

THE PSI CAST OF ALPHA PSI OMEGA



ROEMER A. ADITOR THE

MARCH

15, 16

1968

LE MALENTENDU

EIGHT P.M.

(THE MISUNDERSTANDING)

ALBERT CAMUS

Le Malentendu

by ALBERT CAMUS*

Directed by VIKTOR R. KEMPER*

A project in speech under the supervision of Mr. Robert Douglas Hume

LE MALENTENDU resembles Classical Tragedy in several aspects; yet there are certain variations which serve to heighten the reality and effect of the play.

Aloof and rehtorical as the characters may seem to be, they are, in the end, everyday people who are much like everyone in the audience. They differ only in the fact that their emotions and purposes are possibly stronger. Even the enigmatic Old Man-Servant is most probably just a man and Maria's attitude toward him, just another of a long series of misunderstandings.

Probably the greatest variation is that no character falls because of a tragic flaw and/or the Gods; he falls because he is not the only person with a free will and a purpose and because purposes often conflict with each other.

As the net of cross-purposes is drawn further and further in, as the characters'

dreams seem more and more tangible to them and all hope dissolves in a cloud of ruin which spreads over everything, everyone. Then, at perhaps the most dismal moment of the play, the curtain closes and the play is over--leaving Maria forsaken, the audience numb.

This lack of catharsis and the pervasive melancholy of LE MALENTENDU seems to have disturbed Camus almost as much as it has disturbed audiences ever since it was first produced in 1944, and to explain away some of it he said the play offered an answer in the fact that Jan could have changed the course of events by declaring himself immediately and "...that in an unjust or indifferent world man can save himself, and save others, by practicing the most basic sincerity and pronouncing the most appropriate word." Yet he himself denies this statement with the character of Martha;

for who more uses appropriate words than she, who is more sincere, who is more utterly broken in the end.

No, to find any optimistic message in this play one must see the dark Hell of Martha and her words at the end as the exact opposites of the truth about how one should act. Just as Milton implies what Heaven is by showing us what its antithesis, Hell, is like, so Camus implies what the truth is by showing us total misunderstanding and darkness. Dreams are not discouraged in this play, nor is life; they are merely shown in their proper light; doomed before they are formed. Yet man must dream, must open his heart, must live, must scream against the void which swallows him; for in futility lies the seed of nobility, the potential for tragedy rather than pathos: the essence of man; for a man who does not dream his futile dream is either a stone or God, or he is dead.

The Cast

The Mother	Barbara Clausen*
Martha	Constance Lowe
The Old Manservant	Ron Lohrman
Jan	Michael Donovan*
Maria	Gail Driver

The action takes place in the Moravian Hotel owned by The Mother and Martha. The time is this Spring.

Act One	The public room, late afternoon.
Act Two	Jan's room, that evening.
Act Three	The public room, next morning.

There will be two ten-minute intermissions

Set Design	Viktor R. Kemper
Lighting Design	Kathy Pfeifer †
Costume Design	Katherine Yaffe
Cover Design	Jean Schuttenberg

The Staff

Stage Manager	Kathy Pfeifer
Assistant Stage Managers	Ann Lohrman Pam Willets
Lighting	Wendy Davis Sandy Sather
Sound	Wendy Davis
Costumes	Carolinda Cowles Elizabeth Fleming Katherine Yaffe
Make-up	Linda Davis Kathi Krueger
Properties	Lynn Gibson Marianne Kitchell
Shifting	Ann Lohrman Kathy Pfeifer Pam Willets
Publicity	Jean Schuttenberg
House Manager	Jean Schuttenberg
Ushers	Kathy Duello Hetty Jardine Pat Penkoske Kathy Williams
Set Construction	Scenic Art Class Mr. Charles Bushnell and Staff

* - Members of Alpha Psi Omega
 † - Pledges to Alpha Psi Omega

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Performance rights are held by Ashley Famous Agency, New York

Virginia Ascher Costume Co.
2206 S. Brentwood, St. Louis

Mr. Robert Douglas Hume

Mr. Charles Bushnell and Staff

COMING

Roemer Auditorium

May 3 and 4

PRELUDE

- an original modern dance ballet by Orchesis.