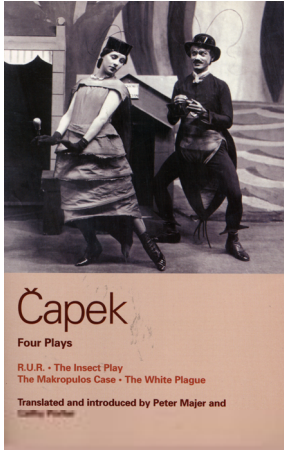


The Makropulos Case by Karel Čapek



Čapek's 1922 play has been the inspiration for many other artists, including the composer Janáček and the philosopher Bernard Williams. It's a philosophical tragic-comedy about ageing and human mortality. Emilia Marty is an opera singer whose father discovered an elixir for eternal life. She becomes the guinea pig for the potion which results in her living for 300 years. Čapek's play is a dramatic meditation on mortality, which probes the effects of a life-giving formula on the individual.

The Makropulos Case was first performed in November 1922 in the Vinohrady Theatre in Prague.

'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*

Genre:	Philosophical fantasy	Fee:	£40 plus VAT, per performance
Cast:	m8 f4	Scripts:	ISBN 9780413771902 £14.99
Set:	various settings	Length:	4 acts
Contact:	amateur-rights@bloomsbury.com		

EXTRACT

Kolenaty (*closes the door behind them*) Miss Marty, this is a tremendous honour . . .

Emilia As you already said. Are you the lawyer in charge . . . ?

Kolenaty (*seats himself opposite her*) At your service, Miss Marty.

Emilia . . . of Gregor's claim?

Gregor That's me.

Emilia . . . to Peppy Prus's estate?

Kolenaty Yes, Baron Josef Prus, deceased 1827.

Emilia What? Peppy's dead?

Kolenaty Alas. Almost a hundred years ago now.

Emilia Poor devil. I'd no idea.

Kolenaty I see. How can I be of service?

Emilia (*standing up*) I don't want to detain you.

Kolenaty (*also standing*) If I may be so bold, Miss Marty, the purpose of your visit was . . . ?

Emilia (*sits again*) I came to tell you something.

Kolenaty About the Gregor case?

Emilia Maybe.

Kolenaty You're a foreigner, if I'm not mistaken?

Emilia Of course. I learned about your client Mr Gregor's case just this morning, quite by chance.

Kolenaty Well I never!

Emilia I was going through the newspaper for the reviews when I read the last day of the Gregor versus Prus trial. Quite a coincidence, wasn't it?

If you enjoyed this, you might like:

- *R.U.R.* by Karel Čapek (m7 f3 plus robots)
 - *The Insect Play* by Karel Čapek (m6 f5 plus insects)
 - *The Fifth Elephant* by Terry Pratchett (m16 f8)
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