

# 2019 JEWELL MAINSTAGE PLAY GUIDE



**TAPROOT  
THEATRE**  
COMPANY

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE IN A NEIGHBORHOOD SETTING

THE 2019 JEWELL  
MAINSTAGE SEASON:

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE  
JAN 23 - MAR 2

WE WILL NOT BE SILENT  
MAR 20 - APR 27

KIM'S CONVENIENCE  
MAY 15 - JUN 22

BRIGHT STAR  
JUL 10 - AUG 17

NECESSARY SACRIFICES  
SEP 18 - OCT 26

IN SPITE OF ALL THESE CRIMES? EVERY  
PEOPLE DESERVES THE REGIME IT IS WILLING  
TO ENDURE. I SUPPORT THE WHITE ROSE!  
YOU CANNOT WAIT TILL SOMEONE ELSE MAKES  
A START. EVERY PERSON HAS THE POWER  
IT IS YOUR RIGHT, IT IS YOUR MORAL DUTY

# WE WILL NOT BE SILENT

BY DAVID MEYERS

DIRECTED BY SCOTT NOLTE  
MAR 20 - APR 27

# WELCOME

*The true story of an ordinary young woman during extraordinary times. Twenty-one-year-old Sophie Scholl is a college student, anti-Nazi activist and, along with her brother, a member of the White Rose resistance. Charged with treason and held in a German prison, Sophie is forced to play a psychological game of cat and mouse as she fights for her life and soul with a Gestapo interrogator. This emotionally charged story testifies to the courage required to live out your values.*

---

Sophie Scholl was a real person, a student like you, who stood up boldly for what she believed was right. She didn't sit idly by while the ruthlessly oppressive Nazi regime of mid-20th century Germany took away her rights and the rights of those around her. Instead, Sophie, her brother Hans and a handful of their friends organized a sweeping resistance campaign, speaking out boldly against the atrocities they saw by distributing thousands of leaflets in several different German cities.

Courage is the ability to do something despite fear or grief. You don't need to be a special person to be heroic; all you have to do is persevere. As you witness Sophie's story in today's performance, put yourself in her position and know that you too are capable of profound acts of courage.

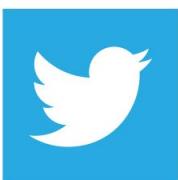
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if you liked the show!



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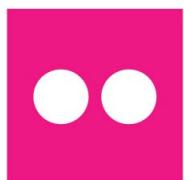
**TAPROOT**  **THEATRE**  
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*Professional theatre in  
a neighborhood setting*

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### See behind the curtain!

See what inspires and delights  
us behind the scenes here at  
Taproot Theatre.





# TAPROOT THEATRE

C O M P A N Y

## JEWELL MAINSTAGE

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# WE WILL NOT BE SILENT

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A patch from the White Rose resistance group.

# David Meyers



Playwright, David Meyers. Photo retrieved from [davidacts.com](http://davidacts.com).

"Before pursuing playwriting, I spent three years working in the West Wing of the White House, and then as a speechwriter in the U.S. Senate.

Many of my plays focus on politics and current events: a 25-year old who commits a mass shooting, a moderate Republican Senator fighting the partisan tide in Washington, a graveyard for suicide bombers in Afghanistan, a police officer battling drug cartels in Mexico.

I'm interested in telling stories that we see every day on the front page of our newspapers, and using them to inspire a discussion about the problems in society and what we can do to redress them. I'm interested in asking the questions that Americans are reluctant to ask, without vilifying either side and exploring views that I disagree with.

— David Meyers

Text from: [newplayexchange.org/users/1295/david-meyers](http://newplayexchange.org/users/1295/david-meyers) and [davidacts.com](http://davidacts.com)

David fell in love with theater at the tender age of six when he saw *Peter Pan* on Broadway. He loved the production and refused to leave until he could see the show again (he was promptly ejected from the theater by a disgruntled usher).

David's first stage performance was an elementary school talent show, where he sang "I'm Flying" from *Peter Pan*. David continued to act throughout his childhood and teenage years at various professional and community theaters, summer camp (French Woods), and his bedroom.

David auditioned for and was accepted to the acting conservatory at Boston University. During his freshman year, he became bewitched by politics and transferred to Rutgers University where he received a degree in political science (and also did some professional theater in New York and New Jersey).

David later moved to Washington, D.C., where he worked in the White House and the Senate. After the adventure of a lifetime, David returned to his first loves of acting and writing.

David's plays have been read, performed, and developed off-Broadway by The Platform Group, The Barrow Group, and the Abingdon Theatre Company, at the Lark Play Development Center, Naked Angels, Nylon Fusion Collective, The Drawing Board, and at professional theatres across the country.

His work has been published by Applause, Smith and Kraus, and Indie Theater Now, and he has been a resident playwright at the Abingdon Theatre Company and Project Y.

David Meyers dedicates *We Will Not Be Silent* to Fred and Renee Gruenspecht, who taught him "the power of true righteousness and true love."

# Characters: Sophie and Hans Scholl

**Sophia Scholl** was born on May 9, 1921, the daughter of Robert Scholl, the mayor of Forchtenberg. Her full name was Sophia Magdalena Scholl. The family lived in Ludwigsburg, Germany from the summer of 1930 till spring of 1932, after which they moved to Ulm and finally to Munich where Sophie attended a secondary school for girls.

At the age of twelve, she was required to join the Bund Deutscher Mädel (League of German Girls) as most young women at the time, but her initial enthusiasm gradually gave way to strong criticism. She was aware of the dissenting political views of her father, of friends, and also of some of her teachers. Political attitude had become an essential criterion in her choice of friends. The arrest of her brothers and friends in 1937 for participating in the German Youth Movement left a strong impression on her.

In May 1942, she enrolled at the University of Munich as a student of biology and philosophy. Her brother **Hans Scholl**, who was studying medicine there, introduced her to his friends. Hans spent two years in the military, and was a medic serving on the Eastern front, along with friends; Alexander Schmorell, Will Graf and Jürgen Wittenstein in 1942.

In the summer of 1942, the friends began to question and resist the principals and policies of the Nazi regime. The group decided to adopt the strategy of passive resistance that was being used by students fighting against racial discrimination in the United States. This included publishing leaflets calling for the restoration of democracy and social justice. These were distributed throughout central Germany and the Gestapo soon became aware of the group's activities.



Sophie Scholl (ca. 1940).  
Photo retrieved from biographyonline.net/sophie-scholl/.

(Continued on Page 6.)

The government Sophie Scholl lived within was extraordinarily oppressive. Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime limited freedoms of the press and the rights of German citizens to freely assemble and to have any say in what their government was doing.

**In the United States, the government is designed to work for the people, not against them.  
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# Characters: Sophie and Hans Scholl



Ben Wippel as Hans Scholl and Amy Helms as Sophie Scholl in *We Will Not Be Silent* at Taproot Theatre. Photo by John Ulman.

The group co-authored six anti-Nazi political resistance leaflets. Calling themselves the White Rose, they instructed Germans to passively resist the Nazis. The core of the White Rose consisted of students; Hans and Sophie Scholl, Alex Schmorell, Willi Graf, and Christoph Probst, all in their early twenties. Also members were Hans and Sophie Scholl's sister Inge Scholl, and a professor of philosophy, Kurt Huber.

Hans had initially been keen to keep Sophie ignorant of the group's activities, but once she discovered what he was doing, she joined him and proved to be invaluable: as a female, her chances of being randomly stopped by the SS were much smaller.

Between June 1942 and February 1943, the White Rose prepared and distributed six different leaflets, in which they called for the active opposition of the German people to Nazi oppression and tyranny.

In January 1943, using a hand-operated duplicating machine, the group is thought to have produced between 6,000 and 9,000 copies of their fifth leaflet, *Appeal to all Germans!*, which was distributed via courier runs to many cities (where they were mailed).

Copies appeared in Stuttgart, Cologne, Vienna, Freiburg, Chemnitz, Hamburg and Berlin. Composed by Hans Scholl with improvements by Huber, the leaflet warned that Adolf Hitler was leading Germany into the abyss; with the gathering might of the Allies, defeat was now certain. The reader was urged to "Support the resistance movement!" in the struggle for "Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and protection of the individual citizen from the arbitrary action of criminal dictator-states". These were the principles that would form "the foundations of the new Europe".

Huber drafted the final two leaflets. A draft of a seventh leaflet, written by Christoph Probst, was found in the possession of Hans Scholl at the time of his arrest by the Gestapo, who destroyed it. The leaflets caused a sensation, and the Gestapo initiated an intensive search for the publishers.

On February 18, 1943, the Scholl's brought a suitcase full of leaflets to the university. They hurriedly dropped stacks of copies in the empty corridors for students to find when they flooded out of lecture rooms. Leaving before the class break, the Scholl's noticed that some copies remained in the suitcase and decided it would be a pity not to distribute them. They returned to the atrium and climbed the staircase to the top floor, and Sophie flung the last remaining leaflets into the air.

This action was observed by a custodian. The police were called and Hans and Sophie were taken into Gestapo custody. The other active members were soon arrested, and the group and everyone associated with them were interrogated and charged with treason.

In court, on February 21, 1943, Sophie Scholl was recorded as saying:

*"Somebody, after all, had to make a start. What we wrote and said is also believed by many others. They just do not dare express themselves as we did."*

Sophie Scholl and her brother's defiance, in the face of terrifying consequences, gained them enormous admiration.

On February 22, 1943, Sophie Scholl, her brother Hans and their friend Christoph Probst were found guilty and were condemned to death. Sophie's last words were *"Die Sonne scheint noch"*—"The sun still shines."

# Characters: Kurt Grunwald

The character of Kurt Grunwald is a fictional character loosely based on Sophie Scholl's real-life Gestapo interrogator, Robert Mohr. In fictional retellings of real historical events, whether in plays, movies or novels, authors and playwrights will often choose to create characters who are not actually connected to a real-life counterpart.

Playwright, David Meyers, in writing Kurt Gurnwald, is creating a **Composite Character** or **Amalgamation**: a character based on more than one individual from an original story.

Kurt Grunwald is partially Robert Mohr, but Meyers seems to be giving the character of Grunwald the voice of an “ordinary German” as well — someone who doesn’t necessarily condone the crimes of the Nazi party, but who, nevertheless, enables these crimes by not speaking out.

**Robert Mohr** (5 April 1897 – 5 February 1977) was an interrogation specialist of the Gestapo and commander of Einsatzgruppe C. He headed the special commission that was responsible for the search and arrest of the White Rose, part of the German Resistance to Nazism.

Mohr was born in Bisterschied in the Palatinate in 1897 into the family of a Palatine-born master mason, one of six brothers and three sisters. Mohr completed an apprenticeship as a tailor, but never practiced this profession. He served in the German Army during the First World War and was awarded the Iron Cross Second Class before resigning in May 1919.

In October 1919, Mohr entered into the Bavarian police. In May 1933 he joined the Nazi Party. He also belonged to the National Socialist Motor Corps, the Reich Air Defense League, the Reich Colonial League and the National Socialist People's Welfare organizations. In the 1930s he worked as a police chief in Frankenthal (Pfalz). From 1938 he worked for the Gestapo in Munich.

Between February 18–20 ,1943, Mohr interrogated Sophie Scholl and obtained her confession to the distribution of leaflets for the White Rose movement. In a 1951 report to Robert Scholl, Sophie's father, Mohr claimed that he tried to save Sophie's life by leading her to testify against her brother Hans Scholl, to say she was under his influence and that they had different opinions on politics.

After completion of the investigation into the White Rose, Mohr became chief of the Gestapo office in Mulhouse, occupied Alsace. Around 1947 he was interned by the French but was not tried for his service in the Gestapo. From 1948 he worked in the spa at Bad Dürkheim. He died in 1977 in Ludwigshafen.



Gestapo Interrogator,  
Robert Mohr  
Photo retrieved from:  
<https://dirkdeklein.net/2017/02/22/the-execution-of-christoph-probst-and-hans-and-sophie-scholl/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Mohr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Mohr)

# Setting/Place

In a novel or a short story the setting is usually established by the author's description indicating time and place. At most theatrical productions the program will briefly list the setting and time period of the play, but after that it's up to the scenic designer to create a visual representation of the location in which the story is set. A good scenic designer will create a set that gives the audience clues about the story even before the actors come on stage.

**Scenic Design  
by Mark Lund.**



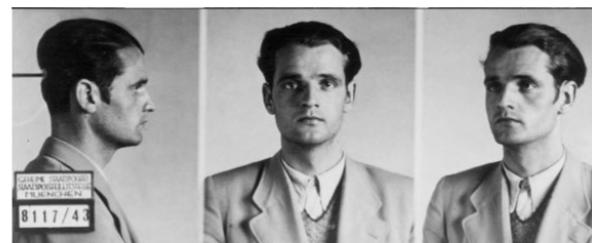
**WE WILL NOT BE SILENT**

Taproot Theatre 2019  
-m. lund designer-

# Costumes

Authors of novels or short stories will often include character descriptions as part of the story. In a play, the costume designer is responsible for creating the first impression of a character. As soon as an actor walks out on stage you can guess something about their character. Are they old or young? Are they rich or poor? Are they from another time period or dressed in modern clothes?

**Costumes Research  
by Kelly McDonald**



**Sophie Scholl (left)  
Hans Scholl (right)  
Kurt Grunwald (below)**



# World War II - A Basic Timeline

**1933 January 30** - Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany. His Nazi Party, or the Third Reich, takes power and Hitler is essentially the dictator of Germany.

**1936 October 25** - Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy form the Rome-Berlin Axis treaty.

**1936 November 25** - Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan sign the Anti-Comintern Pact. This was a pact against communism and Russia.

**1937 July 7** - Japan invades China.

**1938 March 12** - Hitler annexes the country of Austria into Germany.

**1939 September 1** - Germany invades Poland. World War II begins.

**1939 September 3** - France and Great Britain declare war on Germany.

**1940 April 9 to June 9** - Germany invades and takes control of Denmark and Norway.

**1940 May 10 to June 22** - Germany uses quick strikes called blitzkrieg, meaning lightning war, to take over much of western Europe including the Netherlands, Belgium, and northern France.

**1940 May 30** - Winston Churchill becomes leader of the British government.

**1940 June 10** - Italy enters the war as a member of the Axis powers.

**1940 July 10** - Germany launches an air attack on Great Britain. These attacks last until the end of October and are known as the Battle of Britain.

**1940 September 22** - Germany, Italy, and Japan sign the Tripartite Pact creating the Axis Alliance.

**1941 June 22** - Germany and the Axis Powers attack Russia with a huge force of over four million troops.

**1941 December 7** - The Japanese attack the US Navy in Pearl Harbor. The next day the US enters World War II on the side of the Allies.

**1942 June 4** - The US Navy defeats the Japanese navy at the Battle of Midway.

**1942 July 10** - The Allies invade and take the island of Sicily.

**1943 September 3** - Italy surrenders to the Allies, however Germany helps Mussolini to escape and set up a government in Northern Italy.



Adolf Hitler



U.S. Troops invade Northern France on D-Day.

**1944 June 6** - D-day and the Normandy invasion. Allied forces invade France and push back the Germans.

**1944 August 25** - Paris is liberated from German control.

**1944 December 16** - The Germans launch a large attack in the Battle of the Bulge. They lose to the Allies sealing the fate of the German army.

**1945 February 19** - US Marines invade the island of Iwo Jima. After a fierce battle they capture the island.

**1945 April 12** - US President Franklin Roosevelt dies. He is succeeded by President Harry Truman.

# World War II - A Basic Timeline

**1945 March 22** - The US Third Army under General Patton crosses the Rhine River.

**1945 April 30** - Adolf Hitler commits suicide as he knows Germany has lost the war.

**1945 May 7** - Germany surrenders to the Allies.

**1945 August 6** - The United States drops the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. The city is devastated.

**1945 August 9** - Another atomic bomb is dropped on Nagasaki, Japan.

**1945 September 2** - Japan surrenders to US General Douglass MacArthur and the Allies.



## German Domination & The Defeat of Nazi Germany

Until the winter of 1942-1943, the German army was victorious in an almost unbroken chain of battlefield successes. Europe lay under German domination.

After a successful German advance in summer 1942, the battle for the city of Stalingrad in late 1942 proved a turning point. Soviet forces halted the German advance at Stalingrad on the Volga River and in the Caucasus.

After this defeat, German troops were forced on the defensive, beginning the long retreat westward that was to end with Nazi Germany's surrender in May 1945, some three years later.

Soviet forces launched a counteroffensive against the Germans arrayed at Stalingrad in mid-November 1942. They quickly encircled an entire German army, more than 220,000 soldiers. In February 1943, after months of fierce fighting and heavy casualties, the surviving German forces—only about 91,000 soldiers—surrendered.

After Stalingrad, Soviet forces remained on the offensive for the remainder of the war, despite some temporary setbacks. A last German offensive at Kursk failed in the summer of 1943. The Soviets pushed the Germans back to the banks of the Dnieper River in 1943 and then, by the summer of 1944, to the borders of East Prussia. In January 1945, a new offensive brought Soviet forces to the banks of the Oder, in eastern Germany.

From their bridgehead across the Oder River, Soviet forces launched a massive final offensive toward Berlin in mid-April 1945. The German capital was encircled on April 25. That same day, Soviet forces linked up with their American counterparts attacking from the west at Torgau, on the Elbe River in central Germany. In Berlin itself, heavy fighting took place in the northern and southern suburbs of the city.

As Soviet forces neared his command bunker in central Berlin on April 30, 1945, Adolf Hitler committed suicide. Within days, Berlin fell to the Soviets. The German armed forces surrendered unconditionally in the west on May 7 and in the east on May 9, 1945. May 8, 1945, was proclaimed Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day).

# Everyday Life in Germany during WWII

Some aspects of life in Germany changed immediately upon the outbreak of war on September 1, 1939; others changed more slowly. Germany did not fully mobilize at first. In fact, it was not until 1943 that Germany focused its economy on war production. Nazi policy was not to burden the people on the home front because they feared domestic unrest; something the Nazis believed had led to Germany's capitulation in 1918.

For most Germans, life during the early stages of the war was reasonably comfortable. Germany was blockaded by Britain so there were some shortages, especially of oil, rare metals, and some foodstuffs. General building materials had been diverted to war purposes and were also hard to get. But thanks to the Nazi-Soviet Pact, large shipments of raw materials were being sent regularly from the Soviet Union. In addition, Germany ruthlessly plundered the countries it occupied. The Nazis seized military hardware, industrial plants, railway stock, manufactured goods, foodstuffs and livestock.

After the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941, life in Germany started to deteriorate. The supply of raw materials dried up and there would be a delay before arrangements could be made to plunder the Soviet Union on any meaningful scale. The retreating Soviet forces carried out a ruthless policy of scorched earth, destroying anything useful they could not carry away with them.

### Attacked at Home

In the early stages of the war, Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) had little ability to strike targets effectively in Germany. Almost all targets were on the coast and there were relatively small numbers of bombing aircraft available. Disruption to German life was slight, except that the black-out, the switching off of all lights at night to make it harder for enemy aircraft to find their way to their targets, caused considerable inconvenience. At first, more casualties were caused by accidents in the dark than by bombing. Crime rates also increased under the cover of darkness.

As the war wore on, however, more and better aircraft became available to the Allies and attacks became heavier. After the United States of America entered the war in December 1941, its aircraft too began to attack Germany. Especially for those Germans living in the industrial areas of the Rhineland and the Ruhr and close to the North Sea and Baltic coasts, the RAF became a frequent visitor by night and the US Airforce by day. In May 1942 the first massed air raids deliberately targeting residential areas took place against Germany at Lübeck. In June 1943 Essen and Cologne saw the first ever 1,000 bomber raids. From then on, large scale bombing of the cities became a regular occurrence. Estimates of those killed in Germany by allied bombing vary between 350,000 and 420,000. Many, many more were seriously injured and millions made homeless.

Berlin had been bombed as early as August 1940, but distance from Britain and a lack of suitable aircraft meant that raids on Hitler's capital city were very limited. Later, as more aircraft became available, newer types introduced, and bases seized closer to Germany, the pace and scale of attacks increased. A major bombing offensive was conducted against Berlin between November 1943 and April 1944, when aircraft were switched to support the D-Day landings in Normandy. Raids in November 1943 alone made 400,000 Berliners homeless. After the lull occasioned by D-Day, the allies resumed their heavy bombing of Germany in the autumn of 1944, and Berlin continued to be attacked until it fell to the Red Army in April 1945.

Bombing eventually had a major disruptive effect on the German population. Aside from the casualties and physical damage caused, loss of sleep and interruption to water and power supplies caused considerable inconvenience and fatigue. Nevertheless bombing tended to stiffen resolve and draw people together, whether they supported Hitler or not.



# Everyday Life in Germany during WWII

Food Supply and Storage	Rationing
<p>Many Berliners grew herbs and vegetables in their gardens or on allotments. Rabbits were also raised and could be kept in apartments. They were known as <i>balcony pigs</i>. In many families, caring for the rabbits became the responsibility of the children. Soldiers in newly occupied areas often sent their families suitcases and even crates filled with fresh eggs, cheese, and chocolate. There was a thriving barter business and people would often travel into the countryside to swap goods for fresh food supplies. Those lucky enough to have friends or family in the countryside found it easier to cope.</p> <p>Although refrigerators had been invented, they were rare, even in shops. A typical grocer who had meat would have had a display case kept cool with blocks of ice. Fresh produce would have been available during the late spring, summer, and early fall. It was not rationed but was subject to availability.</p> <p>Some of the larger employers, particularly armament plants, had canteens for the convenience of their employees. Even then, food quality and selection was very limited.</p> <p>Shortages resulted in a thriving black market. Nearly anything was available on the black market for a price or barter. There was massive inflation in food prices by the end of the war. Officially, selling and buying goods on the black market might result in a death sentence but there was widespread corruption and Nazi officials often turned a blind eye in return for bribes in cash or goods.</p>	<p>Rationing was introduced to Germany in late August 1939, shortly before the outbreak of war. Initially most foodstuffs were rationed together with clothing, shoes, leather and soap.</p> <p>Rations were sufficient to live off, but did not permit luxuries. Whipped cream became unknown from 1939 until 1948, as well as chocolates, cakes with rich crèmes etc. Meat could not be eaten every day. Other items were not rationed, but simply became unavailable as they had to be imported from overseas, coffee in particular. Vegetables and local fruit were not rationed, but imported fruits became unavailable. Ration stamps were issued to all civilians. These stamps were color coded and covered sugar, meat, fruit and nuts, eggs, dairy products, margarine, cooking oil, grains, bread, jams and fruit jellies. Ration stamps did not entitle civilians to free hand-outs; items still had to be paid for. Food stamps were also needed to eat in restaurants. The waiter would remove all of the stamps needed to produce the meal in addition to taking payment. Theft of stamps or counterfeiting them was a criminal offence and typically resulted in a spell of detention at a forced labor camp. As the war went on it might mean a death sentence.</p> <p>As the war began to go against Germany in the Soviet Union, and as Allied bombing began to affect domestic production, a more severe rationing program had to be introduced. The system allowed extra rations for men involved in heavy industry, but supplied only starvation rations for Jews and Poles in the areas occupied by Germany. In April 1942 bread, meat and fat rations all were reduced. This was explained to people at the time by poor harvest, lack of manpower for farming, and the increased need to feed the armed forces and the millions of forced laborers and refugees that had come to Germany.</p>

## Forced Laborers and Refugees

The Nazis forced people from the occupied countries and prisoners of war to work in Germany. Many died from bad living conditions, mistreatment, and malnutrition. More than five million civilian workers and nearly two million prisoners of war were eventually brought to Germany to work in key industries and on the land. Although their rations were minimal, nevertheless they needed to be fed. They also had to be accommodated, usually in large basic barrack huts which required scarce building materials.

During 1944-45, over 2.5 million ethnic Germans fled from Eastern Europe, hoping to reach Germany before being overtaken by the Russians. Although half a million died on the march, the survivors also had to be fed and housed, putting an even greater strain on a Germany that was by then desperately short of resources.

# Nazi Propaganda



An advertisement for a *People's Receiver*. A state-sponsored radio which only received local, government-approved channels.

Manipulation of public opinion was given a very high priority in Nazi Germany. The Nazi Party took early control of the press and radio through *The Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda*. Cinemas and the theatres also came under the direction of the Ministry. Strict laws were passed to control the media and extensive censorship was put in place. Considerable resources were allocated for propaganda. A very cheap radio set, the *People's Receiver*, was made available to enable the populace to tune in to official channels.

There were strict penalties for listening to foreign broadcasts during the war. Nevertheless, especially as the war wore on, many people risked imprisonment, and even sometimes death, to tune in to broadcasts from outside Germany. The BBC was especially popular.

The Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda funded theatre performances and the making of films, which considerably increased their control over what was performed and screened. Some productions were overtly propagandist but it soon became clear that it was better to provide cheering light-entertainment through all media channels.

Before the war, the Nazis had become very proficient at staging mass events, such as rallies and pageants at which Hitler often spoke to great effect. Although this was not possible during wartime, Hitler continued to be seen on film, heard through the radio and at smaller gatherings. However, by 1943, confidence in Hitler began to slip as the war turned against Germany and he failed to deliver his promises. He became more and more reclusive and his last radio broadcast was on January 30, 1945. His last public appearance was on April 20, 1945, his 56th birthday, when he presented Iron Cross medals to Hitler Youth boys in the garden of his Chancellery.

By the last months of the war, people had become very cynical about official news, especially in Berlin which had always been the most anti-Nazi area of Germany. By then, public opinion was more influenced by rumor and unofficial news.

# A Brief History of the White Rose

## The Leaflets

During early summer of 1942, Alex Schmorell and Hans Scholl wrote four leaflets, copied them on a typewriter with as many copies as could be made, probably not exceeding 100, and distributed them throughout Germany. These leaflets were left in telephone books in public phone booths, mailed to professors and students, and taken by courier to other universities for distribution. All four were written in a relatively brief period, between June 27 and July 12. As far as is known today, Hans Scholl wrote the first and fourth leaflets, Alex Schmorell participated with the second and third.

Producing and distributing such leaflets sounds simple from today's perspective, but, in reality, it was not only very difficult, but dangerous. Paper was scarce, as were envelopes. And if someone bought them in large quantities, or for that matter, more than just a few postage stamps (in any larger numbers), one would have become instantly suspect. Taking leaflets to other cities carried great risk, because trains were constantly patrolled by military police, who demanded identification papers of any male of military service age. Anyone traveling without official marching papers was considered AWOL.

The members of the White Rose worked day and night, cranking a hand-operated duplicating machine thousands of times to create the leaflets which were each stuffed into envelopes, stamped and mailed from various major cities in Southern Germany. Recipients were chosen from telephone directories and were generally scholars, medics and pub-owners in order to confuse the Gestapo investigators.

While Hans and Alex alone drafted the first four leaflets, they counted on Christoph Probst to comment and criticize. Another friend, Jurgen Wittenstein edited the third and fourth leaflets and traveled to Berlin with the dangerous documents. Willi Graf contributed to the fifth leaflet and did a generous amount of leg-work, getting supplies and trying to recruit support outside of Munich. Sophie Scholl worked at getting stamps and paper and also managed the group's funds. Professor, Kurt Huber contributed to the fifth leaflet and solely drafted the sixth (and final) leaflet, while Hans was apprehended with a rough-draft of a seventh leaflet written by Christoph Probst. All members traveled throughout Southern Germany (and beyond) to mail stacks of leaflets from undetectable locations. Hundreds of leaflets were also left at the University of Munich, carefully hand-delivered in the middle of the night.



Hans and Sophie Scholl with Christoph Probst, summer 1942.

## Arrest of the White Rose

On three nights in February 1943 -- the 3rd, 8th and 15th -- Hans, Alex and Willi conducted the most dangerous of all the White Rose activities. The three men used tar and paint to write slogans on the sides of houses on Ludwigstrasse, a main thoroughfare in Munich near the University. They wrote "Down With Hitler", "Hitler Mass Murderer", "freedom", and drew crossed-out swastikas... this while policemen and other officials patrolled the streets of Munich. It was, by far, the most public, blatant and dangerous of their activities.

On Thursday, February 18, 1943, Sophie and Hans were arrested while distributing pamphlets at the university. They were questioned for four days in Munich, and their trial was set for February 22. They, along with Christoph Probst, were arrested. Within days, all three were brought before the People's Court in Berlin.

The trial was run by Roland Freisler, head judge of the court, and lasted only a few hours, they were convicted of treason and sentenced to death. Only hours later, the court carried out that sentence by guillotine. All three faced their deaths bravely, Hans crying out his last words, "Long live freedom!" Later that same year, other members of the White Rose -- Alexander Schmorell (age 25), Willi Graf (age 25), and Kurt Huber (age 49) -- were tried and executed. Most of the other students convicted for their part in the group's activities received prison sentences.

<http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/revolt/whiterose.html>

# Post-show Reflection

**The Question:** Are there issues in your life that you care passionately about? What actions, large or small, might you take to help resolve those issues?

1. *Name one time when you did something even though you were afraid to do it.*
  2. *If you could write a story about one of your heroes, who would it be about and why?*
  3. *Why do you think it's important to learn about historical movements like the White Rose resistance?*

# Post-Show Reflection

After the show, write a short review of the performance using the space below. Include what you liked and didn't like while identifying the main conflicts of the play and its plot structure.

# TAPROOT THEATRE COMPANY

## MISSION STATEMENT

Taproot Theatre Company creates theatre experiences to brighten the spirit, engage the mind and deepen the understanding of the world around us while inspiring imagination, conversation and hope.

## ABOUT US

Taproot Theatre Company was founded in 1976 by six friends, five of them graduates from Seattle Pacific University. From its humble beginnings as a touring group, the company is now Seattle's largest mid-size theatre company. Today Taproot Theatre serves over 150,000 people annually throughout the Pacific Northwest with its Jewell Mainstage season, Isaac Studio Theatre season, Touring programs and Acting Studio.

## STAFF CONTACTS

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## EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### In-School Residencies & Workshops

- From drama games to acting classes to putting on a production, Taproot Theatre's residencies can range from several weeks to months, or an entire school year. Whether during the school day or after school as an enrichment program, let Taproot's trained teaching artists introduce a whole new world to your students.
- Our theatre arts professional will visit your classroom for a workshop that will inspire and excite your students. They will develop basic acting skills and explore non-theatre curriculum using theater as a medium.

### Touring Productions

- The Road Company – performing plays for elementary and secondary schools focusing on issues such as bullying prevention, substance abuse, and friendship skills.
- Family oriented productions and improv comedy for churches, clubs, office parties and other groups.

### Camps & Classes

- Taproot Theatre Company's Acting Studio is a year-round instructional program for theatre artists of all ages and experience levels. We are devoted to the wholeness of the artist with the goal of creating a nurturing environment to help each student develop his or her unique gifts.

MAY 15 – JUNE 22

## Kim's CONVENIENCE 편의점

Family Owned  
and Operated

by Ins Choi

Coming Soon  
on the Jewell Mainstage

### **Kim's Convenience**

*By Ins Choi*

Enter Kim's Convenience Store and meet the Kims, a loving, if imperfect, Korean family making their way in Toronto. As they face an uncertain future Appa (dad), Umma (mom), their unmarried daughter Janet and disappointing son Jung learn to see each other in a new light. This hilarious and heartwarming story reminds us that family isn't always convenient, but it might be the best deal out there.

*Age Recommendation: 14+  
For some language and innuendo.*

**Intergenerational Matinee:  
Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 10:30 AM**

**CONTACT GROUP SALES FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE TICKETS**

Call: 206.781.9708 | Email: [groups@taproottheatre.org](mailto:groups@taproottheatre.org) | Visit [taproottheatre.org/midweek-matinees](http://taproottheatre.org/midweek-matinees)

**TICKETS FOR ALL 2019 MAINSTAGE SHOWS ARE ON SALE NOW!**

**MAR 14 -  
APR 6**

CREATED AND  
ORIGINALY DIRECTED  
BY TED SWINDLEY



**TAPROOT  
THEATRE  
COMPANY**

**Now Playing in the Isaac Studio**

### **Always... Patsy Cline**

*Created and Originally Directed by Ted Swindley*

**Patsy Cline had a singular way  
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Tune in as her songs and letters weave a big-hearted tale of love and loss told through her unlikely friendship with Texas housewife, Louise Seger. This musical tribute features Cayman Ilika and Kate Jaeger, two of Seattle's finest voices, recreating the sound that captured the love of a nation with hits like "Walkin' After Midnight," "I Fall to Pieces" and "Crazy."

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*All seating in the Isaac Studio Theatre is General Admission. There are no reserved seats.*

For more information or to buy tickets Visit | [taproottheatre.org/always-patsy-cline](http://taproottheatre.org/always-patsy-cline) or Call | 206.781.9707