

America

Karl Rossmann's life is turning into a failure. He's been sent into exile by his parents from Germany to America because he made a girl pregnant. He's still just a teenager. His American uncle doesn't like him. Poor, depressed, and unemployed, Karl ponders across America trying to get a job. The short lift-boy stint at the hotel turns violently, he gets fired and once again, is back on the street. Wondering without purpose, he sees the poster on the corner of the street and finally, a ray of light in Karl's life! The poster says: "The Oklahoma Theatre will engage members for its company today at Clayton race-course from six o'clock in the morning until midnight. The Great Theatre of Oklahoma calls you! Today only and never again! If you miss your chance now you miss it forever! If you think of your future you are one of us! Everyone is welcome! If you want to be an artist, join our company! Our Theatre can find employment for everyone, a place for everyone! If you decide on an engagement we congratulate you here and now! But hurry, so that you get in before midnight! At twelve o'clock the doors will be shut and never open again! Down with all those who do not believe in us! Up, and to Clayton!"

America is the potential. It needs to be continued in the form of performative space on the street. The work doesn't exist without its audience and without a city marking its time and space. It is a proposal for something to happen. America is a projection and a promise. The call to The Nature Theatre of Oklahoma, viewed by Karl Rossmann of Franz Kafka's unfinished novel *America*, is his transformative moment. Hope contains its own joke. Now the invitation is open to everyone who comes across it on Istanbul streets. "Is this happening tonight?" The urgency of now suggested by the poster may be read as another event not to be missed by a biennial tourist. We are all entangled by our individual subjectivities.