



Uncle Vanya

Anton Chekhov (1860 - 1904)

Read by:	Anton Chekhov	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	1 hour and 53 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1220
Language:	English	UPC:	0701236969399
Style:	Dramatic reading	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Fiction, Plays		

Uncle Vanya is the second of Chekhov's major plays, published in 1897 and first performed by the Moscow Art Theatre in 1899. An elderly retired professor and his beautiful young wife Yelena pay a visit to the family estate that supports their lifestyle and is managed by Vanya, the brother of his late first wife, and Sonya, his daughter by his first wife. Also on hand are Astrov, the local doctor; Maria, mother of Vanya and the professor's first wife; Telegin, a tenant; Marina, an old nurse; and an unnamed workman. The visit reveals long simmering resentments and discontents as well as unrequited desires that build during the play's four acts. Vanya and Astrov yearn for Yelena, while Sonya pines for Astrov. Things come to a head when the professor

proposes to sell the estate, which would dislocate the residents, prompting Vanya to pursue the professor with a pistol. The professor backs down, he and his wife pack up and leave, and life returns to its heavy humdrum patterns. The play has been a staple in the modern theatre and has been adapted for film several times, most recently by David Mamet in 1996 as *August*.

Anton Chekov (January 29, 1860 – July 15, 1904) was a Russian physician, playwright and author of short stories. He is considered one of the finest writers of short fiction in history and, along with Ibsen and Strindberg, one of the founders of modernism in the theatre. He was born the third of six children in the port town of Taganrog on the north shore of the Sea of Azov in southern Russia. His father, a grocer, declared bankruptcy in 1876 and moved the family to Moscow, leaving Anton behind to liquidate the property and complete his schooling. Anton joined his family and entered medical school in 1879, supporting the family by writing short vignettes and humorous sketches for the newspapers and gaining both popular and literary attention. He became a doctor in 1884 but practiced little. At about the same time he contracted tuberculosis. Noted author Dmitry Grigorovich helped him win the Pushkin prize in 1888 for his short story collection *At Dusk*. He settled in a small country estate in 1892, where he wrote his first major play, *The Seagull*, in 1894, and then built a villa in Yalta after his tuberculosis worsened. He married actress Olga Knipper in 1901. *The Cherry Orchard*, his last major play, received accolades when it was produced a few months before his death in 1904 and established his reputation a great Russian writer, second only to Tolstoy, which stands to this day.