

The Caucasian Chalk Circle

Program Synopsis

This is a play within a play.

Act One: "*The Noble Child*"

The Governor and his wife are on their way to Easter Mass, when they meet the Fat Prince. We see Grusche greeted by Simon who reveals he has been watching her. The Singer continues the story as the coup against the Governor begins, led by the Fat Prince, and the Governor is quickly beheaded. Simon finds Grusche and proposes marriage by giving her his silver cross-- of course, she accepts. Natella Abashvili, the Governor's wife, is carried off, away from the flaming city of Nuhka and inadvertently leaves her son, Michel, behind with Grusche.

Act Two: "*Flight to the Northern Mountains*"

At the beginning of this act, we see Grusche trying to escape to the mountains by disguising herself as a noblewoman. She is quickly found out and is forced on the road again, followed shortly by the Ironshirts. Grusche abandons Michel on a doorstep, but has mixed emotions about this. Then when she meets a perverted Corporal and Ironshirts who are looking for the child, Grusche is forced to knock the man out and grab Michel.

Act Three: "*In the Northern Mountains*"

Grusche wearily retreats to her brother's mountain farm. Lavrenti fabricates a story to his jealous wife Aniko. Grusche catches scarlet fever and lives there for quite some time. Lavrenti convinces Grusche to marry a dying peasant, Yussup. Yussup returns to "life," and it becomes clear he was only "ill" when it was still possible to be drafted by the military. The Governor's wife wants the child back and Grusche must go to court back in Nukha.

Act Four: "*The Story of the Judge*"

Azdak shelters a "peasant" who turns out to be the fugitive Grand Duke. Since Azdak thinks the rebellion is an uprising against the government itself, he turns himself in. Azdak makes jokes and amuses the Ironshirts enough that they appoint him judge.

Act Five: "*The Chalk Circle*"

We meet again Grusche and Natella Abashvili, the latter of whom comes into the court with two lawyers. The prosecution comes forth and liberally bribes Azdak in hopes of swinging the verdict. In order to decide who the real mother is, Azdak devises a circle-of-chalk test, where Michel is placed in the center and the women will then pull on him. After the test is completed, Azdak decides the fate of Michel.

CAST

Daniel Boren	der Knecht, der Stallknecht, horn player
David Burtch	der Sänger
Josh Chappell	trombone player
Wyatt Constantine	Bettler, der Gefreite, der Flüchtling
Claire Davis	die Bäuerin, die dicke Frau, die Alte, violine player
Ryan Elliott	Simon Chachava
Thomas Glasebrook	zweiter Arzt
Valentina Glajar	director
Heather Hobson	Kinderfrau, Aniko, program
John Hood	acting coach
Rachel Hughey	Grusche
José-Manuel Izquierdo	drummer
Thomas Johnson	Yussup, Panzerreiter, poster design
Barbara Keltz	Bettler, ältere Dame, Schwiegermutter
Clark Kopfler	der fette Fürst Kazbeki
Zach Lauer-Loop	Bittsteller, der Bauer, wedding guest
Sarah Legan	junge Frau, jüngere Dame, wedding guest
Jeremy Logan	der Mönch
Jack Mades	der Gouverneur, Azdak
Brendan McNerney	zweiter Mann, Panzerreiter, wedding guest
Blake Petrea	der Wirt, erster Anwalt, wedding guest
Kathryn Pineiro	Ludowika, dritte Frau, Michel
David Rock	der Adjutant
Emily Rothbauer	die Köchin, die Händlerin, wedding guest, program
Daniel Shay	Shauwa, lights
Patrick Thielemann	zweiter Anwalt, wedding guest
Trevor Vader	erster Arzt, Panzerreiter
Scott Vance	Lavrenti, Reiter
Rene Vargas	composer, guitar player
Mercedes Werkmann	die Gouverneursfrau