



A Guide to the Play

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How to Use This Guide

Welcome to the Globe Theatre!

We are glad you are able to join us for the production of *Wingfield Lost And Found* – we hope this guide will enhance your experience, inspire thought-provoking discussion and increase your understanding of the production. Throughout the guide, we will introduce you to the crew and artistic team, provide background information on the production, a summary of each act and more. There will also be discussion questions and links you can use for further research.

Teachers, there will be a section of discussion questions at the end of the guide. You may choose to prepare your students prior to the production by giving them the questions to consider. Conversely, you can use the questions for a class discussion after your students have seen the play.

Please keep in mind that the content in this guide reveals key plot points and character information you may wish to experience during the live production. We would suggest reading the play guide after seeing the production, if you wish to avoid any potential spoilers.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email ashleys@globetheatrelive.com.

Enjoy the show!

Meet the Artistic Team

Dan Needles | Playwright

Dan first created Walt Wingfield during his days as the editor of Shelburne's local newspaper. Wingfield was a retired stockbroker-turned farmer who told about his adventures on the farm in a series of weekly letters to the editor. In 1985, Walt made the jump to the stage when Dan wrote Letter From Wingfield Farm. Six additional plays featuring Walt have since followed. His latest book, *Wingfield's World: a novelization of all seven Wingfield plays*, was released in October of 2011. Other plays Dan has written include *The Perils of Persephone*, *Ed's Garage* and *The Last Christmas Turkey*.

Douglas Beattie | Director

Douglas became an independent producer and director in 1979. He had spent many childhood summers on the farm with Dan Needles and this association led him to join the *Wingfield* team as director. In addition, Douglas has been a guest director at the theatres across North America. He was a consultant on Primedia's television production, *Letter From Wingfield Farm*, which won the 1991 Gemini Award for best performing arts program. He is the co-executive producer of the *Wingfield* TV series. He is also founding artistic director of Pie in the Sky Productions (formerly Touchmark Theatre) and president of Douglas Beattie Theatrical Productions Ltd., which markets the CDs and DVDs of the *Wingfield* plays.

Lisa Russell | Stage Manager

Lisa has many credits with the Globe Theatre including *Becky's New Car*, *Henry and Alice: Into The Wild*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Shout Sister*, *Robin Hood*, *A Doll's House*, *Marion Bridge*, *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl*, *Death and the Maiden*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *Dogbarked*, *Just So*, *George Dandin*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *Trying*, *Blithe Spirit*, *A Man For All Season*, *The Secret Garden*, *Honk!* and *A Guide to Mourning and Grace*.

Rod Beattie | Walt Wingfield, Maggie, Hope, Spike, Ed, Freddy, Don, The Squire, Willy, Dave, Delbert, Several other characters

Rod has become well-known for his acting in the *Wingfield* series over the past twenty-five years. He received the Dora Award (best performance by an actor in a leading role) in 1991-92 for his performance in the first three *Wingfield* plays. His other featured theatre roles include *Ed's Garage* (The Grand Theatre, Manitoba Theatre Centre, Theatre Orangeville); *The Odd Couple* (Segal Centre); *The Cripple of the Inishmaan* (Theatre Calgary); *The Love List*, *Sylvia* (The Belfry Theatre); *The Crucible*, *Blessings in Disguise* (Manitoba Theatre Centre); *Oleanna* (Grand Theatre, National Arts Centre); *Love Letters* (Ontario tour).

Act One

We meet the Editor of the paper. He is reading the headlines of the paper – they all contradict one another. He expresses his concern over the amount of mentally capable readers he has. Which is why, he explains, he prints the letter from the Wingfield farm. Walt Wingfield, a once successful businessman turned farmer, pens these letters rather frequently and then sends them to the Editor.

What follows is a series of letters from the Wingfield farm.

Coming home to Persephone

As Walt comes home he notices the dry landscape – the town is having the worst drought the town has seen for 25 years. He is expecting to be picked up by his wife and daughter, but instead finds a note under the windshield wipers of his truck. Walt refuses to carry a cell phone while at the farm so the brokerage is unable to reach him. Because of this, his wife is forced to leave him a note informing him that the cows are out. Walt is used to escaping cows, and keeps an eye out for them as he drives. He inquires with neighbors along the way home as to if anyone has seen the missing animals. Walt, along with the neighbors and Walt's nephews devise a plan to round up the cows. After an unsuccessful attempt they find the cows in Walt's barnyard, Maggie and Hope having coaxed them back into the yard sometime earlier. Maggie explains to Walt that had he owned a cell phone, he would have been called.

Carnelian Bracelet

Maggie and Walt's 3rd anniversary is approaching. During the cattle chase Maggie has lost a bracelet Walt bought her in Italy. He attempts to find it, but is unsuccessful. He gives up for the night and ponders the differences between city and farm life while listening to Don play his trumpet. In the city, Walt watches the company turn itself "inside out" over the collapse of a bank – only to completely forget about it the next day. At the farm, it is the opposite. Life appears to be tranquil and normal, but in actuality everything is changing. While the farm trees are all beginning to die and the ponds are drying up Pluto Township is in the process of approving an application for a water bottling plant. Walter returns home and discovers that his well is no longer working. The neighbours come over to assist, but they are unable to fix it. The thousand gallons of water they fill the well with dry up overnight. Squire suggests that Walt calls Delbert McNabb, a water witch. Walt considers it against the advice of a couple other neighbors who claim that the man is crazy.

Meeting Delbert at the Nursing Home

The town has now gone 70 days without rain. Walt decides to pay Delbert, the water witch, a visit. Delbert has predicted the drought, even writing a letter to the weather office about it. Delbert explains that he no longer is a water witch, but gives Walt some helpful information regarding his well. When Walt returns home, the well drillers have called and are on their way. The drillers make Walt pick a spot to drill and after creating a two hundred foot deep hole, don't find water. Walt writes them an \$8000 cheque and sends them on their way. Walt asks Don to persuade his father (Delbert) to help him find water, but Don refuses.

Battle with the bees

The town has gone 75 days without rain and Walt's farm is running out of pasture. Walt discovers that his well had pipes that supplied other wells in town with water. Don tells Walt that he is going to sell his cows and move out West.

Act Two

Eco Footprint

Walt considers his ecological footprint. Since he has moved to the farm his ecological footprint has dramatically increased.

Second Visit with Delbert

The town is now 85 days without rain. The water truck is only able to provide enough to sustain the people and the animals. The vegetables are dead and the ground cracks. Walt visits Delbert again. This time he is successful in his quest for help. Delbert picks a spot and Walt has the drilling company return. They find water, but not enough for a well. Walt puts out an ad for water witches. The first witch explains that the voices in his head tell him that water is the new oil and the supply has been purposely limited. These voices the man hears are actually his fillings picking up AM stations. Witch two and three arrive and they are just as unhelpful as the first.

Scene Three

Walt decides to replace Maggie's bracelet for their upcoming anniversary. He enlists the help of an Italian friend, but is unable to pay for the bracelet over the phone. The Italian friend suggests that he enlists the help of a witch to find the missing bracelet. She mentions Delbert's name.

Don is offered a good price for his cows, but needs his father's signature to complete the sale. Don asks Walt to obtain the signature, but Walt convinces him that he should visit his father. He suggests that Don attends the Sunday concert at the lodge.

At the concert, Don hears a familiar tune. He realizes that his father is playing the song that he wrote for his mother after she passed away. Delbert gets the "feeling" back in his fingers as he plays the piano. They head back to Walt's after Delbert's performance and begin the search for water. They drill the spot Delbert suggest and find water – a large enough supply for the town. Don moves his father back home. Walt finds Maggie's bracelet and the town is has seemingly returned to its tranquil state.

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some of the differences between the city and farm life that Walt notices?
2. What are some issues plaguing Saskatchewan farming communities today? Do any of these issues plague Persephone?
3. What is the significance of the water bottling plant that is to be built the town over?
4. Walt claims that his farm life is less environmentally friendly than his city life. What are his reasons? Do you think city life is more environmentally conscious than farm life?
5. Do water witches really exist? How is water found when a well needs to be made?