



Production Rental: *STEAL A PENCIL FOR ME*

General Information:

Composer: Gerald Cohen
Librettist: Deborah Brevoort
Stage Director: Omer Ben Seadia
Set Designer: Francois-Pierre Couture
Lighting Designer: Francois-Pierre Couture
Costume Designer: Jessica Jahn
Projections Designer: Hana Kim
Stage Manager: Katie Preissner
Built by: Opera Colorado
Year Built: 2017-2018

For More Information, please contact:

Katie Preissner, Director of Production
kpreissner@operacolorado.org
303.468.2049 (direct)

Synopsis:

Act One – June 1943 to February 1944

In Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, friends and family gather to celebrate Lisette's birthday. Amongst the guests are Manja and Jaap Polak, unhappily married, but having agreed to stay together until the war ends. Jaap is immediately drawn to another party guest: Ina Soep, attending with her parents and her fiancé Rudi. Festivities are interrupted by a troop of Nazis who arrest several of the guests, including Rudi.

Manja, Jaap, his parents, and Lisette arrive at Holland's Westerbork Transit Camp. They are warned about so-called Tuesday Transports, at which time prisoners are regularly dispatched to crueler camps in the East. Ina and her parents also arrive, Ina fearful of the fate of Rudi, who has been delivered to another camp. Jaap advises her that imagining a better future is the only way to survive their present horror.

The Commandant announces that it is time for Tuesday Transport. Jaap's parents are amongst those selected, but Jaap manages to pocket the Commandant's pencil. He writes a love note to Ina, and Lisette passes it onward. She also brings back Ina's reply.

Word of the budding romance spreads. Manja, humiliated, insists it must stop. Now the Commandant reads the list of names for the next Tuesday Transport: both Jaap and Manja are amongst those to be sent to Bergen-Belsen.

Act Two – May 1944 to June 1945

Ina, too, arrives at Bergen-Belsen. She and Jaap meet behind the barracks, dreaming of the simple joys they intend to share someday. Manja, and Ina's father Abraham, both declare the romance must end. Jaap and Ina agree, though they pledge to continue writing letters. Ina, who works in the Commandant's office, is asked to steal for Jaap another pencil. Hearing word of grim events at Auschwitz, she fears for the survival of Rudi.

On Passover, the guards are counting the prisoners. Ina slips off to steal a pencil for Jaap. Word comes that the camps are to be evacuated. As the prisoners are dispatched to other camps, Ina and Jaap find themselves heading in opposite directions. Seriously ill, he collapses unconscious.

Back in Amsterdam, everyone in the neighborhood searches for word of loved ones...

Roles / Original Cast:

Role	Artist	Voice
Ina Soep	Inna Dukach	Lyric Soprano
Jaap Polak	Gideon Dabi	Baritone
Manja Polak	Adriana Zabala	Mezzo
Rudi Acohen	Nathan Ward	Lyric Tenor
Abraham Soep	Andrew Garland	Baritone or Bass-Baritone
Lisette	Katherine Beck	Mezzo
The Commandant	Heath Martin	Baritone or Bass-Baritone
Nazi / SS Guard #1	Nicholas Kreider	Baritone
Nazi / SS Guard #2	Andrew Hiers	Bass

Chorus:

8 (SSAATTBB)

Act 1, Scene 1: Amsterdam Party-goers

Remainder of show: Prisoners of Westerbork & Bergen-Belsen

(Ina's Mother and Jaap's Parents will be in the chorus)

Orchestration:

- Winds: Flute (doubling piccolo), Oboe (doubling English Horn), Clarinet in Bb, Bass Clarinet in Bb, Bassoon, Horn in F
- Percussion: 1 player (Timpani, Glockenspiel, Triangle, Suspended Cymbal, Snare Drum, Wood Block, 3 Tom-Toms)
- Piano
- Solo String: Violin I and II, Viola I and II, Cello, Bass

For Musical Rights, please contact Composer – Gerald Cohen – gerald@geraldcohenmusic.com

Rental Information:

Number of Trucks: 1

Size of Truck: 53'

Costs: Available upon request

Rail shipment permitted: No

Insurance Required: \$165,000

Crew Requirements:

	Load In	Run	Strike
Carpenters	10	0	10
Props	2	1	2
Electrics	4	1	4
Video/Projection	4	1	4
Sound	1	1	1
Approx. Time	10 hrs		8 hrs

First Rights of Refusal and Royalties:

Director – Omer Ben Seadia – FRR or royalty equal to 10% of rental fee if unavailable

Lighting Designer – Francois-Pierre Couture – FRR or royalty equal to 10% of rental fee if unavailable

Projections Designer – Hana Kim – FRR or royalty equal to 10% of rental fee if unavailable

Costume Designer – Jessica Jahn – Royalty equal to 10% of rental fee

Technical Information / Venue Details:

Production presented in the Elaine Wolf Theatre, Mizel Arts & Culture Center at the JCC, Denver

Proscenium Width: 38'

Orchestra Pit Opening: 16'4" x 6'3"

Proscenium Height: 20' to border

Orchestra Pit Depth: 8'

Fly Space (top of proscenium to ceiling): 8'6"

Stage Depth (plaster line to back wall): 25'5"



Production Photos:
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Act 1, Scene 1 – Life in Amsterdam



Act 1, Scene 3 – Arrival at Westerbork



Act 1, Scene 5 – Ina talks to Rudi



Act 1, Scene 7 – A pencil is stolen



Act 1, Scene 8 – Messenger of Love



Act 2, Scene 1 – Roll Call: Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp



Act 2, Scene 4 – Darkness Descends



Act 2, Scene 6: Passover/Roll Call Contemplation



Act 2, Scene 9: Amsterdam





Costume Photos:
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Act 1

Ina Soep



Act 2



Manja Polak



Act 1

Jaap Polak



Act 2



Abraham Soep



Act 1

Lisette



Act 2



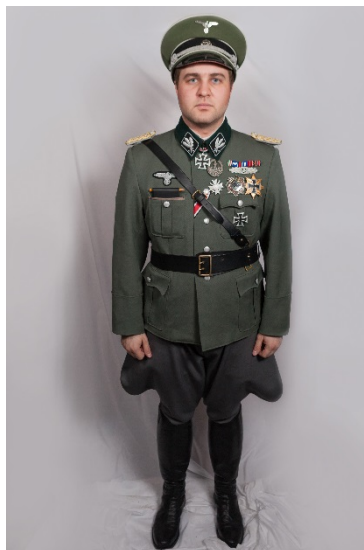
**Mrs. Soep
(Chorus Woman)**



Rudi Acohen



Commandant



First Nazi



Second Nazi



Coro Man Act 1



Coro Man Act 2

