Children of a Lesser God
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Sounds of Progress

In 1996, I was invited, along with Scott Johnston (director) and John Harvey (writer), to produce a large scale play at the National Theatre of Targu-Mures, Romania. Director Theodor-Cristian Popescu was the person responsible for this exciting collaboration. The subsequent production Inheritance was a huge success and is still being performed at festivals throughout eastern Europe.

In 1997 Cristian asked me if I would be interested in joining him in a venture to create the first independent Romanian theatre company. I agreed to compose and record the music for their first production Children of a Lesser God. It was Cristian’s wish that this new company would highlight the need for social change in Romania by producing new work of social relevance and thus creating new audiences.

My part in this collaboration was to make it possible for Compania Teatrul 777 to become the first independent theatre company to tour abroad. In August 1997, Sounds of Progress agreed to be joint producers of Children of a Lesser God and to create a new live soundtrack. So now in 1998, we have achieved three major firsts in European theatre:

- the first collaboration between an independent Romanian theatre company and a Scottish company.
- the first soundtrack devised with an integrated band, working with a professional foreign partner.
- the first production, in Scotland, completely designed for a non-hearing or hearing impaired audience.

We hope this production will pave the way for future collaborations between all the partners involved. In the year 2000, Compania Teatrul 777 and Sounds of Progress will produce a new musical which will be performed in Romania and the UK. It has been a difficult task to make this partnership a reality and I hope that you enjoy the end result.

Gordon Dougall
Executive Director - Sounds of Progress

Sarah Norman
Tania Popa (Dundee)
Cristina Toma (Glasgow)
Florin Piersic Jr.

James Leeds
Lucian Pavel

Orin Dennis
Maria Tudosie

Lydia
Radu Gabriel

Mr Franklin
Lelia Ciobotariu

Mrs Norman
Ana Calciu

Edna Klein

Musicians
Robert Brown
Guitar
Michael Cannon
Vocals
Gordon Dougall
Keyboards
Paul Fullerton
Bass
Eddie Green
Vibraphone/Keyboards
Ellen MacMahon
Percussion/Xylophone
Ann Marie Murray
Percussion/Xylophone/Vocals

Music

Act 1
Vibrations
Ducks
Mind Space 1
Mind Space 2
Merry Go Round

Act 2
Vibrations 2
War
Mind Space 3
Finale

There will be one interval of 15 minutes.

Children of a Lesser God is presented in association with Samuel French Ltd.
When I met the Sounds of Progress musicians, Gordon Dougall had already rehearsed what we had discussed about the ‘sound world’ for this performance. I told them what I thought about the play and proposed that they explore Sarah’s inner territory, ‘a world full of sound’ as she says, and to try to create a sound that stops one second before becoming music. A sound full of pain and anger. I told them that they were not a band doing music for the play; the way they would be placed behind the gauzed set and the way the lights would work, was meant to transform them into imaginary characters in Sarah’s mind. I told them that they needed to breathe at the same pace as the actors and to play at the exact level of energy that is on the stage at that precise moment. I told them about the way they should play, trying to keep the tension and never release it in a tune. Sounds of Progress musicians listened to me carefully. The quality of their attention told me more about the hundreds of hours they had been working with Gordon, than one million words. And they accepted the challenge.

Theodor-Cristian Popescu
Artistic Director - Compania Teatrală 777
**Compania Teatrală 777**

**Ana Calciu - Edna Klein**

Studied at the Hyperion Independent University - Drama Section. Theatre: *The Fan House* by Marin Sorescu, directed by Theodor-Cristian Popsescu; *Rage in Palermo, Whimsical Women* by Carlo Goldoni.

**Lelia Ciobotariu - Mrs Norman**

Trained at the Theatre & Film Academy of Bucharest. Theatre: * Playboy of the Western World, The Orphan Zhao, Antigone, Eight Women, Leonce and Lena,* at the Young People's Theatre; *The Red Owl* at the National Theatre of Romania; *Underground* at the Nottara Theatre; *The Quarrels of Chioggia* at the MIC Theatre; *The Misanthrope* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Lucia Sturdza Bulandra Theatre, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Leaganul* at the Students Theatre of Podul.

**Stefan Caragiu - Set Design**

Trained at the Arts Academy of Bucharest - Decorative Arts Faculty (Scenography). Designed *Les Colettes, The Strong, The Dog's Heart, Don Juan a la Russe, Romeo and Juliet* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

**Liliana Ceanu - Set Design**

Trained at the Arts Academy of Bucharest - Decorative Arts Faculty (Scenography). Designed *Les Colettes, The Strong, The Dog's Heart, Toujours L'amour, Don Juan a la Russe, Le Medicin malgre lui* and *To the Gypsies*.

**Radu Gabriel - Mr Franklin**

Trained at the Theatre and Film Academy of Bucharest. Theatre: *Striptease, The Seventh Commandment, The Gavrilescu Case and Bertolda at the Court,* Numerous appearances on stage and television with The Youa Group, as actor, scriptwriter and director.

**Lucian Pavel - Orin Denis**


**Florin Piersic Jr. - James Leeds**


Television: *Desire Under the Elms, The Salesman.*

**Tania Popa - Sarah Norman**


Film: *The Long Train Journey, Procrustes' Bed, Nobody Lives Here Anymore, Paradise Lost.*

**Theodor-Cristian Popescu (Director)**

Trained at the Theatre and Film Academy - theatre faculty. Directed Andreaca Valeanu's *When I want to whistle, I whistle,* William Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* and *Coriolanus,* Marin Sorescu'*s *Nerves Exist* (touring to Strasbourg and Paris), John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger,* Arthur Kopit's *Wings,* Martin Crimp's *Play with Repeats,* all for the National Theatre of Targu-Mures; Eugene Ionescu's *The Killer,* National Theatre of Craiova; Peter Shaffer's *Black Comedy,* Howard Barker's *Scenes from an Execution,* National Theatre of Cluj; Marin Sorescu's *The Fan House,* Lucia Sturdza Bulandra Theatre of Bucharest and Isaac Bashevis Singer's *The Cafe* at the Jewish State Theatre in Bucharest.

**Cristina Toma - Sarah Norman**


Film: *The Tent.*

**Maria Tudose - Lydia**

Trained at the Film and Theatre Academy I.L. Caragiale, Bucharest.

Theatre: *Twelfth Night, Jacques or Surrender, As You Like It, To the Gypsies, Noah's Ark.*

Radio: *Host of The show of the Week,* collaborations with National Radio Theatre.

TV: *The Youa Group.*