**The Bald Man and the Bears**
(II Kings 2: 23-25, King James Version)

(We hear giggling. Three actors who have pillows and are lying down, facing the audience at an angle. They know it’s story time, and they’re thrilled. They huddle around the FATHER.)

 FATHER

The Bald Man and the Bears. And Elisha went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him.

 ALL THE KIDS

(with supreme enthusiasm, joined by the CHORUS upstage)

Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head.

 FATHER

 (holding his flashlight to shine ominously under his chin)

And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the Lord. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them.

(The KIDS know what’s coming. They present their arms to be eaten, and the FATHER grabs them one by one, growling and eating as they play their death scenes and fall on the floor. After the third one is dead downstage, the father reaches over and tickles her, and she giggles back to life.)

 FATHER (continued)

And he went from thence to Mount Carmel.

(KIDS groan that it’s over.)

 FATHER (continued)

And from thence he returned to Samaria.

(The KIDS present themselves for goodnight kisses and then lie on the floor under their blanket. When FATHER has rolled halfway across the stage, we hear one last satisfied giggle from one of the kids. FATHER shines his flashlight back at the KIDS and the giggling suddenly stops. Lights out.)