

KING LEAR

CAPTURED LIVE ON STAGE AT MOSCOW'S SATIRIKON THEATRE

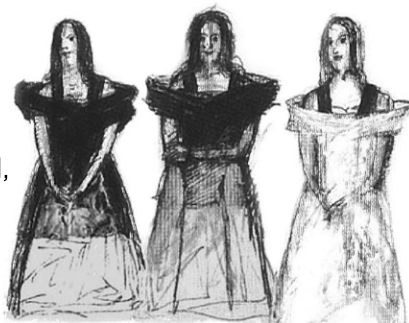
SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Lear, King of Britain, decides to divide his kingdom among his 3 daughters, making the gifts dependent upon their declarations of love for him. The two eldest, Goneril and Regan, gush over their father, but Cordelia, the apple of her father's eye, disappoints the old man by refusing to play the game. Furious, Lear disinherits her, ordaining the lands and powers to her sisters. The loyal Earl of Kent attempts to intervene, to talk reason into the livid Lear, but is banished for his efforts. The King of France, charmed by the virtuous and honest Cordelia, agrees to marry the dower-less daughter, and together leave to his country.

At the same time, the Earl of Gloucester is being deceived by the false sincerity of his illegitimate son, Edmund, who has forged a letter convincing his father that his half brother Edgar, Gloucester's "favorite", is going to murder him. Edgar, getting wind of this, and realizing the fate that would await him, goes into hiding, disguising himself as a poor beggar.

Kent, however, instead of going into exile, returns in disguise to become a servant of his old master, Lear, arriving at Goneril's castle just as she, with the help of her servant Oswald, is beginning to turn on her father. Cursing his eldest daughter, Lear departs immediately for Regan's, sending his new servant, the disguised Kent, ahead.



Regan and her husband, the Duke of Cornwall, decide to humiliate Lear by putting his "servant" into the stocks. There he is found by the King, who is accompanied by his loving, but chiding, Fool. Regan refuses to take in her father, and upon seeing Goneril, understands that the daughters are in league, and sets out into the night.

On a stormy heath, Lear, with his Fool, hurls defiance at the elements and, joined by Kent, seeks refuge in a hovel which is already occupied by noble Edgar, disguised as mad Tom O'Bedlam. Gloucester arrives with word that the daughters are indeed plotting against the king's life, and that he must be taken to friends at Dover.

As the 1st Act closes, the duplicitous Edmund furnishes false evidence that Gloucester has been assisting Cordelia's invasion from France. As a result, Gloucester is captured and his eyes are plucked out. Cornwall, Regan's husband, is killed in the process.

ACT II

In the open country, Edgar finds his blind father and, without revealing himself, becomes his guide. Gloucester, failing to recognize Edgar's voice, begs Poor Tom to lead him to a cliff at Dover so that he may jump to his death. Edgar pretends to lead Gloucester to a cliff, then changes his voice and tells his father that he has miraculously survived a great fall. Lear appears, by now completely mad. He rants that the whole world is corrupt and runs off.



Goneril is far more attracted to Edmund than to her husband Albany, whom she regards as cowardly. After receiving news of Cornwall's death, she fears her newly widowed sister may steal Edmund and sends him a letter through her servant, Oswald.

Now alone with Lear, Kent leads him to the French army, to be cared for by Cordelia. But Lear is half-mad and terribly embarrassed by his earlier follies. At Regan's insistence, Albany reluctantly joins his forces with hers against the French. Goneril's suspicions about Regan's motives regarding Edmund are confirmed. Oswald appears, still looking for Edmund. On Regan's orders, he tries to kill Gloucester but is killed by Edgar. In Oswald's pocket, Edgar finds Goneril's letter, in which she encourages Edmund to kill her husband and take her as his wife. Edgar gives Goneril's letter to Albany.

Edmund, who has made promises to both sisters, considers the dilemma and plots the deaths of Albany, Lear, and Cordelia. The armies meet in battle, the British defeat the French, and Lear and Cordelia are captured. Edmund sends Lear and Cordelia off with orders for the execution of Cordelia.

The victorious British leaders meet. Regan declares she will marry Edmund, but Albany exposes the intrigues of Edmund and Goneril and proclaims Edmund a traitor. Regan falls ill, having been poisoned by Goneril, and dies. Albany confronts Goneril with the letter which was intended to be his death warrant. Her plans thwarted, Goneril commits suicide.

Edgar appears masked and challenges Edmund to a duel, mortally wounding his scheming half-brother. Before dying, though, Edmund decides to try and save Lear and Cordelia. Edgar reveals himself and reports that Gloucester has died of a broken heart.

Albany sends men to countermand Edmund's original orders, but it is too late. Lear enters bearing Cordelia's corpse. Having survived the executioner, Kent appears and Lear now recognizes him. He warmly greets his old friend before returning to Cordelia, imploring her to awaken, but she, along with his two other daughters, is gone.

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Yury Butusov, The Director

Originally a graduate of a shipbuilding institute, Yury Butusov, worked in a variety of professions, including equestrian riding. In the early 90s, Butusov, at the age of 33 embarked on a career in theater, and immediately had a huge impact. His graduate work, "Waiting for Godot", was staged in St Petersburg and called "The event of the year". Since then, he has staged productions at the most renowned theaters in Moscow, including the Vakhtangov Theatre, The Satirikon Theatre, The Moscow Art Theatre and the Pushkin Theatre and was artistic director at St Petersburg's Lensoviet Theatre for 7 years. Overseas, he has directed performances in South Korea, Poland, Norway and Bulgaria and is a winner of multiple directing awards.

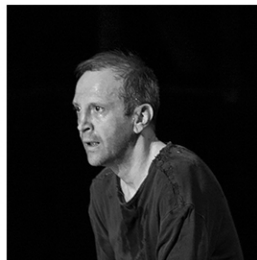
CAST



King Lear
Konstantin Raikin



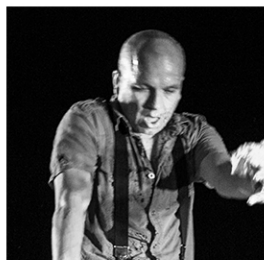
Earl of Gloucester
Denis Sukhanov



Earl of Kent
Timofey Tribuntcev



Edgar / King of France
Daniil Pugayev



Edmund
Anton Kuznecov



Goneril
Marina Drovosekova



Regan
Agrippina Steklova



Cordelia
Maryana Spivak



Duke of Cornwall
Konstantin Tretyakov



Duke of Albany
Vladimir Bolshov



Oswald / Duke of Burgundy
Yakov Lomkin



Fool
Elena Bereznova

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Eugene Onegin, Vakhtangov Theatre

Anna Karenina, Vakhtangov Theatre

The Black Monk, MTuZ

The Seagull, Satirikon Theatre

The Suicide, Theatre Art Studio

Uncle Vanya, Vakhtangov Theatre

The Three Sisters, Red Torch Theatre, Novosibirsk

Drillalians, Stanislavsky Electrotheatre

King Lear, Satirikon Theatre

Onegin, Red Torch Theatre, Novosibirsk, In Cinemas November 8

Smile Upon Us, Lord, Vakhtangov Theatre, In Cinemas February 7

