

The

UKRAINIAN

THEATRE



PRESENTS

MARUSIA

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE SEPTEMBER 27, 28, 1963

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MARK G. SMERCHANSKI

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СЕРДЕЧНО ВІТАЄМО...

Бажаємо доброго успіху і всього найкращого Українському Театрові в Вінніпегу з нагоди інавгураційного виступу його Ансамблю на сцені Плейгавз-театру 27 і 28 вересня, 1963.

Комітет Українців Канади, що репрезентує в цій країні всі українські організації і весь український національний табір сердечно вітає далекосяжний почин сповненого шляхетним ентузіазмом гурту осіб, що поставили собі завдання привести до нового повноцінного життя славне ім'я українського театру в осередку Західньої Канади.

Та чесна амбітна ініціатива, що її піднялась реалізувати українська молода генерація здебільша уродженці Канади заслуговує на найбільшу і всебічну піддержку нашого громадянства. Нехай же благодійна іскра, що зродилася з почину одиниць спалахне полум'ям та огріє наші серця і дасть нам всім глибше розуміння завдань, які стоять перед Українським Театром. Нехай забренять в Українському Театрі ті чарівні струни, які можуть перетворити мале і кволе у велике і могутнє та покладе в цій країні міцний фундамент для збереження української культури, бо втративши її ми загубили б свою душу. Нехай із сцени Українського Театру гомонить вільне українське слово, що буде розповідати про наш народ та його стремління до здійснення своїх національних і вселюдських ідеалів. Нехай Український Театр стане для нас всіх виразником туги за обнотою і поглибленням змісту свого життя та зближить нас всіх між собою, як дітей одного і того самого українського народу.

БОЖЕ ЩАСТИ!

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for the past three months
to the cost and production crew
of

“Marusia”

I am happy to associate myself with the Premiere performance of The Ukrainian Theatre of Winnipeg. It is particularly appropriate that your inaugural presentation will be the beloved Ukrainian musical classic, "Marusia", by Michael Starytskij.

I believe you are showing creditable enterprise in launching this new venture and I believe your efforts will be crowned with the success which they so richly deserve.

All my best wishes.

ERRICK F. WILLIS,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Manitoba has long been deeply conscious of the important role that Canadians of Ukrainian descent have played in both the economic and cultural development of our province.

Indeed, when one realizes that one of every nine Manitobans is of Ukrainian descent, the impact of their contribution can readily be understood.

It is with pleasure that we witness the inauguration of the Ukrainian Theatre in Winnipeg, for in providing such a major addition to our cultural life it is helping us increase the breadth of our heritage.

DUFF ROBLIN,
Premier of Manitoba.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR:-

I am delighted to join with all the citizens of Winnipeg in saluting the Theatre group which has pledged itself to nurture the finest in amateur dramatics with particular emphasis on the Ukrainian aspects of the Theatre.

In this cosmopolitan City, with its fine Ukrainian Choirs and other cultural activities, I am confident that you will find talent eager to exemplify the traditions that we love and cherish.

I offer my congratulations to the founders who have accepted the challenge and I wish them every success in this new endeavour.

STEPHEN JUBA,
Mayor.

MESSAGE OF GREETING TO THE UKRAINIAN THEATRE OF WINNIPEG

I wish, on behalf of the Metropolitan Council of Greater Winnipeg, to extend congratulations to the Ukrainian Theatre of Winnipeg on the occasion of its premiere performance as a theatre company.

Although this is your first effort in an exacting field of dramatic art, you follow in the footsteps of a variety of Ukrainian organizations which have fostered and preserved their cultural theatre in Winnipeg.

The Ukrainian Theatre has accepted an exciting challenge, and I know that you will have many rewarding experiences—as well as a time of accomplishment which will provide you with happy memories for the remainder of your lives.

It is my personal hope that you may have every success in attaining the worthwhile objectives upon which your Theatre is founded.

Yours sincerely,
R. H. G. BONNEYCASTLE,
Chairman of Council.

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CECIL SEMCHYSHYN, Artistic Director

Mr. Semchyshyn is well known to Winnipeg audiences as a Bass-Baritone and actor, having appeared in a variety of media including stage, radio, T.V., concert and once, in a movie. He received his early training in voice with Nina Dempsey in Winnipeg and won many awards at The Manitoba Musical Festival, appearing in the Rose Bowl competitions for three years. He has sung on at least 500 radio shows and appeared on over 100 television shows. After graduating from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 1956, he and his new bride Pearl moved to Toronto where he continued his vocal studies at the Royal Conservatory under George Lambert. There he received scholarships in the Opera School in '56, '57, '58 and a scholarship to study staging with Dr. Nagy of the Metropolitan Opera Company. He studied drama with Robert Gill, director of the Hart House Theatre at the University of Toronto. He appeared in numerous operas — The Goaler in "Tosca", Fishermen in "Peter Grimes", "Eugene Onegin", "The Mikado", on television; on the stage as "The Count" in "The Prima Donna" with The Royal Conservatory Opera School, and as Emile De Beque in "South Pacific" with the Winnipeg Musical Comedy Guild which went on to become Rainbow Stage.

Recently, he has entered the field of production and with his co-worker, Ray Michal, jointly produced the passion play, "Crucify Him" and Lysenko's opera, "Nocturne". Mr. Semchyshyn who was instrumental in the formation of "The Ukrainian Theatre" feels that a great contribution to Canadian theatre can be made by Ukrainians, "There is a wealth of talent and ample opportunity and we must do our utmost to see that our theatre flourishes, to share the wonderful store of music, drama and culture that Ukrainians possess". The Semchyshyns reside in West Kildonan and are the parents of son, Mark, who is five, and a daughter, Nadine, three.



JOAN KARASEVICH — "Marusia"

John Karasevich brings to the Ukrainian Theatre a rare combination of talent and beauty. She received her early training in Winnipeg: singing with Lucien Needham; piano with John Melnyk, and drama at the Manitoba Theatre School with Esme Crampton. While at the University of Manitoba, she sang leading roles in Glee Club productions of "Carousel", "Finian's Rainbow", and "Wish You Were Here". She has appeared in many Rainbow Stage productions — "Annie Get Your Gun", "Pyjama Game", "Damn Yankees", "Student Prince", and at Manitoba Theatre Centre in "Bus Stop", "Dark of the Moon", "Snow Queen", "Look Ahead", and a host of others. She toured the U.S.A. in a road show with Jimmy Rodgers in 1961 and has entertained in nightclubs across Canada and in Europe. She has made many radio and television appearances — the most notable being in "Kapitan's Fortune" on radio; Cabaret, Stage Door, Music Break, and The Tommy Ambrose Show on television. A scholarship student at the National Theatre School, Miss Karasevich has completed her first year and will return to Montreal in November to resume her studies. Joan graduated from the University of Manitoba with Bachelors degrees in Science and Pedagogy and has taught in high school in Winnipeg. A talent of which Winnipeg is truly proud, Joan appears as "Marusia" through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association. The Ukrainian Theatre is honoured to feature her in its first production.



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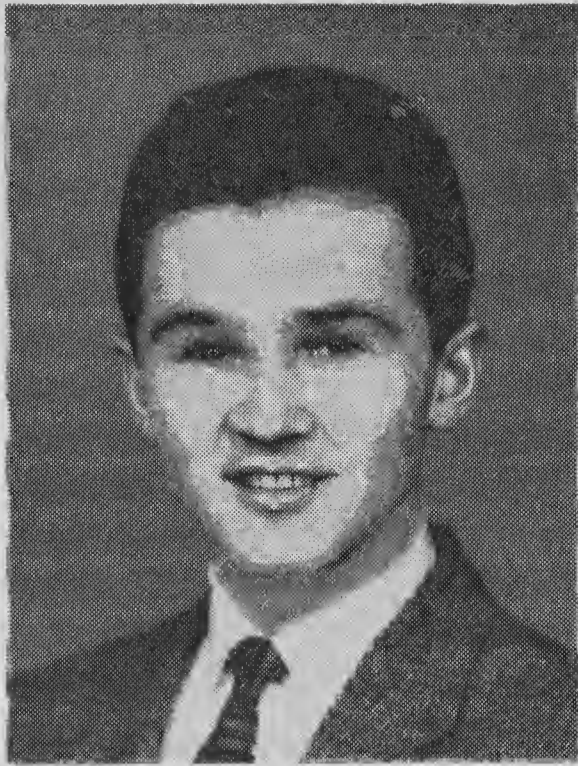
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IHOR TANCHUK — HRYTCH

Ihar Tanchuk is new to the stage and Winnipeg audiences. He has a very fine tenor voice which is housed in a most handsome frame. He was born in Stryj in the Western Ukraine and came to Canada in 1950. He has always been interested in singing and music, never passing up an opportunity to sing in various choirs. He started his stage career with recitations as a schoolboy and finished his education at Innsbruck in Austria. Ihar has sung with choirs both in Winnipeg and in Europe; at present he is a stalwart member of the Ukrainian National Youth Federation choir under our conductor Walter Klymkiw. Ihar is a bachelor.

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MARUSIA

By M. Starytskij

PRESENTED BY THE UKRAINIAN THEATRE

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE WINNIPEG SEPTEMBER 27, 28, 1963

DIRECTED BY Cecil Semchyshyn
PRODUCED BY Ray Michal
MUSICAL DIRECTOR Walter Klymkiw
SET DESIGNER Myrasia Birakawsky
COSTUME DESIGNER Marika Gawran

STAGE MANAGER Jahn Shewchuk
SET DECORATORS Andy Ulicki
Dave Negrych
LIGHTING Ian McTavish
MAKEUP Nadine Kelly

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Marusia Jaan Karasevich
Hrytch Ihar Tanchuk
Patap Nick Trusewych
Daryna Oksana Bashuk
Halyna Oksana Onufrijchuk
Dmytra Brian Rebchuk
Vaastyia Irene Kruk
Okhrym A. Luch
Stepanida Mary Krywanizka
Chama Sylvester Uchacz
Gypsy Fortune Teller Sania Zyla

CHORUS:

SOPRANOS—

Kay Kuzyk, Stella Hryniuk, Sania Zyla, Stephanie Lesyk.

ALTOS—

Helen Gashulak, Pat Senicki, Danna Babey, Jeanette Karpinka.

TENORS—

Lawrence Yanchynski, Dave Ramaniuk, Ted Perich, Ken Alyluia.

BASSES—

Jae Dudych, Walter Zyla, Barry Chabluk, William Salaman.

MUSICIANS—

William Kasian cymbalam
Jahn Kanasky violin

DANCERS:

Jaanne Sinkewich, Ray Senicki, Dan Bryk, Laretta Tankewich,
Vicki Yuzyk, Eugene Wawrin, Ihar Pana, Ellen Katella.

ORCHESTRA:

Christine Kazaniwsky, Caraline Bias, Dan Kawal, Laverne Stewart,
Ken Peters, Dan Cilinsky, William Zulak, Mary Ann Taylor, Stella
Peters.

Ellen Farmer, Concert Mistress

LILLIAN KARPINKA, Vocal Coach and Accompanist

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ДРАМА ЗІ СПІВАМИ В V ДІЯХ

Дієві особи в порядку виступу:

Перша дівчина Софія Жила
Друга дівчина Олена Гошуляк
Галина Оксана Онуфрійчук
Маруся Йоанна Карасевич
Хома Сильвестор Ухач
Дарина Оксана Башук
Гриць Ігор Танчук
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Охрим Андрій Луць
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Баба-Ворожка Софія Жила
Нарубки, Дівчата, Танцюристи, Музик.

ДІЯ I

РІЗДВО

1. “Чи дома, дома” Дівчата
2. “Чумарочка рибесенька” Маруся і дівчата
3. “Ой Потапе, Потапе” Маруся і Дарина
4. “Ішов Гриць з вечериць” Вустя
5. “Як пішла я по суніці” Вустя і Хор
6. “Ходив походив” Нарубки

ДІЯ II

СКЛАДЧИНА

1. “Ой у лузі” Потап і нарубки
2. “Ой ішов я улицею” Гриць і хор
3. “Ой я в батька одиниця” Галина
4. Танці

ДІЯ III

ВЕСНА

1. “Розвивайся ти дубочку” Дівчата
2. “Ой дівчина горлиця” Дмитро
3. “Ой ходила дівчинонька беріжком” Галина і Дмитро
4. “Ой у полі криниченька” Гриць

ДІЯ IV

В ЛІСІ

1. “Сумно, сумно” Нарубки
2. “Червона калина” Нарубки
3. “Ой важу я важу” Галина
4. “Вийду я на гіроцьку” Маруся, Гриць і хор
5. “На городі калинонька” Хор і Дмитро

ДІЯ V

ШУРАЇВ ХАТА

1. “Ой і зрада, зрада” Маруся
2. “Та не жур мене моя мати” Гриць
3. “Ой не ходи Грицю” Маруся

М. Старицький

MARUSIA

ACT I The Christmas Season. Evening.

While carolling for the hunchback, Choma, the girls learn that he loves Marusia. Choma overhears Daryna, Hrytch's sister, chastising Marusia for flirting with her own sweetheart, Potap. Choma vows to make Marusia his. Vustia, Marusia's mother, meets the carollers and invites them to celebrate in song the consent of Hrytch's parents to the marriage of Hrytch and Marusia. Choma provokes Potap against Hrytch and suggests setting fire to Marusia's home as a means of revenge.

ACT II The Party at Stepanida's. That Night.

Choma tells Stepanida that Hrytch has fallen for another girl, Halyna. Stepanida is surprised and when Hrytch arrives informs him of the rumors about Marusia and Potap. This apparent faithfulness angers Hrytch and when Marusia enters, he ridicules her and Potap in spite of Stepanida's attempts to restore harmony. After the boys arrive, Hrytch persists in mocking Potap. A fight is prevented by the girls' entrance, but Marusia is dismayed at the sight of Hrytch kissing Halyna. Marusia asks Potap to dance with Daryna. Daryna interprets his invitation as an insult and resists. Hrytch leaps to his sister's defence and in the ensuing fight, Potap comes up with a knife. As they are separated by the crowd, Hrytch maliciously tells Potap to keep his discarded Marusia.

ACT III On the Riverbank. A spring day.

The girls are gossiping about Potap's arrest for setting fire to Marusia's house. Daryna defends her beloved. As she departs in tears, the girls accuse Halyna of turning Hrytch away from Marusia. Halyna is startled by Dmytro who brings a message that Hrytch has returned from his travels and awaits her at home. Daryna's attempt to comfort the ailing Marusia fails when she tells her that Hrytch is still courting Halyna. Marusia says that she would die rather than see Hrytch marry Halyna, but Daryna points out that Marusia's flirtations have caused her this grief. Marusia pleads with Choma for help in winning back Hrytch. Choma, who has supported Marusia's family since the fire, seeing this as another opportunity to further his own schemes, agrees. Hrytch, realizing that Marusia is his true love, attempts a reconciliation, but Choma prevents it by announcing to them that Potap has been proven innocent. Hrytch mistakes Marusia's joy for a lover's outburst and departs enraged. In despair, Marusia intends to take Choma's advice and seek out a local gypsy for some charms to win back Hrytch.

ACT IV By an old mill. That night.

The gypsy fortune teller gives Marusia two potions which she has mixed according to Choma's devilish directions. Marusia is grateful and later joins the boys and girls who have gathered for an evening of singing and fun. Hayna tells Hrytch that Marusia seems more attentive to him now that Choma's rumor about Potap's freedom has been discredited by village officials. Marusia gives Hrytch the love potion, but he rejects her protestations of love. Marusia begs Hrytch to come to her home for one last meeting before his betrothal to Halyna. Left alone, Marusia declares that after this meeting she and Hrytch will never be separated again.

ACT V Marusia's home. The next day.

Marusia's parents are disturbed at their daughter's peculiar behavior. She explains that she is excited about Hrytch's visit. Choma reassures Vustia that all will end well and suggests that he would gladly marry Marusia if Vustia will intercede for him. Marusia, determined to have Hrytch in death, if not in life, prepares the second potion, a poison for herself and Hrytch. Hrytch sings for her and then drinks to their reconciliation. Marusia cries out to him to leave some for her, but it is too late. Tenderly Marusia bends over her dying lover and in her lament chides him gently for having gone to so many parties, where he was bewitched by pretty girls.

—Synopsis by Roman Nykyforuk.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ukrainian National Home Association, Rainbow Stage, O'Keefe's Old Vienna Brewing Co. (Manitoba) Ltd., Mr. Tom Hendry, Eastern Sales Ltd., Mr. J. P. Sulymko, Mrs. Antonowych, Mr. Don. Danko, Mr. J. Coleman Fletcher, Singer Sewing Machine Co. Mrs. M. Kuzyk, Mr. Shelton Blank, Miss Jean Solyo, Mr. Bohdan Senyskiw, Winnipeg Paint and Glass Co. Ltd., Monarch Lumber Co. Ltd., Celebrity Concerts (Canada) Ltd., Ukrainian Youth Association (S.U.M.)

Thanks For Special Assistance—Ted Korol, Steve Zulak, Mrs. Hawrysh, Charles E. Dojaek, Mrs. M. Ogaranko.

OXSANA ONUFRIJCHUK — "Halyna"

A rising star in the Ukrainian Theatre, Oksana has endeared herself to Ukrainian audiences with her numerous singing performances at concerts and variety shows, and most recently in the opera "Nocturne". A student of R. Labinsky, she has appeared on television in "Talent Time" and "Hi Jinx" and in Dave Rabertson's Rainbow Stage production of "King and I". A second year Arts student at United College, Oksana intends to continue her musical and dramatic training.

OXSANA BASHUK — "Daryna"

Oksana Bashuk has won distinction in Winnipeg for her dramatic recitations. She has acted leading roles in "V Chuzhim Pirju" and "Koza Dereza", appeared in many high school productions and the University of Manitoba Glee Club's "Plain and Fancy". She studied at the Canadian School of Ballet and danced in the Ethnic Group's Festival. A Bachelor of Arts graduate, Oksana is now employed by the Winnipeg Public Library.

NICK TRUSEWYCH — Potap

Nick Trusewych is also a newcomer to the Ukrainian stage. He is a student in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Manitoba, majoring in Political Science. Nick has taken part in stage productions since childhood. In Winnipeg, at high school he played the part of Nick Bottom in "Midsummer Nights Dream". He has sung in school choirs and in Ukrainian choirs with various organizations. Nick possesses a fine sense of theatre and shows promise as a valued member of the Ukrainian Theatre.

SYLVESTER UCHACZ — Choma

Born in Strusiv in the Western Ukraine, Sylvester came to Canada in 1930 and since then has been active in theatrical circles within the Ukrainian National Federation in many capacities. He is a veteran actor of our stage and has portrayed the part of Choma on a number of different occasions. He produced "Marusia" on one occasion. His experience and advice have proven an invaluable asset to the Theatre. The role of Choma is a demanding one, but the capable Mr. Uchacz makes him a credible, living character.

MARY KRYWONIZKA — Stepanida

Mary Krywonizka has been active on the stage since she was seven years old, and took many a leading role in amateur Ukrainian theatricals. She performed very convincingly as Miriam in "Crucify Him", which our Director produced two years ago. She also played the pantomime part of the Mother in the opera Nocturne last February. She is a full time bookkeeper, wife and mother of four children, who, by the way are following in mother's footsteps and showing great interest in the stage. As Mary herself says, "I love the theatre so much I'd rather act than eat".

BRIAN REBCHUK — Dmytra

Brian Rebchuk is an Honours student at the University of Manitoba. Although this is his debut in Ukrainian theatre, he is no stranger to the stage. In high school he played such leading roles as The Rev. Mr. Collins in "Pride and Prejudice", and the Butler in J. M. Barrie's "Shall We Join The Ladies". His hobby is playwriting and he has shown his ability in this field with two award winning skits in local competitions. Brian plays the piano and is a member of the St. Nicholas Church choir. He is also president of OBNOVA. His ability as a comedian made Brian the logical choice for Dmytro.

SONIA ZYLA — The Fortune Teller (Gypsy)

Born in Lodz, Poland, Sonia came to Canada in 1949 and graduated from the University of Manitoba with a B.Sc. and B.S.W. degree. She studied piano and theory with Mrs. A. Kysilewsky and A. D. Zimmerman. She has taken part in numerous high school and University Glee Club shows, among them Hebe, in "H.M.S. Pinafore" and Delilah in "Girl Crazy." She also appeared as Veronica in "Crucify Him". She was a member of the Schola Cantorum under Glen Pierce and also his radio ensemble. It follows that Sonia should have a flair for theatre, as her mother is a very fine actress and has done much work in this field.

ANDREW LUCH — Ochrym

Mr. Luch is also a veteran of the Ukrainian stage in Winnipeg and has appeared in a number of Ukrainian movies which were made in Winnipeg in the "thirties". He appeared quite regularly with an amateur theatrical group which was active during the thirties and forties at The Ukrainian Reading Association on Flora and McKenzie Streets.

IRENE KRUK — "Voostia"

Irene Kruk has been a member of various Ukrainian choirs in Winnipeg. Most recently, she distinguished herself as Barbaras' sister, Hatta, in "Crucify Him" and the maid in the opera "Nocturne". She possesses a fine singing voice and is a great asset to the Ukrainian Theatre.

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RAY MICHAL, Assistant Producer

Without Ray, there would be no "Marusia". Assisting the director with script and rehearsals, decorating sets, publicizing the show, preparing the programme, anything that needed doing, he did. To the theatre, he is a relative newcomer, although his stage experience began with a lead role in a high school operetta, "Chanita", in which he sang the role of Stefan. After graduating from the University of Manitoba in 1959, he taught at Campian College in Regina for two years. He joined Cecil Semchysyn in the production "Crucify Him", in which he played the part of a pharisee and stepped into the larger role of assistant producer. Out of this association, the idea of a permanent Ukrainian Theatre was born and was nurtured to its present degree of development. Ray's deep interest in the theatre extends to the desire to write modern drama for the Ukrainian theatre.

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WALTER KLYMKIW, Musical Director

Walter Klymkiw was born in Winnipeg and has been active in Ukrainian cultural and musical circles for many years. He studied violin in his formative years and through his association with choirs in Winnipeg and attendance at the Ukrainian Summer Courses, became vitally interested in conducting. He studied conducting at these courses and has for the past ten years been the conductor of the Ukrainian National Federation Youth choir in Winnipeg. When TV first appeared in Winnipeg Mr. Klymkiw was asked to conduct a group of singers which appeared on a program called "Dances of the Nations" and was produced by John Hirsch of MTC fame. Mr. Klymkiw's choir sang at the Manitoba Music Festival and were runners up for two successive years. Walter was a natural for the Ukrainian Theatre as many of the people who are vitally concerned with production were Canadian born and this way we were able "to field an all-Canadian team". It should also be mentioned here that Walter is a fine tenor. He is a welcome addition to the Theatre and we hope that his association with it may be a long one.

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THE UKRAINIAN THEATRE — HISTORY AND REVIVAL

Theatres, as is the case in most of Europe, existed in almost every city, town and hamlet throughout the Ukraine. Professional theatres were found mostly in the larger cities like Kiev, Odessa, Ternopol, but they were far outnumbered by the multitude of amateur theatres which were organized within almost every organization or society in the Ukraine. Wherever people got together on an organized basis, the first thing to appear was an amateur theatrical group. The Ukrainian people thrived on this kind of activity as it gave them an outlet for their pent-up feelings of remorse living in a country which had lost its political freedom so many years ago, and provided a release from these tensions through the production of such plays or musicals as "Marusia," "Cossacks Beyond the Danube," "Natalka Paltavka."

"Natalka Poltavka" was the most successful comedy written by Ivan Katlarevsky and began a new period in Ukrainian theatre which has lasted till this day. The plots for these plays were drawn from characteristic scenes in the daily life of the Ukrainian peasant, as well as events in Ukrainian history and most of all from the deeds of the Ukrainian heroes — the Cossacks of Zaporozia.

This ardent feeling for the theatre was brought over to Canada by the first Ukrainian settlers in the early 1900's. To fill their leisure hours fruitfully many people joined the theatres and helped as best they could to promote and stage musicals, plays and concerts. The theatre in the Ukraine communities of Canada became a flourishing and energetic enterprise. The Ukrainian National Home at the corner of Burrows and McGregor was the hub of most of this early activity. At one time four amateur theatrical groups existed and employed such well known people as Professor Eugene Turula, William Kazaniwsky, Dr. Paul Macenka, Rev. Tsukarnyk, and Mr. Pasichniak. Other organizations such as the Ukrainian Institute Prasnivta, Ukrainian National Federation were similarly involved and plays or concerts were being staged almost every weekend or twice a week. During the war years, activity in the theatre dwindled and with the advent of TV completely disappeared.

Two years ago, Cecil Semchyshyn was asked to produce a Passion Play for the Ukrainian Catholic Professional and Business Women's Club. Here he met Ray Michal and worked together on this production which was very well received by the Ukrainians of Winnipeg. The idea for a permanent Ukrainian Theatre arose here and the wheels were put in motion for its fulfillment.

Last February, the Ukrainian Canadian Committee called upon these two young men to stage an opera commemorating the life and works of the famous Ukrainian composer, Mykala Lysenka. They chose the opera Nacturne, which was enthusiastically received by the public. During these two productions they met and worked with energetic and talented people. Maryka Gawran who has a wealth of experience in the costume field became their Costume Designer; Myrasia Birakowsky, a young lady with a flair for the brush and easel became Set Designer; and the most recent acquisition to the growing theatre is Myran Ogaranka who has become their Business Manager and Jack-of-all Trades. Together, this nucleus went about getting a Board of Directors and recently announced the appointment of a board and its incorporation as a non-profit corporation to carry on the objects of a national, artistic and professional character in the theatre.

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