

BENTE KAHAN

VOICES FROM THERESIENSTADT



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A play with music about life and art in the "paradise" ghetto

By Ellen Foy Bruun and Bente Kahan

Translated into English by Dahlia Pfeffer and David Keir Wright

with BENTE KAHAN as

Dora - 19, actress from Prague, Hannah - 25, pianist from Ostrava,
Maria - 45, housewife from Hamburg, Lilly - 70, from Vienna,
Edith - 37, an observant Jew from Copenhagen, mother of four.

and

Dariusz Swinoga accordion & piano

Mirosław Kuzniak violin & mandolin

Directed by

Ellen Foy Bruun

The action takes place at the 'Hamburg Barracks' in the
Theresienstadt ghetto.

Time: 1942 - '44

The play lasts approximately 80 minutes. No interval.

**One listens with a
pounding heart.
Die Zeit 28.02.97**

**... an astonishing from
the gut performance.
Time Out 10.06.97**



Photo: Janne Møller-Hansen



o: Janne Møller-Hansen

In 1990 Bente Kahan founded Teater Dybbuk - Oslo (TDO) whose aim is to convey Jewish-European culture and history through drama and music. The resulting productions are:

JIDDISCHKEIT (YIDDISHKAYT), a concert and CD.

GITL, a monodrama based on Sholom Aleichem's train stories.

FAREWELL CRACOW, a dramatic concert and CD based on Mordechai Gebirtig's Yiddish songs.

VOICES FROM THERESIENSTADT, (MORGEN FÄNGT DAS LEBEN AN/STEMMER FRA THERESIENSTADT) by Ellen Foyen Bruun and Bente Kahan, a monodrama and CD in Norwegian, German and English versions
JOZZL DER KLEZMER, a concert and CD, with "Jowel Klezmerim", Dresden's klezmer band.

SONGS FROM HER JEWISH SOUL, a Yiddish concert with four musicians.

WIR WOLLEN WACHEN DIE NACHT, a commissioned concert for the 1997 Berliner Festwoche. In German.

BENTE KAHAN & DI GOJIM, a concert and CD, with "Di Gojim", Holland's most popular klezmer band.

BENTE KAHAN KLEZMER BAND, a concert with Jewish songs and tales from the 20th Century.

*HOME, a concert commissioned by Bergen European Cultural City 2000 in which Bente Kahan traces her own family history from 13th Century Spain to today's Norway. Through her own personal story, she gives a miniature portrait of the culture and fates of Europe's Jewry. The songs are performed in the Jewish languages Yiddish, Ladino and Hebrew, as well as Russian, Hungarian, Polish, German, Swedish, Norwegian and English.

In 1999, Bente Kahan can be seen in Ilona Ziok's documentary film, Karussell, about the life of the German-Jewish entertainer Kurt Gerron, the first actor to perform "Mack the Knife". The film is under consideration for an Oscar nomination, and the music has been released on a CD which also includes artist such as Ute Lemper and Max Raabe.

***A NEW PRODUCTION TO PREMIERE IN BERGEN MARCH 2000.**

VOICES FROM THERESIENSTADT

by Ellen Foy Bruun and Bente Kahan

Musicians seated stage right or left, piano accordion and violin.

SOUND

Bente	a fly-mike on her body
Accordion	Two mikes on stands (one for discant/ one for bass)
Piano	Mike with a stand
Violin	Mike with stand

A piano, if possible an upright one.

Piano tuning: 440 (the lowest)

LIGHT

Spots with stands on each side, of the stage, or general stage-light if this exists.

We need a minimum of 2 hours technical rehearsal.

Backdrop must be black or very neutral.

**A human voice in the midst of
inhuman. Song and art in the
midst of hell.**

Politiken Copenhagen 8/95

**We don't only hear "Voices
from Theresienstadt", but
also see characters who are
complete and vital.**

Jyllandsposten 8/95

**..this is never reduced to
"Shoa - the way I would have
seen it had I been there"**

Morgenbladet, Oslo 5/95

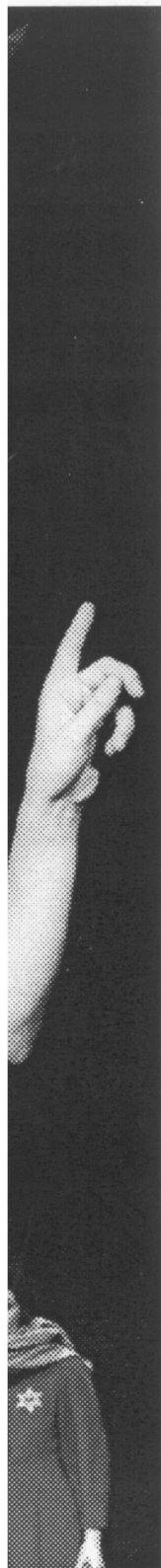
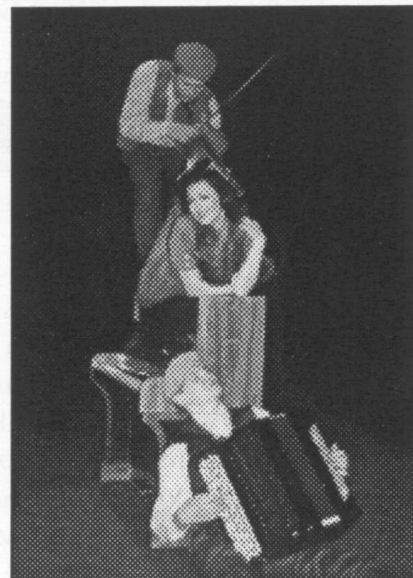




Photo: Janne Møller-Hansen

The monodrama is performed alternatively in Norwegian, German or English. CD's have been released in all three languages.

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... Bente Kahan's portrayal of Theresienstadt is powerful...

Pieces like "Voices from Theresienstadt" play a powerful and important part in understanding life in the "As If" town.

The Independent, 10.06.97

**... impressively successful...
*Berliner Morgenpost 18.11.96***

**... enduringly impressive...
*Die Tageszeitung 21.11.96***

**... an entirely genuine performance...
*Märkische Allgemeine 18.11.96***

DISCOGRAPHY www.bentekahan.no

JIDDISCHKEIT (YIDDISHKAYT)

with Gjertrud's Gipsy Orchestra
recorded in Oslo in 1991, first released
in 1992. Released by Pläne Verlag:
www.jpc.de
Lynor (Yiddishkayt, English booklet):
bestilling@lynor.no

FAREWELL CRACOW

recorded in Warsaw in 1992.
Released in 1993 by Lynor:
bestilling@lynor.no

STEMMER FRA THERESIENSTADT

Released by Lynor in 1996:
bestilling@lynor.no

STIMMEN AUS THERESIENSTADT

Recorded 1996. Released 1997 by
Pläne Verlag: www.jpc.de

VOICES FROM THERESIENSTADT

Recorded 1997, released by Lynor:
bestilling@lynor.no

JOZZL DER KLEZMER

Jowel Klezmerim mit Bente Kahan,
Buch & Musikverlag, '96

BENTE KAHAN & DI GOJIM

Music & Words 1998, The Netherlands:
Fax.: 31 30 60 67225

KARUSSELL

Warner Music, 1999.