

STAGE
Newton
Theatre
Company

Newton Theatre Company
presents

Diane Samuels

KINDERTRANSPORT



Friday, April 12th

8 PM

Saturday, April 13th

2 PM + 8 PM

Friday, April 19th

8 PM

Saturday, April 20th

2 PM + 8 PM

**St John's
Episcopal Church**

96 Otis Street, Newtonville

<https://ntc-kindertransport.eventbrite.com>

Kindertransport Cast

Ratcatcher.....	Matt Goldstein
Eva.....	Luz Lopez
Helga.....	Julia Bechler
Evelyn.....	Karin Trachtenberg
Faith.....	Elena Toppo
Lil.....	Linda Goetz

Kindertransport Creative Team

Director.....	Melissa Bernstein
Stage Manager.....	Charlotte Davis
Sound Designer.....	Alex Taylor
Lighting Technician.....	Bobby Raps
Technical Director.....	Bernie Bernstein

Newton Theatre Company Staff

Artistic Director.....	Melissa Bernstein
Digital Marketing Director.....	Abby Strayer
Social Media Manager.....	Alex Taylor
Graphic Consultant.....	Shalini Prasad
Graphic Designer.....	Tess Vigdor
Bookkeeper.....	Anna Stenberg
Building Manager.....	Jesse King
House Manager.....	Bobby Lovett

2023-2024 Newton Theatre Company Board

Chair.....	Melissa Bernstein
Treasurer.....	Courtney Cole
Clerk.....	Karen Woodrow
Members.....	Rosalind Bevan, Vivian Liu-Somers, Shalini Prasad

The History of the Kindertransport

What does Kindertransport mean?

The German word 'Kindertransport' translated literally into English means 'the transportation of children'. It was how Jewish parents, in desperation, tried to get their children out of the growing Nazi territory.

In Britain, a coalition of Jewish, Quaker and other groups appealed to Parliament, which agreed to admit a limited number of refugee children between the ages of 5 and 17, provided each posted a £50 bond 'to assure their ultimate resettlement'. The coalition provided the money and from late 1938, children began leaving Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia by train.

In the nine months before World War II began, nearly 10,000 unaccompanied Jewish and other children escaped from Germany on trains headed for the freedom of Britain. All hoped it would be a brief separation, for most it was a final farewell. The last train left Germany just two days before the start of the war.

The History of the Kindertransport (Continued)

The Journey

The Nazis made sure the journey was humiliating and terrifying. Trains were grimly sealed. The children had to take trains to Holland so that they would not 'sully' German ports. Their luggage was torn apart by guards searching for valuables. In some cities, parents were not even allowed to say goodbye at the train stations so as to avoid any public spectacle.

In Holland, the trains were met by committees of volunteers, who gave the children refreshments and helped them board the boats taking them to their new homes.

Arrival

The first Kindertransport ferries arrived in Britain in early December 1938, each carrying about 200 children. Thereafter, about two transports per week landed until June and July 1939, when they landed daily. The organization, which found accommodation for the children in Britain, was called the Movement for the Care of Children from Germany (later shortened to the Refugee Children's Movement). The Movement generally billeted or fostered the children with local families, or settled them at orphanages or other institutions around the country.

The History of the Kindertransport (Continued)

The Kinder

Between December 1938 and September 1939, the RCM (Refugee Children's Movement) brought over 9,354 refugee children. Of these 7,482 were Jewish. In addition to these, many more children came, including:

- 431 children sponsored by Inter-Aid in the months before Kristallnacht
- 700+ who came to Britain under the auspices of Youth Aliyah
- 100 orthodox children rescued by Rabbi Schonfeld and the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations
- Polish and Czech refugees.

The total is thought to be well over 10,000.

By the end of 1939, only 331 of these children had re-emigrated, to join their parents or relatives, mostly in Palestine or the United States.

It needs very little imagination to appreciate the anguish of parents, bundling their young children onto trains and sending them off to an unknown land. This was all under the gaze of the Nazi police and bullying, unsympathetic officials. This was, after all, long before the age of mass travel to all parts of the world, and few parents, and far fewer children, had any knowledge or understanding at all of Britain or any other country, nor even of long distance travel by train across whole countries. Few would even have seen the sea.

Timeline 1918-1939

1918

November - Germany finally collapsed, signaling the end of WWI.

Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated and fled to exile in Holland.

Emperor Charles of Austria-Hungary abdicated.

Germany signed the armistice on November 11th and at 11am, The Great War ended.

1919

The Treaty of Versailles was signed.

For the most part, Germany was allowed to keep its borders, but to satisfy France, had to agree to massive reparations – which it could not hope to meet and thus did not meet.

The German National Socialist Workers' Party (NSDAP or Nazi party) was founded in Munich. One of many such groups formed at this time, it called for 'the uniting of all Germans within one greater Germany' and insisted that only 'persons of German blood' could be nationals. Adolf Hitler, a former corporal in the Great War, joined during its early days and began to organize and strengthen the party. Hitler, even in those early days, already held strongly anti-Semitic and anti-Bolshevik views, often grouping the two together as the 'Jewish-Bolshevik' tyranny.

Timeline 1918-1939

(Continued)

1923

France occupied the Ruhr because of German non-payment of reparations. Hyperinflation occurred in Germany. Fear of German collapse led Britain and America to persuade France to withdraw.

Hitler attempted to seize power in Bavaria (the 'Beer Hall Putsch'), aiming to march on Berlin and overthrow the Weimar Republic. The attempt failed, Hitler was arrested and imprisoned.

1925

Hindenburg was elected President of Germany.

1926

General strike in Britain and much labor unrest. There was unease amongst the ruling classes at the 'rise of the masses'. This contributed to a vague desire for a strong Germany, as a bulwark against the Bolsheviks in the east.

1928

The Nazis failed to gain widespread support in the Reichstag elections, polling only 800,000 votes (12 seats).

Timeline 1918-1939

(Continued)

1929

The first Labour government was elected in Britain.

The Wall Street crash in America. The Great Depression began.

1930

Effects of US Depression were felt across Europe. This led to significant gains for the Nazis in the 1930 elections (18.3% of the vote and 107 seats in the Reichstag, making it the second largest party in Germany).

1931

Alfonso XIII abdicated and Spain became a republic.

1932

New Reichstag elections - the Nazis became the largest party with 37.3% of the votes and 230 seats. Over this period, Hitler toned down much of his anti-Semitic rhetoric and concentrated more on German nationalism, he won much support from the unemployed, the disaffected middle classes and younger people.

Timeline 1918-1939

(Continued)

1933

Hitler became Chancellor and anti-Semitism immediately moved back to center-stage. On April 1st, an official one-day boycott of Jewish shops and businesses was proclaimed. For many Jews this was the first shocking realization that they were becoming the target of hate.

Only about 10% of German Jews had left the country by this time, having had to forfeit most of their property as the price for emigration. Apart from this forfeiture of property, emigration as impoverished refugees to countries which were themselves suffering harsh economic depression, was not an option that many Jews wanted to consider. About 200,000 Jews left Germany during the first six years of Nazi Government, with most – over 130,000 – going to America, 55,000 to the British Mandate of Palestine (later to become Israel), about 40,000 to Britain, 20,000 to South America and smaller numbers to Shanghai, Australia and South Africa.

The burning of the Reichstag led Hitler to move against all dissident groups - communists, trade unionists as well as Jews. All civil liberties were abolished and the Enabling Law gave him dictatorial powers. For many Germans, these acts presented no problem, since it was commonly perceived that Hitler had given Germany back her pride, confidence and respect and finally erased the specter of defeat and shame of 1918.

Timeline 1918-1939

(Continued)

1934

Hitler strengthened his position by moving against many of his original supporters – in particular, the ‘Brown-shirts’ led by Ernst Rohm – who might have constituted a threat to him. The so-called ‘Night of the Long Knives’.

1935

The Nuremberg Laws deprived German Jews of their civil rights and banned marriages between Jews and Aryans.

Spain’s left-wing won a majority in the national elections, which prompted the onset of the Spanish Civil War.

1936

The Berlin Olympics.

Germany reoccupied the Rhineland. No action was taken by the Western Powers.

The Rome-Berlin Axis was formed between Italy and Germany.

Italy and Germany recognised the fascist general, Franco, as the legitimate leader of Spain.

Timeline 1918-1939

(Continued)

1936

France and Britain decided not to intervene in the Spanish Civil war, despite overt German and Italian support for General Franco. Nonetheless, many volunteers traveled to fight for the Republican cause.

In Britain, Edward VIII abdicated.

1937

In Spain, Guernica is bombed by the German 'Condor Legion'.

1938

'The Anschluss', or peaceful annexation of Austria within the Reich. The intensity of anti-Semitic feeling and actions was said to have amazed even the Germans. The German model of rapid and radical anti-Jewish measures was immediately adopted by Austria.

Jews were obliged to report their total assets. Plans were initiated for the full scale 'Aryanisation' of Jewish businesses.

Western democracies finally woke up to the scale of anti-Jewish brutality, legislation and attitudes. Efforts were then made to facilitate Jewish emigration, but most countries were reluctant to take in more refugees, and cited various problems of their own, such as unemployment, which was still high following the depression and a reluctance to import 'racial problems'.

Timeline 1918-1939

(Continued)

1938

17,000 Polish Jews living in Germany were expelled en masse and deposited on the Polish border. Poland refused them entry.

In response to this, a German diplomat in Paris was assassinated by a young Jewish man. Germany was outraged, declared it an 'act of war' by the world-wide Jewish community and unleashed 'Kristallnacht' – acts of extreme violence against Jewish businesses, homes and synagogues and against any Jews caught in the open. More than 400 synagogues and 7000 business premises were looted and burned, many Jews were murdered and thousands rounded up and summarily herded off to concentration camps.

'Krytallnacht' sped up efforts to evacuate Jewish children from Germany. This program – advocated and organized by Jews themselves within Germany – allowed only young children to leave and only if countries could be found to accept them. Very few countries were willing to accept refugees, and even when they did arrive, they had no plans to cope with them.

America refused to relax its rigid immigration restrictions and all told, only 433 children were allowed in, all through the efforts of private individuals. Britain took 10,000 and appeals were made by the BBC for foster homes.

Timeline 1918-1939

(Continued)

1938

Germany occupied the Czech Sudetenland. English Prime Minister Chamberlain made his infamous 'Peace in our Time' speech, on his return from Munich, which accepted Hitler's actions.

1939

The final collapse of the left in the Spanish Civil War and the formation of a Fascist government under Franco.

Germany occupied the rest of Czechoslovakia.

Italy invaded Albania.

Germany signed a nonaggression pact with Russia.

Germany invaded Poland.

Britain and France declared war on Germany : WWII

Who's Who



Eva
Luz Lopez



Evelyn
Karin Trachtenberg



Helga
Julia Bechler



Faith
Elena Toppo



Ratcatcher & More
Matt Goldstein



Lil
Linda Goetz

Who's Who

Julia Bechler (Helga) is delighted to be making her stage debut with Newton Theatre Company's production of *Kindertransport*. As a SAG-AFTRA actress, Julia has worked on several film and television sets, and is most recently known for her supporting role as Audrey in the feature film, *Finestkind*. @julia_bechler

Linda Goetz (Lil) I am thrilled to be a part of this talented cast and crew of people. Previous roles with NTC: Mr. Collins *Pride and Prejudice*. Dauphin in *St Joan*, Elizabeth I in *Mary Stuart*, *Our Tears are the Same Color*, *Living in Exile*, and Clytemnestra in *Agamemnon* and *The Oresteia*. Other favorite roles include, *Doubt*, *The Revolutionists*, *Macbeth*, *Faith Healer*, *Hamlet*, *A Picasso*, *The Crucible*, and The American premiere of *Dracula*, *the Bloody Truth* with Newton Nomadic Theatre. A big thank you to my family for the continued support. Thank you, audience, for supporting the arts.

Matt Goldstein (Ratcatcher & more) is honored to be back for another 5 role challenge with NTC. His previous experience at this theatre was for *In The Time Of The Butterflies*. Born in Bogota, Colombia, and adopted and raised in Maryland, this play carries a special significance to him given his Jewish upbringing. He is happy to call New England home after stints in D.C., New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Favorite stage roles played include Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and recent TV/film credits include Neighbor Dad in *Spirited*. He is dedicating these performances to the memory of the brave souls who left everything they knew in search of a better life, and the selfless souls who opened their doors and hearts to help give them love and a family.

Who's Who

Luz Lopez (Eva) is so excited to be back with Newton Theatre Company after playing Lizzy Bennet in the fall! Recent credits include: *Alma* at Central Square Theatre and *Don't Eat The Mangos* with Apollinaire Theatre and Teatro Chelsea (Elliot Norton Nominated - Best Featured Performance). You can learn more about Luz at www.luzlopez.com or follow her @luzlopezactor on instagram.

Elena Toppo (Faith) is excited to make their debut with Newton Theatre Company. Elena is an actor, writer, director located in the Boston Area. Their past acting credits include: Grumio (ASP's *Taming of the Shrew*), Rosencrantz (Praxis Stage's *Hamlet*), Virginia (Anthem Theatre Company's *My fascination with Creepy Ladies*) and Napoleon (Classic Repertory Company's *Animal Farm*). Elena graduated from Boston University with a degree in Theatre Arts and a Minor in Deaf Studies.

Karin Trachtenberg (Evelyn) is delighted to be back treading the boards with NTC right on the heels of *Pride and Prejudice*. A classically trained actress, Karin has appeared in professional theaters throughout New England and beyond performing major roles in Greek Drama and Shakespeare productions, most notably playing the titular role in Euripides' *Phaedra* at the Hydrama Theatre in Greece. As an actor, director, and producer, Karin has championed countless new plays from staged readings to full productions. She is focused on creating opportunities for women-centered storytelling which fosters healthy dialogue about difficult issues. Her original one woman show "My Mother Had Two Faces: Reflections on Beauty, Aging and Acceptance" is touring the globe from Los Angeles to Boston to New York City and finally the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this summer. Follow Karin's thespian adventures at: karintrachtenberg.com

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Newton, Massachusetts is on the traditional homelands of the Massachusett Indigenous Peoples.

The name Massachusetts comes from the Massachusett language term for "At the Great Hill," referring to the Blue Hills overlooking Boston Harbor from the south.

The Indigenous Nations that belong to this land are known as the Aquinnah Wampanoag, Mashpee Wampanoag, Ponkapoag, Stockbridge Munsee Mohican Nation and Nimuc.

We respect & recognize it is a privilege to be living on these lands as guests. We acknowledge the trauma experienced over centuries to the indigenous peoples who live on these lands and continue to face injustice.

We honor with gratitude those peoples who have stewarded this land. We also acknowledge that these lands are sacred to generations yet to be born.

Thank you to Newton Community
Pride and The Harmony Foundation
for your generous grants, and for
helping us realize this important
theatrical project!



Special Thanks to the 2022-2023 Sponsors and Friends of Newton Theatre Company

Corporate Sponsors

The Village Bank
Mark Development
Wegmans
Visiting Angels Senior Home Care
DeSha Creative

Season Sponsors \$1000 +

Courtney and Jason Cole
Paul and Jennifer Walsh
Julie and Gary Greenstein
Betty and Arthur Salz
Kathryn DeNitto
Melissa and Bernie Bernstein
American Express Foundation
Karen Woodrow and Larry Michel

Show Sponsors \$250 +

Covie Edwards-Pitt and Matt Weinzerl
Matthew and Whitney McKnight
In Honor of Christopher Allaire
Julie Plaut Mahoney and Tim Mahoney
Abby Rischin and David Moss
Wendy and James Mnookin
Gloria Gavis
Gena and Will Hooper
Doris and Fred Lewis
Amelia LeClair
Lauren and Andy Dale

NTC Members \$50 +

Marcia Johnson
Carol Blumenthal
Robin Maltz
Andrew Majewski
Rhoda Kubrick
Josephine McNeil
Adam Brown
Irene and Dave Tabish
Stephen Griffin
Margaret Geller
Marianne Louderback
Joel Lawitts
Vivian Liu-Somers
Marilyn Berman & Mark Froimowitz
Alex Chelminsky
Sophia Pugacheva and Family
Carol Gerwin and Michael Goldberg
Rebecca Diamondstein
Donna Lomp
Sachiko Sato
Kevin McCormick and Jane McKeon
Tim Strayer and Carmen Pancerella
Chuck Schwager and Jan Durgin
Judy Bernstein
Karen and Michael Crystal
Anonymous
Abby Strayer
Adrienne Knudsen

Thank you to all our Newton Theatre
Company Friends
Up to \$49

A special thank you to St. John's Episcopal Church for being such a wonderful home.

An advertisement for Wegmans delivery, featuring a background of fresh vegetables like carrots and asparagus. A white box in the center contains the text: "Wegmans delivery in as little as one hour", "Powered by instacart", "order today", and "wegmans.com/instacart". An orange circular badge in the top right corner says "DELIVERY FEE WAIVED on your first order".

DELIVERY FEE
WAIVED
on your first order

Wegmans
delivery
in as little as one hour

Powered by
 instacart
order today
wegmans.com/instacart

“It’s communication —
that’s what theatre is all about.”

— Chita Rivera



Thank you, Newton Theatre Company, for a season of
innovative and thought-provoking shows.

From your fans at The Village Bank



Auburndale • Newton Highlands • Newtonville

Nonantum • Waban • Wayland • West Newton

www.village-bank.com • 617-527-6090

Customer Care Center 617-969-4300



Member FDIC | Member SIF
NMLS# 408536

