

**THE
PEOPLE
IN THE
PICTURE**

BOOK AND LYRICS BY
IRIS RAINER DART

MUSIC BY
MIKE STOLLER AND
ARTIE BUTLER



DRAMATISTS
PLAY SERVICE
INC.

THE PEOPLE IN THE PICTURE
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The world premiere of THE PEOPLE IN THE PICTURE was produced on Broadway by Roundabout Theatre Company (Todd Haimes, Artistic Director; Harold Wolpert, Managing Director; Julia C. Levy, Executive Director) on April 28, 2011. It was directed by Leonard Foglia, the musical staging was by Andy Blankenbuehler, the musical direction was by Paul Gemignani, the set design was by Riccardo Hernandez, the costume design was by Ann Hould-Ward, the lighting design was by James F. Ingalls, the sound design was by Dan Moses Schreier, the projection design was by Elaine J. McCarthy, and the production stage manager was Peter Wolf. The cast was as follows:

BUBBIE/RAISEL	Donna Murphy
MOISHE	Alexander Gemignani
CHAIM	Christopher Innvar
RED	Nicole Parker
JENNY	Rachel Resheff
DOOVIE/RABBI VELVEL	Hal Robinson
KRINSKY	Lewis J. Stadlen
CHAYESEL	Joyce Van Patten
PINSKER	Chip Zien
DOBRISCH	Megan Reinking
RACHEL	Maya Goldman
DR. GOLDBLUM	Louis Hobson
YOUNG RED	Andie Mechanic
JERZY	Paul Anthony Stewart
HOODLUMS	Jeremy Davis, Jeffrey Schecter
ENSEMBLE	Emilee Dupré, Shannon Lewis, Jessica Lea Patty

CHARACTERS

THE WARSAW GANG

RAISEL/BUBBIE

KRINSKY

PINSKER

CHAYESEL

DOOVIE

CHAIM

MOISHE

COMEDY WRITERS

RED

DAVE

KOPELMAN

PERSKY

MARVIN

OTHERS

JENNY

DOCTOR GOLDBLUM

CHARLOTTE

THE PRODUCER

RABBI VELVEL

DOBRISCH

JERZY (*pronounced "Yezhe"*)

YOUNG RED

RACHEL

ROLES PLAYED BY THE WARSAW GANG

DOCTOR (*Moishe*)
MALKE (*Raisel*)
CANTOR (*Moishe*)
CANTOR'S WIFE (*Raisel*)
LEAH (*Raisel*)
THE DYBBUK (*Raisel*)
THE HEAD RABBI (*Krinsky*)
MOTHER (*Chayesel*)
TRIBUNAL MEMBERS 1 and 2

DOUBLING

The following are the authors' recommendations for doubling:

KRINSKY/KOPELMAN
PINSKER/PERSKY
DOOVIE/DAVE/RABBI VELVEL/THE PRODUCER
CHAYESEL/DOBRISCH/CHARLOTTE
MARVIN/MOISHE
CHAIM/JERZY/DOCTOR GOLDBLUM
YOUNG RED/RACHEL
BUBBIE/RAISEL

The actors playing Red and Jenny respectively must not double.

SONG LISTING

ACT ONE

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Bread and Theatre | Warsaw Gang |
| 2. Comedy Writers' Lament | Comedy Writers |
| 3. Juggling Act | Red |
| 4. Juggling Act (Reprise) | Red |
| 5. Schmaltz (Part 1) | Raisel, Chaim |
| 6. The Dybbuk | Raisel, Warsaw Gang, Dancing Rabbis |
| 7. Schmaltz (Part 2) | The Warsaw Gang |
| 8. Remember Who You Are | Pinsker, Krinsky |
| 9. Say Yes | Chaim, Marvin, Red, The Writers |
| 10. Say Yes (Reprise) | Marvin, Red, Persky, The Writers |
| 11. Remember Who You Are (Reprise 1) | Pinsker, Krinsky, Raisel, Chayesel, Moishe, Chaim |
| 12. And God Laughs (Part 1) | Moishe, Raisel |
| 13. And God Laughs (Part 2) | Moishe |
| 14. Oyfn Pripetshik | Raisel, Dobrisch |
| 15. Red's Dilemma | Red |
| 16. For This | Bubbie, Red, Jenny |
| 17. Oyfn Pripetshik | Jenny and Company |

ACT TWO

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 18. We Were Here | Warsaw Gang, Ghetto Denizens |
| 19. Now and Then | Red |
| 20. Red's Dilemma (Reprise) | Raisel |
| 21. For This (Reprise) | Red, Bubbie |
| 22. Ich, Uch, Feh | Warsaw Gang, Ghetto Denizens |
| 23. Selective Memory | Bubbie, Raisel |
| 24. Saying Goodbye | Young Red, Red, Dobrisch, Raisel |
| 25. Jenny's Rant | Jenny |
| 26. Child of My Child | Bubbie |
| 27. Remember Who You Are (Reprise 2) | Bubbie |
| 28. Bread and Theatre (Finale) | Warsaw Gang, Ghetto Denizens |

THE PEOPLE IN THE PICTURE

ACT ONE

Lights up on an old life-sized photo of an acting troupe in Poland in 1935. Moishe Rosenwald, a distinguished-looking tenor; Chayesel Fisher, once a gorgeous leading lady, now playing grandmothers; Chaim Bradovsky, the director, handsome and redheaded; Doovie Feldman, so ancient he's not sure what show he's doing today or any day; and the comedy team of Avram Krinsky, hammy and aging, and Yossie Pinsker, an elfin comic.

PINSKER. Look how full of hope we are.

KRINSKY. A traveling troupe of actors...

CHAYESEL. ...so poor we do our shows in stables...

DOOVIE. ...and use a horse's blanket for a curtain.

CHAIM. So poor but rich with passion for the literature and art of the stage.

Chaim snaps his fingers.

Places!

As the actors scramble into place, they continue to haggle.

KRINSKY. So poor that when we reenact the siege of Troy we can only afford to use a Trojan Dog.

PINSKER. (*Aside.*) A Trojan goat would be funnier.

MOISHE. How about, so poor when we do the Yiddish *Moby-Dick*, the whale is played by an anchovy.

DOOVIE. Neither one is so funny. I think...

CHAIM. I said places!

The actors are now in place.

1. Bread and Theatre

WARSAW GANG.

WE ARE THE WARSAW GANG WE PLAY THE SHTETL CIRCUIT
WHICH IS A LOUSY DEAL NO MATTER HOW YOU WORK IT
WHY DO WE PLAY IN ANY VILLAGE THAT WILL BOOK US
ACTING IN BARNES SO OLD AND COLD WE FREEZE OUR
TOOCHAS

BECAUSE WE LIVE ON BREAD AND THEATRE
BODY AND SPIRIT MUST BE FED
WITHOUT OUR BREAD WE'D JUST BE HUNGRY
BUT WITHOUT THEATRE WE'D BE DEAD.

KRINSKY. A company so poor that when Mark Antony makes his famous
speech at the funeral of Julius Caesar, he can only afford to say...

Moishe stands in a pool of light.

MOISHE. Friends...

PINSKER. What if he says "Friends, Romans, countrymen. Lend me some
money?"

DOOVIE. That stinks.

WARSAW GANG.

TO TOWNS SO BATTERED AND BESIEGED THE FOLKS ARE
SKITTISH
WE BRING THE CLASSICS AND DELIVER THEM IN YIDDISH
IT'S HARD TO LIGHT UP EYES SO WEARY AND SO HOLLOW
HEY! A POGROM IS NOT AN EASY ACT TO FOLLOW.

AND STILL WE LIVE ON BREAD AND THEATRE
BODY AND SPIRIT MUST BE FED
WITHOUT OUR BREAD WE'D JUST BE HUNGRY
BUT WITHOUT THEATRE WE'D BE DEAD.

CHAIM. Kind observers, the illustrious members of our troupe.

PINSKER.

CHAYESEL FISHER ONCE MADE LOVE TO STANISLAVSKY
CHAYESEL.

ALSO TO CHEKHOV, DOSTOYEVSKY, AND TCHAIKOVSKY
KRINSKY and PINSKER. (*Spoken.*) And me.

PINSKER.

BUT BEAUTY'S FLEETING AND AS YOUTH FLEW BY SHE
LOST IT

CHAYESEL.

WHICH IS A BLESSING BECAUSE FRANKLY, I'M EXHAUSTED.

MOISHE.

HERE'S DOOVIE FELDMAN WHO PLAYED SHYLOCK, LEAR,
AND CAESAR

THOUGH CRITICS SAY THAT HE'S AN ANTIQUATED GEEZER

KRINSKY.

WHO CARES HOW OLD HE IS? OUR DOOVIE'S GOT BRAVADO
HE'S GREAT IN THAT OLD YIDDISH CLASSIC *THE MIKADO*.

There is the sound of a gong and Doovie bows as the Mikado.

DOOVIE. I was brilliant.

PINSKER.

MOISHE ONCE WAS A CANTOR
WHEN HE SANG KOL NIDRE
EVEN GOYIM SHED A TEAR
WHEN WE CAME TO HIS VILLAGE
AND WALKED BY HIS SHUL WE WERE
OVERJOYED TO HEAR:

MOISHE. (*Holding a gorgeous, emotional high G.*)

AAAAAAAH!

KRINSKY and PINSKER.

KRINSKY AND PINSKER.

KRINSKY.

HE'S A CLOWN

PINSKER.

HE'S ALWAYS DEADPAN

KRINSKY and PINSKER.

WE'LL BE TOGETHER 'TIL I'M BRINGING HIM A BEDPAN

KRINSKY.

HE MAKES YOU LAUGH.

PINSKER.

THERE'S NO EMOTION HE CAN'T POUR ON.

KRINSKY.

THEY CALL US JEWISH HAMS

PINKSER.

BUT THAT'S AN OXYMORON.

MOISHE.

CHAIM BRADOVSKY WITH RED HAIR AND EYES SO BLUISH
HE LOOKS SO GENTILE
YOU CAN HARDLY TELL HE'S JEWISH.

CHAIM.

OUR LEADING LADY SAYS SHE NEEDS ME TO PROTECT HER
WARSAW GANG *except* CHAIM.

HE'S GOT NO TALENT SO WE MADE HIM THE DIRECTOR.

WARSAW GANG.

OH WE JUST LIVE ON BREAD AND THEATRE
BODY AND SPIRIT MUST BE FED
WITHOUT OUR BREAD WE'D JUST BE HUNGRY
BUT WITHOUT THEATRE WE'D BE DEAD.

CHAIM. A mere handful of actors, so skilled they dazzle the impoverished
denizens of the muddy little villages with spectacles of heroism, tableaux of
ancient and eloquent kings...

MOISHE. Every one of them rewritten by our leading lady, Raisel.

PINSKER. If Shakespeare found out what Raisel did to his plots...he would.

KRINSKY. Shakespeare plotzed years ago.

PINSKER. I guess he found out.

CHAIM.

AS THE YIDDISH SAINT JOAN
RAISEL KILLED THEM IN MINSK
I CAN STILL HEAR THEM APPLAUD
WHO WILL RAISEL PLAY NEXT
NOT THE YIDDISHE POPE

*Enter on a cloud a bearded God, who pulls down her beard to
reveal she is Raisel, a vibrant, lively leading lady.*

RAISEL.

NOT ME, I'M PLAYING GOD.
AND HERE'S GOD'S MESSAGE FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH
IF YOU CAN MAKE THE PEOPLE LAUGH
YOU'LL RULE THE EARTH.

CHAIM. Our leading lady, Raisel Rabinowitz.

Raisel disembarks from the cloud.

RAISEL.

MANKIND IS LIVING ON A PLANET FILLED WITH FIGHTING
THAT'S WHY YOUR GOD IS HERE TO DO SOME FAST RE-
WRITING.

WARSAW GANG except RAISEL.

SHE CHANGED *THE TEMPEST* SO IT'S ALL ABOUT NICE
WEATHER

RAISEL.

WHEN I REWROTE A *DOLL'S HOUSE* THEY GOT BACK
TOGETHER

MOISHE.

CHEKHOV'S THREE SISTERS GAVE UP MOSCOW FOR
CHICAGO

PINSKER.

AND DESDEMONA AND OTHELLO HUGGED IAGO.

RAISEL.

MY *TROJAN WOMEN* HAS NO GREEKS THAT RAPE AND
PLUNDER

ANNA KARENINA JUMPS ON THE TRAIN NOT UNDER.
GOD KNOWS WE LIVE ON BREAD AND THEATRE

RAISEL, MOISHE, and PINSKER.

BODY AND SPIRIT MUST BE FED

WARSAW GANG.

WITHOUT OUR BREAD WE'D JUST BE HUNGRY
BUT WITHOUT THEATRE WE'D BE...

Krinsky has crossed to get a letter.

KRINSKY. Dead. This says, "Actors, there can be no show here today.
Dozens of our villagers were murdered last night in the bloodiest pogrom.
My own brother, Benny, was lost." And it's signed by Menashe Barofsky.

RAISEL. No. Sweet dear Benny. I remember how much he loved our shows.

*Lights up on Doctor Goldblum, a kind young doctor in a white coat
looking worriedly at Raisal. The rest of the Warsaw Gang don't see him.*

DOCTOR GOLDBLUM. Mrs. Rosenwald.

RAISEL. Especially the Bible stories. When I played Moses's wife and I
said...

DOCTOR GOLDBLUM. Do you know where you are?

THE PEOPLE IN THE PICTURE

book and lyrics by Iris Rainer Dart
music by Mike Stoller and Artie Butler

5 men, 5 women (doubling)

Once the creator and star of Yiddish musical films in Poland between the wars, Raisel is now a grandmother (Bubbie) in '70s New York. Bubbie longs to tell the stories of her acting troupe's successes and heroism to her granddaughter Jenny. Sadly, her TV comedy-writer daughter, Red, insists on leaving the past behind, unless Bubbie will talk about the events that have plagued them both since Red's childhood.

"Just like in author Iris Rainer Dart's novel and movie Beaches, THE PEOPLE IN THE PICTURE makes us laugh, cry, think and ponder."

—**RegardingArts.com**

"That there will be an eternity through our living in the memories of those we leave behind is the uplifting promise of the inspiring, engaging, and thoroughly entertaining musical THE PEOPLE IN THE PICTURE... Through Dart's lyrics and the music of Mike Stoller and Artie Butler, the sounds of klezmer memories ring in foot-tapping, soul-touching melodies while the words of the songs evoke the humor and pathos of an era almost extinguished by Nazi villains."

—**TalkinBroadway.com**

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