

The San Francisco Mime Troupe

presents

WE CAN'T PAY? WE WON'T PAY!

by Dario Fo

Text based on the British translation by Lino Pertile,
adapted by Bill Colvill and Robert Walker,
and American translations by People's Translation Service
and the San Francisco Mime Troupe,
adapted by the San Francisco Mime Troupe.

Design by Peggy Snider
Construction by Peter Snider, Jack Davis, and Nadine Enderlin

Directed, arranged, produced and performed
by
The San Francisco Mime Troupe

The setting is a working-class district in Milan in the mid-1970's

ACT ONE: One evening after work

ACT TWO: Late that night and early the next morning

CHARACTERS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Antonia — A working wife

Margherita — A working bride, Antonia's neighbor

Giovanni — A factory worker, Antonia's husband

A Police Sergeant

A Police Inspector

Luigi — A factory worker, Margherita's husband

An Undertaker

An Old Man

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Dario Fo, born in Lombardy in 1926, has been writing, directing and performing political plays for 25 years, and is one of Italy's best-known theatrical artists. Fo abandoned the traditional theater circuit during the political upheavals of 1968. His company, La Comune, based in Milan, plays workers' halls, schools, marketplaces, political demonstrations, etc., to an enormous popular following.

WE CAN'T PAY? WE WON'T PAY! (Italian: NON SI PAGA, NON SI PAGA) was written in 1974. It has been produced in Belgium, England, France, Holland, East Germany and West Germany as well as in Italy. This is the first production of any of Fo's plays in the United States.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Joe Bellan, Janet Brockman, Suzanne Cowan, Lou Dematteis, Jim Griffiths, Kathy Kartiganer, Bernard Ohanian, Arno Paul, Verna Pedrin, Richard Seyd, Peter Solomon, Jael Weisman, Committee for a Democratic Policy Towards Italy, Demystivision, Peoples Translation Service.

The San Francisco Mime Troupe is a non-profit, collectively-run theater company, founded in 1959. Your donations support us — also, they are tax deductible. We are located at 855 Treat Street, San Francisco, California 94110. (415) 285-1717

Quotidiano

L. 150

Svizzera: Fr. sv. 1,20
Canton Ticino Fr. sv. 1,10

Diffusione - via Ariosto, 8
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Stabilimento tipolitografico Grafica Effetti
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Iscrizione al numero 211
del Registro del Tribunale
di Milano del 8/6/1974

Abbonamento annuale L. 30.000 - semestrale
L. 15.000 - trimestrale L. 7.500 - bimestrale
Un numero arretrato costa lire 300

Mass walkouts in 5 towns protest new austerity plan

Wildcat strikes spread to Milan, Turin, Florence, Genoa, Naples — Industry-wide shutdowns set — Protesting workers block trains, highways

Yesterday's hastily called strike by Milan autoworkers protesting the latest austerity measures widened today into mass walkouts in many cities, prompting three major unions to schedule nationwide strikes.

Workers at Milan's Fiat and Alfa Romeo plants who walked off the job to protest the announced 25% increase in gasoline prices were soon joined by auto, chemical and food industry workers in Turin, Florence, Genoa and Naples.

By noon today an estimated 1.5 million workers were on strike against the government's austerity program, which limits wage increases while permitting dramatic price increases on many goods and services.

In Florence and Naples, workers blocked traffic and stopped trains to underline their protest.

The rank and file protests represent a clear challenge to the leadership of the Communist and Socialist Parties and the three labor federations. All these groups have cooperated with the austerity program. Three unions, the Metal-

workers, Chemical Workers and Food Industry Workers called nationwide strikes for four hours, next Monday to coincide with the regional general strike already scheduled in Campania.

At many plants yesterday, workers called factory-wide assemblies without consulting union delegates, and booed delegates when they appeared. Most if not all the assemblies voted motions demanding a national general strike, an action long opposed by the federations as posing too serious a threat to the Andreotti government.

Outside Florence, 1000 workers with placards demanding "Social Justice" and "No to the Politics of Sacrifice" blocked the Autostrada del Sole yesterday evening, paralyzing rush-hour traffic until they were pushed off the freeway by riot police.

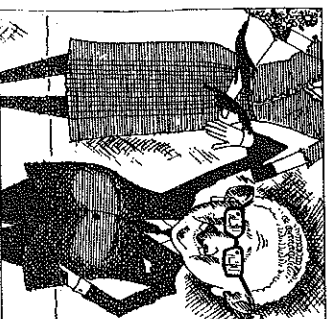
Near Naples, 1500 chemical workers blocked the Rome-Naples railway line for over two hours this morning.

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Common Market, and Confin-

dustria, the association of large manufacturers, continue to press the government for harsh economic measures. IMF and the Common Market have demanded reduced labor costs and increased productivity as conditions of economic aid.

Current austerity measures include a top limit on cost-of-living increases, a "restructuring" plan for industry which encourages layoffs, and sharp price increases on gasoline, heating oil, and tobacco along with rate increases on transportation, electricity, telephone and postal services.

What price love?



Time for austerity, for all to make sacrifices. Costlier gas, colder winter — for everyone, says the government. Everyone, repeats Andreotti on TV. But the Premier has not taken into account the grand passion that unites President of the Republic Leone with his wife, donna Vittoria. The lady is vacationing lately near Pisa. Separation is painful, so each Sunday the President flies to her side in an Air Force DC-9. Each trip consumes 20,000 liters of fuel, exactly the amount we're supposed to conserve. Love above everything, even austerity — but why doesn't Premier Andreotti talk about that on TV?

Will gov't. ban beef?

Meat is next on the hit list for the government's austerity program, joining gasoline, heating oil, electricity and telephone service.

Measures to be adopted next Friday aim at reducing the country's enormous trade deficit in the area of food imports — particularly imports of meat.

Within the government, the objective is stated more frankly: cut meat consumption. Last year, meat consumption dropped 25% without affecting the balance of payments.

This 25% is not equally distributed: some people eat less meat, while others no longer eat any. We leave it to the reader to imagine who is who.

Proposed measures include reduction of beef consumption in favor of "alternative meats" — like chicken, pork and rabbit, imports of Common Market frozen meat, and prohibiting fresh meat sales on certain days of the week.

The "alternative meat" proposal is window-dressing. Not only are pork and rabbit high-priced meats, they are 40% imported. The only cheaper meat is chicken.

As for the prohibition of meat sales on certain days, butchers interviewed all declared themselves opposed, pointing out that the principal effect would be to overwork them on the other days.

The frozen meat proposal ignores the fact that for meat to stay frozen it must be kept at 25° below zero centigrade, while most people's refrigerators only cool to zero.

The reality behind the smoke-screen is that the only measure which will reduce meat consumption is a price increase. Already, within a few days, wholesale meat prices have jumped an average 300 lire per kilo without counting the tax, which is expected to climb to 24%.

In effect, meat is being rationed according to income.

The average Italian factory worker earned slightly over \$3 an hour in 1978. This is three times the figure for 1970, but the cost of living in Italy quadrupled in the same period. 1.1.0

Apartment takeover

Homeless families demand housing

Milan
Ninety-six homeless families carrying their bedding and kitchen equipment today took possession of apartments kept empty by real estate operators.

The takeover, organized by the Lotta Continua movement, renews the struggle over housing rights in this city.

The squatters intend to force the city to act on long-standing proposals calling for requisition of 4,000 empty dwellings that building interests have refused to rent. Negotiations between the

city, the owners' association, the police and tenants' organizations on the requisition measures have been deadlocked for three months.

The early morning occupations revealed that a number of landlords have partially destroyed buildings in order to block requisitions. Broken tile, wrecked plumbing, and smashed doors and windows have left many apartments practically uninhabitable.

Other landlords, more respectful of the city's architectural heritage, have moved to convert apartment buildings into condominiums.