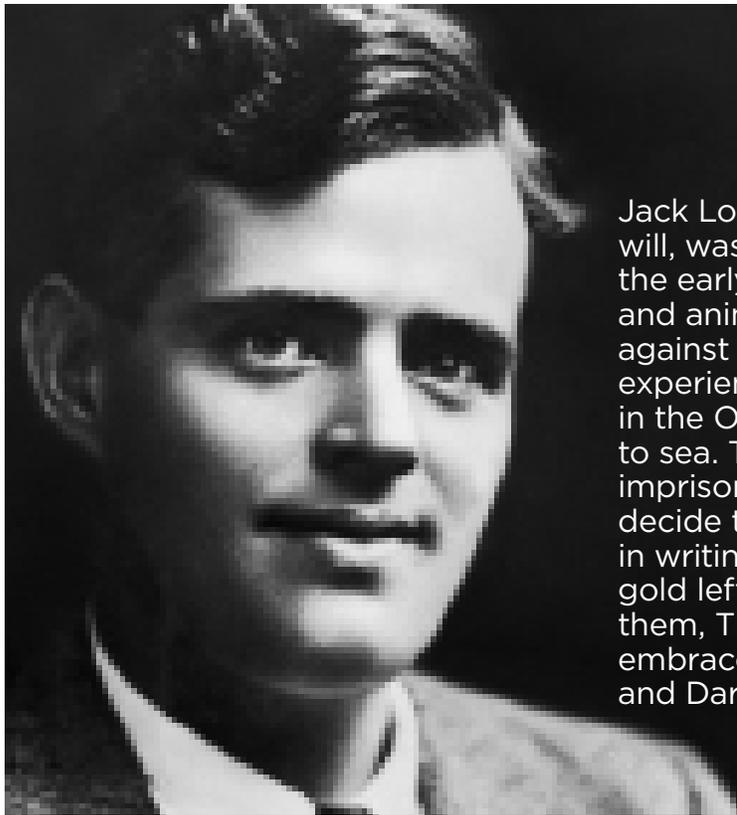
## LOCAL CONNECTIONS

### Theater Makers:

- Portland Stage Company: <https://www.portlandstage.org/>
- Bare Portland: <http://www.bareportland.org/>
- Theater Ensemble of Color: <http://teoc-maine.weebly.com/>
- Mad Horse Theater: <http://www.madhorse.com/>

### Writing and Storytelling:

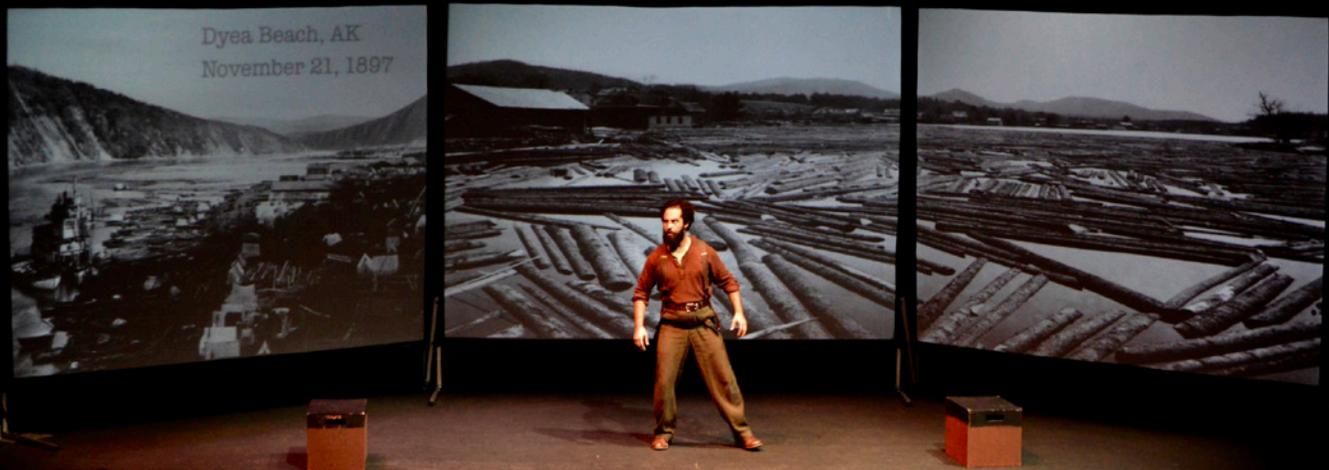
- The Telling Room: <https://tellingroom.org/>
- Maine Inside Out: <http://www.maineinsideout.org/>



### Who is Jack London?

Jack London, whose life symbolized the power of will, was the most successful writer in America in the early 20th Century. His vigorous stories of men and animals against the environment, and survival against hardships were drawn mainly from his own experience. London passed his childhood in poverty in the Oakland slums. At the age of 17, he ventured to sea. The turning point of his life was a thirty-day imprisonment that was so degrading it made him decide to turn to education and pursue a career in writing. His years in the Klondike searching for gold left their mark in his best short stories; among them, *The Call of the Wild*, and *White Fang*. His work embraced the concepts of unconfined individualism and Darwinism in its exploration of the laws of nature.

### WHO ARE THE THEATRE HEROES?



Theatre Heroes is an Austin-based company of artists who create high quality touring performances for young audiences and those young at heart. They are theatre makers, fearless adventures, and terrified mistake makers. They celebrate the live theatre experience as a launch pad for promoting creativity and innovation. They make story and adventure; encouraging youth to pursue their own dreams and keep this art form alive. They strive to create a world of infinite possibilities and limitless imagination where anyone can be their own hero.

Learn more at [theatreheroes.org](http://theatreheroes.org)

## Discussion Questions

1. How does *The Call of the Wild* present the human-dog relationship?
2. What is the “law of club and fang”? What does it represent? How is Buck introduced to it?
3. To what extent does London anthropomorphize Buck—that is, present him like a human being? To what extent is he emphatically an animal?
4. What is the “call of the wild”? How does it affect Buck’s behavior?
5. What role does survival play in the story? How is it different for dogs and humans?



# “The Call of the Wild” STUDY GUIDE

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## Activities

### Getting To Know Jack London

**Ask students to research Jack London’s fascinating life to find the answers to the following questions.**

Jack decided to turn things around after spending a month in jail. What crime was he imprisoned for?

Before venturing on the Yukon Trail, London spent a short time attending what esteemed college in California?

How old was London when Call of the Wild was published?

In the 17 years that London was a writer, how many books did he write?

### How We Survive

**Survival differs wildly from humans to wildlife but as “Call of the Wild” depicts, there is some cross over between dogs and humans. Ask the students to pick a particular wildlife animal and research how it lives then use their findings to answer the following questions.**

What skills does this animal exhibit that can be classified as “survival skills”?

Where do you see intersect between what this animal needs to do for survival and what humans need to do for survival?

### Now, Act It Out!

**Rather than having the students simply write the answers to the questions in either activity; have them embody their wild side, Jack London, and their experience watching the Theater Heroes by writing a short skit to perform as if they were London, the animal that they researched, or themselves with the animal they researched.**

**Encouraging students to create movement off of the animal that they research is always a fun and unique way for them to discover a new way to express themselves as well.**

# Student Response Form

Please guide your students through this form. Students may write and/or draw pictures to respond to the performance.

**PERFORMANCE:** "Call of the Wild" • MARCH 2019

**SCHOOL NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **GRADE:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have read "Call of the Wild" did this performance give you a better understanding of the text?

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If you have not read "Call of the Wild" did this performance make you excited to read the book?

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Would you recommend this performance to your classmates? Why or why not?

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Please print your name below to give Portland Ovarions permission to use your comments in future promotions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Your Name Here

**MAIL RESPONSES TO:**  
Ovarions Offstage  
50 Monument Sq, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl.  
Portland, ME, 04101

# Teacher Response Forms

Please take a few moments to fill out and return this form after the performance. Your response to our School-Time Performance Series helps us plan for the future. Include any comments from class discussion as well!

**PERFORMANCE:** “ Call of the Wild” • MARCH 2019

**SCHOOL NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **GRADE(S) OF STUDENTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**What made this a valuable experience for your students?** (If it wasn't, why not, what can we do better?)

**How did this live performance connect to or enhance your curriculum?**

**If you used this guide, how did it help you prepare for and reflect upon the performance with your students? Why or why not? OR if you knew about the guide but opted not to use it, tell us why you chose not to use it.** (We want to design the guides so that they are helpful tools for teachers—your feedback is key!)

**Tell us about planning the trip:**

How did you hear about this School-Time Performance? How was the process when arranging transportation?

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# Teacher Response Forms

Please take a few moments to fill out and return this form after the performance. Your response to our School-Time Performance Series helps us plan for the future. Include any comments from class discussion as well!

**Tell us about the trip itself:** How was the arrival and dismissal process? Were all of your specified seating needs met?

**What types of performances would you like to see in the future? (topics/themes, genres, specific artists, etc.)?**

**A number of generous individuals and organizations make it possible for us to offer these School-Time Performances at extremely discounted rates. Is there anything you'd like them to know in terms of your experience or its impact on your class?**

Please sign below if Portland Ovarions has permission to use any of your comments in future promotions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign here

**RETURN TO:**

Ovarions Offstage  
50 Monument Sq, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl.  
Portland, ME, 04101