

Dario Fo, The Accidental Death of an Anarchist

1997 Nobel Laureate in Literature

Accidental Death of an Anarchist

was a reaction to the arrest of anarchist railway man Giuseppe Pinelli.

On December 12, 1969 a bomb went off in the Agricultural Bank in Milan
killing 17 people and wounding 100.

Immediately after the bombing fascists of the Italian Social Movement (MSI)
distributed leaflets denouncing the 'red terror'
and police in Milan went into action,
sweeping up a number of socialist, communist and anarchist activists.

One of these was Pinelli,
well known as a pacifist opposed to individual acts of violence.

After four days of interrogation in police headquarters
Pinelli 'fell' out of a fourth floor and died.

Police claimed that the death was an 'accident'.

These events sent a shock wave throughout Italy. There were demonstrations, articles in the
press, inquiries, etc.

In 1971, the policemen in charge of the investigation,
Calabresi, was charged with manslaughter.

Calabresi, in turn, launched a lawsuit against Lotta Continua,
the newspaper that had exposed many of the inconsistencies
in the police version of events.

These came to an end in May on 1972 when Calabresi was assassinated in front
of his house by 'unknown assailants.'

Ten years later in Catanzaro,

censorship.

A group of fascists kidnap, tortures and rapes Franca Rame. Through this beastly act, they seek to punish Franca and Dario for their political activism, in particular Franca's work in the prisons since 1970. Outcries of indignation and support throughout Italy.

- 1977-78 In November opens at a production of "Female parts", a piece mixing the grotesque, comic and dramatic to illustrate the situation of women today. Alone on the stage is Franca Rame, who for the first time puts her name besides Fo's on the author by-line. The performance is staged more than 3000 times.
- 1979 Fo writes "La tragedia di Aldo Moro", on the kidnapping and assassination of the Italian Christian Democratic Party leader at the hands of the Red Brigades. The play, which has never been performed, is built on Sophocles' Philoctetes.

questions

what do you make of the prosthetic limbs?

57/ is the bomb real or a copy? what difference does it make?

67/ why mention watergate?

71/ maniac calls police 'children of hitler.' RAF also called same.