

The Caucasian Chalk Circle

By Bertolt Brecht

Play no. 396

Opening show: 14/11/1987

Creative team

Hebrew Version: Natan Zach

Directed by: Omri Nitzan

Music: Shlomo Gronich

Set and Special effects : Jorg Domenik

Costumes: Tova Kleiner-Sadan

Musical Director: Avner Kenner

Lighting: Natan Panturin

Masks Puppets & Props: Shlomo Leibouitch

Cast

The Siner: Micki Kam

Georgi Abashvili , the Governor: Yossi Yablonka

Natella, his wife: Orli Zielberschatz-Banai

Michel, their son: Shani Bonshtein/ Ido Ernik/ Moshe Hanan/ Loleck Tahor

Shalva, the adjutant: Yuval Zamir

Arsen Kazbeki, the fat price: Avraham Ronai

The rider from the capital: Offer Shikarzi

Niko Mikadze, doctor: Ezra Dagan

Mikha Loladze, doctor: Dov Raizer

Simon Chachava, a soldier: Shalom Shmuelov

Shamraiev: Nachum Buchman

Grushe Vachnadze, a kitchen maid: Yona Elian-Keshet

Architects: Ezra Dagan, Dov Raizer

The Governor of a Georgian city is overthrown and killed by a nobles' revolt. His wife flees, leaving her baby son. Grushe, a servant girl, takes it and looks after it; she escapes to her brother's in the mountains, where she has to marry a supposedly dying peasant in order to give it a name and a status. When the revolt ends the Governor's wife sends troops to fetch Grushe and the child back to the city, and sues for the child's return. With the beginning of the fourth act the story flashes back to the day of the revolt to trace the disreputable career to Azdak, a tramp like village rogue whom the rebellious soldiers appoint judge. In the last act he tries the case, and settles it by reversing the old test of the Chalk Circle: the child is given to Grushe because she cannot bear the traditional tug-of-war which is supposed to end in the child's being drawn out of the circle by maternal attraction. At the same time he gives Grushe a divorce so that she can return to her soldier fiancé. The final moral is that the child should go to whoever serves him best.