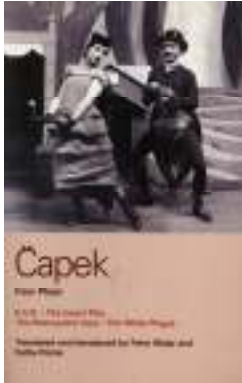


The White Plague by Karel Čapek



A leprosy-inducing plague afflicts an unnamed country, just as the nation prepares for war. There is only one man – Doctor Galen – who can cure the people, but he is refusing to make his services widely available unless government and industry leaders agree to shut down their war machine and end all wars. Čapek's 1937 satire of war-mongering nations was prompted by the Spanish Civil War and is a warning against the dangers of fascism, which was sweeping through Europe at the time.

The White Plague premiered in 1937.

'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:	Political drama	Fee:	£40 plus VAT, per performance
Cast:	m8 f4 m/f 12 (plus chorus)	Scripts:	ISBN 9780413771902 £14.99
Set:	an unnamed country	Length:	3 acts
Contact:	Ua UhYi f!f][\ lg4 Vcca gVi fmWta		

EXTRACT

Galen Sorry Professor, but I can't disclose my formula until it's been clinically tested.

Sigelius Not even to me?

Galen Not even to you, Professor.

Sigelius In that case forget it. Sorry Galen, it would contravene clinical propriety, as well as – how shall we say? – your scientific responsibilities.

Galen Perhaps. I have my reasons.

Sigelius Please yourself. We'll say no more about it. Despite everything, I'm honoured to have met you, Doctor Babyface!

Galen Listen sir, please – you . . . must . . . let me work in your clinic!

Sigelius Why?

Galen No one ever writes about the slum patients, but I can vouch for my cure! We've had not a single relapse! See this letter from my colleagues. They're sending me patients from all over the city! Please, look at the letters.

Sigelius They're of no interest to me. (*Stands up.*) There's nothing more to talk about.

Galen That's a great pity. (*Hovers by the door.*) Such a dreadful disease . . . You yourself one day . . .

Sigelius You had no call to say that, Galen. (*Paces the floor.*) I don't much fancy falling apart alive . . .

Galen In that case the Professor can treat himself with anti-odorants . . .

Sigelius Show me the letters.

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)
- *Going Postal* by Terry Pratchett (m16 f17)