

RUN WITH THE HARE AND HUNT WITH THE HOUNDS

/Kint is bárány, bent is farkas/

János Gosztonyi, a writer, actor and stage manager, has been writing radio plays for nearly ten years; drama has always been regarded as his basic means of expression.

His new radio play is remarkable both as a play of ultimate suitability for the medium, and as a matter of public life. The scene of the story is laid in a provincial town where a desperate struggle is going on between the Hunters' Club and the local organ of the S.P.C.A. The huntsmen's leader is called Rálp, the head of the S.P.C.A. is Ralph. They are both great organizers and efficient speakers, both are on good terms with the corresponding supreme authorities; they have done much damage to each other's business, and, accordingly, they have been of good service to their own concern. For the time being, the main question is the arranging - or, on the other hand, the crossing - of the great autumn shooting party. Both leaders are compelled to act more and more awe-inspiringly; and, at last, their personal meeting and clash cannot be delayed any more. They are arguing in Ralph's office, when Diana Horwood Hunts, vice-leader of the hunter's attack against the office, makes his appearance. Dodo Virgin Woodward, lieutenant of the S.P.C.A. defensive, also emerge. Before long it becomes clear that Rálp and Ralph are one and the same person and that he is fit for the lunatic asylum.

The lesson of the story is clear : one cannot serve more principles at a time; or, to put it concretely : a man of the socialist society should not serve such principles as selfishness, money-grubbing and far-flung pushing at the same time.

The figures of Rálp and Ralph, Dodo and Diana, and the representatives of the corresponding supreme authorities are excellent studies of character; while the leading figure is both an actor's and a stage-manager's bravura : it can be interpreted either by one actor-virtuoso, or by two actors who are familiar with the magic of assimilation to each other.