

## *The Insect Play* by Karel Čapek



Deep in the heart of a forest is a vast insect community. Within this community are smaller groups of individual insects, all imbued with striking group personalities. Flirtatious butterflies flutter for sex; narcissistic mayflies live and die for themselves; dictator ants march in rhythm and lust for power. Watching all this activity is the Traveller, an outsider in his own world, who observes all the flaws of humanity embodied in these tiny creatures. Čapek's satirical meditation on different philosophies of life, with a powerful anti-war message, is one of his most frequently performed plays.

*The Insect Play* premiered in Prague in 1922.

'There is no writer like him – no one who so blithely assumed that the common realities were not as fixed and irrevocable as one imagined.' *Arthur Miller*

<b>Genre:</b>	Fantastical drama	<b>Fee:</b>	£40 plus VAT, per performance
<b>Cast:</b>	m6 f5 (plus chorus of insects)	<b>Scripts:</b>	ISBN 9780413771902 £14.99
<b>Set:</b>	an island	<b>Length:</b>	3 acts
<b>Contact:</b>	.....Ua UHfi f!fj] \ hg4 V'cca gVi fmWta		

### EXTRACT

**Mr Dung-beetle** Going all right?

Our big shining sun!

**Mrs Dung-beetle** Oops, Mummy's treasure, you scared me! All right now, darling?

**Mrs Dung-beetle** Our golden one!

**Mr Dung-beetle** Our world, our capital, our nest-egg, our pile of precious droppings!

**Mr Dung-beetle** Our life!

**Mrs Dung-beetle** Our shining pile of shit, all gold and runny!

**Mrs Dung-beetle** Our world!

**Mr Dung-beetle** Our joy and happiness! No sacrifice was too great, a little bit here, a little bit there, scrimping and saving. Not that we're complaining . . .

**Mr Dung-beetle** Even if you do pong a bit, old thing! Feel the weight of that, Mother! Beautiful!

**Mrs Dung-beetle** On our feet all day raking in hundreds of tiny droppings for you. Moulding you and shaping you and putting you aside . . .

**Mrs Dung-beetle** A gift from heaven!

**Mr Dung-beetle** Filling you in, rounding you out.

**Mr Dung-beetle** God's bounty!

**Chrysalis** The chains of the world are splitting, a new life is beginning, into the world I am coming!

*Traveller raises his head.*

#### If you enjoyed this, you might like:

- *Interesting Times* by Terry Pratchett (m19 f13)
- *R.U.R.* by Karel Čapek (m7 f3 plus robots)
- *Going Postal* by Terry Pratchett (m16 f17)

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