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AND A
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SHALL
LEAD

PLAY BY MICHAEL SLADE
DIRECTED BY BRUCE JACKLIN

AND A CHILD SHALL LEAD BY MICHAEL SLADE
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- No food or drinks in the theater.
- Video and audio recordings of any kind are prohibited.
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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Directing *And A Child Shall Lead* has been a horrific and heartbreaking journey of discovery for me. This is so much more than a story, much more than an account of what happened to young children of war during WWII. Located about 40 miles north of Prague in the Czech Republic, Terezín was built in 1780 as a military fortress and garrison town. When Nazi Germany occupied Czechoslovakia in 1941, the town was turned into a ghetto where Jews were gathered before they were sent further east to the extermination camps.

In less than four years, more than 12,000 children under the age of 15 passed through the Terezín Concentration Camp (also known by its German name of Theresienstadt) between the years 1942 and 1944. Of these, more than 95 percent perished during the Holocaust.

A group of dedicated teens made it their goal to care for the younger children, not just by taking care of the children's physical needs but by taking on the role of teacher. These young adults, not much older than their young peers, tried to insulate the children as much as possible from the depressing reality of ghetto life and fears of an uncertain future.

Despite their best efforts, it is clear from the children's drawings, diaries and secretly produced magazines that the children had an understanding of what was happening around them. Less than 100 children of Theresienstadt survived the death camps. For many of the children of Theresienstadt, the objects they created while there are the only things that remain of their lives. So, as we learn about Terezín, may we also reflect on the universality of the experiences and the part we each play in insuring that all humans are safe, accepted, and free. When adults declare war and commit inhuman acts against each other, it is the innocent children that pay the ultimate price.

BRUCE JACKLIN (Director) has been a certified adjudicator for OCTA (Ohio Community Theater Association) and AACT (American Association of Community Theater) for over 20 years. He has directed and acted in more than 170 productions in the last 35 years, including professional, summer stock, collegian and community productions. He has received numerous awards in acting and directing from OCTA, AACTfest, Columbus Theater Roundtable, and OTA festivals. Bruce was also in the film "Nietzsche Ate Here," which premiered in Washington, D.C. and was featured in the 2013 Montreal International Film Festival. He won Best Supporting Actor at the San Francisco Actor's Film Festival and in 2014 he received the Red Cross Education Hero Award. Bruce is a member of AFTRA/SAG (American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, Screen Actors Guild). Bruce is the artistic director for both MTVarts and The Alcove Theater productions.

MARY HARRIS (Production/Stage Manager) is a graduate of The Ohio State University where she earned her degree in Arts Management. While there, she directed and performed in shows with Off the Lake Productions, assistant stage manager with the OSU Theatre Department, and stage managed shows for community theatre groups, Little Theatre Off Broadway and Madlab in Columbus. Last season for MTVarts, she directed a show for the 2023 Night of One Acts, costumed and co-costumed the artsIQ productions of SEUSSICAL JR. and MATILDA JR., stage managed the Classics production of OUR TOWN, and performed onstage in SISTER ACT. Mary is honored to be a part of such a meaningful production.

CHRISTOPHER J. HARTMAN (Assistant Director) received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Ohio Northern University with a major in Musical Theatre. Christopher is studying with the Great Lakes Michael Chekhov Consortium to receive certification in the Michael Chekhov Acting Technique. He was most recently seen onstage in MTVarts' production of Sister Act, which he also assistant directed. Christopher recently directed A Night of One-Acts 2024 alongside Mary Harris. He has also performed as Chris Keller in MTVarts' production of ALL MY SONS by Arthur Miller, George Gibbs in OUR TOWN by Thornton Wilder, Kapila/Devadatta in HAYAVADANA by Girish Karnad, Romeo in Shakespeare's ROMEO AND JULIET, Etches in TITANIC THE MUSICAL by Maury Yeston and Peter Stone, and he originated the role of Joe Rupp in Yianni Papadimos and Ben Chavez's musical, ELYSIUM: AN AMERICAN FABLE.

ALLISON SMITH (Set Designer; Prop Master) has always lived in a world of imagination. MTVarts is her tangible way to contribute her talent in the local community. She has been involved in numerous productions behind the curtain. She also teaches adult art classes at the Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County.

SETTING

Terezín, the beginning of 1942

CAST OF CHARACTERS

MIROSLAV WEISS	Mehmet Ali Schubel
EVA HELLEROVA	Nora Gotschall
PAVEL HOFFMAN	Simon Ryals
GABRIELA WINTEROVA	Jillian Snow
ALENA LEDEROVA	Sadie Ryals
MARIN LOWY	Briggs Swallow
ERIK KOSEK	Zach Cramer
JANA HELLEROVA	Mollie Jurkowitz
HELENA ADELBERG	Faith Major
GRETA KANTOROVA	Jenna Jurkowitz
MARTA BACK	Lanah Andrews
ROSA BACK	Izzy Cook




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PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....	Bruce Jacklin	Lighting Designer.....	Kurt Mueller	
Assistant Director.....	Christopher Hartman	Light Board Operator.....	Jaxon Reed	
Producer.....	Janis Stone	Sound Engineering.....	Alex Thompson	
Stage Manager/ Production Manager.....	Mary Harris	Sound Assistant.....	Joslin Frazer	
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Kyleigh Woods	Ticketing.....	Scott Swingle, Luke Ervin, and the Mount Vernon Arts Consortium	
Cultural Advisor.....	Marc W. Bragin	Media Design.....	Carrie Haver, Markt Playbill.....	Megan Evans and the Mount Vernon Arts Consortium
Set Designers.....	Bruce Jacklin, Allison Smith	MTVarts Interns.....	Jaxon Reed, Jack Davis	
Carpenters.....	Allison Smith, Steve Stone, Shawn Smith, Bill Szucs, Michael Sears	Front of House.....	Kirstin Fuller	
Prop Master.....	Allison Smith	Ushers.....	Friends of MTVarts	
Costume Designer.....	Leah Miller			
Costume Assistant.....	Sadie Ryals			



And A Child Shall Lead is the heroic and true story of children coming of age in Terezín, the “Jewish city” established by the Nazis near Prague as a way station before the death camps. In the face of unspeakable horror, these children use their determination and creativity to build lives filled with hope and beauty – playing, studying, making art, and writing an underground newspaper – all at the peril of being executed. Their real-life poems and stories are woven into a fast-paced drama, evoking the universality of children caught in the insanity of war.

From the beginning, the radically antisemitic Nazi German regime took steps to ruthlessly isolate, impoverish, and discriminate against the Jewish people in Germany. During World War II, this policy escalated to mass murder beyond Germany’s borders.

The Nazis persecuted, brutalized, and murdered any group whom they saw as enemies or threats, building power by classifying groups of people as enemies or others. While the Nazis viewed the Jewish people as their primary enemy, they also persecuted people with disabilities, LGBTQ people, political dissenters, Jehova’s Witnesses, and other factions of people.

Today, having lost almost everyone who witnessed the atrocities of the Holocaust firsthand, Holocaust education and awareness remains vital. By incorporating this education in our schools, this and future generations will come to understand how millions of people were impacted, and how together we can work to prevent anti-semitism, racism and all forms of intolerance.

A recent Pew Research Center study found that less than 40 percent of American teens have awareness that over six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust. Only one-third of teens know that Hitler was elected democratically. Teaching about the Holocaust inspires students to think critically about the past and consider their own roles and responsibilities in safekeeping a better society today.

We give our gratitude to the playwright, Michael Slade, for this sensitive, moving and impactful work and to MTVarts for staging it in our community.

– Marc W. Bragin, Kenyon College Chaplain

CAST MEMBERS



LANAH ANDREWS (Marta Back) is an 8th grader with Connections Academy. She has previously been in artsIQ productions of FROZEN JR. (ensemble,) SHREK JR. (Puss in Boots,) SEUSSICAL JR. (Thing 2,) MATILDA JR. (ensemble,) and HONK JR. (Snowy.) She loves painting, drawing and playing with her cat, Mickey.



IZZY COOK (Rosa Back) is humbled to be part of this cast. This is her 8th experience performing with MTVarts. Some of her favorite shows include OLIVER, SEUSSICAL JR., and OUR TOWN. She is grateful for this opportunity and the lessons she has learned along the way. The direction and guidance from Bruce and Kenyon educators offered an even more meaningful experience. She cherishes the time spent and memories made with her fellow cast members at her home away from home. She hopes you leave the show keeping in mind that where there is war there is suffering, and that you should never doubt the power of creativity and positivity.



ZACH CRAMER (Erik Kosek) is a 7th grader at Mount Vernon middle school. This his 9th show with MTVarts. He has most recently appeared as Turkey in HONK JR. Please enjoy the show!



NORA GOTSCHALL (Eva Hellerova) is an eighth grader at Mount Vernon Middle School. This is her eighth show with MTVarts. Her favorite roles have been Fauna in SHREK JR., Ghost of Christmas Past with Community Family Players, and Granddaughter/Rose in the short film THIS PLACE with Orange Barrel. Outside of theater, she loves spending time with her friends and family, writing, reading, shopping, and dancing. She takes ballet and pointe classes at the Spotlight. Thank you so much to the cast, crew, her friends and family for their endless support!

JENNA JURKOWITZ (Greta Kantorova) is an 8th grader at Mount Vernon Middle School.



She is very excited to be in this production and showcase this important story. This is her 7th MTVarts show and two of her favorite roles include Olaf in FROZEN KIDS and JoJo in SEUSSICAL JR. She also enjoyed running the light board for the MATILDA JR. show. She likes spending time with friends, playing volleyball, playing the violin, and skiing. Thank you to all the volunteers who make MTVarts so special!



MOLLIE JURKOWITZ (Jana Hellerova) is a 3rd grader at East Elementary. She most recently was Downy (a duckling) in HONK JR. and had so much fun in this production! Theater is one of her favorite things to do! She also loves school, gymnastics, soccer, skiing, and playing piano. Mollie is excited to be in this production with her sister and so many theater friends and share this important story with you. She wishes to thank you for coming to support the show!



FAITH MAJOR (Helena Adelberg) This is Faith's 3rd show with MTVarts. Her first being MATILDA JR. and second being HONK JR. It is a privilege and honor for Faith to be able to work on such an important and meaningful production. Faith has always been very interested in the study of World War II, specifically the Holocaust, so it's amazing that she gets to learn more about those whom it effected though this production. It is also an honor to work with the amazing cast for this show. She could not think of a more positive, fun and talented group of people to share this experience with. She hopes everyone enjoys the show and learns how the Holocaust not only effected the adults of the generation, but the children a well.



SIMON RYALS (Pavel Hoffman) is 13 and in 8th grade at MVMS. This is his 4th show, after previously performing in SHREK JR., in A CHRISTMAS STORY as Scut Farkus, and in MATILDA JR. as Eric. At home, you could find him playing the guitar, listening to

CAST MEMBERS

music, or eating Cheezits. He would like to thank the crew for helping with the show and you for supporting the arts. Enjoy the show!



SADIE RYALS (Alena Lederova) is thrilled to be on stage for her sixth show with MTVarts! Favorite roles include Young Anna in FROZEN KIDS, Ismene in OEDIPUS REX, and ensemble in MATILDA

JR. Also, Sadie loves making costumes. Her costuming debut was last march in HONK JR. and she is also helping in the costume shop for this performance! In her spare time, she likes reading, and watching movies. She hopes you enjoy the show!



MEHMET ALI SCHUBEL (Miroslav Weiss) is excited to play at MTVarts again after performing in this winter's Night of One Acts. He is honored to work with such talented young cast and

crewmates. He can also be found around town performing music as part of These Things Too.



JILLIAN SNOW (Gabriela Winterova) has appeared in productions across Central Ohio, including Mansfield, Newark, and Columbus, but MTVarts will always be home to her. Some favorite roles have

been: Oliver Twist in OLIVER!, Susan Waverly in WHITE CHRISTMAS, Marta Von Trapp in THE SOUND OF MUSIC, Match Girl in SCROOGE, and Annie in ANNIE. She has attended workshops at Second City in Chicago and at Broadway Student Summit in New York City. Jillian is honored to be part of the important and relevant production you will see today.



BRIGGS SWALLOW (Marin Lowy) This is Briggs Swallow, and he is quite the silly goose. Some of his other roles include Drake (quite the silly drake*) in HONK JR., chorus in MATILDA JR., Wally in OUR TOWN, A

Wickersham Brother in SEUSSICAL JR., Ralphie in A CHRISTMAS STORY, one of the Three Pigs in SHREK JR., a gang of thieves member in OLIVER!, Burt in ALL MY SONS, Kurt Von Trapp

in THE SOUND OF MUSIC, and chorus in WILLY WONKA KIDS. Being the silly goose he is, Briggs enjoys spending his time building government mandated weapons with his robotics team, writing in Power of The Pen, playing Hogwarts Legacy, Tears of the Kingdom, Subnautica, and Skyrim, and playing guitar, cello, ukulele, piano, and harmonica. He hopes you enjoy the show despite its dark tones.



KYLEIGH A. WOODS (Assistant Stage Manager) is an 8th grade student at MVMS who is currently celebrating her fourth show with MTVarts. She started as an Apprentice Stage Manager in artsIQs MATILDA

JR., leading up to her stage managing A Night of One-Acts in January, and helping backstage in HONK JR. in March. Kyleigh loves to spend time with all of her friends, reading, watching movies, and learning all of the Broadway gossip. Kyleigh is so grateful for this experience and really hopes you enjoy it as well! She would like to thank Mary and Christopher for teaching her all she knows about the arts, and her best friend Evelyn for encouraging her to follow her dreams, both inside the theatre and out.

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