

Concordia Theatre Presents  
in conjunction with the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize Forum

Bertolt Brecht's  
the  
Caucasian Chalk  
Circle

translated by Eric Bentley  
produced with permission from Samuel French, Inc.  
February 10, 14, 1998 at 8:00 pm, and February 15, 1998 at 2:30 pm,  
Frances Frazier Comstock Theatre  
and  
February 13, 1998 at 8:15 pm, Memorial Auditorium

Director Helen Cermak  
Production Designer Eddy Barrows  
Lighting Designer Bryan Duncan  
Technical Director Chad Knutson  
Executive Producer Jim Cermak

*We are honored to be a part of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum and raise the voice of theatre in celebrating peace and advocating justice.*

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

### Prologue - The Dispute Over the Valley

#### The Goat Breeders

Old Man <i>on the right</i> .....	Scott Noonan
Peasant Woman <i>on the right</i> .....	Eleanor Ramson
Old Peasant.....	Joshua Fahrer
Very Young Worker.....	Kirenza Dittler

The Delegate *from the capital*.....Todd Michael Hull

#### The Fruit Growers

Old Man <i>on the left</i> .....	Andy Josephson
Peasant Woman <i>on the left</i> .....	Nicole Vyonne Moody
Agriculturist Kato.....	Laura Haug
Girl Tractorist.....	Laura Wilhelm
Wounded Soldier.....	Jon M. Rothman
Soldiers.....	Matt Berg, John D. Skov

The Storyteller *Arkadi Tschaidse*.....Peter Michael Gallick

1<sup>st</sup> musician.....Brent Arran Lord

2<sup>nd</sup> musician.....Valerie Pettit

3<sup>rd</sup> musician.....Julie Barton

4<sup>th</sup> musician.....Mandy Omland

5<sup>th</sup> musician.....Andrea Turcotte

Shadow Signer.....Janet Haak Aarness

**Setting: Our story moves back in time to an Easter Sunday Morning.**

### The Noble Child

#### The Royal Entourage

Georgi Abashwili *the governor*

Puppet.....	Rehanna Eileen Zuelke
Voice.....	Kevin Heinz

Natella *the governor's wife*.....Chris Meyer

Michael *their son, performer/puppet*.....Kirenza Dittler

Shalva, an adjutant.....Gabriel Ertsgaard

Arsen Kazbeki *a prince*.....Kaya-Rebecca J. Sundberg

Bizergan Kazbeki *the prince's nephew*.....Jenny Sauer

#### Doctors

Niko Mikadze.....Cory Foth

Mika Loladze.....Ted Hansen

## The Chambermaids

Asja.....	Willow June Bousu
Masha.....	Lisa Peterson
Makina.....	Amanda J.C.R. Schmid
Maro <i>the nursemaid</i> .....	Shana A. Heinricy
Simon Shashava <i>a palace guard</i> .....	Jon M. Rothman
Grusha Vashnadze <i>a kitchen maid</i> .....	Laura Wilhelm
Architects.....	David Holloway, Theron LaFountain
Dust Stained Rider.....	Megan Roth
Ironshirts.....	Kevin Heinz, John D. Skov, Matt Berg, Jared Nilsen
Corporal.....	Keith W. Wynecoop

## The Servants

Cook.....	Jodi Hatzenbeller
Groom.....	Todd Michael Hull
Suliko.....	Nicole Vyonne Moody
Suliko's Husband.....	Andy Josephson
Nina.....	Eleanor Ramson
Servants.....	Rehanna Eileen Zuelke, Laura Haug, Scott Noonan, Joshua Fahrer

## The Flight into the Northern Mountains

Old Peasant with the Milk.....	Andy Josephson
Corporal.....	Keith W. Wynecoop
Private "Blockhead".....	Matt Berg
Peasant Woman.....	Nicole Vyonne Moody
Peasant Husband.....	Scott Noonan
Merchants.....	David Holloway, Theron LaFountain, Shana A. Heinricy
Lavrenti Vashnadze.....	Ted Hansen
Aniko <i>sister-in-law</i> .....	Jodi Hatzenbeller
Sosso <i>a servant</i> .....	Lisa Peterson
Stableman.....	Joshua Fahrer
Grusha's mother-in-law.....	Kaya-Rebecca J. Sundberg
Jussup <i>her son</i> .....	Matt Berg
Brother Anatasius <i>a monk</i> .....	Keith W. Wynecoop

## Children

Boldest Boy.....	Jenny Sauer
Laughing Boy.....	Megan Roth
Crying Girl.....	Willow June Bousu
Ironshirts.....	Kevin Heinz, John D. Skov

## Fifteen Minute Intermission

**Setting: We return to Easter Sunday Morning  
The Story of the Judge**

A Refugee/The Grand Duke.....	Keith W. Wynecoop
Azduk <i>the village recorder</i> .....	Todd Michael Hull
Shauwa <i>a policeman</i> .....	Matt Berg
Ironshirts.....	Kevin Heinz, Jared Nilsen, John D. Skov
Invalid.....	Cory Foth
Doctor.....	Gabriel Ertsgaard
Limping Man.....	Josh Fahrer
Blackmailer.....	Jared Nilsen
Ludovica.....	Laura Haug
Innkeeper <i>Ludovica's father-in-law</i> .....	Scott Noonan
Stableman.....	John D. Skov
Poor Old Peasant Woman <i>Granny</i> .....	Eleanor Ramson
Irakli <i>her brother-in-law, a bandit</i> .....	Kevin Heinz
Farmers.....	David Holloway, Theron LaFountain, Shana A. Heinrich

**The Chalk Circle**

Cook.....	Jodi Hatzenbeller
Corporal.....	Keith W. Wynecoop

**Lawyers**

Illo Shuboladze.....	Cory Foth
Sandro Oboladze.....	Ted Hansen
A Very Old Married Couple.....	Andy Josephson, Nicole Vyonne Moody

*The Caucasian Chalk Circle* company has placed the question of goodness at the center of its exploration. We have lived out its ramifications in our daily lives; in our art, we hope to inspire you in the audience to consider the difference in a decision when you ask, **What is good for me? What is good?**

**PRODUCTION CREW**

Improv Coach and Stage Violence.....	Richard Olen Sommer II
Rehearsal Assistants.....	Ben Heffington, Brooke Hektner
Stage Manager.....	Karina Janovsky
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Amber Peoples
Composer.....	Brent Arran Lord
Light Board Operator.....	Tina Bunck
Master Electrician.....	Amber Peoples
House Manager.....	Eric Harrison
Usher Coordinator.....	Ben Heffington

## FROM THE DIRECTOR...

**An abandoned child. An ordinary girl. A roguish judge.** The action is a journey. The place and time do not confine the characters. The plot weaves two seemingly unrelated stories until Brecht combines them in the chalk circle test, to make his point about decent people caught in the injustices of a corrupt political system.

The chalk circle test is a story of ancient wisdom found in a 14<sup>th</sup> century Chinese play. It also has a biblical counterpart in King Solomon's sword test. In Brecht's version, the chalk circle is a test of motherhood as well as a model of practical socialist wisdom about how to settle disputes of ownership. Brecht's socio-political ideas aside, the tale of Grusha and her many trials, combined with the antics of the roguish Azdak, present us with an effective comment on much of the distressing nature of all society. It also focuses on selfish pursuits of wealth and power in which love, compassion, and basic human decencies seem far away.

The translator, Eric Bentley, said we are "transported to a world, for all its exotic externals, which is nothing other than the world we live in: our world, the world of Unreason, of Disorder, of Injustice."

Brecht used the stage **as stage**, and made no effort to conceal the machinery, making the audience aware that it was not watching an imitation of life, but a comment upon it in a theatre. As a contemporary audience, we instinctively understand framing of a narrative, juxtaposition in form and event, which have emerged from Brechtian theory. The prologue frames the play-within-a-play. Our production elements contrast elevated and primitive style and incorporate deliberate performance choices in the use of masks, puppets, and multiple and nontraditional casting.

The spectator is at once engaged in the actions of the characters, but still very aware of theatrical elements. Emotional involvement for the audience is not engineered, but grows genuinely out of the potency of Grusha's experience. This juxtaposition of reality and illusion engages and pushes us away, "we are to ask why and what does the play have to say about goodness, about rights of possession, about justice."

Helen Cermak  
February 1, 1998

## FOR YOUR COMFORT

Restrooms are located in the main lobby of the theatre. Photographs are not permitted by copyright laws. Noise in the theatre can be distracting; turn off beepers, cellular phones, and other devices. Please, no food or drink in the theatre. All campus buildings are smoke-free. Late seating will be done at appropriate times. Thank you.

## CONCORDIA THEATRE PROFESSIONAL AND STUDENT STAFF

Managing Director of Theatre.....	Jim Cermak
Artistic Director of Theatre.....	Helen Cermak
Costume Designer.....	Eddy Barrows
Technical Director.....	Chad Knutson
Lighting Designer.....	Bryan Duncan
Administrative Ass't./Audience Development.....	Melanie Fieldseth
Box Office Mgr./Audience Development.....	Eric Harrison
Bookkeeper/Audience Development.....	Kevin Heinz
Audience Development.....	Matt Quam, Jodi Hatzenbeller
Technical Assistants.....	Todd Michael Hull, Tina Bunk, Nicole Yvonne Moody, John D. Skov
Technical/Sound Assistant.....	Brent Arran Lord
Technical/Lighting Assistant.....	Amber Peoples
Technical/Props Assistant.....	Jira Albers
Costume Shop Manager.....	Carin Bratlie
Costume Assistants.....	Kaya-Rebecca Sundberg, Andy Nelson Ritchy McFadden, Sarah Carlson
Hair/Make-Up Designer.....	Rachael Marshall
Hair/Make-Up Assistant.....	Nicolle Bettcher
Maintenance Team.....	Randele Albers, Karina Janovsky, Amy Parvey, Willow Bousu

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Lell's English 222 Class  
Joan Anderl  
SCTA 122 Class

Memorial Auditorium Staff  
Donna Podratz  
Principia Faculty



A long-time patron of Concordia Theatre.