



BLOCKHEADS

A synopsis

The play *Blockheads* is intended for school-age children. *Blockheads* was first staged at the National Youth Theatre during the 1984-1985 season. The play won an award at the National Drama Contest of plays for children and young people in 1985. The play has been included in the repertoire of many theatres throughout the country and abroad.

The characters and circumstances (markedly comic) are based on folklore without mentioning specific folk tales. The action takes place “sometime” and “always”. The author has created a play with a deep moral message.

The *Blockheads* are three brothers – Glavcho, Gloumcho and Gloupcho. The elder brothers are lazy and greedy while the youngest, Gloupcho, is enterprising. His one and only dream is to disassociate himself from the *Blockheads* and for that purpose he tries to do the reverse of everything that they do. And then the Old shepard Bozhko appears with his sheep. When he realizes that the boys can be changed, he coaxes them into a search for adventure. He promises the two elder brothers wealth which will guarantee them lots of food without any effort, while Gloupcho would become a magician. The miracle, however, will be possible only if the three boys can discover the Ugly Girl that lives across nine kingdoms. The journey to the tenth kingdom is full of amusing dangers: the kilometers abruptly come to an end, when the brother who counts them on his fingers realizes he’s got no more, then the greedy brothers who are always hungry risk drowning themselves in a porridge bowl. Bozhko appears whenever they are in difficulty. Actually he wants to test Gloupcho’s ambition to become a magician: will it prevent him being kind and helping his greedy brothers? The boy undergoes all the trials. The Ugly Girl is finally found. The two elder brothers realize that the tears that she cries are golden coins, and they start insulting her until they are buried in golden coins. Gloupcho saves them once again. He is deeply sorry for the Ugly Girl who has become so ugly because of heartlessness. Gloupcho comforts her telling her that she is beautiful and that turns her into a lovely girl. Old Bozhko is greatly pleased because one of the *Blockheads* has become a real man but that is not enough for Gloupcho. He helps his brothers overcome their stupidity and have confidence in themselves like real men. And as could be expected it all ends with Gloupcho’s engagement to the former Ugly Girl.

The play’s style is that of primitive folklore in which unreal things have simple, understandable explanations. This makes *Blockheads* an intellectual drama for people. It puts across the seemingly obvious idea that goodness should be active. The world changes as a result of the actions of the characters and they change too. The author’s moral standpoint is skillfully structured by means of modifying the sound themes of folklore. The play is notable for its dramatic achievements which are due to an inventively structured action, the humor of the characters and the natural transformation of fantastic elements into funny elements. What accounts most for the success of the play is naturally the tone in which the author narrates his tale, and it is full of trust in the intellectual abilities of children.

One woman and four men.
