



presents

'THIS WAR IS NOT INEVITABLE'



The birth of the idea of the Threefold Social Organism

PROGRAMME

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Written by Michael Hedley Burton

Directed by Rod Green

Acted by Michael Burton and Ryan Kouroukis

Sponsored by





WELCOME TO THE THREEFOLD SOCIAL ORGANISM THEATRE PROJECT!

Welcome to this first New Zealand and Australian tour of *This War is Not Inevitable*. It is the fifth production from Lightweight Theatre, following on from *Gunner Inglorious*, *Being Beethoven*, *Naked Against the Night (a Portrait of Dag Hammarskjöld)* and *Three Romantic Comedies*.

Lightweight Theatre was founded in Hawkes Bay in 2002. The first production, *Gunner Inglorious*, was performed more than 80 times and toured to 63 different venues from Kerikeri to Stewart Island. *Gunner* was a powerful depiction of the suffering of one man, a New Zealand soldier caught up in the events of the Second World War. Now, fifteen years later, we return to the theme of war with this account of the First World War and one person's attempts to shorten it and create a world where war is no longer possible.

This War Is Not Inevitable is approximately 90 minutes with an interval of 15-20 mins.

All who can are welcome to join a discussion immediately after the play, the theme of which could be:

*“Where do we see the relevance of this play in our time?
Are there steps we can take – alone or as a community – that can help to bring these ideas to expression in the world?”*

Thank you all for coming to this performance and giving us your support.

Michael Burton, Ryan Kouroukis

About *This War is Not Inevitable*:

It is 100 years since Rudolf Steiner first described his vision of the Threefold Social Organism (Threefold Social Order). His efforts in 1917 to rescue Germany from a devastating World War failed. However his description of the way that society needed to be restructured at that time is as relevant today as it was then.

Steiner focused on the key role played by human creativity in our society. The activity of free individuals is the counterbalance to much that is wrong with society today. Social three-folding, by countering both excessive state power and the tyranny of raw economic forces, brings harmony into society. That it should come into existence in the world, working in different ways in different countries, is an important precondition for world peace.

Michael Burton has written a play set in Berlin and Stuttgart between July 1917 and April 1919, in which two actors play many different roles: a World War One soldier in the trenches, people and politicians antagonistic to Steiner's ideas, the founder of the Waldorf Movement, Emil Molt, and Rudolf Steiner himself. The audience enters into the situation of Germany at her time of great crisis. By allowing the audience to see what was attempted then, it is hoped that they will be able to perceive and feel for themselves how social three-folding offers many possibilities to be taken up anew in our own time.

The breakdown of society that we see taking place everywhere today is the shadow side of new opportunities starting to appear. This play is an excellent way to become informed about the history of social three-folding and its ongoing relevance today. After all performances there will be a chance to discuss themes with the actors and bring the events of 1917-19 into line with what we see happening a hundred years later.

This War Is Not Inevitable will tour New Zealand and Australia in May and June. Performances will then take place in the UK in July and August, before the play goes on to Slovenia, Germany, Holland, Scandinavia and Switzerland.

The *Threefold Social Organism* is deeply relevant to all people concerned with the future of humanity. Meeting together to witness this performance event can be a catalyst to positive social change or work some social magic upon a community.

WHAT DOES EACH ACTOR PLAY?

Actor One, Michael Burton:

World War One soldier
Rudolf Steiner
Aristocrat
First Politician
Second Politician, Herr von Kuehlman

Actor Two, Ryan Kouroukis:

Otto (very loosely based on the historical Count Otto Lerchenfeld)
Count Johann-Heinrich von Bernstorff
Servant
Emil Molt
Hans Kuehne
Homeless man from 21st Century

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE CAST

Born in 1980, **Ryan Kouroukis** is originally from Calgary, Canada. He studied at the Canadian Academy of Method Acting in Toronto, and, after working in hospitality and renovations for 10 years, left Canada to train in the arts of storytelling, poetic recitation and the Michael Chekhov acting technique at Artemis School of Speech and Drama in Sussex, England and at PerformInternational, also in Sussex. His UK stage debut was the lead role in Rudolf Steiner's four and a half hour *Third Mystery Drama* in 2015.

In 2016 he performed a number of Shakespeare roles for Shakespeare's 400th anniversary. Ryan has recently toured *Man and the Muses* in England, Scotland and Ireland - an all Ancient Greek one man show using only original sources. When not engaged in artistic projects, Ryan is involved (aside from gardening and painting & decorating) in the study of philosophy, poetry and classical music.

* * *

Born in Auckland, **Michael Burton** first studied speech and drama at Auckland University, where he received a Diploma in Drama in 1977; he also has a B.A. in English Literature from Waikato University. He met Anthroposophy while working on a newspaper at the age of 21. This led to him doing an anthroposophical speech training that he completed in Hawaii under Virginia Brett in 1988. Since that time he has practised artistic speech and drama in various ways – as a writer, speech performer, actor, speech therapist and voice teacher.

As well as working on *This War is Not Inevitable* Michael hopes to have some time to continue to give performances of his one-man-drama, *Shakespeare and the Mystery of the Human Being*, to give children's performances, to conduct voice classes and teach chirophonetic therapy (a form of therapy that uses touch and the sounds of human speech). Working with Lemniscate Arts, he wrote *The Working of the Spirit*, a play that follows on from Rudolf Steiner's Fourth Mystery Drama. His next task may be to facilitate productions of this play, possibly with amateur actors doing coordinated scenes in different places.

No tricks.
Just crackers.



MSG, synthetic preservatives,
refined sugars and artificial
flavours NOT included.

CeresOrganics



THANKS AND CREDITS

Ryan and I would like to thank our main sponsor for this season:

Ceres Enterprises of Auckland

And also:

The Prometheus Foundation

Gerrit and Bernie Raichle

Anne Perry

Christy Robinson

Crystal Bridge

Anthroposophical Society of New Zealand

Lynn and John Daniel

...along with the many individuals who gave amounts of various sizes during our Kickstarter campaign early this year. These people and organizations enabled this idea to be born into the world, and we are deeply grateful.

As well as our financial sponsors, we'd like to thank the following:

Rod Green – our director (always there for us, despite many other things he is involved in)

Michael Spence – our main advisor concerning the *Threefold Social Organism* (from Australia, Michael read two of the drafts and gave expert advice in helping us to iron out many of the errors of the first draft)

Scotty Smith – soundtrack (the fourth time Scotty has been involved with Lightweight Theatre; it began with lots of guns in *Gunner Inglorious* and has now led to even more guns in *This War is Not Inevitable*)

Kathy Burton (prompt and many other things including allowing her living room to be turned into a rehearsal studio)

Gretchen Correa (helping us to get the word out about this production)

Others who have helped: **Alistair Munro, Hartmut Borries, Dr William and Alexandra Riggins, Lara Heuchmer, Eran Backler, FiveStar Print Auckland**

Quotations from the play

These words are all taken from the script of the play. Many of the quotations will be found – perhaps in different form – in various places in the work of Rudolf Steiner and in particular in his book, written in 1919; *Die Kernpunkte der sozialen Frage*, titled in English as *Towards Social Renewal* or *The Renewal of the Social Organism*.

In our time too much power falls upon the state. It is an evolutionary necessity today to change this. We can progress only if people become conscious that the workings of society take place in three quite different systems, the boundaries of which need to be clearly defined.

* * *

This war is the visible expression of what happens when ideas have lost their effectiveness and the antisocial forces are not checked and have come to dominate the world.

* * *

The threefold ordering that I describe must come to pass. It will evolve either through people taking up the ideas in freedom or through great suffering and catastrophe. This war gives us an opportunity to progress to something that was never possible before. Behind the tragedy of armies locked in pointless conflict with each other is the push towards a whole new way of living together. Perhaps, out of great destruction, there will arise in people an openness for a new society appropriate to the conditions of the times.

* * *

The state, as we know it, is an archaic relic; it must disappear.

* * *

The political sphere can do no other than destroy economic life when it takes control of it; and the economic sphere loses its strength and vitality when it tries to become political...

* * *

I tried to show them how to deal with what happens when individuals meet one another across the gulf that separates this world from regions of soul and spirit. This takes place when the powers that hold the soul together are loosened. People of future times will have to learn how to conduct themselves, as such things increasingly take place.

* * *

The Threefold Social Organism is still needed by the earth. Of course, times have changed, and it will not be for you as it was for us in 1917 or 1919. But Steiner told me that, out of the chaos of the times, humanity would be given another chance after 100 years had passed. (Spoken by Emil Molt)

* * *

The ultimate failure of society is war. Those who believe in the super-powerful state desire and promote war because it gives them what they need to control populations. The free human individuality is the one power that will liberate us from the interventions of the state and the depersonalisation of the financial system.

* * *

Forces driving us towards destruction are getting stronger but so too is the power to wage peace. Solutions will not come from the kinds of thinking that have caused our problems. If you want to become the change that is needed in the world, you will have to risk everything. (Spoken by the Homeless Man)

For those interested in learning more about The Threefold Social Organism:

www.social-ecology.org
www.socialthreefold.org
www.threefolding.net
www.globenet3.org
www.threeman.org
www.threefolding.org
www.buildingcommonweal.wordpress.com
www.socialthreefolding.blogspot.com
www.threefoldreport.com
www.educationforsocialrenewalfoundation.com
www.sites.google.com/site/threefoldnow
www.alternativ3gliedern.com

Books related to the threefold structuring of society:

Shaping Globalization - Civil Society, Cultural Power and Threefolding;
Nicanor Perlas (New Society Publishers, 2003)

Common Wealth - For a Free, Equal, Mutual, and Sustainable Society;
Martin Large (Hawthorn Press, 2010)

After Capitalism;
Michael Spence (Adonis Press, 2014)

Functional Threefoldness in the Human Organism and Human Society;
Johannes Rohen (Adonis Press, 2011)

What is Money? - A Discussion;
Joseph Beuys (Clairview Books, 2010)

Freeing the Human Spirit: The Threefold Social Order, Money & the Waldorf School;
Michael Spence (AWSNA, 2001)

Associative Economics;
Gary Lamb (Waldorf Publications, 2016)

Finance at the Threshold: Rethinking the Real and Financial Economics;
Christopher Houghton Budd (Routledge, 2016)

Threefold Now; (a series of five books re-imagining the basis of civilizational renewal)
Travis Henry (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2014-2016)

Becoming Human: A Social Task - The Threefold Social Order;
Karl Konig (Floris Books, 2011)

We are the Revolution!: Rudolf Steiner, Joseph Beuys and the Threefold Social Impulse;
Ulrich Roesch (Temple Lodge Publishing, 2010)

**- For Rudolf Steiner's complete lectures and writings on the subject see:
www.rsarchiv.org/SocialIssues (please ensure capitals are used).**





For information about The Threefold Social Organism Theatre Project please visit www.wordrenewal.org

In 1917 Rudolf Steiner's Threefold Social Organism was an attempt to save a devastated Europe.

100 years later do we have a new chance?