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Metamorphosis

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[1991]

Pittsburg State University Theatre

presents

METAMORPHOSIS

based on the story by Franz Kafka



**AS GREGOR SAMSA AWOKES ONE MORNING
FROM UNEASY DREAMS
HE FOUND HIMSELF TRANSFORMED IN HIS BED
INTO A GIGANTIC INSECT**

Directed by John Green

ON KAFKA

Franz Kafka was born in Prague in 1883, the son of a rich Jewish Czech merchant. After studying literature and medicine for a short time, he turned to law, which he believed was the profession that would give him the greatest amount of free time for his private life and for his writing. He took his doctorate in law at Prague University, obtained a job with an insurance company, and later became a clerk in the semi-Governmental Workers' Insurance Office. In later years the necessity of earning his living by routine office work became an intolerable burden, and he broke away altogether, settling down in a Berlin suburb to devote himself to writing. In 1914 he became engaged, but broke it off, feeling unable to face marriage. He made one attempt to marry, but it was discovered that he was suffering from tuberculosis and he went to a sanatorium. His unsatisfactory love affairs, his relationship with his father, a self-made man who cared nothing for his son's literary aspirations, and his own inflexible intellectual honesty and almost psychopathic sensitivity finally broke down his health - he died in 1924.

ON METAMORPHOSIS

Written in 1913 it is a parable of human suffering. A man becomes the worst thing he imagines of himself. Kafka had already seen himself as a bug in relation to his father who seemed the proud healthy businessman while the young Kafka was weak, sensitive and creative. We may become what we are and so feeling loathsome and useless Kafka expresses such an image in his work. Having accepted his bug like state Gregor Samsa suddenly finds the spirit his human form lacked. From a position of no return he becomes heroic, a fighter, a snarling angry thing trapped in his room and hearing the woes of his family in the living room.

We see the family, needy and protective of their little bourgeois values turn from horror to concern, then boredom and on to loathing and disgust. There is always something hidden behind closed doors.

" the books we need are the kind that act upon us like a misfortune, that make us suffer like the death of someone we love more than ourselves, that make us feel as though we were on the verge of suicide, or lost in the forest remote from all human habitation - - - - -
- a book should serve as the axe for the frozen sea within us."

FROM A LETTER BY FRANZ KAFKA

METAMORPHOSIS

GREGOR - THE SON	FRANK KRAINZ
MR. SAMSA - THE FATHER	WHITNEY PLATT
MRS. SAMSA - THE MOTHER	MERCEDES GLOVER
GRETA - THE SISTER	HOLLY AMERSHEK
THE CHIEF CLERK	ANDREW DECKER
THE LODGER	JANNA WHISTLER
DIRECTOR	JOHN GREEN
DESIGNER	BARRY BENGTSEN
COSTUMES	MARY HAMILTON
SOUND	PENNY COOK
LIGHTING OPERATOR	KRISTINE SHOEMAKER
CREW	TONY SIGNER ARLAN VOMHOF HOPE TAJ DALLAS MASONER
PUBLICITY	PATRICIA SEARLE
MUSIC	J.S. BACH PHILIP GLASS. WIM MERTEN ARVO PART
SOUNDTRACK	RECORDED AT KRPS STUDIOS

There will be no interval & no curtain call

**A Department of Communication Production
College of Arts and Sciences, PSU.**

The PSU Summer Theatre Gala 1991

**Sunday in the Park with
George**

by

Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine

Director	John Green
Musical Director	Susan Laushman
Designer	Barry Bengtsen

Performances: August 22, 23, 24.

Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium

A Production of the Departments of
Communication and Music
for the College of Arts and Sciences

Pittsburg State University