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### *The Three Fat Men-Politics of Magic*

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*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Marina Balina, Faculty Advisor

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Oral Presentation O2.1

*THE THREE FAT MEN – POLITICS OF MAGIC*

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Yury Olesha (1899-1960) was a prominent Soviet writer, who became famous in the 1920s with his novel *Envy*, his short stories and plays. His works represent innovative and non-conformist style for which he was later punished by the Soviet censorship by silence.

Among his earliest literary experiments is his fantasy for children *The Three Fat Men* written in 1924.

The violent years of the Civil War that followed the Socialist Revolution of 1917 were filled of contradictions and confusion of the new time. Olesha turns away from the depiction of violence and provides for both children and their parents a unique approach to the Revolution as a festivity with its exciting and vivid adventures. A study of Olesha's artistic imagination incorporated in his characters who go through unusual transformations in *The Three Fat Men* will be presented.