

# The Rock



A 3-Act  
*Religious Drama*

presented by  
the

UNITED DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Edward Schwertz

President

## SYNOPSIS OF THE ROCK

THE PLAY OPENS IN THE COURTYARD OF THE HOUSE OF ANDREW AND SIMON IN THE GREAT, COSMOPOLITAN CITY OF CAPERNAUM WHERE THE FOUR ROMAN ROADS CROSS AND GO OUT TO THE KNOWN WORLD. IN THE FIRST ACT SIMON, A POOR YOUNG FISHERMAN, POURS OUT TO HIS LITTLE WIFE, ADINA HIS AMBITION TO BECOME A GREAT MERCHANT. HE BELIEVES IN HIS DREAM AND HE BELIEVES IN HIMSELF, BUT NEITHER ONE CAN SEE ANY OPENING IN THEIR ENVIRONMENT OF POVERTY. UNCLE UCAL ARRIVES WITH HIM OPPORTUNITY. HE IS A RICH MERCHANT AND HE OFFERS TO ESTABLISH SIMON IN BUSINESS. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, SIMON HAS BEEN FIRED BY ENTHUSIASM FOR A STRANGE TEACHER FROM NAZARETH TO SEE VISIONS OF A FAR GREATER FUTURE THAN THAT OF A MERCHANT. HE SEES IN JESUS A LEADER OF THE NATION AND WHEN THE MASTER CALLS HIM TO HIS SERVICE, HE THROWS ASIDE UCAL'S OFFER, AND THE AMBITION OF YESTERDAY, AND FLINGS HIMSELF INTO THE CAUSE OF THE NAZARENE. HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW, UCAL AND THE BRILLIANT AND WICKED MAGDALA ALL OPPOSE HIM BUT THE LITTLE ADINA STANDS LOYALLY BY HIS DECISION.

BELIEVING IN HIS OWN STRENGTH, SIMON ACCEPTS THE NAME OF PETER, THE ROCK, WITH CALM ASSURANCE AND, IN THE SECOND ACT, IS FLUNG FROM THE HEIGHTS OF HOPE AND ENTHUSIASM TO THE DEPTHS OF DISILLUSIONMENT AND FURY WHEN THE NAZARENE REFUSES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHANCE FOR LEADERSHIP WHICH THE HEALING OF PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW AND THE MIRACLES FOLLOWING HAVE OPENED TO HIM. WHEN JESUS TURNS HIS BACK ON THE WAITING MULTITUDE IN CAPERNAUM, REFUSING TO LEAVE HIS MOUNTAIN SOLITUDE, PETER DESERTS HIM IN ANGER. AT HOME HE FINDS HIS LITTLE WIFE AND HER MOTHER UNALTERABLY LOYAL TO THE MASTER AND MAGDALA, DISCONTENTED WITH HER WAY OF LIFE, BEGINNING TO FEEL STIRRINGS OF CURIOSITY ABOUT THE NEW TEACHER, BUT IT IS THE I-TOLD-YOU-SO ATTITUDE OF UCAL THAT SWINGS HIM BACK TO HIS OLD LOYALTY TO JESUS AND BRINGS HIM TO THE REALIZATION THAT "THOUGH THE MASTER IS WEAK IN WORLDLY WISDOM, HE IS STILL A GREAT MAN AND, BECAUSE OF HIS WEAKNESS, NEEDS HIS STRENGTH TO SUPPORT HIM." WITH REDOUBLED ENTHUSIASM, HE SEES HIMSELF THE ROCK THAT SHALL SUPPORT THE MASTER'S KINGDOM.

THE THIRD ACT IS LAID ON A HOUSE-TOP IN BETHANY, THE EVENING OF THE CRUCIFIXION. THE DEATH OF THEIR LEADER HAS COME AS A CRUSHING BLOW TO ALL, BUT TO PETER IT IS NOT ONLY THE END OF HOPE BUT THE DISCOVERY OF HIMSELF AS A COWARD AND TRAITOR. HE SUFFERS AS ONLY THE EGOIST CAN SUFFER WHEN HIS SELF-LOVE DIES, BUT, AT LAST, THROUGH THE DEVOTION OF ADINA AND THE UNDERSTANDING OF MAGDALA, HE BEGINS TO VISION FAINTLY THE TRUE MEANING OF HIS NAME.

THE PLAY AS A WHOLE IS AN ATTEMPT TO ANSWER THE AGE-OLD QUESTION: "SHALL MAN BELIEVE IN THAT HE BELONGS TO FALL?"

## THE CAST

SIMON - A Fisherman	Ted Lehmann
ADINA - His Wife	Betty Sachs
DEBORAH - Her Mother	Mildred Appel
UCAL - Her Uncle	Milton Sahlman
MARY MAGDALA	Elizabeth Hoffmann
PANDIRA - A Greek	Earl Schwartz
TITUS - A Roman Officer	John Miklas
AGUR - A Physician	George Mack
Servant to Ucal	Markus Strovel
Servants to Mary Magdala	Johanna Zimmerman Alberta Becker

## "THE ROCK"

is being given with one objective in view, that is, to get the message of Christ to the hearts of those who witness its presentation. It is strictly a sacred worship service. It will be necessary for children under twelve years of age to sit with their parents during the enactment. We also request that you kindly refrain from applauding. This is done to assure perfect quiet. There will be no admission charge. Silver Offering will be taken.

DIRECTED BY	Louis Winkler
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Irvin Warneke
SCENERY	
STAGE	Fred Musch
LIGHTS	Howard Gerlach Bill Helm
PROPERTIES	Alberta Becker Edith Lewis
COSTUMES	Hilda Winkler Lillian Mack
MAKE-UP	Margaret Ault Catherine Smith Catherine Miklas
PROGRAM	Rev. Lehmann May Becker
ADVERTISING	Rev. Lehmann
UTILITY	Paul Bauersfeld James Hoffmann Charles Brown

OUR SINCERE THANKS

To all who gave of their time and  
 efforts or in anyway assisted in making  
 possible the presentation of

"THE ROCK"