

PLAYING FOR TIME - 1995

Playing For Time

By Arthur Miller Directed by Rita Giomi

Based on a true story by Fania Fenelon

Fania Alma Barbara Deering - Sabrina Fiander -

Women of the Orchestra:

Helene (mandolin) Kitt Anderson-Laws Giselle (violin)
Lotte (violin) Lindsay Allen Katrina (guitar)
Liesle (flute) McKayla Hauschulz Esther (drum)
Varya (cymbals) Melissa Fergusson Etalina (violin)
Paulette (cello) Corinna Lapid-Munter
Greta (accordion) Sarah Lindsley Tchaikowska

Giselle (violin)
Katrina (guitar)
Esther (drum)
Etalina (violin)
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Tchaikowska
Giselfy Naillon
Malia Paulsen
Deonn Ritchie
Sunni Sydenham
Cori Young
Susan Anemone

The Germans:

Mandel
Frau Schmidt
Dr. Mengele
Commandant Kramer
Captain Heinz
SS Guards
Anne Biglow
David Allen
Robert Zinn
John Allen
Michael Baker, Wes Dreiling
Dylan Kerbrat, Scott Lundh

Schmuel Steve Freeborn
Mala Mudge Mair
Mother April Dever
Ladislaus Bryan Dever

Blockawas:

Gillian Gregory, Wandee Pryor, Margit Sperling

The Children:

John Paul Baker, Eliza Cutler, Travis Dever, Molly Gower Sarah Gower, Laura Kniginyzky, Alexandra Sharpe

Production Team-

Rita Giomi Director Assistant Director Barbara Garnish Musical Director Kathleen Macferran Vocal Coach Corinna Lapid-Munter Fight Choreographer Geoffrey Alm French Coach Roberta Newland Set Designer Miles Yanick Costume Designer Molly Gordon Lighting Designer Mark Barratta Sound Designer Sam Smellow Props Mistress Celeste Harris Stage Manager Susan Sullivan Assistant Stage Manager Lisa Giles Jamie Davidson Light Board Operator Sound Operator Matt Hadlock

There will be one, 15-minute intermission. Audience members are invited to stay after the performance for a post-show discussion.

Director's Note

First of all, I want to express my gratitude to the cast, crew and staff not only for the time and energy they have put into this project, but for their hearts. Given the subject matter it has not always been an easy or comfortable journey. I thank them profusely for making the trip extraordinary.

There is little I can say that you do not already know or feel about the Holocaust. I am not even going to attempt a discussion of that here. All I want to remind you is that what we are witnessing in these few hours is a struggle that on some level we all face in our own lives. How does one keep the body alive without losing the soul?

May we never be challenged to the extremes these women faced.

May we never forget what all survivors have taught us.

~ Rita Giomi

Fania Fenelon

Tania Fenelon was deported to Birkenau in January 1944 and was accepted as a member of the orchestra, to live in separate quarters with 41 other adequately clothed but half-starved musicians until the orchestra was dissolved. She was sent to Bergen-Belsen the following November. The orchestra was dependent on the whim of Kommandant Kramer, leader of the Auschwitz complex. This motley group of musicians gave concerts for Heinrich Himmler, for Mengele, for Tauber; they played for the work detachments, they played in the infirmary; outdoors or indoors, they played at whatever time and place it suited the SS to hear them. Fenelon's book, Playing for Time, was published in 1977.