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Mother Courage and Her Children (1980)

Spring 3-26-1980

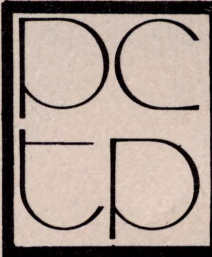
Mother Courage and Her Children Playbill

Jill Sharkey

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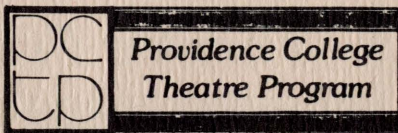
*Providence College
Theatre Program*

Harkins Hall Auditorium

**MOTHER COURAGE
AND HER CHILDREN**



March 26 - 30, 1980



presents

MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN

A chronicle of the Thirty Years War

by Bertolt Brecht

translation by Ralph Manheim

Music by Paul Dessau

adapted and arranged by R. B. Haller, O.P.

Directed by

MARY G. FARRELL

Scenery by

ELIZABETH POPIEL-DELP

Costumes by

PETER J. CAMERON

Lighting by

CARL F. GUDENIUS

Theatre Arts Program Director

JOHN GARRITY

Prologue

On route to the war zone.
"The Song of Mother Courage"

Scene I: 1624

Spring. General Oxenstjerna recruits troops in Dalarna for the Polish campaign. The canteen woman, Anna Fierling, known as Mother Courage, loses a son.

Scene II: 1625-26

Mother Courage crosses Poland in the train of the Swedish armies. Outside the fortress of Wallhof, she meets her son again. A capon is successfully sold, the brave son's fortunes are at their zenith.

"The Song of the Old Wife and the Soldier"

Scene III: 1629

Three years later, Mother Courage and parts of a Finnish regiment are taken prisoner. She is able to save her daughter and her wagon, but her honest son dies.

"The Song of Fraternization"

"The Song of Hours"

Scene IV: 1629

Mother Courage sings the Song of the Great Capitulation.

"The Song of the Great Capitulation"

Scene V: 1632

Outside Ingolstadt in Bavaria, Mother Courage attends the funeral of Tilly, the imperial Field Marshal. Conversations about the longevity of the war; the Chaplain deplures the waste of his talents. Mute Kattrin gets the red shoes.
"Soldier's Song"

Scene VI: 1632

Mother Courage at the height of her business career.

"The Song of Mother Courage"

Scene VII:

In the same year, Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden is killed at the battle of Lutzen. Peace threatens to ruin Mother Courage's business. Her brave son performs one heroic deed too many, and dies an ignominious death.

"The Song of Mother Courage"

Scene VIII: 1634

The Great War of religion has been going on for sixteen years. Germany has lost more than half its population. Those whom the slaughter has spared have been laid low by epidemics. Once flourishing countrysides are ravaged by famine. Wolves prowl through the charred cities. In the Fall, we find Mother Courage in Germany, in the Fichtelgebirge, at some distance from the road followed by the Swedish armies. Winter comes early, and is exceptionally severe. Business is bad, begging is the only resort. The cook receives a letter from Utrecht, and is dismissed.

"Song of the Temptations of the Great"

Scene IX: 1635

Throughout the year, Mother Courage and her daughter, Kattrin, pull the wagon over the roads of Central Germany in the wake of the increasingly bedraggled armies.

"Song from the Peasant's House"

Scene X: 1636

January. The imperial troops threaten the Protestant city of Halle. The stone speaks. Mother Courage loses her daughter and goes on alone. The end of the war is not in sight.

Scene XI:

"Lullaby"

"The Song of Mother Courage"

CAST

MOTHER COURAGE Kate Farrell
KATTRIN Wilma Mondì
ELIF Peter J. Cameron
SWISS CHEESE Jim Maher
COOK Daniel E. Otero
CHAPLAIN Wally Dunn
YVETTE Mary Ellen Baxter

COMPANY

(in order of appearance)

Matthew Hilgreen
Frank Toti
Frank Gorrell
Matt Oliverio
Joe D'Antuono
Martina Flynn
Susan Schaefer

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

TO THOSE BORN AFTERWARDS

by Bertolt Brecht

I

Truly, I live in dark times!
The innocent word is foolish.
A smooth brow
Indicates coldness. The laughing man
Has still not received
The news of wrath.

What are these times, where
A mention of trees is almost a crime
For it locks in silence so many
outrages!
Can the man walking quietly in the
streets
Be reached by his friends
Who are in need?

It is true: I still earn my living
But believe me: that is only an
accident. Nothing
I do justifies filling myself with food.
Accidentally, I am spared.
(When my luck gives out I am lost.)

People tell me: eat and drink!
Be happy for what you have!
But how can I eat and drink, when
I take from the hungry what I eat, and
My glass of water fails the thirsty man?
And still I eat and drink.

I too would like to be wise.
The center of wisdom lies in the
ancient books:
To avoid the world's quarrel and
to pass
The short time without fear
And to get by in life without violence,

To repay evil with good;
Not to fulfill one's wishes, but to forget
Passes for wisdom.
All this I can't do:
Truly, I live in dark times!

II

You, who will raise yourselves
from the flood
In which we are sinking,
Consider
When you speak of our weaknesses
The dark time
You have escaped.
For we walked, changing our country
More often than our shoes,
Through the class war, puzzled
When there was only injustice
and no revolt.
Considering this we know with
certainty:
Even the hatred of lowliness
Distorts the features
Even anger against injustice
Makes the voice hoarse. Oh we
Who wished to prepare the ground
for friendship,
Could not ourselves be friendly.

But you, when the time has come
And man is helper to man,
Remember us
With understanding.

translated by James Schevill

“That’s our situation. We’re God-fearing folk, we stick together, we don’t murder, we don’t set fire to anything. You could say that we set an example which bears out the song, we sink lower and lower, we seldom see any soup, but if we were different, if we were thieves and murderers, maybe our bellies would be full. Because virtue isn’t rewarded, only wickedness, the world needn’t be like this, but it is.”

from the “Song of the Temptations of the Great”

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director	R. Scott Yuille
Stage Manager	Katherine J. Sabo
Vocal Coach	R. B. Haller, O.P.
Master Electrician	Jamie O'Brien
Electricians	Lynn Roberts Jim Nedza
Carpenter	Peter Wolfe
Stagecraft	Theater 104
Properties Mistress	Norma Jean Meglio
Properties Assistant	Cindy Flood
Sound Design	Chris Erhler
Costume Assistants	Mary Ellen Glennon Pat Landry Meghan Lynch Jim Maher
Wardrobe Mistress	Katherine Spackman
Make-Up	Judy Weaver
Box Office Manager	Jill Sharkey
Publicity	Jill Sharkey

MUSICIANS

Pianist	Martha Reynolds
Percussionist	Tim Salley

SPECIAL THANKS

Merlin's Closet, South Main Street, Providence
Bronislaw Sammler, Yale Repertory Theatre
Don Madden
LaSalle Academy
Mr. and Mrs. Keebler
Providence College Fine Arts Department/Ceramics Division
Peter Comerford, Chris Gill, and the men of Fennel Hall
Providence College Art Department
Providence College Office of Public Information
Gary Delp
Trinity Square Repertory Company
Mr. Armand Cavallaro