

LIST OF PLAYS

“AFTER ME, THE DELUGE”

(“AU RESTE, APRES MOIS, LE DELUGE”)

(A HERESY in 1 act)

“CARAVAGGIO”

(A HISTORICAL DRAMA in 2 acts)

“PRINCE MYSHKIN”

(A DRAMA in 2 acts)

“NAREKACI”

(A DRAMATIC ELEGY in 2 acts)

“MY BROTHER NERON”

(“IL MIO FRATELLO NERONE”)

(A HISTORICAL TRAGEDY in 3 acts)

“RAMBO AND RIMBAUD”

(A DRAMA VISION in 2 acts)

“BUKOWSKI’S BALLS”

(A COMEDY IN 2 acts)

AFTER ME, THE DELUGE

A PLAY IN TWO ACTS

BY GIEDRIUS ZUBAVIČIUS

CHARACTERS:

JESUS

ROMAN LEGIONARY

GOD

JUDAS

EVE

ADAM

CONFUCIUS

LAOZI

SAMURAI

PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS

PSYCHIATRIST
INTERPRETER
SAINT PETER
SUPERINTENDENT
WORKERS
CARL GUSTAV JUNG
ZIGMUND FREUD
JUNG'S WIFE
REVOLUTIONIST
DISCIPLES
CROWD
GEISHAS
PEASANT WOMEN
NURSE
ANGEL

ACT 1

At the edge of the stage, a tree is standing.

At the back of the stage, there is a huge blackboard.

The blackboard displays a writing in big capital letters:

AS SOON AS YOU FEEL
THAT YOUR WINGS START UNFOLDING,
BE AWARE
THAT SOMEONE'S APPROACHING YOU

WITH AN AXE IN THE HAND

In the middle of the stage, there is JESUS. He is mumbling something incomprehensible in whispers, as if praying.

On the cord, like a climber, GOD is hanging above the stage. He is ascending and rubbing the text from the blackboard in nervous movements.

In level military step, ROMAN LEGIONARY enters the stage from the right side and approaches JESUS.

He stops in front of JESUS. Then leans towards JESUS, as if wanting to hear what he is whispering. After a pause, ROMAN LEGIONARY punches JESUS in the cheek. JESUS turns his right cheek to the LEGIONARY. A punch. Again a punch in the other cheek, with growing strength. Again, another punch in the other cheek. And once again. JESUS is lying on the floor.

GOD, who has already cleaned the text from the blackboard, is watching all of this and smiling. ROMAN LEGIONARY leaves the stage in level step.

From the left side, CONFUCIUS enters the stage. He approaches the cords on which GOD is hanging, and begins to pull the cord, bringing GOD down to the stage. GOD is trying to say something, but stutters.

EVE, in the nude, approaches GOD. For a few moments, she looks GOD in the face. Then a spit comes in the face of GOD. GOD cleans his face with his sleeve.

On the stage, JUDAS appears. In his hand, he has a cord. He gets closer to the tree. Throws the cord on the branch. Then pulls it back.

He measures the loop. Makes a knot. Goes towards GOD. GOD is standing still and stagnant. JUDAS puts the loop around GOD's neck. Then takes it off.

JUDAS approaches JESUS, who is lying on the floor. He lifts him up. Undresses him. Puts him back on its feet. JESUS falls down on his knees. Silently prays. JUDAS puts the loop around JESUS' neck. He pulls the cord shortly.

GOD pisses himself – there is a splash growing under his feet. JUDAS drags JESUS towards the tree. He is already hanging JESUS on the branch. GOD is watching all of it, with his eyes expanded.

JUDAS puts JESUS back down on the ground. He is thinking something intensively. After a minute, he bursts out with laughter. Gives a long laugh. Suddenly, the laughter gets stuck in his throat. Silence.

He comes in quick step to the tree, slips a loop around his neck and hangs himself. GOD clutches his own head. Standing aside, CONFUCIUS is watching all of this. After a few moments, he pulls out a cell phone from his pocket and speaks something in an incomprehensible language. The stage slowly sinks into darkness.

Slowly, the light comes back. All the actors are in their places. CONFUCIUS, thoughtful, is walking back and forth. He is muttering something to himself. LAOZI enters the stage. He approaches CONFUCIUS. Both of them sit down on the stage. They are talking about something to each other in a peaceful manner.

LAOZI pulls a few sticks out of his pocket. He throws them on the floor. CONFUCIUS takes out his notebook and writes something down. LAOZI throws the sticks again. And once again. CONFUCIUS is taking notes. They are talking to each other. CONFUCIUS takes a mobile phone from his pocket. He is speaking something in a calm voice.

At that moment, naked EVE enters the stage, with her hair tousled and her eyes haunted. She is singing a melody in a low voice.

CONFUCIUS is speaking on the phone again.

SAMURAI (looking like Tosi-ro Mifune) appears on the stage, wearing a kimono and carrying an axe in his belt. He performs several martial movements with the axe. Then freezes to the spot and stands motionless.

Three PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS appear on the stage. They take EVE away.

SAMURAI pulls out a book from under his flap, comes closer and presents it to CONFUCIUS. CONFUCIUS looks through the book and starts reading it aloud, in a calm voice. LAOZI, quietly shaking his head, lights up a cigarette. CONFUCIUS continues reading.

He waves his hand at SAMURAI. SAMURAI comes closer. CONFUCIUS is saying something to SAMURAI. SAMURAI, once again, performs some fighting movements with the axe. Then he gives a roar and freezes near GOD.

Enter the stage PSYCHIATRIST and INTERPRETER. They come closer to CONFUCIUS and LAOZI. CONFUCIUS, LAOZI and PSYCHIATRIST have a short conversation among themselves in low voices. INTERPRETER interprets in a low voice.

PSYCHIATRIST, INTERPRETER and CONFUCIUS approach GOD.

PSYCHIATRIST (addressing GOD):

- How do you feel now? Do you hear voices?

GOD (quietly):

- No.

PSYCHIATRIST:

- And how have you been sleeping lately?

GOD:

- Not really profoundly.

PSYCHIATRIST:

- Do you have dreams?

GOD:

- No.

PSYCHIATRIST:

- Have you ever been treated in a psychiatric hospital?

GOD:

- No.

PSYCHIATRIST gives a sign to CONFUCIUS, both of them and INTERPRETER go away from God.

CONFUCIUS (INTERPRETER interprets the PSYCHIATRIST the text that CONFUCIUS is saying, and vice versa):

- How do you think he is?

PSYCHIATRIST:

- No good.

CONFUCIUS:

- How complex is his case?

PSYCHIATRIST:

- I cannot say, but I think it is not schizophrenia.

CONFUCIUS:

- But what is it?

PSYCHIATRIST:

He should be left to us, at least for a couple of weeks. But there is one suspicion that I have... it could be the schizoid effect. And we should get to know his family history, whether anyone of his home folks had similar problems.

INTERPRETER is interpreting their conversation.

After a pause.

CONFUCIUS:

- As far as we know, he says that he has neither family nor parents, only a son. My colleagues and I have read a few passages from his novel, where he derives everything only from himself.

PSYCHIATRIST:

- I also read a few excerpts while I was traveling here. That is why I'm saying there might be the schizoid effect. But I guess this is not schizophrenia, because his thinking is rational and perhaps smooth. In two, three weeks, he will recover, with medication assistance. Now there is a new generation of medications that should help him. We just need to sort out the formalities – his insurance and so on.

CONFUCIUS:

- As you say, sir.

PSYCHIATRIST gives instructions to PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS.

ACT 2.

AFTER ONE MONTH.

Enters SAINT PETER. He shakes PSYCHIATRIST'S hand.

SAINT PETER:

- Tomorrow, you will receive a cash transfer for non-reimbursed medicines. In case something goes wrong, you have my number.

At the edge of the stage, CONFUCIUS and his DISCIPLES are sitting and throwing sticks, writing down something into their notebooks, then one DISCIPLE, and later the other, read aloud something from the book.

On the stage, there are a few WORKERS, SAINT PETER, SAMURAI and SUPERINTENDENT.

SUPERINTENDENT (to WORKER):

- I'm telling you. CONFUCIUS has assured me that he will not cause any more problems, he said, literally – if he wishes so, let him hang there, it's none of our business, we leave the guards with him, and let's everyone pray that he doesn't have to go back to where ADAM has been for the second year already. That's what he said – lift him and leave him there.

WORKERS, with the help of cords, lift GOD up and leave him hanging above the stage. GOD starts to swing.

HOSPITAL WARD.

CARL GUSTAV JUNG is lying in bed. He opens his eyes. Near the bed, SIGMUND FREUD and JUNG'S WIFE are sitting.

JUNG'S WIFE:

- How do you feel, Karl? The professor wanted to see you so much. He has come straight from Vienna to visit you. I am very grateful to him.

FREUD:

- Please don't say that, how can I not visit my friend... That's just four hours away. How do you feel, Karl?

JUNG:

- Everything seems to be alright, Sigmund. But those dreams... For several weeks, I've had the same dream, the same dream...

FREUD:

- What kind of dream?

JUNG:

- There's a sea of blood ... and it is growing, until it covers all of Europe... blood... blood... blood...

FREUD is listening attentively.

After a pause.

FREUD:

- I don't even know how to interpret it... But it is important to prevent a recurrence of the attack.

JUNG:

- That is true. But that dream has been obsessing me.

FREUD:

- This is temporary. You will get home, take a walk in the woods, go fishing, calm down, come back to your work... You know, I was happy to read your piece "Seven Sermons". Not that I understood much... But for me, it's a work of your art, not that of science.

JUNGAS:

- A work of art, you say...I wrote it in one night...

FREUD rises from the chair.

FREUD:

- I have to go now... I will bring one book to my fellow and then head to the station. Goodbye, Karl, goodbye, Ma'am. (He nods to JUNG'S WIFE).

FREUDAS leaves the stage.

JUNG'S WIFE bends over and kisses JUNG.

JUNG:

- You know, when the nightmares end, I will start my work, I'll be playing with children, and I'll spend time with you. And please, forgive me for making you suffer so much.

Enters NURSE.

NURSE:

- Hello there, medication time.

Slowly, the stage is getting dark, until it becomes completely dark.

Someone is shouting in the dark, as if having a bad dream.

The light highlights a metal bed, on which naked ADAM is lying, with his arms and legs tied to the bed.

Nearby, SAMURAI is making combat moves with an axe in his hand.

SAMURAI leaves the stage, and soon comes back with a cup of steaming tea in his hands. He sits down, and starts singing some kind of a Japanese song. The axe is placed beside him.

SAMURAI is sipping his tea.

Meanwhile, ADAM begins to loosen his tied hands. He pulls his right hand out of the loop. Making slow movements, he also frees his left arm. Then he releases from the loops one leg, then the other leg. In slow moves, he rises from the bed.

SAMURAI is snoozing. ADAM is looking around. He approaches the sleeping SAMURAI. Takes the axe and in slow, cautious step, leaves the stage.

The stage plunges in darkness.

After a pause, the light illuminates GOD. The sound of a bird singing. GOD is looking around. He smiles and starts to climb up the cord until he disappears from the spectator's view.

The light illuminates LAOZI sitting at the edge of the stage and looking towards somewhere far away. LAOZI is smoking. At the other side of the stage, DISCIPLES are playing cards.

The stage lights up in reflections of different colors. Drums. From above, a bang is heard, and a "lightning" flashes.

Across the stage, from one side to another, "sails" a bunch of GEISHAS.

From the opposite side of the stage to another, PEASANT WOMEN with big butts (like in the AMARCORD movie) pass on bicycles.

Enters a car developed in the 1950s. Through the car window, a guy sticks out to shout through the speakers:

- LIBERTÉ, EGALITÉ, FRATERNITÉ!

The light illuminates a tribune standing at the back of the stage.

REVOLUTIONIST (very loud):

- And what awaits you is something that we deserve and must have...

Around the tribune, CROWD starts to gather. The people begin to wave flags. The lighting changes the colors of the flags, ranging from white to green...to blue...

From high above, slowly descends a huge red flag, until it covers the heads of all who are present on the stage.

Black curtain comes down.

In the space between the audience and the curtain, ADAM is walking around. He lifts one, and then the other edge of the curtain fabric.

At the back of the stage, there is a huge blackboard. GOD is walking up and down the red fabric. He leaves the stage for a short while and returns with a ladder. He puts up the ladder and climbs it to the top of the board. In red chalk, he slowly writes down the text:

AS SOON AS YOU FEEL

THAT YOUR WINGS START UNFOLDING,

BE AWARE

THAT SOMEONE'S APPROACHING YOU

WITH AN AXE IN THE HAND

In the space between the audience and the curtain, ANGEL is slowly walking around. The light illuminates him in different colors, from black to red, from red to white. ANGEL stops right in front of the audience.

At the other side of the stage, naked ADAM is throwing the axe at a wooden wall. He hits the wall. He comes closer, pulls the axe out, and throws it again.

He repeats it several times.

Meanwhile, the lights switch on in the hall. ANGEL together with the audience leaves the hall, while ADAM is still throwing the axe at the wall.

