

life of luxury and pleasure. The day before the action of the play commences, he gets drunk at a baptism celebration and says he would sell his soul to the devil to obtain his heart's desire.

Czeslaw decides to teach him a lesson. He changes clothes with Blazek while the latter is asleep and plans to convince him on his awakening that the devil has taken him at his word. Czeslaw tells his scheme to Bailiff Mateusz and his daughter Salomea, whom Blazek loves and desires to marry.

The first scene of the play shows Blazek, dressed in his master's clothes asleep on a settee in Czeslaw's room. Czeslaw dressed in Blazek's livery is giving some final orders to another stableman called Walek, trying to convince him that the devil has transformed Blazek and that Walek should henceforth treat the former stableman as his lord and master.

Blazek awakes and cannot understand how he came to be dressed in his master's clothes nor why everyone treats him with such respect. Czeslaw gives him the story about the devil. Blazek is worried, and his worry changes shortly into despair when his beloved Salomea appears not to recognise him and treats him with the deference due to his lordship.

Orlewicz's aunt Anastasia arrives with her daughter Clementine and cousin Celestin. His aunt lives in Lithuania and remembers Czeslaw only as a small boy. She takes Blazek for her nephew, greets him affectionately and explains the reason of her visit. She wants him to marry her daughter. Blazek replies rudely and afterwards he tells Clementine that he refuses to marry her because he is in love with Salomea, and what is more, he advises her and her mother to go back from where they came.

Clementine cannot understand her cousin's peculiar behaviour. From his letters she had believed him to be a polite, well educated young gentleman. Czeslaw, still disguised as a stableman, explains the situation to her. Blazek thinks Celestin is the devil who has brought this misfortune upon him. He asks Walek to help him to drown Celestin in the lake. Fortunately Czeslaw prevents him, admits what he has done and asks his aunt for permission to marry Clementine. Blazek is overjoyed. He proposes to Salomea, she accepts him and they agree to be married as quickly as possible. Aunt Anastasia suggests they all dance the Krakowiak, and the curtain falls on that Polish dance.

Lotnicza  
Czolowka  
Teatralna

Department of National Service Entertainment

N.A.A.F.I.



ENSA Presents

## PAN BENET

AND

## BLAŻEK OPETANY

The two plays produced by the Polish Air Force Theatrical Group under the auspices of and the E.N.S.A. Advisory International Council.

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Proceeds from voluntary contributions for purchase of programmes will be given to the aid of Poles in Russia.

## "Mr. BENET"

Comedy in 1 act by Al. hr. Fredro.

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Mr. Benet ... URBANOWICZ BOGDAN  
Colonel, his brother ... LASKOWSKI STEFAN  
Zdzislaw, ... SKWIERCZYNSKI LEOPOLD  
his nephew  
Paulina ... ... KRASZEWSKA JULJA  
Stefan, Mr. Benet's butler KORNACKI STEFAN  
Macius, ... PRZYGODZKI ZDZISLAW  
Colonel's servant

### "Mr. BENET"

(By A. Fredry)

Mr. Benet, an old bachelor, revels in the silence of his home. The peace is broken by the unexpected arrival of his nephew Zdzislaw, who has been travelling round Europe to recover from a broken heart. He was in love with his cousin Pauline, the daughter of another uncle, a Colonel, but they had quarrelled after he received an anonymous letter telling him that she intended to marry her fat, bald cousin Antoni. The assertion was confirmed by a short note written in Pauline's own hand enclosed in the letter. Zdzislaw's heart was broken and in his despair he sent her an insulting letter and left for a long journey in search of forgetfulness. He had now returned to challenge his rival, and, after avenging his grief he would go away again.

The conversation between Mr. Benet and his nephew is interrupted by Benet's butler and then by the Colonel's batman, with a letter from the Colonel. The batman brings in a lot of luggage and Benet learns from the letter that his brother, the colonel, till now a bachelor, has just been married and that he is arriving with his wife. The batman tells Mr. Benet that his brother's wife is Pauline.

Mr. Benet fears that Zdzislaw and the Colonel will fight if they meet and he advises Zdzislaw to leave before the bride and bridegroom arrive. Zdzislaw, however, refuses to do so. The Colonel and Pauline come in. The Colonel asks Zdzislaw to see Pauline to her room for a rest after her long journey. Mr. Benet is alarmed at sending the young people off alone, but his brother, the Colonel, does not appear to be anxious and says "Youth may be wise". Benet asks his brother why he married Pauline. The Colonel says because Zdzislaw jilted her and someone had to look after her. As Pauline's guardian the Colonel had felt it his duty to marry her. This conversation is overheard by Zdzislaw. The brothers go off to have a meal. Pauline and Zdzislaw say they are not

hungry and remain alone in the room. Zdzislaw tells Pauline that he is going on a very long journey. Pauline asks him to meet her here in the same place later that evening. Mr. Benet comes back and is alarmed by Pauline's strange manner. She asks him to have a look at Zdzislaw. The brothers Benet go off together.

The young couple meet and Pauline explains that she had made a bet with some girl friends that it would be impossible for her to make Zdzislaw lose faith in her love for him: so the anonymous letter was sent with the note written by her, enclosed. He had replied by his letter of insult, breaking off their engagement. Then her letter of explanation did not reach him because of his sudden departure. Zdzislaw implores her forgiveness. The Colonel comes in and Zdzislaw tells him he must divorce Pauline, the Colonel laughingly explains that he need not divorce her as she is not married to him. He wanted to bring Zdzislaw and Pauline together again and and for them to forgive each other and to renew their engagement. He has succeeded.

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## "Blazek Possessed by the Devil"

Comedy in 1 act by Wl. Anczyc.

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Czeslaw Orlewicz ... LASKOWSKI STEFAN  
Anastazja Sniezkowa ... MARKIEWICZ ANNA  
Klimusia, her daughter ... PACZOSKA IRENA  
Celestyn Slomkiewicz PRZYGODZKI ZDZISLAW  
Marcin, bailiff ... KORNACKI STEFAN  
Salusia, his daughter ... KRASZEWSKA JULIA  
Walek, stableman URBANOWICZ BOGDAN  
Blazek, ... SKWIERCZYNSKI LEOPOLD

stableman

Two Country girls ... PAM WHITE and  
INKA RUSS'ING

In the interval Polish Folk Songs by  
GRZYMSKA DANUTA

Accompanied at the Piano by  
J. SZYMONOWICZ

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### "BLAZEK POSSESSED BY THE DEVIL"

(By Anczyc)

(Performed for the first time in Cracow in 1856)

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The action of the play is in Czeslaw Orlewicz's country seat near Cracow.

A stableman, Blazek, longs to be rich and to live a