11-1993

Mother Courage and Her Children, November 18-20, 1993

Theatre Arts Discipline

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bertolt brecht's

Mother Courage and her Children

proscenium theatre
november 18, 19 & 20, 1993
Bertolt Brecht's
Mother Courage and Her Children

Directed by Michael A. Shiller
Set, lighting and costume design by Tap R. Payne

The story of Mother Courage:
Mother Courage is in the midst of a war, pulling her wagon of supplies from one camp to another, desperately seeking to survive on the battlefields that surround her. She doesn't know or care which side in the war is justified; she only knows that as long as the war continues she will be able to eke out a living selling stolen and recovered goods to the soldiers. To her, War is a Business Proposition. She has little use for empty words like "truth" or "valor" or "courage"; to her, the poor have the only courage because they get up in the morning and put up with rulers and popes. However, Mother Courage will eventually lose all three of her children: one for refusing to reveal the location of a cashbox entrusted to his care, one for looting even though he was a hero and the third for warning a town of an approaching army. Even though she tried to teach them to look out only for themselves, they each succumbed to the temptation to regard values as more important than personal survival. When the play ends, Mother Courage is dragging her wagon by herself, saying, "I must get on with business."

There will be one ten-minute intermission.

There is no food, beverages, smoking or the use of cameras allowed in the theatre. Thank you.

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.
the actors and the characters they play
nicole paulsen..........................anna fierling, mother courage
emily clark...................................her daughter, kattrin
richard lockwood..........................her son, eilif
jay asfeld ......................................her son, swiss cheese
jennifer jacobitz..........................the recruiting officer, soldier
michael king....................................the sergeant, soldier, peasant
brent christopher roske..........................the cook
sarah ross....................................the swiss commander, soldier
daniel becker..............................the chaplain
zach anderson..............................the ordnance officer, soldier, young man
emmaline zoe hilty..........................yvette pottier
teng xiong....................................soldier, man in tuxedo, peasant
donovan stohlbarg..........................man with bandage, young peasant
andi bullinger..............................another sergeant, old woman
nate metcalf..................................old colonel, soldier, theatre techie
karen butak....................................the clerk, soldier
rachel smoka..............................soldier, beautiful singer
kimberly anderson......................lieutenant, soldier, beautiful singer
cherton underwood.............................peasant, beautiful singer
sheila moon..............................soldier, beautiful singer
erin schloo.................................peasant, soldier, beautiful singer
ren miraglio.................................peasant, soldier, old woman
matt dickinson..............................soldier
and nancy galatowitsch..................the outside brechtian voice, soldier

the music
"song of mother courage" original music by nate metcalf
"the wise woman and the soldier" original music by richard
lockwood and brent roske. guitar
accompaniment by brent roske
"onward christian soldiers" adapted by kimberly anderson,
sheila moon, erin schloo, rachel
smoka and cherton underwood
"the fraternization song" original music by emmaline hilty
"luther's hymn" original music by brent roske
"song of the hours" and cherton underwood
"song of the great capitulation" original music and guitar
accompaniment by brent roske
"the singing soldier" original music by sheila moon
"the song of the three great men" original music by brent roske
"the song of shelter" original music by cherton
underwood
mother courage's "lullaby" original music by nate metcalf
the performance and technical team

assitant director/stage manger..........................jen brooks
assistant director/dramaturg..........................nancy galatowitsch
dramaturg...............................................teri burtes
assistant stage manager...............................kristen adams
technical director.......................................tap r. payne
scene shop supervisor.................................david microberts
lighting board operator...............................andy kedl
slide coordinator.......................................joel barton
follow spot operators..................................cortney collins
properties designer......................................nate metcalf
properties crew........................................heidi shanklin
sound board operators...............................sandy koehne
theatre shop staff......................................devon leppink

publicity/house manager...............................eric m. bauer
University of Minnesota, Morris
Division of the Humanities
Umm Theatre
Invites you to join the cast and crew after the performance
Thursday, November 18, 1993 for a production discussion

Umm Theatre invites you
On Friday, November 19, 1993
For a post performance symposium
On Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children*
Text and context: "From the Thirty-Years War to Post Cold-War Europe"

Featuring:
Edith Borchardt, German, Umm
James Gremmels, English, Umm
Jack Imholte, History, Umm
To be moderated by:
Dwight Purdy, English, Umm

Umm Theatre wishes to acknowledge the support and assistance of
The Sunwood Inn of Morris
The Assumption Catholic Church
Umm Plant Services
The City of Browns Valley, South Dakota
Stevens County Ambulance
Mildred Olson
Ray Sibul
Pieranna Garavaso
Edith Borchardt
Piotr Schlenk
Jean Richards
Kenneth Hodgson
John Imholte
Sandra Hillman
Jennifer Onofrio

Upcoming Umm Theatre Productions
Sam Shepard's *Suicide in B-Flat*
Shimizu Kunio's *The Sands of Youth, How Quickly* and *The Dressing Room*
bertolt brecht's *mother courage and her children*

mutter courage und ihre kinder (mother courage and her children) written in 1939 as a chronicle of the thirty year's war, opened in zurich on april 19, 1941. brecht insisted that mother courage herself was a negative character, a profiteer. those who live by war must pay war its due and so mother courage loses her three children, sacrificing them to commercial instinct, yet, she fails to learn from the experience.

*mother courage and the thirty-year's war (1618-1648)*

the thirty year's war itself was a series of wars fought by several european countries, including germany, sweden, poland, russia and spain. it began in 1618, when king ferdinand ii imposed strict catholic principles on the country, inciting the protestant nobility to rebel. war spread through europe fueled by political ambitions and religious differences. characteristic of the thirty year's war was the plundering of towns and villages, known as the "wolf strategy," by mercenary armies. the war ended in 1648, with the treaty of westphalia.

*verfremdungseffekt*

in his epic theatre, brecht sought to overcome the limitations of the "theatre of illusion." he demanded a theatre of critical thoughtfulness. in his view, the audience should not be made to feel emotions, they should be made to *think*. to do so, the audience must be discouraged from losing their critical detachment by identification with one or more of the characters and so maintain a separate existence. this process is known as alienation or the v-effect. brechtian theatre sought alienation (verfremdungseffekt) of the actor from the character, the actor from the audience and the character from the audience. brecht believed that the epic theatre which aimed at awakening the observer's critical faculty would serve as an instrument of social change.