

Our Class

By Tadeusz Stobodzianek

Number: 677

First performance: 6/2/2014

Directed by Hanan Snir

Translated by Anat Zajdman

Dramaturg: Varda Fish

Music: Shosh Riseman

Set: Roni Toren

Costumes: Polina Adamov

Lighting: Meir Alon

Choreography: Miri Lazar

Lyrics translated by Daniel Efrat

Cast

Abram: Alon Dahan

Heniek: Roi Miller

Rachelka/Marianna: Evgenia Dodina

Jakub Katz: David Bilenca

Wladek: Rotem Keinan

Menachem: Eran Mor

Zygmunt: Dan Shapira

Zocha: Miki Peleg-Rotshtein

Dora: Netta Garti

Rysiek: Alex Krul

Our Class deals with the complicated ties between Poles and Jews during the Second World War. Ten children, one class, fragments of their life growing up together in a small Polish village. Love and murder, memory and forgetfulness, rape and compassion are all mingled into a powerful dramatic world that is both breathtaking and moving.

The play is local and universal, the events having actually taken place. In the village of Jedwabne in Eastern Poland, on the 10th of July, 1941, Polish Catholic neighbours broke into the homes of the Jews they had grown up with since kindergarten, forced them into the local barn and set 1600 Jews on fire.

Following an investigation in 1949, in which only a few men were put on trial for the brutal murder of the Jews, Jan Tomasz Gross, a world famous war historian, wrote his book 'Neighbours' based on the testimonies of eye witnesses. At the same time, the Polish journalist Ana Bikont, went to Jedwabne, interviewed many of the local people who witnessed the violence and murder, and wrote a book 'We From Jedwabne'. Agnieszka Arnold, a well known Polish film director, made a film about the Jedwabne pogrom.

Based on these sources, the Polish playwright wrote his play.

As much as the play is based on a local pogrom, it carries a universal message for every society that does not accept 'the other'; where children grow up in an environment of intolerance, racism and prejudice.

Following the festival, the play had successful runs at The Royal National Theatre, London, Katona Theatre, Budapest, New York, Poland, and all around the world.

Tadeusz Slobodzianek is the director of Na Woli Theatre and Dramatyczny Theatre in Warsaw, and head of the Laboratorium Dramatu, a laboratory for new playwriting in Warsaw.