AUSTIN JEWISH REPERTORY THEATER, TILT PERFORMANCE GROUP, AND CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

**PRESENT** 

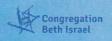
# AS BUTTERFLIES

A New Musical

by Hal Hudson and Jim Crew













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## **AS BUTTERFLIES**

A New Musical

by Hal Hudson and Jim Crew

Based on Writings from
"I Never Saw Another Butterfly"

Directed by Adam Roberts

### THE COMPANY

(in order of appearance)

Jana	Kristen Gooch
The Voice	Jarrett Suhr
Mif	Ella Rutman
Petr	Megan Hudson
Hana	Madisyn Andrews-Moreno
	Madisyn Andrews-Moreno Ryan Honza
Yisrolik	

#### **MUSICAL NUMBERS**

"Dona, Dona"	Jana
"With My Face Upturned To	oward the Terror" Mif
"So Close Your Little Eyes"	The Company
"I Wander Through Theresi	enstadt" Hana
"Yisrolik"	Yisrolik
"Shlof, Mayn Kind"	Mif, Ruth and the Company
"Home Again"	Hana and the Company
"A Lonely Wind"	Petr
"Another Day"	Ruth
"The Prayer"	Jana and the Company
	isan" Ruth
Dream Dance	The Company
"As Butterflies"	The Company

#### THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director/Choreographer: Adam Roberts Associate Director: Gail Dalrymple Costume Designer: Talena Martinez Costume Mistress: Trudy Martinez Set and Lighting Designer: Scott Ferguson Set Construction: Scott Ferguson, Sandi Ferguson, and Kerri Lindsey Crew: Tom Richardson and Scott Richter Box Office: Gail Dalrymple Filmographer: Jared Slack Dramaturgs: Milaka Falk and Jacob Roberts-Miller Sound Designer and Stage Manager: Jeff Miller Properties and Crew Chief: April Hudson Lobby Display: Milaka Falk AJRT Managing Director: Jenny Lavery TILT Co-Artistic Director & Playbill: Robert Pierson

#### From the Director

When former Shalom Austin Board Chair Susan Broockman and I sat down for a meeting more than two years ago, she had a special project in mind. Across the table she passed the script of a musical that hadn't seen the stage in over twenty years: As Butterflies, based on the poems from the renowned compilation I Never Saw Another Butterfly. Tonight, thanks to Susan's passion for the show -- in addition to that of her daughter, Lindsay Palazuelos, a cast member in that first production -- AJRT is partnering with TILT Performance Group and Congregation Beth Israel to mount a new production of As Butterflies following on the heels of Yom HaShoah.

The musical draws on poetry written by children interned in the Theresienstadt ghetto and Terezin concentration camp. Hal Hudson, a North Carolina-based theatre educator and director, and Jim Crew, a fellow North Carolinian and composer, adapted the children's words into a musical in the early nineties. It was subsequently produced to great success, but Hudson's health was failing. He passed soon after the production was mounted, his dying wish to the children he loved being that of bringing *Butterflies* back to the stage one day. Enter Susan and Lindsay who, knowing of the Austin Jewish Repertory Theater's fondness for developing new works, approached me with the idea to produce the musical again, this time in Austin.

From the beginning workings-through of the musical's local incarnation, I knew I wanted to represent to the extent possible the varied populations that were targets of the Nazis. I called my colleagues at TILT Performance Group, Gail Dalrymple and Robert Pierson, to gauge their interest in partnering on the production. TILT, a theatre company dedicated to uniquely-abled actors, seemed the perfect fit as a way to showcase the differently-abled persons who were targets of Hitler's regime. Our production also includes a boy (Petr) who is played by a female actress, bringing into focus those who were persecuted for identities of gender and sexual orientation.

Gail, TILT's Executive Director and associate director of this production, couldn't be happier with how the process has shaped up. "TILT is honored to be partnering with AJRT on this important historical production," she says emphatically. "It has been wonderful for our TILT actors to work with the talented youth of AJRT, and it is particularly moving to be performing the piece at Congregation Beth Israel." We all agree that the atmosphere of Beth Israel's sanctuary provides the ideal environment for the telling of this story, and we couldn't be more honored to partner with their dedicated leadership to make this production happen.

Most excited of all, perhaps, is JCC Austin Executive Director Shelly Prant. "I was present at the very first meeting between Susan and Adam, and I knew then that this project would be something very special. I knew that I had to do everything possible to support Susan and Adam's efforts to bring this important project to fruition." All involved agree that the events depicted in As Butterflies are as sobering and relevant today as ever. "I think it will be a bracing reminder that some of the vital lessons of the Holocaust -- as we continue to confront loud calls for xenophobia and exclusion -- are just as relevant today as twenty years ago," says Lindsay Palazuelos.

And what does Susan Broockman anticipate she'll experience on opening night? "The Austin Jewish Repertory Theater, Shalom Austin, TILT Performance Group, and Congregation Beth Israel are infusing new life into this beautiful, original musical," she says. "The significance is profound. I see and feel Hal and Adam working together to bring the yearnings of the children of Theresienstadt into the present. The talents and efforts of today's young cast honors those lost children, as well as the devoted original cast of 23 years ago. The existence of this new production will weave time and place, tragedy and hope, from generation to generation."

L'dor vador: from generation to generation. The words of the children of Theresienstadt and Terezin must always be passed down, never to be forgotten. Tonight, we honor their legacy -- and that of those who sought to carry the story forward.

Shalom, Adam

\*These notes are excerpted from a feature story appearing in this month's *Jewish Outlook*. To read the full article, visit shalomaustin. org/outlook.

#### WHO'S WHO

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Ella is touched to perform in *As Butterflies*, in remembrance of the children in the Terezin Concentration Camp. She has performed with Austin Shakespeare inSunday in the Park, ZACH in *Ragtime* and *Christmas Carol*, Zilker Hillside Theatre in *Sound of Music*, and Georgetown Palace in *Peter Pan*. She is currently a student at Ballet Austin, and performs with Hyperfeet Tap Company. Ella is in 7th grade at Lamar Fine Arts Academy.

#### WHO'S WHO

Adam Roberts.....Director Adam has served as artistic director, choreographer, or musical director for a wide range of companies, productions and initiatives throughout his career, with choreography credits including two European concert tours. His students have appeared in principal roles on Broadway, off-Broadway and in regional theatre, been nominated for the Tony Award, and appeared in film, national tours, and on network television. Adam's Austin-area credits include Austin Jewish Repertory Theater (Artistic Director), Long Center for the Performing Arts (Resident Musical Director for Education), TILT Performance Group (Co-Artistic Director), The Actor's School (Voice Faculty/Head of Musical Theatre), and other entities producing and educational. Adam currently serves St. Luke United Methodist Church as musical director, in addition to having held roles as musical director of Music Theatre Online and Libretto with the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. He holds a Master's degree in music and College Teaching Certificate from the Florida State University and received undergraduate degrees from Kent State University and Youngstown State University's Dana School of Music.

#### **Put Some Drama in Your Life!**

Interested in becoming a company member or want more information about TILT Performance Group or Austin Jewish Repertory Theater? We'd love to hear from you!

For TILT inquiries, please email Gail at gdalrymple@ tiltperformance.org. For AJRT inquiries, please email ajrt@ shalomaustin.org.

Visit www.tiltperformancegroup.org and www.shalomaustin.org/AJRT

for updates, new photos, and production information.
And be sure to like our Facebook pages!

As with any non-profit endeavor, our continued success depends on the generous in-kind and financial support of passionate donors. If you're interested in lending your talents and/or mailing a financial contribution, please contact Gail at gdalrymple@tiltperformance.org (or click on the "Donate" tab on the TILT website), or Crystal Connally at crystal.connally@shalomaustin.org.

This production is funded and supported in part by: The Roy F. and Joann Cole Mitte Foundation, Texas Commission on the Arts, Shalom Austin's Spotlight on Arts & Ideas, Laraine and Leon Lasdon, and the Susan Broockman family.

Visit NowPlayingAustin.com

TILT Performance Group, Shalom Austin, and Congregation Beth Israel are tax-exempt nonprofit organizations under Federal Tax Code 501(c)(3). Your charitable gifts are tax-deductible and make an impactful contribution to arts and culture in Austin.

## **Austin Jewish Repertory Theater**

A Project of JCC Austin, a Branch of Shalom Austin

Artistic Director: Adam Roberts Managing Director: Jenny Lavery

~AJRT Committee Members~

Jeff Miller (Chair), Sue Bilich, Milaka Falk, Scott Ferguson,
April Hudson, Cathy Jones, Susan Kirby, BJ Montgomery,
Philip Olson, Lisa Cohen Quay, Jody Scalpati,
Isabel Waisman, Kyle Zamcheck

The Austin Jewish Repertory Theater engages Central Texans in theatrical experiences that celebrate Jewish voices, themes and stories. Through unique productions of both new and existing works, robust educational offerings, and innovative collaborations with fellow arts organizations, AJRT entertains, inspires, and promotes engagement among diverse cultures.

#### **Special Thanks**

The Broockman Family, The Lasdon Family, The Mitte Foundation, The Texas Commission on the Arts, St. Luke United Methodist Church, JCC Austin Facilities Department, JCC Austin Marketing Department, Lisa Cohen-Quay, Crystal Connally, Jay Cooper, Evan Hays, Debbie Hudson-McLaney, Robert Pierson, Lindsay Palazuelos, Shelly Prant, Jay Rubin, Lisa Scheps, Jennifer Smith, Louise Avant, Ann Pittman, Trinity Street Players, First Austin Church, Sarah Hudson, David Weaver



The Director-Choreographer is an Associate Member of STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

## TIL T Performance Group

~Company~
Toby Al-Trabulsi, Eric Clow, Nicole Cortichiato, Amy Flores,
Dayanara Garcia, Kristen Gooch, Emily Newman,
Jonathan Pate, Caitlin Primm, Peter Richter, Matthew Schiwart,
Jarrett Suhr, Garret Roden, and Gordon Roden

Artistic Directors: Robert Pierson, Adam Roberts Executive Director: Gail Dalrymple

~Board of Directors~ Tamara Harper Shetron, Kyle Ferguson, Brad Seals, Chip Morris, Laura Richardson, Kieara Mapps, Elaine Ferguson

#### TIL T Donors

We wish to thank the following financial donors for their important support.

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TILT Performance Group is a theatre company in Austin, TX committed to creating high-quality live theatre. We practice collaborative creation, stage unique productions of new and established work, provide adults with special needs and unique abilities the opportunity to participate in the creation and performance of professional theater, and provide audiences the opportunity to enhance their understanding of the uniquely abled.



## Serving the Jewish Community in Austin for 140 years

At Congregation Beth Israel we're about Reform services and more. We offer programs for kids and adults of all ages – extending help to the community, continuing education, Torah study, and more. Join us and you'll build friendships that last a lifetime.

Please visit BethIsrael.org to learn more about our Reform
Tradition. Contact Carly or Pam in the office for a tour or more
information about our congregation.
We can't wait to welcome you!









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