

Idea for a play

by Phillip W. Weiss

Act one. Ralph Gorolinski has moved to Moscow, taking with him all of his issues. He thinks his Russian is good. However, his command of the language is so poor that he cannot make himself understood, which just increases his frustration, anger and alienation to the point of despair. Ralph believes that he is losing his mind when in fact all he needs is some lessons in conversational Russian. Russians try telling him to go to language class to improve his Russian, which is atrocious, but he can't understand what they are saying and interprets their comments as mockery, which infuriates him. Soon his anger turns into paranoid psychosis. He suffers a nervous breakdown and is brought to a hospital. At the hospital no one can understand him. The hospital finds an English-speaking Russian doctor. He tries speaking to Ralph in English but Ralph is now confused and hysterical and believes that he has forgotten how to speak English. Thus he continues to babble in a pseudo-Russian gibberish that no one can understand. Soon his case catches the attention of the local news media who visit him in the hospital. One reporter, a young attractive Russian woman named Larissa, is attracted to Ralph. She claims that Ralph's mangled Russian is actually an entirely new language and labels Ralph a genius. Soon she begins recording Ralph's babble and soon after she is babbling too. She insists that she can understand Ralph perfectly. She claims that Ralph actually is speaking in rhyme which to the untrained ear sounds like random noise but to her is music, literally music to her ears. Finally, the doctors decide to commit her to the

hospital too and act one ends with Ralph and Larissa in the hospital happily babbling away, uncaring about what others may say and think about them, deeply in love.

Act two. The "Gorolinski Babble," later simply called the "Babble," has acquired a popular following and is spreading rapidly throughout Russia. Soon everyone in Russia is speaking in "Babble" and the Russian language goes the way of Latin. Ralph Gorolinski and Larissa are hailed as the founders of a new language, and as champions of those persons linguistically oppressed because of nonsensical speech. Eventually, the "Babble" spreads around the world, uniting all of humanity through one common language. Soon stories are told about Ralph and Larissa, out of which emerges the legend of two persons, one a disgruntled yet brilliant man and the other a blessed and sensitive woman who through the power of language change the world and bring peace to humanity.