

A SHADOW ON A WALL

A Choric Drama

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For THREE NARRATORS and a SPEAKING CHOIR.

SCENE: The stage is dimly lighted with blue lights. When curtains open, FIRST NARRATOR is down R.; SECOND NARRATOR is down L.; THIRD NARRATOR is up C. at the highest level. If possible, place microphones for narrators.

Place half the speaking choir on risers at R. stage and half on risers at L. stage. Use the back stage wall as the background for the shadow.

To make the shadow, have a boy stand motionless on a stool with his arms placed above his head as though he were protecting his face. Place a spotlight near the floor so that the boy's shadow is cast on the back wall to the left of the THIRD NARRATOR. Be sure shadow is large enough to be plainly visible to audience.

(NOTE: Using the back wall will not distort the shadow as much as the cyclorama will, but either may be used.)

FIRST NARRATOR: Whether it is fact or fiction,
It is said
That a shadow of a man
Is permanently etched on a wall
In Hiroshima.

SECOND NARRATOR: Now a shadow is a fragile thing
Made by sunbeams;
And it is usually easily erased by sunbeams.

FIRST NARRATOR: Yet here is a shadow
Of a man
Which, it is said,
Is permanently etched on a wall.
And it remains visible in the brightest sun.
This shadow was made
Not by the light of the sun
But by a man-made weapon,
The atomic bomb.
A bomb which blinded those
Who were miles away.
Those who stared transfixed
At the brilliant flash of light
Were never to see the mushroom cloud
Which followed, or
Were never to see the light of day.
And the bomb rained death and destruction
On tiny tots who never saw a gun;
On those who did not know that
War and death are synonymous.

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