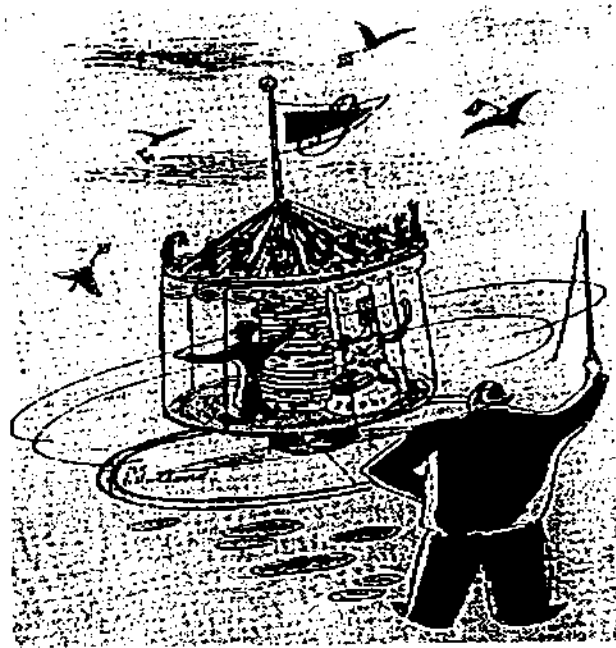


Bard German Studies Presents:

Kamp!
Songs and Satire from Theresienstadt



With a special Opening Act in seven scenes:
Reichskulturkammer, Berlin 1933
performed by the Bard German Studies Students

Monday May 7th Olin Hall 7Pm
Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson

Introduction

This collage came about as a result of the Spring Semester German course: *Cabaret and Literature*. Thanks to the generosity of the New York performers Amelia DeMayo, Curt Buckler, and Sergei Dreznin, Bard College students were invited to script and stage an opening scene for the New York production. A thorough examination of the historical, literary and political Berlin cabaret between 1901 and 1944 led to the collage we are presenting to you tonight.

The show depicts 7 fictional encounters between Joseph Goebbels, founder of the Reich's Culture Chamber (1933), and representatives of various cabaret movements. As its president it was Goebbel's job to ascertain the political and racial credentials of applicants for the organization's many sub-chambers for literature, the visual arts, theater, music, film, the press, radio, and, of course, cabaret. Anyone seeking to be active in any of these fields was required to become a member. The English dialogue is almost in its entirety quoted verbatim from Goebbel's many public speeches, his diary entries, newspaper articles of the time, and application and denial letters of the Reich's Culture Chamber. Poems and songs in German have been taken from their original sources and are offered as a literary compliment to the historical events.

The performances you'll see tonight are a wonderful collaboration between our guests from New York and Bard College students. I particularly want to thank Sergei Dreznin for his continuous support. Ever since I "found" him on the Internet more than a year ago he has been helping me to tackle the difficult task of putting together a dramatic production of that year's class, and has provided us with everything from sheet music, moral support to valuable and inspiring advice. I am very happy to have him and his colleagues here tonight! I hope you all enjoy the show.

Stephanie Kufner

Reichskulturkammer, Berlin 1933

Opening act in 7 scenes

- Scene 1: Joseph Goebbels, president of the Reich's Culture Chamber
- Scene 2: Goebbels and Dadaist Hugo Ball
Intermezzo and Verse ohne Worte
- Scene 3: Goebbels and Agitprop members Erich Weinert and Erwin Piscator
From: The Red Megaphone *Das rote Sprachrohr*
- Scene 4: Goebbels and Wild Stage singer Trude Hesterberg
T. Hesterberg to the Reich's Culture Chamber,
Letter of May 14, 1933
- Scene 5: Goebbels and Republican Satirist Kurt Tucholsky
Ja, damals, im November
Revolutionsrückblick
- Scene 6: Goebbels and Anarchist Erich Mühsam
Sich fügen, heißt lügen
Verhör
- Scene 7: Goebbels and Jewish actor Kurt Gerron
from Peter Jelavich: *Berlin Cabaret*

Actors

Joseph Goebbels
Hugo Ball
Agit Erich Weinert
Prop Erwin Piscator
Trude Hesterberg
Kurt Tucholsky
Erich Mühsam
Kurt Gerron
Commentator

William Miller
Patrick Rodgers
Tommy Soden
William Magruder
Christine Cioffari
Jason Oxman
Ida Wegandt
Jon Koppel
Christine Cioffari

Director

Stephanie Kufner

Quotes and commentary taken from Peter Jelavich: *Berlin Cabaret, 1993*

Kamp! Songs and Satire from Theresienstadt

Book & English lyrics by Tom & Caren Neile
based on the work by Alexander Waechter

All lyrics by the inmates of the concentration camp
Theresienstadt (1942-44)

Directed by Michael Maurer

with Amelia DeMayo, Curt Buckler and Sergei Dreznin
(piano)

Who is Who in the Cast

Sergei Dreznin, a Moscow born, New York based concert pianist and composer, served as the original music director and pianist for the first European production of *Kamp!* Sergei gave 200 concerts a year around Russia before moving to Vienna in 1987. There he worked with Georg Tabori (collaborator of Hitchcock, Brecht & Beckett). In addition, he was involved in 11 musical theatre productions in Moscow thanks to generous grants from the Australian Government. His Shakespeare musical *Romeo & Juliet* in Sarajevo opened in Vienna on the day the Dayton Agreement was reached and the show toured Bosnia & Croatia. In September 1999, Sergei went back to Vienna to produce *1000 Suns or Dr. Jockel in Power*, a musical satire on the new European Right, where the main character bears a strong resemblance to Joerg Haider, then head of the Freedom Party. Sergei is the author of *Requiem for the Victims of Nazism* and *Five Poems of Austrian Poems in Exile*. Other productions include *Feats During the Plague*, *Ophelia-Opera in Blue* and *Red Riding! Red Riding!* Upcoming premiere: "Dante Fantasy" for violin and string orchestra which will be performed by Gidon Kremer and his *Kremewrata Baltica* as the Lincoln Center in summer 2001.

Sergei dedicates his work on *Kamp!* to his father who was a Jewish officer in Russia and was imprisoned because of the rampant anti-Semitism. He organized a jazz band in the camp he was sent to in order to entertain his supervisors for parties.

Curt Buckler is honored to be making the NJ/NY premiere of *Kamp!* at the JCC. He recently portrayed Pap Finn in *Big River*, Big Jule in *Guys and Dolls* and the legendary Shelly Berman in *La Cage Aux Folles*. He has also starred in the Yiddish-American hit 2nd *Look at the 2nd Avenue* and had the opportunity to play Perchik opposite his father's Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Curt performs in two original cabaret shows, *Parody Tonight* and *Lost Broadway*. Curt has written a children's book entitled *The Louches in the Couches*. Currently, Curt is on the faculty of the School of Dramatic Arts at the JCC.

Amelia DeMayo, a native New Yorker has performed extensively in musical theater and opera. She has completed successful runs of *Evita*, in the role of Eva Peron, which she performed in both English and Spanish, and the world premiere of the *Beauty Sisters*, in the role of Malke, which she performed in both English and Yiddish. Other credits include the national tour of *Annie Get Your Gun* starring Cathy Rigby and International Tours of *Cats* (Grizabella, Jelly, Lorum, Gumbie, Griddlebone), *les Miserables* (Cosettel), *Into the Woods*, (Cinderella), *Sophisticated Ladies* (Ens/Soubrette), *The Marriage of Figaro* (Susanna), and *The Rape of Lucretia* (Lucia). Ms. DeMayo is currently on the faculty of the JCC on the Palisade in Tenafly, NJ and the JCC in Tarrytown, NY, where she teaches a musical theater workshop for kids 5-14 years old. She also teaches private voice, vocal repertoire and song presentation to both children and adults.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

- COME RIGHT IN**
Lyrics by Leo Strauss * Music by Gerhard Bronner
- MARIA THERESIA THE EMPRESS**
Lyrics by Schlesinger * Music by Sergel Dreznin based on Marsellaise
- THERESIENSTADT NURSERY RHYME**
Lyrics by Ilse Weber * Music Folk Song
- LETTER TO MY CHILD**
Lyrics by Ilse Weber * Music by Sergel Dreznin
- THERESIENSTADT MARCH**
Lyrics and Music by Karel Svenk
- THERESIENSTADT QUESTIONS**
Lyrics by Leo Strauss * Music by Sergel Dreznin
- A RUMOR GOES THROUGH TOWN**
Lyrics by Walter Lindenbaum * Music by Gerhard Bronner
- RECO**
Lyrics by Theodor Otto Beer * Music by Ralph Benatzki
- GHETTO GUARD**
Lyrics by Theodor Otto Beer * Music by Kurt Klauber
- A SUITCASE SPEAKS**
Lyrics by Ilse Weber * Music by Sergel Dreznin
- A THEATER TICKET**
Lyrics by Hans Hofer * Music by Gerhard Bronner
- MR. SAUER, MR. GREEN**
Lyricist and composer unknown
- THE CHEFS ARE COMING**
Lyrics by Leo Strauss * Music by Oscar Straus
- AND THE MUSIC PLAYS ALONG**
Lyrics by Walter Lindenbaum * Music by Fred Raymond

INTERMISSION

- JUST AS THOUGH**
Lyrics by Leo Strauss * Music by Alexander Steinbrecher
- ST. LOUIS BLUES**
Music by W. C. Handy
- THE LITTLE CAFÉ**
Lyrics by Walter Lindenbaum * Music by Hermann Leopoldi
- DOWN IN PRATER**
Lyrics by Leo Strauss * Music by Otto Skutecky
- THE SHEEP OF LIDICE**
Lyrics by Ilse Weber * Music by Gerhard Bronner
- A PACKAGE MAKES THE ROUNDS**
Lyrics by Leo Strauss * Music by Sergel Dreznin
- THE BUTTERFLY**
Lyrics by Pavel Friedman * Music by Gerhard Bronner
- EDI'S REQUIEM AND WORKS BY BANNED COMPOSERS**
- THE CAROUSEL**
Lyrics by Manfred Greiffenhagen * Music by Martin Roman
- THEY SEEK ONE ANOTHER**
Lyrics by Kopper * Music by Sergel Dreznin
- WATCH**
Lyrics by Thomas Neile * Music by Gerhard Bronner

THE CREATORS OF SONGS AND SATIRE FROM THERESIENSTADT

ALEXANDER WAECHTER (Idea)

Born in 1948 in Graz, Austria, nephew of the well-known opera tenor Eberhard Waechter, also who was director of Vienna's famed State Opera. Alexander studied law, music and acting in Vienna, then worked for several years in Germany, with long engagements in Stuttgart and at the Schiller Theater in Berlin. He returned to Vienna to join the city's prestigious Josefstadt Theater, where he works as an actor, director, and playwright, for the Raimund Theatre. He was co-director of the German language premiere of Andrew Loyd Webber's *Beauty and the Beast*. *Songs and Satires* from Theresienstadt was Waechter's idea, inspired by a journey that took him through the town of Terezin, which he recognized as the former fortress and camp where his great uncle-married to a Jew-died during internment by the Nazis. Waechter did extensive research and molded his discoveries into the highly successful production, which premiered in Vienna in October 1992, and consequently toured all over Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

GERHARD BRONNER (Composer)

A patriarch of Austrian Cabaret, Gerhard Bronner is, at the age of 75, a living legend in Austria. Having entertained Viennese audiences for half a century, he still performs to packed houses.

A victim of the Nazi annexation of Austria, he alone is the carrier and purveyor of the lost art of Viennese Jewish Cabaret. He was instrumental as one of the producers of the English version of *Kamp!* in Boca Raton Florida, where he spends his summer

KAREL SVENK

Karel Svenik was born in Prague in 1907. He worked for many years in the theater known as the "Amateur Club of Lost Talents" and was considered a pioneer of avant-garde theater in his native city. Svenik sent to Theresienstadt with the first group of prisoners in November 1941. He and Rafael Schaechter initiated the first cultural activities in the ghetto, where Svenik founded the Czech-language "Cabaret Svenik." He was deported to Auschwitz and then to its auxiliary camp Meuselwitz on September 28, 1944. Karel Svenik died at Meuselwitz in April 1945, broken by the harsh camp life.

ILSE WEBER

Ilse Weber was born in Vitkovice, near Ostrava, in 1903. She began writing poems, fairy tales and plays while still a child and later wrote three children's books for her two sons. After the occupation of Ostrava, the Nazis sent the Weber family to Prague. Hanns, the eldest son, was able to emigrate, first to England and then to Sweden. In February 1942, Ilse Weber, her husband and their youngest son, Thomas were deported Theresienstadt. There Ilse worked as a nurse, and recorded her impressions of camp life in numerous poems. On October 6, 1944, she volunteered herself and Thomas for the transport that was to take her husband to Auschwitz. Her husband survived the Holocaust, Ilse and her child were gassed.

About the Program

Among the Nazi concentration camps, Theresienstadt was unique. Here, prominent intellectuals, wrote and performed razor-sharp cabaret and concerts before dying from hunger or being shipped to the gas chamber of Auschwitz.

When one arrived in this camp of the privileged and prominent, one was immediately greeted with a funeral hearse. The Nazis thought it would be quite a joke to paint the yellow star of David on some funeral hearses and use them as transport vehicles in the camp. But then, the whole idea of Theresienstadt was a cynical, cruel propaganda ploy on the part of the Nazis. It was used as a "model camp" to show the Red Cross delegations how well the Jews were being treated. But, behind the thin veneer of mock civility stood a ghetto prison in which only eight percent of the inmates survived.

Amid the death and hardship, however, was a wellspring of life and hope. Laughter was one of the main elixirs of life in Theresienstadt. It was the most important medicine against hunger, overcrowding, and fear. It made life bearable.

It is this spirit of life and hope, along with the memory of bitter pain that shines through in *KAMP! Song and Satire from Theresienstadt*.

A few years ago, the marvelous songs and satire of Theresienstadt were brought to the state in Vienna. It was an immediate smash-hit, and still plays to sold-out audiences today. It also toured Germany and Switzerland.

Now, this unique event has been painstakingly translated into English. It is being performed at the JCC in its new, expanded form. Come take part in the cabaret. You will be witnessing theater that makes a difference.

Acknowledgements

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Stage Light Technician	Stephanie Kufner

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A Child's drawing from Theresienstadt

