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CAP AND DAGGER



presents

Peter Weiss' THE PERSECUTION AND ASSASSINATION O JEAN-PAUL MARAT AS PERFORMED BY THE INMATES OF THE ASYLUM OF CHARENTON UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MARQUIS DE SADE

> English version by Geoffrey Skelton Verse adaptation by Adrian Mitchell

Directed by HARVEY M. POWERS

Musical Direction by RUDOLPH PALMER

Set Designed by JAMES D. LYON, JR.

Lighting Designed by ROGER GEER

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Lewisburg, Pennsylvania

October 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 1971

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Director's Notes

We began by trying to translate the historical facts into some kind of theatrical reality. The year in Weiss' play is 1808: Marat and most of the other characters bearing names are dead, and the Terror of the Revolution has given way to the complacency of the Empire under Napoleon. In 1808 the Marquis de Sade was indeed an inmate in the Charenton Asylum, and M. Coulmier was indeed permitting him to write and stage "amateur theatricals." As a matter of historical fact, de Sade did *not* write a play about Marat. Immediately after Marat's assassination in 1793, de Sade wrote a highly emotional speech in praise of Marat, but that was a political ploy.

Other bits of history found their way into our production. For example, for the flagellation scene, we looked to the incident in de Sade's life in which a young girl refused to whip him with a cat-o'-nine-tails until she had warmed up, so to speak, with a broom.

This, then, is the immediate theatrical reality which we tried to keep in sight. A certain evening in 1808—de Sade alive and more or less well in Coulmier's prison asylum—the presentation of a play about Marat, Corday, and others, with inmates playing the roles—the play written by de Sade who has also written himself into it. As we worked on the play, however, the edges of our immediate reality began to blur.

This began to happen when our actors playing inmates (who, in turn, are actors playing other roles) asked themselves, "What is it to be mad?" Answer: it is to have our perceptions short-circuited in some way—for example, to see what is not there, or to see what *is* there as something else. And then we said, "How like the process of acting or, for that matter, the experience of watching a play!"

Let's look at it from your point of view. During much of the time you are watching a play you remain conscious of actors pretending to be people who don't really exist. But, if the play is well done, there are moments when this consciousness fades and you are caught up, you identify, you suspend your disbelief, you surrender to another "reality." Call it what you will, your perceptions are short-circuited, at least momentarily. In these moments of pleasant madness your eyes, ears, breathing, and heartbeat are involved with some-

thing which your reason could tell you is not "really" there.

The theatrical experience for the actor is similar to yours; indeed his moments are often responsible for your moments. During these moments, he begins to lose sight of the reality of "putting on a play" and his perceptions are short-circuited in some way. He begins to see, hear, and feel what is there as "really something else."

It is this experience which Weiss has built into the substance of his play. M. Coulmier's patients, already disoriented (by "normal" standards), are the ideal actors to re-live the Terror of 1793. The inmates playing Marat and Corday, already experiencing a "reality" that is not ours, are readier to put aside the fact that they are not Marat and Corday. Put it another way: Weiss makes it necessary for the actor who plays the inmate who has been chosen to play Marat to go repeatedly beyond the inmate-actor and seek a closer identification with the character of Marat himself. You, then, experience a slippery set of "realities"—a sliding back and forth between actors playing parts, inmates as actors, and specific identities. The latter (Marat, Corday, etc.) are dislocated by the situation in which they find themselves.

There are of course many ways to approach this remarkable play. Here we are merely suggesting that the play forces us to move from one level of theatrical reality to another, and that the nature of this movement is central to the experience of theatrical performance. In MARAT/SADE, Weiss carries this movement through unexpected cycles.

H. M. P.

CAST

Sade	Jim McShane
Coulmier	Doug Melrose
Marat	Bob Colgan
Simonne	Terry Ellis 🛹
Corday	Nancy Cooper
	George Hatoza
Roux	Marc Powers /
Herald	Richard Humphrey
Cucurucu	Stan Page
Polpoch	Gary Koutnik
Kokol	Ed Denny
Rossignol	Nancy Donahay
Coulmier's Wife	Wendy Wenk
Coulmier's Daughter	Nancy Keating
	Marc Posner, Jeff Reed, John Sprout, Howard Walsh
	Anne Rogers, Hely Schwalm, Anne Smith
Male Nurses	
Sisters	

ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTOR	Rudolph Palmer
FLUTE	of an arrange and a street the set of the se
GUITAR	Harold Black
TRUMPET	
TUBA	Frank Griffith
ORGAN	
PERCUSSION	Fred Strauss

Setting: The Asylum of Charenton Time: July 13, 1808

There will be one brief intermission.

The Wind in the Willows

A children's play, The Wind in the Willows, by Kenneth Grahame, will be presented Saturday, November 6, at 2:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. in Coleman Theatre. Admission is one dollar; children 12 and under will be admitted without charge. Performances will also be held on November 4 and 5 for the elementary children of the Lewisburg Area Schools. We wish to acknowledge the support and cooperation of the Lewisburg PTA in this project.

STAGE MANAGER	Janet Cunningham
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Jack Blyskal
PRODUCTION SECRETARY	Kris McGeoy
CONSTRUCTION	Jim Reed
Barb Lombardo, Nancy Kedersha, Ronald Hut Charles Manfred, Donna Wiley, Aldo Pitt, Rich Eileen Angle, Sue Firmstone, Greg Prowant, Berrie, Jack Hoadley, Janet Yeisley, Jack Gott	obard, Marc Powers, Dave Thompson, hard Ehlers, Geoff Blood, Victor Brok, Marc Ferguson, Mike Kalanty, Jim schalk, Carol Bethards, Jeff Hickman.
PAINTING	Martha Weitzel, Bruce McGlauflin
Cheryl Cizewski, Mickey Lupichuck, Beverly Heather Entrekin, Denise Tomlinson, Linda (Guigan, Anne Hungerford, Andrea Tilbian, J	Clark, Eileen Angle, Bill McGowan, Chirico, Debby Wilkinson, Joyce Mc-
LIGHTS	Bob Drake
LIGHTS Pam Martindell, Sue Sprinkle, Tom Frielle, Geer, Mickey Lupichuck.	Marc Ferguson, Karen Eble, Roger
PROPERTIES	Marcia Taylor
Jackie Morris, Joanne Martin, Denise Tomlir	ason, David Mowery.
MAKE-UP	Marianne Long
Nancy Kedersha, Sue Sprinkle, Nanci Jones, Mary Sanborn, Wendy Saville, Holly Fitzwat	
COSTUMES	
Debbie Ahlstedt, Barbara Lombardo, Susan Jeanne Mallis, Diane Snupik, Joyce McGuig McKittrick, Mary Raso.	
PUBLICITY	Cina Smith
Roger Geer, Ron Hornbeck, Barbara Lewis, Yeisley.	
	ARELEN GULYONS /
POSTERS Carol Bethards, Nancy Kedersha, Janet Yeisley Palmer.	, Doug Grove, Chris Francello, Rudy
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The Production Staff

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OUR 1971 - 1972 SEASON OCTOBER 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, at 8:30 MARAT/SADE directed by Harvey M. Powers DECEMBER 3, 4, 9, 10, at 8:30 and DECEMBER 4, at 2:00 A FLEA IN HER EAR directed by Ronald Hornbeck MARCH 2, 3, 4, 9, 11, at 8:30 and MARCH 4, at 2:00 JOE EGG directed by Edward Denny APRIL 27, 28, 29, at 8:30; MAY 5, 6, at 8:00 and APRIL 29, at 2:00 MAN OF LA MANCHA directed by Harvey M. Powers -----Watch for Listings of Cocktail Theatre Productions-***** The Heimbach Lumber **Union National Bank** Headquarters for _OF_ Lumber & Building LEWISBURG Supplies Lewisburg, Pennsylvania 528 St. Louis Street 1865 - 1971~~~~~ FOCHT PRINTING COMPANY 231 MARKET STREET, LEWISBURG COMPLETE LETTERPRESS AND OFFSET PRINTING *****



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STAFF FOR THE UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Director	
Designer and Technical Director	James D. Lyon, Jr.
Technical Assistants	Mike Wise
Costumes	Chris Francello
Lighting	Roger Geer
Construction	Jeff Hickman
	Douglas Grove
General	Susan Suhr, Millard Nachtwey









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