

RORSCHACH IN RUSSIA

PENTAMETERS THEATRE

by BILLIE-JADE THOMAS

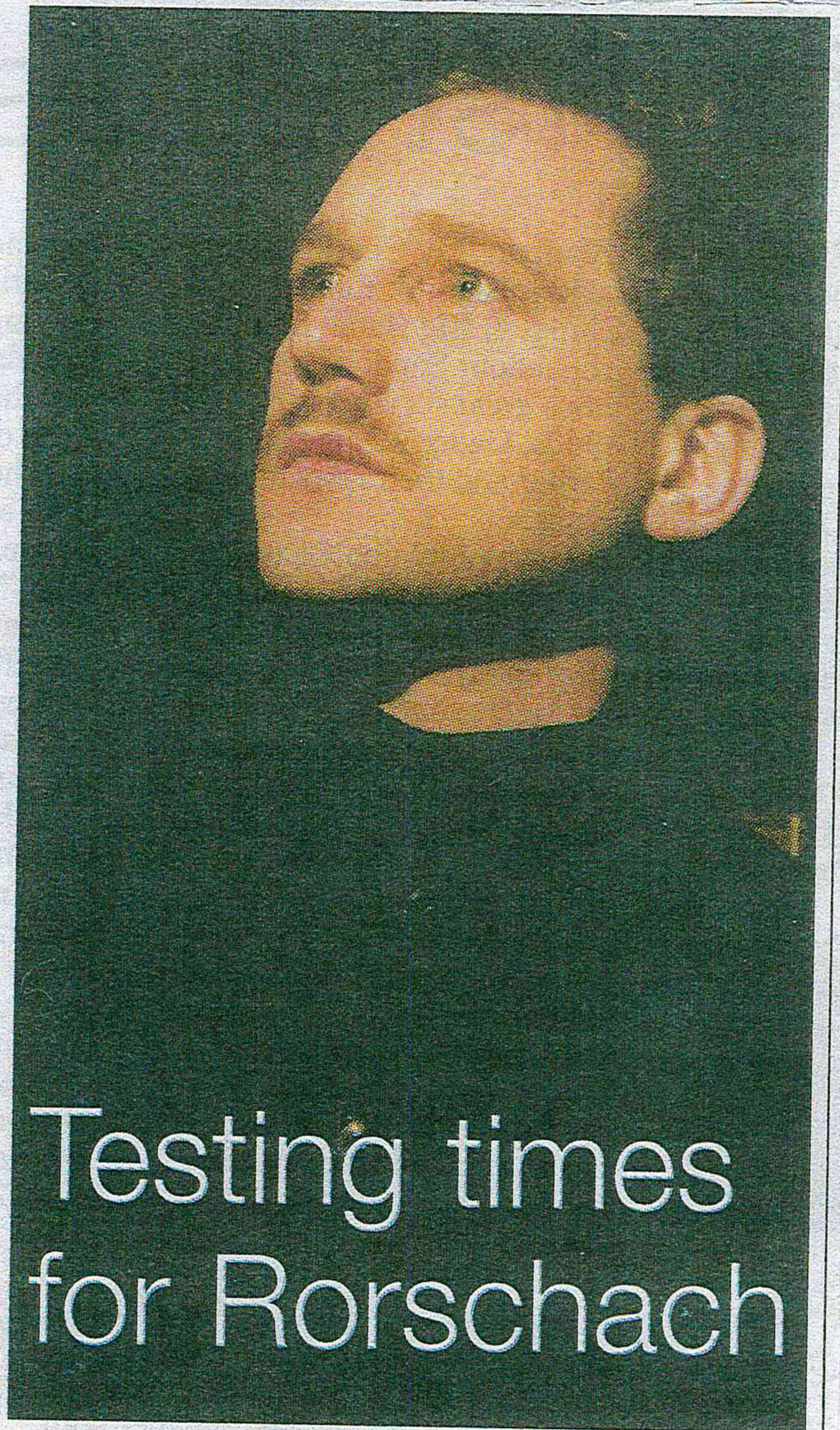
The personal becomes the political in this new drama by Carole Boyer.

Set in a Russian asylum in 1913, *Rorschach in Russia* explores the mysterious circumstances surrounding psychiatrist Dr Herman Rorschach's departure from Russia.

Produced by Léonie Scott-Matthews and directed by Benedict Waring, the play follows the pioneering Swiss psychiatrist as he journeys to Russia and finds himself involved with a Russian revolutionary and the wayward daughter of a Tsarist aristocrat.

The three prove an explosive mix in this politically influenced drama, inevitably leading to Rorschach's departure from Russia.

Those who are familiar with Rorschach are likely to associate him with the psychological test in which subjects'



Testing times for Rorschach

perceptions of inkblots are recorded (otherwise known as the Rorschach Test).

Although they are featured in the play, the inkblots take more of a background role as the relationship between the three main characters develops – with almost devastating consequences.

The theatre itself instantly gives the play its intimate atmosphere, while the engaging plot captures the audience's attention from the start.

Those who are not overly familiar with the history of Russia before 1917's Revolution may want to look it up beforehand, as the various political

references used in the play could prove slightly confusing.

Francis Moore gives a convincing performance as the Swiss psychiatrist, although it is Jason Spencer who steals the show as Russian revolutionary Roman Malinovsky.

Josie Martin gives a lively, engaging performance as the daughter of a Tsarist aristocrat, Countess Ekaterina Dorobyeva, while John Rayment provides comic relief as the obsessive Dr Viktor Zhukov.

A captivating piece of political theatre.

UNTIL JULY 3
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