

COMEDY IS AN ESCAPE, NOT FROM TRUTH BUT FROM DESPAIR¹

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Abstract. *As a form of resistance to the social and political transformations that occurred in postwar Romania, the age was dominated by a swift humour, developed and used in epigrams, pamphlets and parodies. Numerous humorous manifests, hand written or typed circulated in the age, deriding both the new regime in Romania and its representatives. Many of these manifests show a fine and cultured irony, with a subtle message.*

These humorous texts were as scattered all over the country (for example the same text was present in the reports of police and civil guards in different parts of the country) as they were limited in time (1945- 1946).

The same irony, either subtle or quite overt, is to be found in pamphlets. They all follow the same structure (of a theatrical role distribute) however they sometimes present some variations, possibly proving they were transmitted orally (each transmitter enriched and changed the original text).

Keywords: *Manifests, communism, resistance.*

Theatrical coverage (circulated in March 1946 in Bucharest).

What is played in Bucharest

In Bucharest, on the stage of the Presidency of the Council of Ministries, a new play is available: How long will these works? It is a national tragic comedy which is played on the nation, several acts developing in a number of days. The play features the whole cast of the USSR lead by Dr. Petru Groza.

Cast

Stage director	Gh. Tătărescu
Text	Petru Costantinescu Iași
Music effects and stage	Vișinski
Setting	gen. Cambrea
Extras	the Tudor Vladimirescu Division
Chief electrician	Gheorghiu Dej
Costumes	Soviet cotton
Prompter	Susaikov and Tolbukin
Director	A. Pauker and V. Luca

Actors as presented on stage

Director of the asylum	dr. Parhon
Imprudent lawyer	L. Păstrășcanu
Jew under disguise	T. Georgescu
The Beast	D. Oeriu
The old servant	D. Dombrovski
The orator of the day	M. Ralea
Spy no. 1	Bodnăraș
A wanderer of fate	D. Zăroni
The Royal cobbler	V. Rășcanu
Holy Priest	P. Burducea
A Romanian	Vlădescu Răcoasa
Second Romanian	Lothar Rădăceanu
A man without a party	Constantin Titel Petrescu

Unauthorized sources tell us the show is almost sold out, since all spectators are brought by the unions carrying flags and are forced to applaud.

The last representations will soon be available in the capital, followed by a tour in the country.

The first cities to host the famous cast: Doftana, Văcărești, Ocna Sibiului, Aiud etc.

Mr. Maniu, Mr. Brătianu and Mr. Rădescu look closely after the success of the tour. (A.N.I.C, The General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, file 139/1945).

¹ Christopher Fry (1907-2005) - British dramatist.

The Theatrical Chronicle of Romania (circulated in the Galați area in June-July 1946).

In Bucharest, on the stage of the Presidency of the Council of Ministries, a new play is available: How long will these works? It is a national tragic comedy which is played on the nation, several acts developing in a number of days. The play features the whole cast of the USSR lead by Dr. Petru Groza.

Cast

Stage director	Guță Tătărescu
Text	Constantinescu Iași
Music effects and stage	I. Vișinski
Setting	gen. Cambrea, Lascăr and Maltropol
Extras	the Tudor Vladimirescu Division
Chief electrician	Gheorghiu Dej
Prompter	Vinogradov, Susaikov
Director	Ana Pauker and Vasile Luca, followed by the Patriotic Defense
Costumes	out of Soviet cotton

Actors as presented on stage

Director of the asylum	Petru Groza
Imprudent lawyer	Lucrețiu Păstrășcanu
Director of the penitentiary	D. Oeriu
The beast	Nicolau
Jew under disguise	T. Georgescu
The old servant	D. Dombrovski
The crater of the day	M. Ralea
Spy no. 1	Bodnăraș
A wanderer of fate	Romulus Zăroni
The Royal cobbler	gen. Vasiliu Rășcanu
Holy Priest	Burducea
A Romanian	Vlădescu Răcoasa
Second good Romanian	Lothar Rădăceanu
A chief without a party	Constantin Titel Petrescu

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The Theater Chronicle (1946) (A.N.I.C, The General Inspectorate of Police, file 61/1946, f. 146).

For the first time in Romania, on the 6th of March, on the stage of the Romanian theater, in the Palavrium circus, playing in the large dictatorial concentration, the puppets troupe conspicuously led by the starlet Anicuța Pauker also known as Riftilă and Vasilică Luca known as the Hungarian, with the following cast:

Cast

The Clown	Pe. Trică Groza
August the Fool	Romică Zăroni
The fakir or the Child tamer	Fănică Voitec
The tamer	Teohărică Georgescu called Teo
The juggler	Guță Tătărescu
First salesman	Ghelveică
Second salesman	Oeriu called Jidi Schefer
Third salesman	Screier called fourfold
The verbose storyteller	the prophet Constantinescu – Iași
Responsible with puppet transport	Handyman Ghiță Gheorghiu – Deșt
Musical production	
Hungarian Gypsies orchestra	maestro Vlădescu Răcoasa

The following popular songs will be played

Cotton, cotton
Famine, oh, so, close
Players and saboteurs
The reactionaries
I do not want to go
A little trip to Moscow
People, people, why have you abandoned us?
You want nothing

This show has and will be played for the people everyday starting from March the 6th on the stages erected in the Palace, Nation, Victory and St. George squares.

Artistic director
Technical Director

Anicuța Pauker called Riftili
Lucaci called the Hungarian

To come:

6 months of dictatorship
March 6th - September 6th 45
Same cast

Soon to come:

The famine – same cast

In the making:

Anarchy – same amateurs

Typed poster, shown in the village Stâlpu (Buzău) 1946

Until when

One act masquerade

Author Petru Groza

Action takes place in a single act, nowadays

Cast

Stage director

Prompter

An extra

An old man

A Romanian patriot

A disguised Jew

A hermit priest

A points man

The shoemaker of the palace

I. Vișinski

Susaikov

Tătărescu

R. Zărone

Ana Pauker

Th. Georgescu

Burducea

Gheorghiu Dej

V. Rășcanu

The show is sold out. Tickets are available at the union.

The troupe is soon to leave on tour. Representations in Ocnele Mari, Aiud, Jilava, Văcărești, Doftana.

Mr. Maniu and Mr. Brătianu are looking closely after the success of the tour. (A.N.I.C, The General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, file 139/1945, f. 251).