

**THE GUNN THEATRE DEPARTMENT PROUDLY PRESENTS**

**BERTOLT BRECHT'S**

# **THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE**



**OPENING NIGHT LECTURE AND RECEPTION ON THURSDAY, NOV. 9 AT 7 PM**

**TICKETS \$15 ADULTS / \$10 STUDENTS**

**OTHER EVENING PERFORMANCES: NOV. 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 AT 8 PM, TICKETS \$7**

**MATINEE NOV. 15 AT 3:30 PM, TICKETS \$3**

**ALL PERFORMANCES ARE IN THE STUDIO THEATRE, GUNN HIGH SCHOOL,**

**780 ARASTRADERO RD, PALO ALTO, PHONE 351-8253**

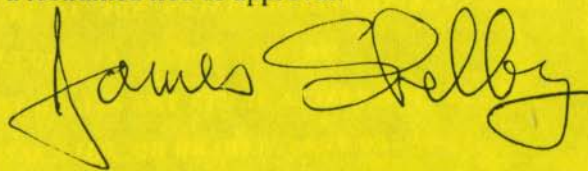
Welcome and congratulations...

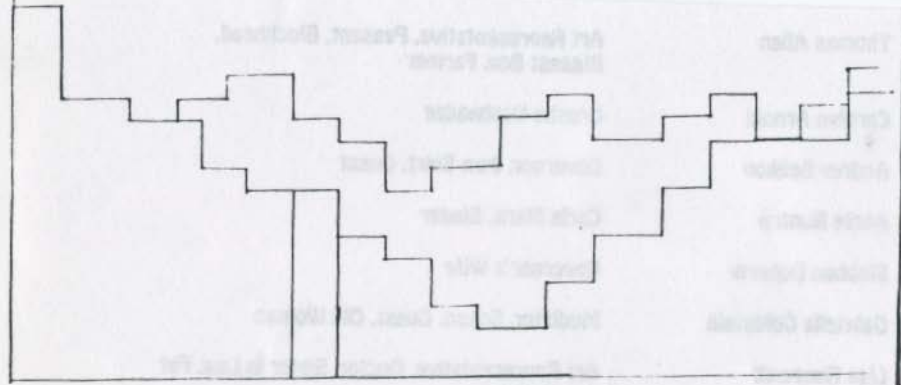
This is Gunn Theatre's very first foray into the world of Brecht, and there are plenty of reasons we haven't gone here before... First, it's hard: Bertolt Brecht's style of Epic Theatre is not instinctual; it keeps performers, designers, directors, and finally the audience itself on its intellectual toes throughout the process. It can also veer towards the didactic, and "Theatre With a Message" can get pretty tough going for all concerned.

The good news about Brecht is how fun it can be to immerse into the world of the completely theatrical. Brecht's "alienation effect" would have the audience stay completely aware that *this is a play*, rather than get swept up (and, he would warn, anesthetized by) a sentimental or stirring story or character. So he kept things obviously in the context of a piece of theatre, using very theatrical means. In this production watch for a play within a play, a couple of narrators, characters who step out of the action to comment on it, songs which pop up out of nowhere to keep the audience in an analytical state of mind, and other obvious techniques which endeavor to let the audience peek behind the mask of conventional theatre. Watch for these and more fun Brecht trademarks, and fill out the quiz on the back of the program for the chance to win a free copy of "Das Kapital."

*The Caucasian Chalk Circle* was written in 1944, when Brecht, exiled from Nazi Germany, was living in California. Hoping for a quick and successful end to WWII, this play, more than any of his darker earlier works, betrays a suspicious optimism and faith in an actual hopeful future. The play is really two stories, first about Grusha, a young peasant woman who protects an infant prince abandoned by his selfish mother in the chaos of escaping a city in revolt. After intermission, the story changes gears and we follow the tale of Azdak, the drunken and corrupt judge who will ultimately decide who shall claim the child. Brecht's exploration of ownership is an extraordinary defense of the notion that the one who can best use, or cultivate, or benefit from a thing is the rightful owner.

The prologue, originally a Marxist dispute over who shall take charge of a fertile valley, has been vigorously rewritten by co-student director David Feinstein and deals with a valley more familiar to us all. If we can indeed walk out of the theatre not only dazzled by grand emotions, but having thought a little about real issues which we face right here in our own town, even the difficult Mr. Brecht might give a restrained nod of approval.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Selby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.



## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

<b>Director</b>	<b>James Shelby</b>
<b>Student Directors</b>	<b>David Feinstein Joseph Kerckhoff</b>
<b>Prologue Adapted By</b>	<b>David Feinstein</b>
<b>Music Composed By</b>	<b>Annie Buntin Craig Piaget Harvey Williams</b>
<b>Stage Manager</b>	<b>Silia James</b>
<b>Set Design</b>	<b>Emily Rasmussen</b>
<b>Light Designer</b>	<b>Sarah Marquess</b>
<b>Costume Design</b>	<b>Arielle Bivas Lauren Sachs</b>
<b>Master Carpenters</b>	<b>Silia James Daniel Moberly</b>
<b>Head Painter</b>	<b>Liza Petrova</b>

**There will be one 10 minute intermission.  
Please no food, flash photography, or cellular  
phones in the studio theatre.**

Thomas Allen	Art Representative, Peasant, Blockhead, Biggest Boy, Farmer
Carolyn Arnold	Grusha Vashnadze
Andrey Belikov	Governor, Iron Shirt, Guest
Annie Bunten	Carla Marx, Singer
Siobhan Doherty	Governor's Wife
Gabriella Goldstein	Mediator, Sosso, Guest, Old Woman
Lisa Hanawalt	Art Representative, Doctor, Sister in Law, Fat Boy, Lawyer
Carly Helsaple	Council Member, Messenger, Old Woman, Peasant Woman, Lawyer
Blake Holland	Corporal
Srishti Jain	Bailiff, Servant, Peasant, St. Banditus
Avi Katz	Teacher, Adjuvant, Old Man, Dying Peasant
Erik Klingman	Art Representative, Lavrenti Vashnadze, Michael, Fat Prince
Peter Kriss	Soldier, Peasant, Iron Shirt
Belin Liu	Peasant, Soldier, Mother in Law, Shawa
Caitlyn Louchard	Business Representative, Doctor, Guest, Little Girl
Daniel Moyer	Man, Guest, Blackmailer
Audra Nothoff	Servant, Maro, Woman, Inkeeper, Cook
Christina Petersen	Art Representative, Peasant, Fat Woman, Merchant Woman, Ludovica
Craig Piaget	Singer
Chris Poole	Simon Shashava
Neil Satterland	Businessman, Doctor, Architect, Merchant, Drunken Peasant, Iron Shirt
Elise Sbarbori	Azdak
Brian Stempian	Artist, Peasant, Old Man, Soldier, Monk, Invalid, Grand Duke, Old Man
Harvey Williams	Guitarist

## BACKSTAGE CREW

Construction and Painting	Sarah Anderson, Noy Birger, Nick Dulin, Yasha Kiselev, Sarah Marquess, Jan Moss, Emily Rasmussen, Alfred Rudolph, Will Schroeber, Max Taylor, Dina Tuck
Master Electrician	Sarah Marquess
Assistant Stage Manager	Diana Jang
Properties	Jessie Mathiason
Costumes	Caroline Damon, Shannon Jacklin, Chelsea Jennings, Lorraine Pfaender
Light Board Operator	Sarah Marquess
Light Brigade	Silja James
Publicity	Emika Abe, Elie Berkowitz
House Managers	Rebecca Blitz, Negar Nasoohi
Poster Design	Lisa Hanawalt
Program	Negar Nasoohi

## PUPPETEERS

Srishti Jain

Eric Klingman

Christina Petersen

## SPECIAL THANKS

Yuriko Doi  
Mr. Tim Farrell  
Beth Sherman  
Jani Greving  
Dave Jones  
Penny Katz  
Jennifer Liu  
Gloria Poole  
Marcie Mayer  
Irene Tienda-Rumbaut  
Jane Kriss  
Rick Allen  
Ric Louchard  
Graciela Spivak  
Marilyn Holland  
Natalie Bivas  
Cheryl Besden  
Cherry Tuck  
Diana Beers  
Kay Canrinus  
Susan Willis  
Lea Feinstein and her friend Candace  
Tatiana Ayrapetov

And our Patron Saint of the Theatre  
Suzie Brown

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

**GILBERT AND SULLIVAN'S "THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE"!  
MARCH 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 2001**

**STUDENT DIRECTED ONE-ACTS:  
MAY 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 2001**

