

Compania Teatrală 777 (Romania)

Sounds of Progress (Scotland)

# Children *of a* Lesser God

by Mark Medoff



# Children of a Lesser God

by Mark Medoff

## 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 Teatrală 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 Teatrală 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*

*James Leeds*

*Orin Dennis*

*Lydia*

*Mr Franklin*

*Mrs Norman*

*Edna Klein*

## Musicians

**Robert Brown**  
**Michael Cannon**  
**Gordon Dougall**  
**Paul Fullerton**  
**Eddie Green**  
**Ellen MacMahon**  
**Ann Marie Murray**

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

**Lucian Pavel**

**Maria Tudosie**

**Radu Gabriel**

**Lelia Ciobotariu**

**Ana Calciu**

Guitar  
 Vocals  
 Keyboards  
 Bass  
 Vibraphone/Keyboards  
 Percussion/Xylophone  
 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.

**DUNDEE REP THEATRE**

Tue 8 - Sat 12 Sept 1998

**OLD FRUITMARKET, Glasgow**

Tue 15 - Sat 19 Sept 1998

# Children of a Lesser God

Directed by	Theodor-Cristian Popescu
Music composed by	Gordon Dougall
Set design	Stefan Caragiu and Liliana Cenean
Lighting design	Theodor-Cristian Popescu
Choreography	Florin Fieroiu
Production Manager	Robert Dixon
Deputy Stage Manager	Scott O'Raw
Assistant Stage Manager	Danny Corrigan
Set Construction	Robert Dixon

## Sounds of Progress

Executive Director	Gordon Dougall
Artistic Director	Raymond MacDonald
Administrator	Tina Anderson
Administrative Assistant	Marion Caldwell
Marketing/Press	Annie Houston Reddick Associates

Signers	K Yvonne Strain Robbie Grieve
---------	----------------------------------

Sounds of Progress and Compania Teatrală 777 wish to thank: Margaret Aitken, Stuart Anderson, Paul Bassett, GCC SLI Service, Avril Hepner, Scott Johnston, Catriona & John Lafferty, Sharon McArthur, George McGowan, Alex McPherson, Helen Meixner, Kara Milne, RSAMD, Gheorghe Racaru, Scottish Opera, Wildcat, Terry Sandell-Visiting Arts, Amanda Brown, Karen Green, Maggie MacDonald, Christine Maclean, Anne Toop - Department of Cultural and Leisure Services and all the staff at Dundee Rep Theatre.

## Mailing List

To join the Sounds of Progress mailing list, please send your name and address to :

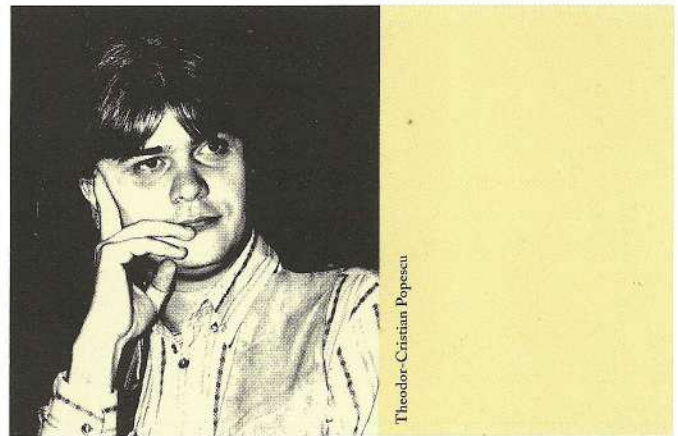
### Sounds of Progress

3rd Floor, 18 Albion Street, Glasgow G1 1LH.  
Tel: 0141 552 3575

Funding:



The Orpheus Trust



Theodor-Cristian Popescu

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 Popescu, *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 Cotletes*, *The Strong*, *The Dog's Heart*, *Don Juan a la Russe*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

### Liliana Cenean - Set Design

Trained at the Arts Academy of Bucharest - Decorative Arts Faculty (Scenography). Designed *Les Cotletes*, *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 Gavrilesco Case* and *Bertoldo at the Court*. Numerous appearances on stage and television with The Voua Group, as actor, scriptwriter and director.

### Lucian Pavel - Orin Denis

Trained at the Theatre and Film Academy of Bucharest. Theatre: *The Dybuk*, *Cabaret*, *Golden Boys*, *Uriel Acosta*, *Golem*, *Playboy of the Western World*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Leonce and Lena*, *The Orphan Zhao*, *Richard III*, *Night Asylum*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Waiting for the Spring*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Equus*, *Egmont*.

### Florin Piersic Jr. - James Leeds

Trained at the Theatre and Film Academy of Bucharest. Theatre: *The Night of Confusion*, *The Procustean Bed*, *Zoo Story*, *Trovarsari*, *The Comedy of Errors*. Television: *Desire Under the Elms*, *The Salesman*.

### Tania Popa - Sarah Norman

Trained at the Theatre and Film Academy of Bucharest. Theatre: *The Night Asylum*, *A Handkerchief in the Danube*, *The Tempest*, *Antigone*, *The Farce of the Three Hunchbacks*. Film: *The Long Train Journey*, *Procrustes' Bed*, *Nobody Lives Here Anymore*, *Paradise Live*.

### Theodor-Cristian Popescu (Director)

Trained at the Theatre and Film Academy - theatre faculty. Directed Andreea Valeanu's *When I want to whistle, I whistle*, William Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* and *Coriolanus*, Marin Sorescu's *Nerves Exist* (toured 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

Trained at the Theatrical Arts Academy of Targu-Mures. Theatre: National Theatre of Targu-Mures since 1995: *Measure for Measure*, *Inheritance*, *Nerves Exist*, *Marat-Sade*, *Noises Off*, *Look Back in Anger*. Film: *The Tent*.

### Maria Tudosie - 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 Voua Group*.