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Sarcophagus

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Taylor Theatre

presents

Vladimir Gubaryev's

Sarcophagus

October 24-26, 30-November 2, 1991
Little Theatre
Taylor University
From the *Sarcophagus* Preface

On April 26, 1986, Chernobyl exploded onto the world scene. Chernobyl was the site of the world's most serious nuclear accident, for in a few hours its reactors had released a cloud of radioactivity that encircled the globe and affected the lives of millions of people.

Suddenly mothers in the United States--10,000 miles from the Soviet Union--wondered if it was safe to give fresh vegetables to their children. People were afraid to travel to Europe after the Chernobyl accident; some remain so. In Europe the impact was even more dramatic. And in the Soviet Union, more than 100,000 people were evacuated from their homes, and most will never return. Polish parents gave their children iodine tablets. Italians could not eat fresh fruit for several months. Laplanders destroyed their contaminated reindeer, forever changing a major part of their 1,000-year-old culture. Simply put, this is because a nuclear accident anywhere is a nuclear accident everywhere.

In my opinion, most people--including many scientists, politicians, and military strategists--have little real understanding of the potential consequences of even a limited nuclear exchange. First, the immediate loss of life. Next, contamination of large areas of the planet for hundreds of years and the disruption of the world economy and societal structure as we now know them. Other long-term consequences more difficult to predict accurately include destruction of the earth's protective ozone layer and nuclear winter.

Vladimir Gubaryev has written an interesting play about the Chernobyl accident. It is titled *Sarcophagus*, named for the 300,000-ton concrete-and-steel structure that enshrouds the reactor core. The word "sarcophagus" recalls ancient mumified Egyptian monarchs--silent, still, nonbreathing. But what of the modern sarcophagus? In some ways, the implications of Chernobyl are too great, too disturbing, to be contemplated voluntarily. Gubaryev humanizes them. He dramatizes the medical activities that immediately followed the accident, events in which my Soviet colleagues and I played active roles.

After reading or viewing this play, many people will find themselves thinking about the dangers of nuclear energy. But what conclusions should be drawn? Clearly, technologies are not inherently good or evil; society determines their role. And so it is with nuclear energy. Radiation is used successfully to cure children suffering from cancer, but it is also used to make nuclear weapons that can end life. We, not nuclear energy, will determine whether that energy will be used for good or for evil. In an earlier time, I could have added, "and history will record the decision." But we have moved to a new era; if we misuse nuclear energy, there will be no history.

Robert Peter Gale, M.D., PhD  
University of California, Los Angeles  
and Armand Hammer Center for Advanced Studies  
in Nuclear Energy and Health

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*SARCOPHAGUS*

Directed and Designed by Dr. Oliver Hubbard

THE CAST

*(in order of appearance)*

Bessmertny, alias Kroliek .......... Jason Francis  
Anna Petrovna .................. Becky Madsen  
Vera ................................ Casiie Boyd  
Nadezhda .......................... Tricia Cable  
Lyubov ............................. Amy Phillips  
Maria Invanovna Sergeyev, Karen Stafford  
Driver .............................. Jason Welch  
General ............................ Don Hoesel  
Lydia Stepanovna Ptitsyna, Becky Peterson  
Investigator ......................... *Tracy Tobey  
Cyclist ................................ Rich Rader  
Klava .................................. Sandy Walker  
Fireman .............................. Mark Rozeboom  
Geiger-Counter Operator ........... Tim Drake  
Control-Room Operative ............. Bruce Fouse  
Physicist ............................ Amy Beres  
Power Station Director ............. Ken Reppart  
Kyle ................................. *Dan Kett  
Orderlies ........................... Danielle Beauchaine  
Joel Keiser, Wendy Loney, Paul Stockdale

*The play takes place in the Institute of Radiation Safety, near Moscow, immediately following the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster, April 1986*

*There will be a ten-minute intermission between acts*

THE MUSIC HEARD THIS EVENING

*is from Tchaikovsky's SYMPHONY No. 6 in B MINOR, Op. 74 ("Pathetique")*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our special thanks to A. A. Rents, the Taylor Health Center, Dr. Stephen Hoffmann and Dr. Alan Winquist for their help with this show.

A Communication Arts Department Production

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OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

An Original Play by Thom Verratti

February 1992

As a courtesy to the actors, please do not use cameras during the performance
PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant to the Director..................Holly Gaff
Technical Director..................Dr. Oliver Hubbard
Set Crew.................................JASON WELCH
Stacy Ellis
Bruce Fouse
Jason Francis
Becky Peterson
Sandy Walker
Light Crew...............................*DAN KETT
Bill Cuttino
Tim Dixon
Karen Ziegler
Audio Technician......................ILAN KIBBEY
Dialect Consultant...................Sandy Walker
Make-up Crew............................DAWN RUSSO
Angelia Baldwin
Darlen Howard
Debbie Kinch
Abby Nelson
Julia Ruth
Jason Welch
Light Crew...............................DAN KETT
Bill Cuttino
Tim Dixon
Karen Ziegler
Audio Technician......................ILAN KIBBEY
Dialect Consultant...................Sandy Walker
Make-up Crew............................DAWN RUSSO
Angelia Baldwin
Darlen Howard
Debbie Kinch
Abby Nelson
Julia Ruth
Jason Welch
Properties..............................TRICIA CABLE
ELLEN CHRISTENSEN
Kim Sanford
Spencer Smith
*Kurt Stout
Roxanne Rasmussen
Costumes...............................DAWN BARTOW
Becky Bartow
Laura Bernd
Julie Fredeen
April Hunter
Valerie Nielsen
Genevieve Seefeldt
House........................................CHARITY SMITH
Lisa Angerer
Tracey Doude
Agnes McLane
Pam Mulder
Heather Myers
Hal Paddock
Raquel Prentice
Program Cover Design..................Carla White

*Denotes Alpha Psi Omega Membership