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## Mother Courage 2021: Making Art in the Age of Coronavirus

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**MOTHER COURAGE 2021:  
MAKING ART IN THE AGE OF CORONAVIRUS**

**SHANE BRIDGER LUTZ**

**GRADCON 2021**

# MOTHER COURAGE 2021

- ❑ IN THE SPRING OF 2021, I DIRECTED *PRIDE & PREJUDICE* AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA.
- ❑ UNFORTUNATELY, THE SHOW WAS CANCELLED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS.
- ❑ A YEAR LATER, I AM DIRECTING *MOTHER COURAGE & HER CHILDREN* BY BERTOLT BRECHT.
- ❑ IN THE FALL, THE SCHOOL OF THEATRE & DANCE DID THEIR SHOWS OVER ZOOM IN ORDER TO ASSURE SAFETY.
- ❑ *MOTHER COURAGE* DEMANDS SPECTACLE, SO I DID WHATEVER IT TOOK TO REHEARSE AND PERFORM IN PERSON.



# HOW DO WE MAKE ART IN A PANDEMIC?

- ❑ THE AGE OF CORONAVIRUS NECESSITATES A NEW PROTOCOL SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE MAKING LIVE PERFORMANCE IN THIS “NEW NORMAL”.
- ❑ PRIORITIZE SAFETY IN THE REHEARSAL ROOM.
- ❑ ALL CAST & CREW WILL BE MASKED AT ALL TIMES AND WILL WEAR GLOVES WHEN INTERACTING WITH SCENIC & PROP ELEMENTS
- ❑ WE WILL MAINTAIN 6-FEET OF SOCIAL DISTANCE DURING THE ENTIRE PROCESS.
- ❑ THE MOMENTS OF PHYSICAL TOUCH IN THE SCRIPT WILL BE CREATIVELY RESTAGED TO AVOID ANY CONTACT BETWEEN ACTORS.
- ❑ WE CAN INCORPORATE THIS INTO THE WORLD OF THE PLAY THROUGH THE STORYTELLING & DESIGN: THESE ARE NO ACTORS WEARING MASKS IN A PLAY, BUT CHARACTERS DEALING WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF A DANGEROUS WORLD.

We will adhere to all rules & regulations set by the University of Montana through their Health & Safety Guidelines as well as the guidelines issued by Missoula County.

- [Missoula County Health Dept. Coronavirus Guidelines](#)
- [University of Montana Health & Safety Guidelines for COVID-19](#)

# BERTOLT BRECHT'S EPIC THEATRE

## ❑ CALL TO ACTION

- ❑ Brecht referred to his style as Marxist theatre
- ❑ He wanted audiences to engage critically with ideas
- ❑ His plays end without catharsis or happy endings to force audiences to create change in their own lives

## ❑ MUSIC

- ❑ Brecht used music to comment on the action of the scene, interrupting the flow of the story to force the audiences to think about what was taking place on stage.

## ❑ VISUAL SPECTACLE

- ❑ Brecht juxtaposed opposing images, moods, or patterns to comment on different states of being. For example, Yvette's story of the Cook's betrayal is echoed in the staging of *Mother Courage and the Cook* when he turns his back on her too.

## ❑ METATHEATRICALITY

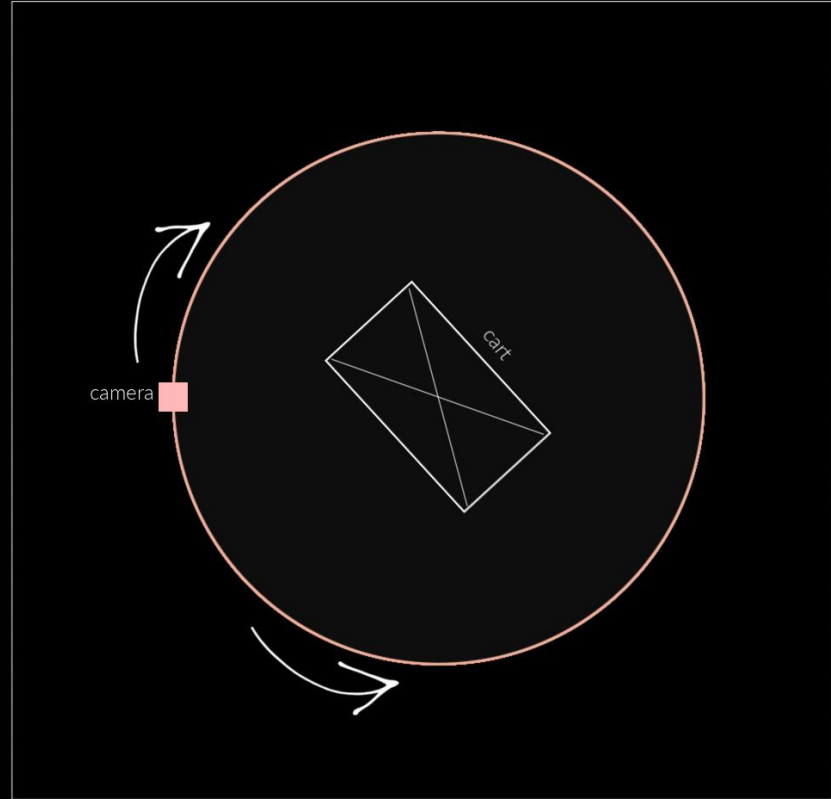
- ❑ We never hid the fact that this is a play; in fact, we highlighted it!



Bertolt Brecht, 1927. Courtesy of the Berliner Ensemble.

# FILMING *MOTHER COURAGE*

- ❑ THE CAMERA IS ON A DOLLY AND FOLLOWS A CIRCULAR TRACK AROUND THE SET.
- ❑ THIS ALSO HELPS US TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE AS WE CREATE MOMENTS ON OPPOSING SIDES OF THE CART WHERE THE CAMERA PIVOTS AROUND TO FILM IN CONTINUOUS MOTION.
- ❑ EACH SCENE IS FILMED IN ONE SHOT, MAKING THE EXPERIENCE FEEL MORE INVOLVED AND THEATRICAL.



# KATTRIN'S CHOICE IN SCENE ELEVEN



TO GET THE FULL EXPERIENCE, STREAM

# MOTHER COURAGE & HER CHILDREN

STARTING MARCH 10



IF OFF THE WAR YOU HOPE TO LIVE, TAKE WHAT YOU CAN. YOU'LL ALSO GIVE.

**MOTHER COURAGE  
AND HER CHILDREN**  
WRITTEN BY BERTOLT BRECHT

TRANSLATED BY TONY KUSHNER | PRESENTED BY UM THEATRE AND DANCE

STREAMING ON DEMAND | MARCH 10-21



**DAS ENDE**

**SHANE BRIDGER LUTZ**

**GRADCON 2021**