

'IF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW PLAYS WAS MEASURED ACCORDING TO THE RICHTER SCALE, THE NEWS THAT TOM STOPPARD HAS WRITTEN A NEW DRAMA – LEOPOLDSTADT – WOULD RANK AS TOP-END SEISMIC ACTIVITY.'

The Telegraph

ABOUT THE PLAY

Vienna in 1899 was the most vibrant city in Europe, buzzing with music, ideas and intellect; it was a place that the neurologist and founder of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud, artist Gustav Klimt, author and dramatist Arthur Schnitzler and composer Johann Strauss (to name but a few) were proud to call home. A tenth of the population of Vienna were Jews. A generation earlier Jewish people had been granted full civil rights by the Emperor of Austria, Franz Josef. Consequently, hundreds of thousands of Jews had fled to Vienna from the Pale and the pogroms in the East.

In December 1899, two intermarried Jewish families gather in an apartment off the Ringstrasse, Vienna. They are a family who have made good, assimilating into the upper echelons of Viennese society with some of the second generation having married gentiles.

"My grandfather wore a caftan," says Hermann, a factory owner. "My father went to the opera in a top hat, and I have the singers to dinner."

'IT IS A BEAUTIFUL, EPIC, SWEEPING PLAY. IT'S A REMARKABLE PLAY, IT'S A PERSONAL PLAY.'

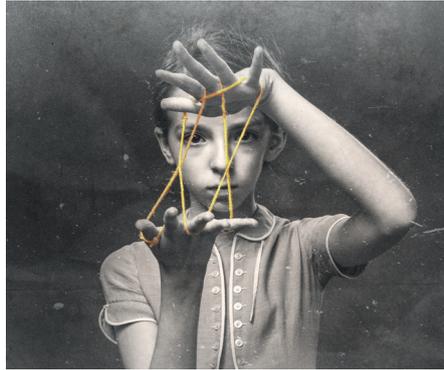
Sonia Friedman, Producer

Many of them believed the persecution of the Jews was a thing of the past.

Half a century later, this family, like millions of others, has re-discovered what it means to be Jewish in the first half of the 20th century. Familial events, loves and losses play out against the backdrop of burgeoning anti-Semitism, the rise of the Nazis and eventually the Anschluss in 1938. Leading up to 1942, persecution of the Jewish population intensified and over 140,000 Jews fled Vienna, while Leopoldstadt, a district of the city, became a ghetto where Jewish people were sent and grouped together before being deported to the concentration camps. By 1945, over 65,000 Austrian Jews had been moved to the camps, and only 800 Viennese Jews survived the war.

Regarded as 'Britain's greatest living playwright' (The Times), Tom Stoppard's

new play, directed by Patrick Marber, is an intimate and passionate drama with an epic sweep that explores love, family and endurance. It is Stoppard's most humane and heart-breaking play.



THEMES

Themes of the show include: Religion, World Wars I & II, family, love, endurance, art, heritage, culture, oppression, interfaith marriages, tradition, music, memory, assimilation, industry, family business, politics, cultural identity, anti-Semitism, mathematics.

SUBJECT & CURRICULUM LINKS

GCSE & A Level History

- World War I
- World War II
- Holocaust & Kristallnacht
- Europe at the turn of the century
- Assimilation
- Significant artists, writers, musicians, philosophers at the start of the 1900s:
 - Gustav Klimt
 - Karl Marx
 - Sigmund Freud
 - Bernhard Riemann
 - Johann Strauss
 - Arthur Schnitzler
- European and world politics

GCSE & A Level English / Drama

- **Hugely significant creative team including:**
 - **Tom Stoppard** is widely considered to be the world's greatest living dramatist. Stoppard's multi-award-winning work includes three Tony Awards® for Best Play and two Olivier Awards (for Best New Comedy and Best New Play): *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern*

are Dead, The Real Inspector Hound, Jumpers, Travesties, Every Good Boy Deserves Favour, The Real Thing, Arcadia, The Invention of Love, The Coast of Utopia, Rock 'n' Roll and most recently, *The Hard Problem*. He co-wrote the screenplays for the Academy Award-winning *Shakespeare in Love*, and the Academy Award nominated *Brazil*.

- **Patrick Marber's** directing credits of his own work include *Exit the King, Howard Katz, Three Days in the Country* (National Theatre), *Dealer's Choice* (National Theatre and West End), Olivier Award-winning *Closer* (National Theatre, West End and Music Box, New York), *Don Juan in Soho* (Wyndham's Theatre) and *After Miss Julie* (BBC TV). His other directing credits include *The Room* as part of the Pinter at the Pinter Season, *Venus In Fur* at the Theatre Royal Haymarket, *Travesties* at the Menier Chocolate Factory, Apollo Theatre and The American Airlines Theater, New York, for which he was nominated for a Tony Award® for Best Director. He is also an award-winning screenwriter and his film credits include *Closer* and *Notes on a Scandal*.

- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers
- Historical fiction

GCSE & A Level Religious Studies

- Judaism
- Jewish custom and tradition
- Catholicism

GCSE & A Level Mathematics

- Bernhard Riemann as a historical character
- The Riemann Hypothesis – arguably the most important unsolved problem in Pure mathematics
- Cat's Cradle calculus
- Pure mathematics

EDUCATION RATE

10+
£22.50 per ticket for Monday - Thursday performances, **plus 1 free teacher per 10 students booked** (valid on Band B and C tickets)

From 25 January 2020
Wyndham's Theatre, London