

A HOUSE OF PIGS

By Andrew Barnett Jones

I always wondered if there were other Pigs who'd chosen other building materials, and now, in this play, there are. That's the power of writing for you! My advice for putting on this play is: have fun. If you're having fun doing it, then your audience will have fun watching it too. I certainly had fun writing it!

CAST

BRICK PIG

STICK PIG

STRAW PIG

THE BIG BAD WOLF

VARIOUS OTHER PIGS...

STAGING NOTES

Props and Costumes: I'd give each pig a different hat or wig (you can always make your own), ideally with pink pig ears sticking out of them!

Stick Pig has 'drumsticks' that they play tunes on the furniture with. It is against the rules to play tunes on the other pigs.

You might want to make a big cardboard 'laptop' for Straw Pig to tap away at, and for the Other Pigs to call in on through a cut-out screen.

Casting: Okay, this is based on the Three Little Pigs, so if there's less than three of you it'll be tricky! But 'tricky' can be fun – the whole point of plays is to make things seem real when they aren't. So one person can play more than one pig – maybe even all three if you like a challenge and can swap hats really fast!

The Big Bad Wolf's lines can be recorded, or you can throw your voice and add 'ventriloquism' to your list of talents. Or how about persuading a friendly neighbour (if you have one) to shout the lines through a letterbox (if you have one)? You can even have me as a guest star, I've recorded the Wolf's lines and you can download those from the site!

For the Other Pigs, you can cut a hole in a bit of card to make a 'video screen', then take turns sticking your head in to play different pigs – have fun with different voices/ mannerisms/ silly hats for each pig. Or you can get friends and family to call in and play the parts on a real video screen, if you want to get everyone involved!

SCENE 1

A house made of bricks. BRICK PIG is listening out for the Wolf at the door. STICK PIG has their drumsticks out and is fighting back the urge to bang out a rhythm. STRAW PIG is tapping away at the laptop and reads out what they're writing:

STRAW: "Once upon a time there was a little pig who made a house of straw."

BRICK: Shhh!

A short pause, then STRAW PIG resumes.

STRAW: "It was light and airy and very environmentally friendly."

BRICK: SHHH!

A slightly longer pause.

STRAW: "Perhaps on second thoughts a bit TOO airy."

BRICK: STRAW PIG, WILL YOU PLEASE BE QUIET?!

STICK PIG launches into a drum beat on the furniture, then starts rapping:

STICK: (RAPS) Yeah, Straw Pig, can you give it a rest?
'Cos Brick Pig thinks that calm is best!
Brick likes when things are nice and quiet

Brick's not a fan of noise and riot!

R-r-riot! R-r-riot!

BRICK: PLEASE CAN YOU BOTH! PLEASE! BE QUIET! ... PLEASE!

STRAW AND STICK: Ooooh!

STRAW: I just thought a story might be nice...

BRICK: Of course you did, you've got a head full of straw. We have to be quiet. The Big Bad Wolf might still be out there!

STICK: (RAPS) The question is, how long he stays?
He's been out there for days and days...

STRAW PIG gets up and dances as STICK PIG drums away:

STRAW AND STICK: And days and days and days and days
And DAYS and DAYS AND DAYS AND DAYS!
And--

BRICK: Shush!

STICK: ...That's all that Brick Pig says!

BRICK: Listen, we're all stuck here together, this is my house...

STRAW: And we're very grateful, aren't we, Stick Pig?

BRICK: ...so we go by my rules, and I say be quiet!

STICK PIG lifts their drumsticks, thinks better of it and puts them down.

STICK: But... why?

BRICK: Because we need to know if the Wolf's still there!

STICK PIG goes to a door, or window, or letter box and opens it a crack. We hear the voice of the BIG BAD WOLF.

WOLF: Little pigs, little pigs, let me in, let me in...

STICK PIG closes the crack, the voice stops.

STICK: He's still there.

STICK PIG experiments with opening and closing the crack. As soon as it's open, we hear the voice. As soon as it's closed, the voice cuts off.

WOLF: Or I'll... puff and I'll... house in!

STRAW PIG puts their hands over their head and buries their head on the sofa.

STRAW: Oh! He's never going to go away!

BRICK: Yes he will. He can't last forever with nothing to eat. And he can't get us in my house of bricks. The walls are made of bricks. The door is made of bricks, the windows are made of bricks...

STICK: Some of your finest work.

BRICK PIG sits heavily on the sofa next to STRAW PIG and winces.

BRICK: The sofa is made of bricks... that was a mistake...

STRAW: But we're safe?

BRICK: Safe as houses.

STICK: He blew down our houses!

BRICK: Safe as my house, then! Which is really safe!

STRAW: So... if he can't get in, then why do we have to be quiet?

BRICK: Well... um... So we know when he's gone.

STICK: You mean if we were making a lot of noise and having fun and being happy we might not even notice when he left?

BRICK PIG is starting to see why that's not a problem.

BRICK: Yeah...

STRAW: But we wouldn't care, because we'd be making a lot of noise and having fun and being happy!

BRICK: It's a good point! All right: Stick Pig – hit it!

STICK PIG starts banging out a rhythm. STRAW and BRICK can join in too! They take turns to throw down a verse complete with cool dance moves.

STICK: (RAPS) This is how I get my kicks,
The Pig who made a house of sticks!
My voice is loud, my voice is strong
I'll keep on singing all day long!

STRAW: (RAPS) Pig number two is on the floor,
The Pig who made a house of straw!
That Big Bad Wolf don't stand a chance,
I'm not afraid while I can dance!

BRICK: Pig number three in the mix
The Pig who made a house of bricks!
That Big Bad Wolf's not getting in...

ALL THREE: Not by the hair on our chinny chin chins!

They all run up to the door/window crack and yell out:

ALL THREE: Go away you silly Wolf!

They go off laughing and clapping each other on the back.

SCENE 2

The house, a little later. The PIGS on the sofa, feeling a bit down.

STRAW: I miss...

BRICK: Don't.

STRAW: I miss going to the park.

BRICK and STICK groan in agreement.

BRICK: Please don't.

STICK: I miss going swimming.

BRICK and STRAW moan in agreement.

BRICK: Please don't do this.

STRAW: We can talk about it, can't we? It helps to talk about it.

STICK: Yeah, what do you miss, Brick? You must miss something?

BRICK: I miss...

STRAW: Yes?

BRICK: I miss...

STICK AND STRAW: Yes?!

BRICK can't hold it in any longer!

BRICK: I really miss building houses! I haven't built a house in weeks! You can't build a house when you're inside a house!

The others give him a hug.

STRAW: It's okay, Brick, it's okay. We know how you feel.

BRICK: Thanks... that makes me feel a bit better.

STICK: I miss all our friends. Like Stone Pig, and Paper Pig...

BRICK: And Granny Moon. She lives so far away, but she always sends a card on our birthdays...

STRAW: Well it's silly to miss her...

BRICK AND STICK: What? / Huh?

STRAW: No, I mean, we don't have to miss her at all. She's online! All our friends are! We can call them!

Musical underscore takes us into...

SCENE 3

A montage of online calls from OTHER PIGS – taking it in turn to send a message of support to the housebound Pigs.

STONE: Yo, yo, yo, Stone Pig here calling from my cool stone condo! You guys rock! You can get through this, stay strong!

MUD: Hey, Mud Pig here, you'll be pleased to hear my mud house is holding up well – except when it rains, but then I get a lovely mud shower! If ever you need to wallow, you just holler!

CARD: (SHUFFLING CARDS) Welcome to the House of Cards, nobody sneeze! Fancy a game to pass the time?

VELCRO: (STRAINING) Hey... It's... Velcro Pig... Sorry, I'm stuck to the keyboard... but it's good to see you! We Pigs should stick together!

GINGERBREAD: Call, call, as much as you wish, You can't bore me, I'm the Gingerbread Pig!

JELLY: (SWAYING BACK AND FORTH) Hey! Jelly Pig here... woah... Having some problems with the new foundations.... haven't quite set yet... I'll call you baaaaaaaaack!

GRANNY MOON: Hello dears. I know it's tough right now, but however hard it seems, remember that I'm up here, looking down on you all. I've put a little something in the post for you...

SCENE 4

STRAW, STICK and BRICK PIG unwrap a present that Granny Moon has sent them - a delicious treat that they all start munching on. (You may want to rehearse this scene a couple of times just to get it right...)

STICK: From Granny Moon! Oh yummy yum!
It's going to end up in my tum!

BRICK: It's been so good having all these calls, it's like bringing something from outside, inside with us.

STRAW: I like that. How about we bring something else from outside, inside?

BRICK: Like what?

STRAW: Like building a house! I mean, we're all missing that, right?

STICK: Right! But wait! We have no sticks!
We have no straw, we have no bricks!

BRICK: Well I guess we'll have to use something from inside the house,
like... like...

STRAW: Everything! Let's build a house... out of stuff!

ALL THREE: Yay!

And as the music kicks off again, they start building a house out of house stuff. See what you can find inside your house, to make a little house with – don't forget the roof, and make it nice and strong to keep wolves out!

STICK: (RAPS) We are keen and we are clever
We can build this house together!

BRICK: Just because we're stuck inside
Doesn't mean we have to hide.

STRAW: Right here, right now, we have enough...

ALL THREE: The Pigs that built a house of stuff!

Beat. Then from outside, sounding rather hungry and pathetic:

BIG BAD WOLF: Little pigs, little pigs, let me in... Pleeeeease?

ALL THREE: Go away you silly Wolf!

And they all laugh and dance and carry right on building their house inside a house!

THE END