



PRESS RELEASE FOR

THE THREEFOLD SOCIAL ORGANISM THEATRE PROJECT,
NZ TOUR, May and June 2017

THIS WAR IS NOT INEVITABLE

A play for two actors
written by Michael Hedley Burton
and performed by Lightweight Theatre

concerning the birth of the idea of the
Threefold Social Organism
in 1917-1919

A ninety minute performance for adults;
or a 50 minute performance for high schools

Description of the show in twenty words:

Rudolf Steiner's *Threefold Social Organism* was an attempt to make war impossible. 100 years later, could its time be now?

Description of the show in just over 100 words:

In 1917 the Austrian social reformer Rudolf Steiner described his vision of the *Threefold Social Organism* (*Threefold Social Order*) in an attempt to rescue Germany from a devastating World War. By limiting the power of the state, Steiner showed how war could become impossible. Two actors, playing a dozen parts between them, show how the rulers of the time received this idea.

Steiner failed then, but the question we must ask today is do we want to continue with forms of government arising out of the nineteenth century? Could the *Threefold Social Organism* be the blueprint for something that will work in our time?

About *This War is Not Inevitable*:

It is 100 years since Rudolf Steiner first described his vision of the *Threefold Social Organism (Threefold Social Order)*. His efforts in 1917 to rescue Germany from a devastating World War failed. However his description of the way that society needed to be restructured at that time is as relevant today as it was then.

Steiner focused on the key role played by human creativity in our society. The activity of free individuals is the counterbalance to much that is wrong with society today. Social three-folding, by countering both excessive state power and the tyranny of raw economic forces, brings harmony into society. That it should come into existence in the world, working in different ways in different countries, is an important precondition for world peace.

Michael Burton has written a play in which two actors play many different roles: a World War One soldier in the trenches, people antagonistic to Steiner's ideas, the founder of the Waldorf Movement, Emil Molt, and Rudolf Steiner himself. The audience enters into the situation of Germany at her time of great crisis. By allowing the audience to see what was attempted then, it is hoped that they will be able to perceive and feel for themselves how social three-folding offers many possibilities to be taken up anew in our own time.

The breakdown of society that we see taking place everywhere today is the shadow side of new opportunities starting to appear. This play is an excellent way to become informed about the history of social three-folding and how it can become a force in today's world. After all performances there will be a chance to discuss themes with the actors and bring the events of 1917-19 into line with what we see happening a hundred years later.

This War Is Not Inevitable will be rehearsed in Auckland during April and May this year. It will then tour New Zealand and Australia in May and June before going on to Europe in July. Venues are presently being set up for performances in the U.K., Germany, Switzerland, Holland and Scandinavia. The actors will be Michael Burton and Ryan Kouroukis.

The *Threefold Social Organism* is deeply relevant to all people concerned with the future of humanity. Meeting together to witness this performance event can be a catalyst to positive social change or work some social magic upon a community.

A version of 50 mins, with excerpts from the play interspersed with discussion with students, is offered for high schools.

For further information, actors' bios, details of specific performances etc, please contact:

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