

THE SEAGULL

CAPTURED LIVE ON STAGE AT THE SATIRIKON THEATRE



The people of Chekhov's "Seagull" live in a fictional world where theater is the meaning of their lives. Theater for them is more than just life, more than love, it substitutes everything, but it also brings pain and loneliness and tears souls apart. People who devote themselves to this theater monster are often unhappy, maybe even more than they should, but they seem to know something that no one else knows ...

Yury Butusov, Director

ACT I

Konstantin Treplev is nervous and readying himself for a performance of his play. He longs to be accepted by his peers as a great dramatist. His mother, Irina Arkadina, does not love him and is jealous of anyone else's success other than her own. He is in love with Nina, who, herself, wants to become a famous actress.

Likewise, Medvedenko, a hapless school teacher, is in love with Masha (the daughter of Shamrayev, the farm manager of Arkadina's estate), who, in turn, is in love with Konstantin. The love triangles don't end there. Dorn, a local doctor, is having an affair with the farm manager's wife, Polina, and Arkadina is worried that her partner, Trigorin, a famous writer, will fall in love with the younger ingenue, Nina, and attempts to keep them apart at every turn.

Lament is a looming figure over much of the proceedings. Dorn, the doctor, longs for a life of adulation, Sorin, the elder brother of Arkadina, sees in retrospect, a life wasted, and Shamrayev, the farm manager, impotently attempts to exert his will over both the estate and his wayward wife.

ACT II

Two weeks later, over lunch, all the raging emotions begin to ricochet off one another. Arkadina is, in turns, mortified and defensive of rejecting her son's abstract and symbolic play, Masha desperately tries to balance her feelings for Konstantin with the reality that he does not return her feelings, and Polina both chides and begs for the doctor's affections.

Nina, who is free of her stepmother's clutches, revels in the prospects of a bright future. At that moment, Konstantin enters with a dead seagull and puts the bird at Nina's feet. Convinced that she does not love him because his play was a failure, he exits bitterly on seeing her growing fondness for Trigorin.

Trigorin arrives on the scene and announces that he and Arkadina are to leave at once. He looks at the seagull that Konstantin shot and conveys to Nina that she has inspired him to start a new story about a girl who, like the dead seagull, is ruined by a man. Arkadina interrupts announcing that she has been convinced to stay on at the estate.

ACT III

Masha, drowning her sorrows in vodka, confides to Trigorin about her plan to abandon her love for Konstantin and instead marry Medvedenko. Trigorin, who has recently been challenged to a duel by the increasingly erratic Konstantin, merges Masha's troubles with his own. Nina and Trigorin then meet clandestinely and she gives him a parting gift, a pendant which overtly implies that she is ready to run off with him. Arkadina, meanwhile, argues with her brother over her indifference to Konstantin's needs. He has recently shot himself, an accidental moment of passion it is said. Arkadina convinces her brother that all will be well once she and Trigorin leave the estate.

Before departing, Arkadina helps Konstantin unwrap his bandages. The conversation quickly devolves into an argument, leaving Konstantin feeling unloved and unwanted. Similarly, Arkadina is fighting for her life with Trigorin, questioning him about his interest in Nina. Fearing that she will lose the man she loves, Arkadina pleads and begs for Trigorin to leave with her. He agrees, but before exiting he shares a few private moments with Nina.

ACT IV

Two years later, Medvedenko is berating Masha for neglecting their child, preferring, as she does, to stay on the estate nearer to her beloved Konstantin. He leaves alone. Konstantin by now has become a writer of some rank, but when his mother and Trigorin return triumphantly, he is again made to feel insignificant.

Nina's story, meanwhile, is revealed through letters she's written to Konstantin which she ominously signs off as "the Seagull". She had an affair with Trigorin and became pregnant, but, the baby died. She played starring roles on the stage, but the reviews were unkind and her career was stagnating. She is in town, it is said, but she refuses to meet with anyone.

Eventually she visits Konstantin and they share a few moments of dimming memories and false hopes. She still loves Trigorin deeply. A final, fatal blow to Konstantin. Word comes a few moments later that Konstantin Gavrilovich has shot himself.

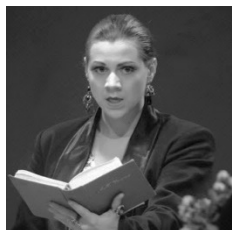
The film will run for 3 hours and 45 min

- 2 hours acts 1 and 2
- a 15 min intermission
- 1 hour 30 minutes acts 3 and 4

THE SEAGULL

Dedicated to Valentina Karavaeva

Valentina Ivanovna Karavaeva (1921-1998) - Russian actress, her most well-known role was in the movie 'Mashenka' (director Yuli Raizman). Valentina Karavaeva's acting career ended abruptly, the result of a devastating automobile accident. Film producers were no longer interested in her, and she had no success on the stage either. She lost all she had but she didn't lose herself, and till the end she remained a true actress. In poverty and oblivion in her small flat, filming herself with an amateur camera, she played Nina Zarechnaya, a role that she once memorably performed on the stage. She died soon thereafter. Near her, made from wire, paper and feathers, was a handmade seagull...



Polina Raykina

*Irina Nikolayevna Arkadina,
an actress*



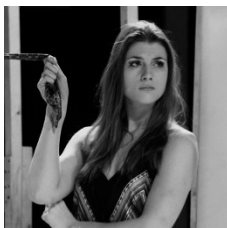
Lika Nifontova

*Polina Andryevna,
Ilya's wife*



Timofey Tribuntcev

*Konstantin Gavrilovich Treplev,
Irina's son, a playwright*



Mariana Spivak

*Masha,
Ilya and Polina's daughter*



Denis Sukhanov

*Boris Alexeyevich Trigorin,
a well-known writer*



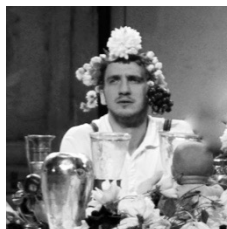
Artem Osipov

*Evgeniy Sergeevich Dorn,
a doctor*



Agrippina Steklova

*Nina Mikhailovna Zarechnaya,
the daughter of a rich
landowner*



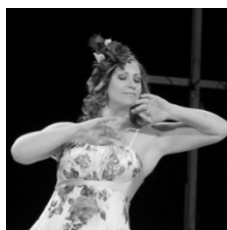
Sergey Bubnov

*Yakov,
a hired workman*



Vladimir Bolshov

*Petr Nikolayevich Sorin,
Irina's brother*



Marina Drovosekova

Dancing girl



Anton Kuznetcov

*Ilya Afanasyevich Shamrayev,
a retired lieutenant and the manager
of Sorin's estate;*

*Semen Semenovich Medvedenko,
a teacher*



Yury Butusov

Treplev's monologue in Act 4