

The Brigham Young University Department of Theatre and Cinematic Arts Presents

JOURNEY TO GOLGOTHA

The Premier Production

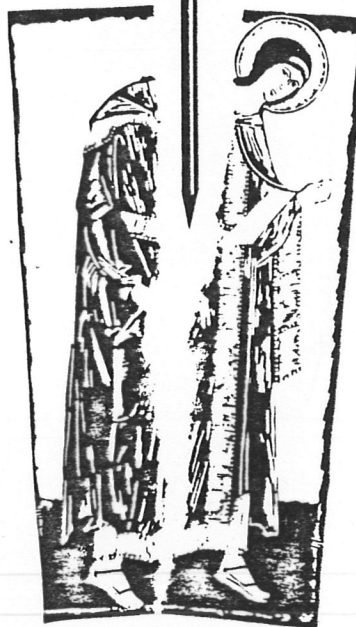
of

JOURNEY TO GOLGOTHA

a new play

By Thomas F. Rogers

directed by Charles Metten



PROGRAM NOTE

On January 1, 1973, a Russian defector, SERGEJ KOURDAKOV, was murdered in the foothills of Los Angeles by agents of the KGB--ostensibly a suicide. He was twenty two. In the USSR he'd been recruited to terrorize Christians. Conscience-struck by his victims' courageous suffering, he joined the Soviet navy and jumped ship off the Canadian coast. While seeking asylum he became a Christian convert and, despite ongoing threats against his life, frequently addressed large gatherings of young Americans, telling them his story. The premiere performances of Journey To Golgotha are dedicated to his memory.

THOMAS F. ROGERS, PLAYWRIGHT

by Paula Eckern and Robert Nelson

Playwright Thomas F. Rogers, formerly Chairman of the Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Director of the Honors Program, is currently professor of Asian and Slavic Languages at Brigham Young University. He teaches Russian, primarily; hence his familiarity with and interest in Russian culture.

Dr. Rogers received early training in playwriting and political science at the University of Utah and later studied playwriting for two years at Yale under John Gassner. After a fifteen year hiatus from playwriting, a colleague interested him in the story of Helmuth Huebener, a young Latter-day Saint caught in the political turmoil of Nazi Germany. Amidst some controversy but great popular success, Huebener played to sold out houses at BYU in 1976. Since his success with Huebener, Dr. Rogers has continued playwriting--local audiences may be most familiar with Reunion and Fire in the Bones--and has also directed such works as Synge's Playboy of the Western World and Pinter's The Caretaker.

Tom Rogers is serious about drama. His plays tend to focus on individuals struggling with institutional authority. Of Journey to Golgotha, he says: "This play addresses the plight of writers and religious dissidents in the USSR. Its characters are modeled after some of Russia's greatest contemporary poets and religious martyrs--some purged by Stalin, some assassinated since World War II, and others still alive in Soviet prisons or residing, as emigres, in the West."

Cast

MITJA--a young Russian careerist, active in the Komsomol. Mark B. Taft
 NADJA MAKSIMOVNA--his mother. Betty Joe Smith
 GALINA NIKOLAEVNA--her friend, a famous poet Audra Call Moss
 BORIS SERGEEVICH--Mitja's colleague in the Ministry of Propaganda Paul C. Beer
 SONJA--Mitja's fiancée, a graduate student and guide-interpreter for Intourist Jan Onychuk
 SAMARIN--a defrocked priest Oscar Lee
 LEV VASILICH--a literary editor, Mitja's neighbor and mentor in the Komsomol Greg Peters
 COOPER--an American tourist J. Scott Bronson

Time	The present
Place	The apartment of Nadja and Mitja in Moscow.
Act I	Evening
Intermission	5 minutes
Act II	The same; minutes later
Intermission	5 minutes
Act III	Early evening; two days later

DEFINITIONS

Komsomol: Communist Youth Organizations--a stepping stone to membership in the Party.
 Pirozhki: Small pastries, variously filled with meat, vegetables, or fruit.
 Do-svidanja: Russian for "Good-bye."
 Poka: Russian for "So long."
 Rabom poslednevo raba: Russian for "Slave of the last slave."
 KGB: The Soviet secret police.
 Gulag: The network of Soviet prisons, mostly in Siberia.
 Spokojnoj nochi: Russian for "Good night."
 Pogrom: Riot directed at a defenseless group of people, traditionally Jews.
 Dobry vecher: Russian for "Good evening."
 Gastronom: Grocery store.

Director	Charles Metten	Lighting Technicians	Mark Dixon
Lighting Designer	Don Wilson		J. D. Fisher
Set Consultant	Karl Pope	Scene Shop Foreman	Paul Nibley
Technical Director	Lee Walker	Property Assistants	Victoria Palmer
Designer of Icon	Karl Pope		Rosa Rubalcava
Assistant to the Director	Peter Lennon	Sound (BYU Sound Services)	David Jeppson
Assistant Tech Director	R. Kent Sheranian		Jim Duke
Costumer	Melinda Wood	Ticket Office Manager	Roy Brinkerhoff
Resident Stage Manager	T. H. Stettler	House Manager	John Edwards
Production Stage Manager	Margaret A. Bodily	Publicity Photographer	Mark Philbrick
		Publicity Director	Brad Stevenson

Special Thanks to: Brent Matthews, Ida Taft, Viktoria Mikhailovna, Wally Barrus, Steve Barrus.

"It would be ironic, indeed, if God were in exile somewhere in the 'atheistic' East; and if the culture produced amidst its silence and suffering were to prove more remarkable than that of the talkative and well-fed West. But this, perhaps, is the irony of freedom, which tends to be treasured by those who do not have it and profaned by those who do."

--James H. Billington, "The Irony of Russian History" in the ICON AND THE AXE (Random House, 1966), pp. 594-5.

October 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 30
 Nov 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, at 8 pm in the Margetts Arena Theatre
 Matinee November 1 at 4:30 pm.
 Tickets will go on sale Monday October 1, 1982
 Faculty, Staff, Students--\$2.00 General--\$2.75
 For more information call 378-3875