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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 20, 1981

BLOOMINGTON, ILL.--The story of Karl Marx (1818-1883), German philosopher and socialist, who authored the Communist Manifesto, will come to life in the Lab Theatre at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Written by Dr. John Heyl, associate professor of history at IWU, and directed by senior drama major Megan Peterson of Des Plaines, "Father of the Revolution: A Play Based on the Life of Karl Marx" will be presented at 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 26-27.

Admission will be free.

Heyl and Miss Peterson began working on the script for this production in September, adding dramatic elements and three more characters to the existing script. For her work, Miss Peterson will fulfill requirements for a course called Special Problems in Directing.

Heyl said he had been working on the play for about three years.

"Actually, it all started, I suppose, in 1978 when I wrote a short illustrative piece on Marx for one of my classes," he said.

Instead of the usual lecture, Heyl, using costume and makeup, portrayed the character of Marx, an idea he has since expanded in his Modern Global History class to include other world notables such as Charles Darwin.

The idea for a play developed in the summer of 1978. He started on a script then but concentrated only on Marx's later years. The following summer he rewrote the play to include events that occurred during Marx's younger days, and last summer, did still another rewrite to include a second character. Until then Heyl had been thinking of a one-man show, perhaps an outgrowth of his class presentations.

"Ours will be a memory play," Miss Peterson said, "in which Marx's daughter, Eleanor, recalls various times in her father's life." The time of the play will be following

He has written two books on Chinese-American relations as well as numerous articles and reviews for periodicals.

Heyl, who came to Wesleyan in 1969, served as Acting Director of Social Science Programs last year during Israel's sabbatical leave. He is chairman of the Pre-Law Advisory Committee and in 1978 was project director for the university in the development of an interdisciplinary course on agriculture in a liberal arts setting. Project Quill (Quality in Liberal Learning) was funded by the Association of American Colleges.

In January of 1980 he was one of the lecturers in a special course that studied Bloomington-Normal as a regional city.

In the classroom, Heyl brings to life various historical characters as he presents a first-person lecture, in costume and makeup. Students of his Modern Global History class see such notables as Karl Marx and Charles Darwin. These lectures were used as the basis of a dramatic play on the life of Marx, which was produced in a special Lab Theatre production last January.