

# **SYNOPSIS OF *ALCHEMY ANTIQUES***

(A Full Length One Act Play)

**TIME:** The recent past (1975) and distant future

**PLACE:** A stylized set represents an auction barn in Brunswick, Georgia; a prison cell in Lowell, Florida; an apartment in New York City; and a forest in the Carpathian Mountains.

**CHARACTERS:** (a minimum ensemble of six actors: two men and four women)

DOCTOR TUCKER DANES, an auctioneer and former physician

CHELSEA HARRIER, bidder #15, a tattooist

SONYA SPROCKER, bidder #24, a museum curator

ROSANNE POMSKY, bidder #37

VIOLET POMSKY, Rosanne's sister

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

SYPHILISSA, a woman covered with inflamed sores

DRAGOS DRAGOMIR, an antiques dealer

LUMINISTA, an ageless gypsy

**NOTE:** Doctor Tucker Danes, Monique Malinois, Owen Spitz, and Warden Joan Basset have Southern American accents; Chelsea Harrier, Sonya Sprocker, Rosanne Pomskey, Violet Pomskey, and Doctor Elaine Shepherd have non-regional American accents; Dragos Dragomir, Luminista, and Syphilissa have Eastern European accents.

**SUGGESTED DOUBLING:** Monique Malinois / Warden Joan Basset / Violet Pomskey; Rosanne Pomskey / Doctor Elaine Shepherd / Luminista; Owen Spitz / Dragos Dragomir

**SYNOPSIS:** 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 time-traveling repositories of history, living generation after generation through escalating catastrophes to more recent 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 member 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 Dragos Dragomir who fears for his survival and that of the remaining members of his ancient clan.

