

SYNOPSIS OF *ALCHEMY ANTIQUES*
(a full-length one act)

CHARACTERS:

(a minimum ensemble of six actors (two men and four women) play ten characters)

DOCTOR TUCKER DANES, an auctioneer and former physician

COSMINA VALLHUND, bidder #15, a tattooist; age twenties

SONIA BORZOIAN, bidder #24, a museum curator; age twenties

ROZANA KOMONDOR, bidder #37; age twenties

VIOLETA KOMONDOR, Rozana's sister; age twenties

MONIQUE MALINOIS, bidder #40, a collector of antiques

OWEN SPITZ, bidder #52, a taxidermist

WARDEN JOAN BASSET, a prison supervisor

DOCTOR ELAINE SHEPHERD, a prison psychiatrist

DRAGOS DRAGOMIR, an antiques dealer

NOTE: Doctor Tucker Danes, Monique Malinois, Owen Spitz, and Warden Joan Basset have Southern American accents; Cosmina Vallhund, Sonia Borzoian, Roxana Komondor, Violeta Komondor, and Doctor Eliane Shepard have non-regional American accents; Dragos Dragomir has an Eastern European accent.

SUGGESTED DOUBLING:

Monique Malinois / Warden Joan Basset / Violeta Komondor

Rozana Komondor / Doctor Elaine Shepherd

Owen Spitz / Dragos Dragomir

TIME:

The recent past (1990s) and possible future

PLACE:

A stylized set represents an auction barn in Brunswick, Georgia; a prison cell in Lowell, Florida; an apartment in New York City; a forest in the Carpathian Mountains; and various auction houses. At an auction in rural Georgia is a careworn trunk filled with items from the closure of Alchemy Antiques. The bidding escalates to thousands of dollars and leads to a reclusive collector living in New York who claims to have cheated death. The collector is Dragos Dragomir, leader of a clan of Romanian gypsies who became the time-traveling repositories of history, living generation after generation through escalating catastrophes to our current precarious times. As gypsies, the clan endured constant prejudice, enmity, and exclusion from every country in Europe. While most learned to live peaceful, productive lives, one of the members sought revenge by infecting the ink of the swastikas she is asked to tattoo on her clients. She is arrested and imprisoned, but escapes to seek asylum with Dragomir who fears for his survival and that of the remaining members of his ancient clan.

