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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 entombs the reactor core. The word "sarcophagus" recalls ancient mummified 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

SARCOPHAGUS

Directed and Designed by Dr. Oliver Hubbard

THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

Bessmertny, alias Krolik. Jason Francis
Anna Petrovna. Becky Madsen
Vera. Cassie 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 Stocksdaile

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 Carol Bulten
Debbie Kinch Jennifer Davis
Abby Nelson Alesa Galvin
Julia Ruth Julianna Gurley
Jason Welch Jena Habegger

Properties.TRICIA CABLE
ELLEN CHRISTENSEN
Shelly Dudelston
Kim Sanford Aimee Hillman
Spencer Smith Linda Locher
*Kurt Stout Roxanne Rasmussen

Costumes.DAWN BARTOW
Becky Bartow
Laura Bernd
Julie Fredeen
April Hunter
Valerie Nielsen
Genevieve Seefeldt

House.CHARITY SMTIH
Lisa Angerer
Tracey Doude Angie Baldwin
Agnes McLane Janelle Becker
Pam Mulder Shannon Cogburn
Heather Myers Tina Cornett
Hal Paddock Jennifer Davis
Raquel Prentice Tim Dixon

Program Cover Design.Carla White

*Denotes Alpha Psi Omega Membership