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Kristallglas

A Ten Minute Play.
By Drew Stutz.

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CAST

Josef Rosen
Karl Schmidt

SETTING

Berlin, Germany. Evening of November 8th, 1938.

Kristallglas was first performed in concert style at the *Kennedy Center America College Theatre Festival* in 2024 for *Region 5* in Des Moines, Iowa as part of the *Gary Garrison 10-Minute Play Festival.*

Kristallglas was the KCACTF Festival 56 Gary Garrison 10-Minute Play Regional Finalist for Region 5 as well as the KCACTF Festival 56 Gary Garrison 10-Minute Play National Semi-Finalist from Region 5 in 2024.

Special Thanks to:

SIMON LUCKOW the first voice of *Josef Rosen,* 2023 Conception.
CARTER LAMBERT the first voice of *Karl Schmidt,* 2023 Conception.
GRACE WRIGHT the first Stage Manager, 2023 Conception.

And

GRAM COALIER the voice of *Josef Rosen,* 2024 Concert Reading.
GERRIT VonEYE the voice of *Karl Schmidt,* 2024 Concert Reading.
KYLEE COOK who served as the narrator, 2024 Concert Reading.
JACK DANTER *Kristallglas'* first Director, 2024 Concert Reading.
CHE FLORY *Kristallglas'* first Dramaturge, 2024 Concert Reading.
KORDELIA TAYLOR Stage Manager, 2024 Concert Reading.

"Thank you."
- Stutz

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FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

2023*

During the night of November 9th, 1938 and into the early hours of November 10th the Nazi party orchestrated a series of violent massacres on Jewish owned businesses, homes, and synagogues in Germany and surrounding territories. During the attacks, over 30,000 Jewish males were captured and shipped off to concentration camps - marking the first time the Nazis arrested anyone for simply being a Jew. The attacks came to be called *Kristallnacht* (translated to *The Night of Broken Glass)* named after the shards of glass that littered the streets the next morning.

At the time of writing this, that was 85 years ago. The Nazi party of Adolf Hitler is gone. But the hate towards Jewish people still persists. In 2022 there were a record number of 3,697 recorded hate crimes against Jews throughout the United State according to the Anti-Defamation League; up a staggering 38% from the previous year with many of these attacks taking place online.

While this play is set in the middle of one of the darkest times in modern human history; one can't help but see parallels to people in today's society. We all must come together to stop Jewish hate; that starts by knowing history before we repeat history. May you leave this place more aware than you were before and ready to fight hate harder than before.

2024

In January of 2024, *Kristallglas* received the opportunity to have a fully staged concert reading. The reading took place 105 days after Hamas militants launched wide spread attacks on Israel on October 7th, 2023; an act of terror that killed 1,200 plus Israelis.

In the following months, the US alone experience an "unprecedented rise in antisemitic incidents" according to the Anti-Defamation League; accumulating in a 337% total increase with more than 2000 incidents reported between October 7th and December 7th of 2023. The league states that this was "the highest number of incidents during any two-month period since ADL began tracking in 1979." This includes one fatality, forty incidents of physical assault, 337 incidents of vandalism, 749 incidents of verbal or written harassment, and 905 rallies that included antisemitic rhetoric [adl.org 2024].

Innocent Palestinian citizens deserve a place to live and raise their families. We must condemn the actions of the Israeli government and Benjamin Netanyahu.

But we also must clearly understand that the actions of the Israeli government do not represent the Jewish people.

That is why the timing for a play like *Kristallglas* could not be more relevant. In the aftermath of the October 7th terror attacks - an event which I could not have predicted when writing *Kristallglas* in May of 2023 - both Jewish AND Muslim hate has skyrocketed but once again devolved into an "Us vs. Them" idea; the same idea that Adolf Hitler pushed on Germany.

We can not fight hate when we are fighting each other. We can not let hate win. We will not let hate win.

A reminder: that "Never Again" does not mean "Never Again To Me." It means "Never Again To Anyone."

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(German Pronunciation Presented in Bold Italics)
(Yiddish Pronunciation Presented In Bold Underlined Italics)

It's 1938. Stage is set with many shelves all of which are covered in crystal glassware of many different varieties - plates, bowls, cups, ashtrays and the like. At one end of the stage sits a counter (also covered in crystal) and next to it a door. JOSEF ROSEN *enters from off stage carrying boxes. He sets the boxes down on the counter, removes even more crystal pieces from them, and goes to restock the shelves. A clock chimes 8pm. As the last chime rings out, a tall, slim man enters through the door. Josef speaks but continues to stock selfs - his back turned to the man.*

JOSEF: Uh, no no. Wir haben geschlossen ***(Vi-r Ha-Been Gesh-osh-lynn)***[1]. Mein Herr ***(Mine Hair)***[2], if you please. We are closed. Come back tomorrow, I can assist you in any way that you-

KARL: Now really, Herr ***(Hair)***[3] Rosen. Is that any way to greet a friend?

Josef turns to sees his old friend KARL SCHMIDT.

JOSEF: Karl?! Karl Schmidt!

He runs to him and embraces him.

I can't believe it! After how long? Oh, good to see you! How have you been?

KARL: Quite well. Yourself, Josef?

JOSEF: Oy, can't complain.

KARL: I'm sorry if now is an inconvenient time but—

JOSEF: Nonsense. You know I'd always make time for you, my friend. Come, how can I assist?

KARL: An anniversary present.

JOSEF: My my, for Fräulein ***(Fr-ow-Line)***[4] Kost?

KARL: It's Frau ***(Fr-ow)***[5] Schmidt now.

JOSEF: No! Really? Karl, since when?!

KARL: A year on Samstag ***(Zam-stack)***[6].

JOSEF: A year already?! Oy, I can't believe it. I always knew you two would make it in the end. But uh… my invitation? Am I to be assuming it got lost in the mail?

KARL: Aha. Well. It was a small gathering— only a few witnesses. You know Maria, not very keen on the large party scene.

JOSEF: Strange, that's not how I remember her. In school she always—

KARL: Her parents didn't want anyone from the old neighborhood so—

JOSEF: *(cutting off)* Karl. I only tease. I am happy for you both and wish a blessing on your house.

KARL: Thank you, Josef.

JOSEF: Now! What exactly are you looking for?

KARL: Something that she will use everyday. Or— or perhaps something that brings out the best of her personality.

JOSEF: Hmmm… got it.

He goes to one of the shelves and searches. He grabs a crystal ashtray. He brings it to Karl.

Aha! An ashenbecher ***(Ash-en-Bay-her)***[7]!

KARL: An ashtray?

JOSEF: Exactly!

KARL: An ashtray will bring out the best of her personality?

JOSEF: Well, maybe not. But she'll use it everyday!

KARL: If only it were that simple, friend. She's given up smoking.

JOSEF: Really? For why?

KARL: Nonsense ideas. Thinks it's going to make her ill.

JOSEF: That <u>is</u> a nonsense idea. No matter.

He goes and puts back the ashtray. He continues to search through the shelves as he speaks.

JOSEF Cont.: Let's see. Hmm. Josef Rosen you schlemiel ***(Sh-la-meal)***[1] what have you got for Mrs. Schmidt, huh? Serving tray? No no, there's nothing romantic about a serving tray.

KARL: What about that decanter?

JOSEF: Oh ho! Nice catch Mr. Schmidt! Very nice! A decanter, huh?

He goes and grabs the decanter.

Yes indeed, very nice. A beautiful yet sturdy vessel. Perfect for the lady's perfume. Then again, it could always be used the way I prefer to use them:

BOTH: For wine!

JOSEF: Ha! You know me so well, Karl!

KARL: Never change, Josef.

JOSEF: I'll box this up for you.

He goes to the counter and proceeds to box and wrap the decanter.

I do hope that Maria enjoys this.

KARL: I promise you, she will.

JOSEF: Excellent. Greet her for me and wish her my best. And next time don't be a stranger. You know you're always welcome in my shop.

He hands Karl the box.

KARL: I will… Good to see you Josef.

He opens the door to leave. He turns before he shuts the door.

Thank you again.

He cheerfully raises his arm.

Heil Hitler.

JOSEF: … Heil Hitler.

Josef raises his arm.