

A SELF PORTRAIT

I, Bertolt Brecht, come from the black forest.
My mother carried me to town as I lay
In her womb. And the cold of the forest
Shall stay with me until my dying day.

I feel at home in asphalt-cities now
And well-supplied with each last sacrament:
Newspaper. Brandy. And tobacco.
Mistrustful, lazy, and when all is said, content.

I'm friendly to people. And I wear
A bowler-hat as other people do.
I say, "They're animals with rather special smells."
I also say: "It doesn't matter. I smell too."

Sometimes I fill my empty rocking-chairs with women.
I sit among them in the morning for awhile
And contemplate them casually, saying:
"I am the kind of man on whom you can't rely."

I gather some men around me toward evening
And we address each other as "gentlemen."
They put their feet up on my table, saying:
"Things will improve for us." I don't ask when.

In the early grey of dawn the pines are pissing dew.
Their parasitic birds begin to scream.
In the city I drink up and throw my cigar-stub away,
And lay me down to some unhappy dream.

We have been living, a light-weight generation
In houses thought to be built indestructibly.
(We built the tall towers of Manhattan Island
And the thin antennae that span the Atlantic Sea.)

Nothing will be left of these cities but the wind blowing
through them.

Blessed be the house where the guests eat everything.
We know our residence is temporary here
And what comes after us is not worth mentioning.

And when the earthquakes come, I hope I won't be bitter.
And won't let my cigar go out in gloom.
I, Bertolt Brecht, displaced in asphalt-cities,
Brought from the black forest, inside my mother's womb.

B R E C H T

ON

Brecht



THE CAST

BRECHT ON BRECHT

A collage from the works of Bertolt Brecht with tapes from
the House Un-American Activities Committee

Compiled by
GEORGE TABORI

Directed by
KLAUS STRASSMANN

Designed by
BRIAN H. JACKSON

Music Directed by
SHERILYN FRITZ

Lighting Designed by
IAN PRATT

with

ROMA HEARN*
CHRISTINE WILLES*
DERMOT HENNELLY*
MATTHEW WALKER*
TRISH BARCLAY
LAUREL BRYSON
TODD DUCKWORTH
IAN FORSYTH
JEFF SMYTH

MUSICIANS

JOE MARTIN..... Guitar
MICHAEL McKINLEY..... Keyboards
PAUL MIZGALA..... Percussion
DEREK NYBERG..... Electric Bass

**Appearing by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association*

B.B. ON B.B.

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In her womb. And the cold of the forest
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CHANGING WHEELS

I sit by the roadside
Watching the driver changing wheels.
I don't like the place I'm coming from.
I don't like the place I'm going to.
So why am I watching the driver changing wheels
With such impatience?

INSCRIPTION ON A CHINA LION

"The bad are afraid of your claws.
The good are enjoying your grace."
I wish I could hear
Such praise
About my verse.

ENVOI

That is all and it is not enough
Yet it may tell you I am still alive
As a man who takes a brick along
To show the world what his house was like.

*A list of the poems read in this program is available
in the lobby during intermission.*

BERTOLT BRECHT

- 1898 Bertolt Brecht born in Augsburg (Germany); son of wealthy businessman;
- 1904 Enters school of Evangelical Franciscans;
- 1915 Pacifist essay causes disciplinary action;
- 1918 Recruited into army; first play BAAL.
- 1919 Assassination of socialist leaders, among them Rosa Luxemburg; growing sympathy for leftist causes; work as journalist, balladeer; first publications (drama, poetry, prose);
- 1922 series of successful productions; establishes himself as leading playwright of German language; various literary prizes;
- 1923 Adolf Hitler stages abortive coup d'etat; Brecht on black list of right-wing groups;
- 1924 Hitler writes "Mein Kampf"; Brecht begins systematic study of Marxism; writes A MAN'S A MAN;
- 1929 Stock-market crash; Brecht's THREE PENNY OPERA brings him international recognition; translation of his works into major languages;

A CHRONOLOGY

- 1933 Adolf Hitler comes to power; Brecht's plays banned; his books publicly burned; charged with high treason and stripped of his passport; escapes from Germany, exile in Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark;
- 1939 Outbreak of World War II; MOTHER COURAGE;
- 1941 Germany declares war on U.S. Brecht settles in Hollywood; works on films and GALILEO; friendship with Aldous Huxley, W.H. Auden, Christopher Isherwood; above all with Charlie Chaplin;
- 1947 Called before Un-American Activities Committee; decides to leave U.S.; temporary stay in Switzerland;
- 1949 Secures Austrian passport; returns to Germany at the invitation of communist government; settles in East Berlin; founds "Berliner Ensemble";
- 1953 Uprising in communist Germany; Brecht contemplates emigrating to China;
- 1956 Uprising in communist Hungary; Brecht dies.

OTHERS ON B.B.

"... the strongest, the most influential and most radical theatre man of our time. No one seriously concerned with the theatre can by-pass Brecht. He is the key figure of our time, and all the theatre work today starts or returns to his statements and achievements."

Peter Brook

"The one single play of our age that will endure? Oh, I think there can be very little doubt: Brecht's MOTHER COURAGE."

Tennessee Williams

"Brecht: reserved, yet observant, a refugee who has left innumerable stations, too shy for a man of the world, too experienced for a scholar, too knowing not to be anxious... a passer-by of our time, a man called Brecht, a scientist, a poet without incense."

Max Frisch

"Brecht was of course a Marxist, but to say that is not quite sufficient. At the bottom of his work there lies a certain sort of Marxist ideology, which died with Brecht."

Jean-Paul Sartre

THE PRODUCTION

Technical Director and
Production Stage Manager **IAN PRATT**

Properties **SHERRY DARCUS**

Costume Supervisor **ROSEMARIE HESELTON**

Set Construction **BOB EBERLE**
JOHN HENRICKSON

Lighting Execution **DON GRIFFITHS**

Assistants to the Director **MARIETTA KOZAK**
JOE MARTIN

Stage Manager **WENDY LEWIS**

Sound **STUDENTS OF THEATRE 350**

Wardrobe Mistress **PEARL BELLESEN**

Stage Crew **STUDENTS OF THEATRE 350**

House Manager **MARIETTA KOZAK**

Box Office **CAROL FISHER**
ROSE ANN JANZEN
PAM JONES
ABDUL MERALI

Business Manager **MARJORIE FORDHAM**

Production **NORMAN YOUNG**

BRECHT ON BRECHT

is produced by special arrangement with
SAMUEL FRENCH (CANADA) LTD.

COMING EVENTS

THE RIVALS

a comedy by

Richard Brinsley Sheridan

Directed by

John Brockington

March 4 - 14