

Thousand



KITES

Here's a list of downloadable tools available on www.thousandkites.org.

- Script of Thousand Kites
 - English language version
 - Spanish language version
 - University of North Carolina-Asheville, full production version
- Audio of the play's songs
 - "Thousand Kites"
 - "Scoundrel's Ball"
 - "Heard Somebody Callin' My Name"
- Song sheets for the play's music
 - "Thousand Kites"
 - "Scoundrel's Ball"
 - "Heard Somebody Callin' My Name"
- Audio of buzzer sound
- Video of public play readings of Thousand Kites
- Press release sample
- Photos
- Sample flyer
- Program copy sample

How do I get Started?

You don't need to be an actor or theater person to do a reading of the Thousand Kites play, because we designed the script for many uses by many types of people and groups. From a simple informal reading among friends, to a staged public reading, to a full-blown formal production, the script is easily adaptable. We know, because community groups have done it. Below are a few pointers for different types of uses, but don't be afraid to try out your own new ideas.

Do an informal reading with your group or for a house party

- Download: the script most suited to your situation; the audio of the play's songs; and the video about Thousand Kites.
- Make eight or more copies of the script.
- Get your group together to:
 - watch the video and listen to the audio.
 - sit down with your scripts, assign each person a character/role to read, and read the play out loud.

How do I stage a public reading of the play?

- Find eight people who are willing to read in public and who you think fit the character roles in the play.
- Select someone to be the director or facilitator of the rehearsal.
- Get everyone together to watch the video, listen to the audio, and read the script out loud.
 - Then talk about the meaning of the script and discuss any questions or issues anyone might have with it.
 - If your group thinks some words in the script need to be changed to fit your local situation, change them.
- Set a couple of rehearsal times to get together again to work on the reading
 - Get up on your feet with your scripts and decide where everyone will stand or sit during the reading.
 - If you decide that characters will move about on the stage, figure out what movement makes sense and what movement might be distracting to the stories being told.
 - If you don't want to, you don't have to sing the songs in the play – you can just read them.

What's the buzzer audio for?

- The buzzer audio can be used in the play as the buzzer sound that precedes the Schedule character's part.
 - It should be loud and obnoxious, just as it is in prison.

How do I get out an audience for my public play reading?

- Because Act 2 of the play is a facilitated discussion with the audience, attracting a diverse audience is as important as getting Act 1 together.
 - In all the publicity methods below, stress that everyone and all points of view are

welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.

- Design a publicity plan that includes:
 - Starting early to give yourself enough time to get it all done.
 - Emailing or snail mailing press releases and photos to your local newspapers
 - Use the press release included in the play kit as a model, filling in the blanks and adapting it to reflect your unique presentation.
 - Use the photos included in the play kit or take your own.
 - Taking or emailing press releases to radio and television stations
 - If your community radio station has a talk show, see if you can get on it.
 - If your local access television station has a talk show, see if you can get on it.
 - Emailing press releases and/or notices to your email lists, and asking friends to do the same.
 - Distributing flyers everywhere you can think of (stores, libraries, church bulletins, etc.)
 - Use the flyer included in the play kit (filling in the blanks), or create your own.
 - Putting web notices on your web site and on the sites of your colleagues and friends.
- Make and distribute programs for the reading
 - Programs help the audience figure out what they are going to see, and serve as a reminder of the experience.
 - Use the program sample included in the play kit, filling it in with information about your organization and upcoming events.
 - Photocopy as many as you will need.
 - Assign someone to pass out programs at the door the night of the play reading.

What if I want to do a full production of the play?

- Go for it. And, if you want to talk to someone who's done it before, email us and we'll hook you up.

What if I want to change the script?

- As long as respect for the stories contained in the play is maintained, changing the script to reflect the culture(s) of your community is perfectly acceptable.
- Substituting personal stories, writing new music, etc. is fine as long as they make sense within the context of the script.