

Welcome to this Laboratory Theatre production, the sixth in the series which began with *Under Milkwood* in 1982. The Laboratory Theatre concept was developed to provide advanced theatre students with an opportunity to work in depth on plays of unusual artistic merit which might otherwise not be produced. These students are enrolled in an academic class, and their success rests in a large part on this production.

R.U.R., written in 1921 by Karel Capek, is generally considered one of the few masterpieces of Czech theatre, as well as of expressionistic drama. Expressionism was described by Lothar Schreyer as "the spiritual movement of a time that places inner experiences above external life. The theatrical expressionists were protesting the increasing mechanization of society. They frequently re-sorted to stock or type characterizations, choppy, non-realistic dialog, and settings in fantasy or dream worlds to convey their messages.

Capek, however, basically retained a realistic frame-work to convey his thesis in R.U.R. Expressionism in this instance came from the story line of the mechanization of society to the point where the robots are able to annihilate humankind before they realize that human creativity and imagination are essential to meaningful life. (The word *robot* was coined by Capek for use in this play.)

Although the play does not intrinsically mention the possible year in which it might have happened, there is some evidence that Capek anticipated a time some 30 or 40 years in the future. For this production we chose to advance the time frame proportionally from today. The problem of mechanization holds as true for us as it did for Capek. Although Capek succeeded amazingly well in anticipating those potential problems, his crystal ball failed him in at least two aspects. First, he was unable to foresee the electronic revolution. Secondly, he did not imagine the progress which has been made in 65 years to reduce sexist feminine stereotypes. R.U.R. as written patently assumes that the ideal woman should be idolized as an object of beauty, and should be above the mundane worries of existence which men must solve. Since this is not the main thrust of the play, and only a complete re-writing could remove them, we had no choice but to leave them as he wrote them. We trust that you, too, will be able to focus as did Capek on the potential problems which might result from a depersonalized society.

Bridgewater State College LABORATORY THEATRE

presents

R. U. R.



R. U. R. (Rossum's Universal Robots)

by Karel Capek
Translated from the Czech by Paul Selver

Adrian Rondi leau Campus Center Auditorium

November 20-22, 1987

CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

HARRY DOMAIN Michael F. Hall
SULLA Linda A. Medeiros
MARIUS Joey Doyle
HELENA GLORY . . . Elizabeth A. Barry
DR. GALL Michael O' Connor
ALQUIST Thomas G. Jahnke
JACOB BERMAN . . Todd Brendan Poudrier
IRENE Darlene F. Violette
RADIUS James J. Curtin
HELENA Linda A. Medeiros
PRIMUS Michael L. Booth

Time: The Future Place: A Remote Island

ACT I

Scene 1 - The Office of the Rossum Factory
Scene 2 - The Domain Apartment, 5 Years Later

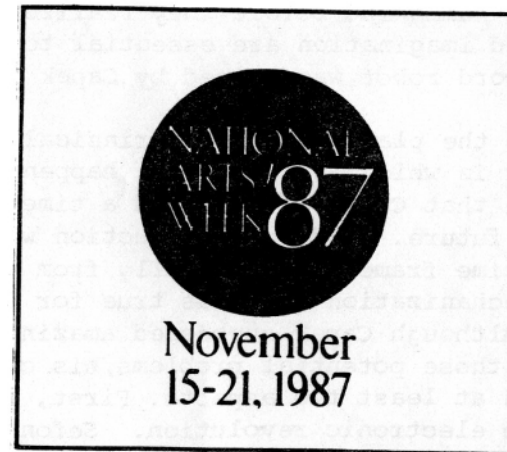
INTERMISSION - 10 MINUTES

ACT II

Scene 1 - The Same, That Afternoon
Epilog - A Laboratory, 1 Year Later

DIRECTOR Richard J. Warye
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Arthur L. Dirks
SCENE DESIGNER, ASST. TECH. DIR. Mark Johnson
LIGHTING DESIGNER Wendy Nani s
COSTUME DESIGNER John Heller
SOUND DESIGNER Arthur L. Dirks
BUSINESS MANAGER Richard Warye
ASST. DIRECTOR, STAGE MANAGER. Deirdre Silva
HOUSE MANAGER Heidi K. Eklund
COSTUMERS. Lyn Jenkins, Darlene Violette
LIGHTING OPERATOR Laurie Jean Andruk
PROGRAM DESIGN Michael O' Connor
PROPERTIES Michael L. Booth
PUBLICITY . . . Elizabeth Barry, Michael Hall
SOUND OPERATOR Brian Hickey

PLEASE: NO SMOKING, REFRESHMENTS, OR
PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE AUDITORIUM!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the following for their assistance in this production:

Carol Dai ker's Flowers
Lisa Devlin
Dr. Roger Dunn
The Clement C. Maxwell Library.

Presented by special arrangement with Baker's Plays, Boston, Massachusetts.