

Chapter 1 : The Days of the Commune by Bertolt Brecht

The Days of the Commune is a play by the twentieth-century German dramatist Bertolt Brecht. The play is an adaptation of the play The Defeat by the Norwegian poet and dramatist Nordahl Grieg.

Lee and Pompeyo Audivert, who provided her with different acting tools and approaches. After many years of professional work related to the world of international affairs, Nanda decided to focus on her acting career. This is a brand new but exciting decision. Mitchell Abidor - Mitch is a writer and translator living in Brooklyn. He has published two books on the French revolutionary tradition: Julie Delaurier - Julie Delaurier identifies "first and foremost" as a worker. She moved to New York for formal training at Circle in the Square Theatre School, had a lead in a Broadway flop, was a day player on a sit-com, narrated a National Public Radio series, did some commercials, more regional theatre and off-off-Broadway "all interspersed with a variety of rent-paying jobs. She is grateful to Zoe Beloff and the Commune for this opportunity to return to a true and noble place. Michael Friedman - Mike is an adjunct assistant professor in biology, currently at Queens College and St. He has been an activist since the civil rights and antiwar movements, most recently in movements to defend and reform public education and OWS. He has no acting experience: Laura Thies, screenplay by Mara Lesemann. He also was Executive Producer and Casting Associate. He starred in the horror short Foreclosed, directed by Jeff Bellantine, and many other short movies. Pietro Gonzalez - Pietro is an actor and a Drama teacher. In New York City he has appeared in several productions around the city. He has also appeared in film, television and voiceovers. He is a founding member of LaMicro Theater. Joy Kelly - Joy is an actor, director as well as storyteller. Joy also directs for Theatreworks, USA. Tony Lewis - Tony has been a health care administrator for over 30 years. Recognized as a leading authority in his field, Tony acted as a consultant and panel advisor on the needs of family caregivers for the British Broadcasting Corporation BBC in London. During this time, driven by a desire for revolutionary societal and economic changes, he became an active participant on the fringes of the political process. After having played his small part in the demise of Margaret Thatcher and falling in love with a New Yorker, he arrived on these shores in During this time Tony has worked extensively with patients and their caregivers. He strongly believes that service provision should meet individual and community needs and that where change is required, it should be the agency that yields. She can often be found preparing auditions, interning with the Wooster Group, playing Monster with Brooklyn kindergartners and re-reading cookbooks. Brian Pickett - Brian currently earns his keep teaching theatre and speech at Queensborough Community and Brooklyn Colleges. He believes in public space, music, and life after capitalism. Reka Polonyi - Reka is a social theater practitioner and Clown Doctor working in the field of theater for human and migrant rights. She works with displaced immigrant communities, asylum seekers, refugees and internally displaced in Hungary, the UK and Ecuador. She facilitates workshops that encourage community empowerment and rights awareness. Sean Shannon - Sean is a playwright and actor. Ahuva Willner - Ahuva lives in Baltimore where she has been involved with the Occupy Baltimore movement. She camped out at McKeldin Square for the first couple months of the OB encampment, which served as a great crash course on the social and economic situation of her hometown, as well as alternative forms of organizing and governing. Ahuva spends a good portion of her time studying circus arts and training on trapeze. She is currently working on ways to combine her political views and personal ambitions and share them through performance. Joanie Fritz Zosike - Joanie performed in the U. As Co-founder and Co-director of Action Racket Theatre, she performs and conducts workshops for people from 2 to Her work engages the interface between African American civil rights and film industry between and Brecht figures in her work and teaching since his theories of "alienation effect" and "epic theater" linked art, entertainment, and political action in truly inspiring ways. His return to acting is one of the oddest but least significant repercussions of the global economic crisis. Kenji Johnson - Kenji is the youngest member of our Commune. Deborah Matzner - Deborah is an anthropologist who explores media making as cultural production in Mumbai, India. This is her largest acting role since a brief and forgettable walk-on part on a

Hindi-language television program during her dissertation fieldwork. In the present piece, she hopes her lack of acting chops contributes to the defamiliarizing effect Brecht intended his work to achieve. Moving between installation-based practice and works on canvas and paper, his artistic work explores notions of history, memory, foreignness, nostalgia and sentiment. His art and scholarship has been featured in exhibitions and publications both nationally and internationally. His essays can be found in numerous publications, and his visual artwork can be found in several private collections. His drawings and paintings have been shown in galleries in New York and Santa Fe, and his installations have been awarded grants from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Arts and the Dedalus Foundation among others. He is currently a freshman at the State University of Buffalo.

Jay Dobkin - Jay is a nice autistic anarchistic vegetarian Jewish boy who is an actor, editor and writer. As he was in both of those plays, in Days of the Commune he is proud and delighted to be performing alongside his daughter, Miranda. Miranda Dobkin - is a wonderful performer who has already worked with The Living Theatre playing a child. She conducts research in demand-side health and labor economics, with a focus on economic decisions surrounding nutrition and physical activity. She is delighted to be involved in a project seemingly far removed from her usual work and yet so relevant at the same time. Her favorite tales can be found at dedlly.

Iris Dankemeyer - is a freelance writer and concert promoter based in Berlin. In collaboration with the violinist Ruth Maria Adam she plays cello and glockenspiel to set silent movies to music. She is involved in the radioshow www. You can contact her for accordion lessons, to score a show, or to bring music to a protest at hannah.

Melissa Elledge - Melissa never set out to be a professional accordionist. After getting her degree, she picked up the accordion as a novelty addition to her Classical music background, and immediately fell in love with the instrument. Since then, she has toured the country with a goth band, played a tango on a mausoleum, appeared in independent films and TV programs, and worked in theatre, dance, and performance art productions. She plays in a variety of local bands and can be found most days busking on a subway platform. She also models part-time for painters and art schools around the city. Here she is on Facebook.

Performing on the horn and accordion, as well as other brass and keyboard instruments, Koci is an enthusiastic advocate of music by living composers. Koci is also an active composer, writing for theater, dance, film and concert. He resides in Brooklyn with a darn good dog, Audrey.

Bob Goldberg - Bob is a composer, performer and music educator, born in New York, and based in Brooklyn. He has studied piano, composition and electronic music, and performs mainly on the accordion. He has composed scores for film, dance and theater and written and produced jingles and songs for Nickelodeon and Disney Channel. She considers herself a medium, an interface between the living and the dead, the real and the imaginary. Her most recent exhibition in New York was Dreamland: She is currently writing a top secret feature project Sound -

Donald Kelly is a writer of speculative fiction who is expanding his understanding of grammar from sentences and paragraphs to shots and sounds. Some of his stories live at dedlly. In LA, after working as a textile designer, she combined her training in visual storytelling and love of historical costume and textiles, and started working on films in various capacities in the costume department. After moving to New York in , Erika has designed over 12 films, 2 plays, numerous commercials and music videos. Here he is also working on this website. He has many years experience working in film, and lighting for live performance, as well as a programmer for web and other media.

Chapter 2 : The Cast of The Days of the Commune

Every weekend from March 3 through May 27 , we assembled in Liberty Square (Zuccotti Park) and other public spaces in New York City to work on The Days of the Commune, a play by Bert Brecht.

When the news reached Paris the next day, shocked and angry crowds came out into the streets. Though the Emperor and the French Army had been defeated at Sedan, the war continued. The German army marched swiftly toward Paris. Demographics[edit] In France was deeply divided between the large rural, Catholic and conservative population of the French countryside and the more republican and radical cities of Paris, Marseille, Lyon and a few others. In the first round of the parliamentary elections held under the French Empire, 4,, had voted for the Bonapartist candidates supporting Napoleon III, while 3,, had voted for the republican opposition. In Paris, however, the republican candidates dominated, winning , votes against 77, for the Bonapartists. Only about 40, were employed in factories and large enterprises; most were employed in small industries in textiles, furniture and construction. There were also , servants and 45, concierges. In addition to the native French population, there were about , immigrant workers and political refugees, the largest number being from Italy and Poland. Many Parisians, especially workers and the lower-middle classes, supported a democratic republic. In early , Parisian employers of bronze-workers attempted to de-unionise their workers. This was defeated by a strike organised by the International. Later in , an illegal public demonstration in Paris was answered by the legal dissolution of its executive committee and the leadership being fined. The International had considerable influence even among unaffiliated French workers, particularly in Paris and the big towns. A coup was attempted in early , but tensions eased significantly after the plebiscite in May. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Paris is the traditional home of French radical movements. Revolutionaries had gone into the streets to oppose their governments during the popular uprisings of July and June , and on many other occasions. Of the radical and revolutionary groups in Paris at the time of the Commune, the most conservative were the "radical republicans". This group included the young doctor and future prime minister Georges Clemenceau , who was a member of the National Assembly and Mayor of the 18th arrondissement. Clemenceau tried to negotiate a compromise between the Commune and the government, but neither side trusted him; he was considered extremely radical by the provincial deputies of rural France, but too moderate by the leaders of the Commune. The most extreme revolutionaries in Paris were the followers of Louis Auguste Blanqui , a charismatic professional revolutionary who had spent most of his adult life in prison. He had about a thousand followers, many of them armed and organized into cells of ten persons each. Each cell operated independently and was unaware of the members of the other groups, communicating only with their leaders by code. Blanqui had written a manual on revolution, Instructions for an Armed Uprising , to give guidance to his followers. Though their numbers were small, the Blanquists provided many of the most disciplined soldiers and several of the senior leaders of the Commune. The regulars were thus supported by around 5, firemen, 3, gendarmes, and 15, sailors. These included twenty battalions of men from Brittany , who spoke little French. They also had very little training or experience. They were organised by neighbourhoods; those from the upper- and middle-class arrondissements tended to support the national government, while those from the working-class neighbourhoods were far more radical and politicised. Guardsmen from many units were known for their lack of discipline; some units refused to wear uniforms, often refused to obey orders without discussing them, and demanded the right to elect their own officers. The members of the National Guard from working-class neighbourhoods became the main armed force of the Commune. As the Germans surrounded the city, radical groups saw that the Government of National Defence had few soldiers to defend itself, and launched the first demonstrations against it. On 19 September, National Guard units from the main working-class neighbourhoodsâ€”Belleville, Menilmontant, La Villette, Montrouge, the Faubourg Saint-Antoine , and the Faubourg du Templeâ€”marched to the centre of the city and demanded that a new government, a Commune, be elected. They were met by regular army units loyal to the Government of National Defence, and the demonstrators eventually dispersed peacefully. On 5

October, 5, protesters marched from Belleville to the Hotel de Ville, demanding immediate municipal elections and rifles. Later in October, General Louis Jules Trochu launched a series of armed attacks to break the German siege, with heavy losses and no success. The telegraph line connecting Paris with the rest of France had been cut by the Germans on 27 September. On 28 October, the news arrived in Paris that the soldiers of the French army at Metz, which had been surrounded by the Germans since August, had surrendered. The news arrived the same day of the failure of another attempt by the French army to break the siege of Paris at Bourget, with heavy losses. Two days later, municipal councils in each of the twenty arrondissements of Paris voted to elect mayors; five councils elected radical opposition candidates, including Delescluze and a young Montmartrean doctor, Georges Clemenceau. He reported to the Government that there was no alternative to negotiating an armistice. He travelled to German-occupied Tours and met with Bismarck on 1 November. The Chancellor demanded the cession of all of Alsace, parts of Lorraine, and enormous reparations. The Government of National Defense decided to continue the war and raise a new army to fight the Germans. The newly organized French armies won a single victory at Coulmiers on 10 November, but an attempt by General Auguste-Alexandre Ducrot on 29 November at Villiers to break out of Paris was defeated with a loss of 4, soldiers, compared with 1, German casualties. Everyday life for Parisians became increasingly difficult during the siege. Parisians suffered shortages of food, firewood, coal and medicine. The city was almost completely dark at night. The only communication with the outside world was by balloon, carrier pigeon, or letters packed in iron balls floated down the Seine. Rumors and conspiracy theories abounded. By early January, Bismarck and the Germans themselves were tired of the prolonged siege. They installed seventy-two and mm artillery pieces in the forts around Paris and on 5 January began to bombard the city day and night. Between and shells hit the center of the city every day. Armistice of Versailles Between 11 and 19 January, the French armies had been defeated on four fronts and Paris was facing a famine. General Trochu received reports from the prefect of Paris that agitation against the government and military leaders was increasing in the political clubs and in the National Guard of the working-class neighborhoods of Belleville, La Chapelle, Montmartre, and Gros-Caillou. A battalion of Gardes Mobiles from Brittany was inside the building to defend it in case of an assault. The demonstrators presented their demands that the military be placed under civil control, and that there be an immediate election of a commune. The atmosphere was tense, and in the middle of the afternoon, gunfire broke out between the two sides; each side blamed the other for firing first. Six demonstrators were killed, and the army cleared the square. The government quickly banned two publications, *Le Reveil* of Delescluze and *Le Combat* of Pyat, and arrested 83 revolutionaries. On 26 January, they signed a ceasefire and armistice, with special conditions for Paris. The city would not be occupied by the Germans. Regular soldiers would give up their arms, but would not be taken into captivity. Paris would pay an indemnity of million francs. French legislative election, February Adolphe Thiers, the chief executive of the French Government during the Commune The national government in Bordeaux called for national elections at the end of January, held just ten days later on 8 February. Most electors in France were rural, Catholic and conservative, and this was reflected in the results; of the deputies assembled in Bordeaux on February, about favoured a constitutional monarchy under either Henri, Count of Chambord grandson of Charles X or Prince Philippe, Count of Paris grandson of Louis Philippe. They were led by Adolphe Thiers, who was elected in 26 departments, the most of any candidate. There were an equal number of more radical republicans, including Jules Favre and Jules Ferry, who wanted a republic without a monarch, and who felt that signing the peace treaty was unavoidable. This group was dominant in Paris, where they won 37 of the 42 seats. He was considered to be the candidate most likely to bring peace and to restore order. Long an opponent of the Prussian war, Thiers persuaded Parliament that peace was necessary. He travelled to Versailles, where Bismarck and the German King were waiting, and on 24 February the armistice was signed. Dispute over cannons of Paris[edit] A contemporary sketch of women and children helping take two National Guard cannons to Montmartre At the end of the war obsolete muzzle-loading bronze cannons, partly paid for by the Paris public via a subscription, remained in the city. The new Central Committee of the National Guard, now dominated by radicals, decided to put the cannons in parks in the working-class neighborhoods of Belleville, Buttes-Chaumont and Montmartre, to keep them away from the regular army and to defend the

city against any attack by the national government. Thiers was equally determined to bring the cannons under national-government control. Clemenceau, a friend of several revolutionaries, tried to negotiate a compromise; some cannons would remain in Paris and the rest go to the army. However, Thiers and the National Assembly did not accept his proposals. The chief executive wanted to restore order and national authority in Paris as quickly as possible, and the cannons became a symbol of that authority. Thiers also decided to move the National Assembly and government from Bordeaux to Versailles, rather than to Paris, to be farther away from the pressure of demonstrations, which further enraged the National Guard and the radical political clubs. Thiers announced a plan to send the army the next day to take charge of the cannons. Vinoy urged that they wait until Germany had released the French prisoners of war, and the army returned to full strength. Thiers insisted that the planned operation must go ahead as quickly as possible, to have the element of surprise. If the seizure of the cannon was not successful, the government would withdraw from the center of Paris, build up its forces, and then attack with overwhelming force, as they had done during the uprising of June. The Council accepted his decision, and Vinoy gave orders for the operation to begin the next day. Early in the morning of 18 March, two brigades of soldiers climbed the butte of Montmartre, where the largest collection of cannons, in number, were located. A small group of revolutionary national guardsmen were already there, and there was a brief confrontation between the brigade led by General Claude Lecomte, and the National Guard; one guardsman, named Turpin, was shot dead. Word of the shooting spread quickly, and members of the National Guard from all over the neighborhood, including Clemenceau, hurried to the site to confront the soldiers. While the Army had succeeded in securing the cannons at Belleville and Buttes-Chaumont and other strategic points, at Montmartre a crowd gathered and continued to grow, and the situation grew increasingly tense. The horses that were needed to move the cannon away did not arrive, and the army units were immobilized. As the soldiers were surrounded, they began to break ranks and join the crowd. General Lecomte tried to withdraw, and then ordered his soldiers to load their weapons and fix bayonets. He thrice ordered them to fire, but the soldiers refused. Some of the officers were disarmed and taken to the city hall of Montmartre, under the protection of Clemenceau. General Lecomte and the officers of his staff were seized by the guardsmen and his mutinous soldiers and taken to the local headquarters of the National Guard at the ballroom of the Chateau-Rouge. The officers were pelted with rocks, struck, threatened, and insulted by the crowd. In the middle of the afternoon Lecomte and the other officers were taken to 6 Rue des Rosiers by members of a group calling themselves The Committee of Vigilance of the 18th arrondissement, who demanded that they be tried and executed. An ardent republican and fierce disciplinarian, he had helped suppress the armed uprising of June against the Second Republic.

Chapter 3 : The Days of the Commune - Drama Online

The Days of the Commune tells the story of the uprising and ultimate failure of the Paris Commune in , a city council in France's capital which based its policies on socialism and proclaimed its right to rule over all of France.

It was formed during the insurrection of July The Commune played an important role in the life of the capital. Not only did it provide civic functions like tax collection, services and public works, the Paris Commune was also a democratic assembly where the ordinary people of Paris were represented. Membership of the Commune council reflected the political will of the people of Paris – moderate from July , radical from August In its first three years the Commune was dominated by the urban bourgeoisie and liberal-moderates like Jean-Sylvain Bailly. From this point the Commune became directly representative of the Paris sections and sans culottes. The actions of this radical Commune challenged the authority of the national government and shaped the violence of Despite his title the Provost was no longer a merchant; most provosts were career public servants and administrators. They carried out similar functions to modern city governments: The Provost and the Bureau had a few guards at their disposal but no permanent police force. The heads of de Launay and Flesselles paraded outside the Hotel de Ville The events of caused more disruption and unrest in Paris than elsewhere in France. Royal edicts in early divided the city into 60 districts, for the purpose of electing the Estates General. These districts had no other jurisdiction and no role in local government; their only responsibility was to elect delegates for the Estates General. As was common in the French Revolution, this was achieved with violence. The crowd demanded to hear from Jacques de Flesselles, the incumbent Provost of Merchants. The Commune council was chosen, comprised of deputies elected from the 60 districts of Paris. Later, the king agreed to dismiss his conservative ministers and reappoint Jacques Necker to his cabinet. The French monarch, it seemed, had accepted the Paris Commune and the will of his people. A contemporary drawing of the heads of de Launay, Foullon and Berthier The events of July 17th did not bring a complete end to the bloodlust in Paris. Foullon was a wanted man, for two significant reasons. The king, after dismissing the popular Jacques Necker on July 11th, had nominated Foullon as his replacement. Parisian newspapers had also accused Foullon, probably falsely, of declaring that hungry people should eat hay. His head was removed, stuffed with hay and placed atop a pike; the rest of his body was stripped and hacked to pieces. These body parts were then paraded around Paris. They passed Gouverneur Morris, an American revolutionary politician who was visiting France. And you talk of making this people the supreme authority in France? Your party is mad! Various committees were formed to oversee administration, public works, police, markets and food supplies. Special committees were formed to manage the demolition of the Bastille and the sale of its contents for poor relief. On May 21st the National Constituent Assembly passed a law formally establishing the Commune as the governing body of Paris. The Commune retained complete control of the National Guard, as well as a small police force or gendarmerie. Some sans-culottes had held office since , a few even since –! On the whole, Commune members were a fair cross-section of working-class Paris, together with a few well-known orators from the clubs, and one or two unsavoury characters –! Brought to power by force of arms, the [August] Commune was able to exploit its capital of terror. The revolutionary Commune frequently challenged the power of the national government, first the Legislative Assembly , then the National Convention. Members of the Commune had a hand in both the September Massacres and the insurrection that led to the expulsion of the Girondins from the Convention June For a time, Paris was ruled by an alliance between the Commune, the Jacobins and the sans culottes. But the power of the Commune began to wane in early It worked to establish a municipal government in Paris, hearing petitions and providing services. The formal authority of the Commune came from a May 21st decree, which divided Paris into 48 sections. From this point, the Commune became closely associated with the sections, the Jacobins and the sans culottes, its actions contributing to revolutionary violence and challenging the authority of the national government. Content on this page may not be republished or distributed without permission. For more information please refer to our Terms of Use. This page was written by Jennifer Llewellyn and Steve Thompson. To reference this page, use the following citation:

Chapter 4 : The Days of the Commune | Revolv

In the spring of a group of actors, activists and artists get together perform "The Days of the Commune" a play by Bert Brecht in solidarity with Occupy Wall Street.

Chapter 5 : The Days of the Commune () - Plot Summary - IMDb

The Days of the Commune. It dramatises the rise and fall of the Paris Commune in The play is an adaptation of the play The Defeat by the Norwegian poet and dramatist Nordahl Grieg.

Chapter 6 : The Last Days of the Commune - Prop Theatre - Chicago

Commune was a structure to think with and through. At the end, as the working At the end, as the working people are dying on the barricades, Geneviève Gericault says that they have.

Chapter 7 : THE DAYS OF THE COMMUNE with Ian McKellen

The Days of the Commune is a play by the twentieth-century German dramatist Bertolt Brecht. It dramatises the rise and fall of the Paris Commune in The play is an adaptation of the play The Defeat by the Norwegian poet and dramatist Nordahl Grieg. [1] Brecht's collaborator Margarete.

Chapter 8 : Days of the Commune

The Days of the Commune Artist Zoe Beloff and over 30 actors, activists and enthusiasts perform a street production of Bert Brecht's The Days of the Commune (), in solidarity with Occupy Wall Street.

Chapter 9 : Commune of Paris | | www.nxgvision.com

THE DAYS OF THE COMMUNE () is a semi-documentary account of the Paris Commune, and Brecht's most serious and ambitious historical play. TURANDOT is Brecht's version of the classic Chinese story is a satire on the intelligentsia of the Weimar Republic, Nazi bureaucracy, and other targets.