

Walk of Fame The Simultaneity of Success and Persecution

16 November 2023–1 April 2024



Im Palais Lobkowitz
Lobkowitzplatz 2, 1010 Wien
presse@theatermuseum.at
www.theatermuseum.at

The intervention *Walk of Fame* shines a light on representatives of the Viennese world of theatre between 1900 and 1938 who are now barely remembered or have been forgotten entirely. 14 persons were chosen to represent a world of cosmopolitan Jewish (theatre) modernity, painting a picture of Vienna as a cosmopolitan city with a transgressive cultural awareness that is stunning to our contemporary perspective.

Little remains of this cosmopolitan era's cultural heritage in Vienna today. *Walk of Fame* is seeking out the vestiges by returning the life and work of these inspiring personalities to the surface and recounting the history of oblivion as a history of the Holocaust and persecution.

The intervention is a collaboration of Theatermuseum with students and the archive at the University of Vienna's Institute of Theatre, Film, and Media Studies.

Walk of Fame remembers emancipated women working as directors, writers, musicians, actors, scholars, and journalists. They include the writer and journalist **Else Feldmann**, who was committed to political and social causes, Vienna's first female director and dramaturge **Maria Gutmann** and the first female stage direction student **Henny Pia Herzer**, pianist and composer **Camilla Frydan**, actor **Lia Rosen** and theatre historian and scholar of English language and literature **Helene Richter**.

The intervention also recalls 'theatre all-rounders' who covered everything from stage management and play production to script and journalism in their working lives. They include **Siegfried Geyer**, the renowned playwrights and journalists **Oscar Friedmann** and **Armin Friedmann**, the theatre critic and historian **Siegfried Löwy**, the dramaturge **Heinrich Glücksmann**, the editor **Hans Liebstöckl** as well as one frequent visitor of the theatre: **Bernhard Krakauer**.

Seeking Out What Remains

The audience is invited to set out from the question 'Who was ... ?' to seek out vestiges of these personalities and engage with their inspiring and deeply painful life stories in order to establish a connection between the past and our present. The audience encounters them as life-size pop-up figures in the staircase and exhibition rooms of the Theatermuseum. Beginning from the point of oblivion, the figures' outlines are initially blurred, but their individual faces appear clearly to look straight at the audience. Each figure tells their own story on a double-sided newspaper spread that is influenced by the style of the magazine *Die Bühne*, established in 1924, the first editor-in-chief of which is one of those who is set to be rediscovered in the intervention: Hans Liebstöckl. A short biography provides a first insight into the life and work of a person who is no longer established in public knowledge or the canon of theatre history. Next, we delve into the personality's era of success: a happy, promising life as recounted in the newspaper jargon of the 1920s and 1930s on the basis of historical facts. The final page, 'What remains?', shows aspects of the exclusion from society that befell the protagonists after March 1938, the loss of their livelihood, displacement, murder, oblivion.

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'What remains?' raises the question of our responsibility in current-day remembrance politics. By the end of their tour of this intervention, the audience will have assembled a complete magazine that can be taken home as a memento.

Each figure is also furnished with a QR code that unlocks digital information about each of these persons to the visitors on an elaborately designed website, which will remain in place beyond the period of the intervention and is set to be expanded in the future. In addition, some of the protagonists can even be found on rare audio or video material.

University meets Museum

The intervention *Walk of Fame* emerged from a course taught by Birgit Peter and Theresa Eckstein at the University of Vienna's Institute for Theatre, Film, and Media Studies in the winter semester of 2022/23. This course, which Theatermuseum director Marie-Theres Arnbom attended as a guest, focussed on forgotten Jewish personalities of the world of theatre, raising her interest to employ the project as a topic for the Theatermuseum. This in turn inspired the group to design an innovative exhibition concept to take a stand against oblivion. Students and teachers volunteered to collaborate on the development of the idea, concept, research, historical contextualisation, choice of objects, graphic design, text production, and translation, coordinated and realized together with the departments of the Kunsthistorisches Museum and the Theatermuseum.

The students provide greater insight into the project on an Instagram account set up especially for the intervention: @walkoffamevienna

Intervention website: walkoffame.theatermuseum.at

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Events

Über Weiter Leben. Geschichten aus Wien // Of Surviving and Living. Viennese Stories (2019)

Film screening and conversation between film makers Theresa Eckstein, Birgit Peter and Julia Demmer (erinnern.at)

The film gives an insight into the lives of seven Jewish Austrians who survived the Holocaust as children, each in different ways. They all returned to Vienna, where everything had begun in the year 1938. The film is not a historical memorial, but tells different life stories. Each portrait ends with images of current-day Vienna that relate to the narrative.

With: Lucia Heilman, Helga Pollak-Kinsky, Elfi Stern, Kurt Rosenkranz, Alfred Schreier, Herbert Schwarz, Walter Stern

Directors/idea: Theresa Eckstein, Birgit Peter

Camera: Sandra Richter/Georg Vogt

Editing: Karl Bretschneider

95 minutes, German/English subtitles

Vienna 2019

Thu, 25 Jan 2024, 7 pm

Free admission, please register: info@theatermuseum.at

Erinnerungspolitik als Vita Activa gegen Antisemitismus // Politics of Remembrance as Vita Activa against Antisemitism

Panel Discussion

With Tanja Eckstein (Café Centropa), Matteo Rosoli (Gedenkdiener volunteer, Terezín Memorial), Philipp Rohrbach (Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies), Theresa Eckstein and Birgit Peter (curators of the intervention Walk of Fame)

Thu, 14 March 2024, 7 pm

Free admission, please register: info@theatermuseum.at

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Press photographs

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They are available for download under www.theatermuseum.at/presse/

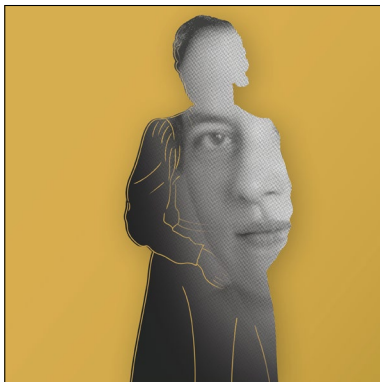


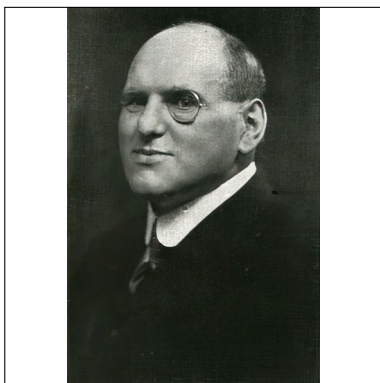
Image of the intervention



Else Feldmann
Photograph: Franz Xaver Setzer, 1938
© Archiv Setzer-Tschiedel / brandstaetter
images / picturedesk.com



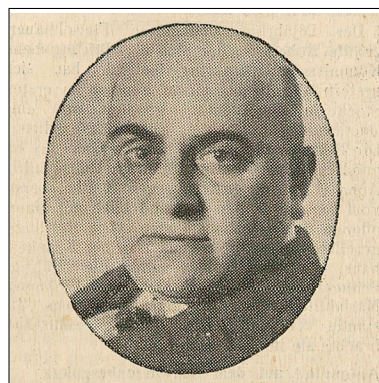
Armin Friedmann
Photograph: Madame d'Ora, 1908
© ÖNB-Bildarchiv / picturedesk.com



Oscar Friedmann
Photograph: Residenz-Atelier, in:
O. Friedmann (ed.), *Prominenten Almanach*,
Wien–Leipzig 1930, p. 80. Departmental
Library University of Vienna, Institute of
Theatre, Film, and Media Studies, Z-189



Camilla Frydan
Photograph: Edith Barakovich, 1919
© Edith Brakovich / Ullstein Bild /
picturedesk.com



Siegfried Geyer
in: *Die Stunde*, 2 August 1925, p. 5
Source: ANNO / Österreichische
Nationalbibliothek

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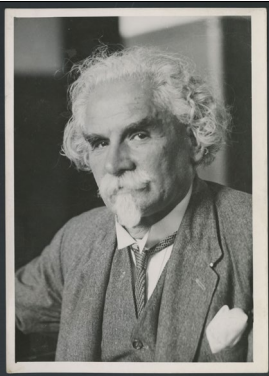
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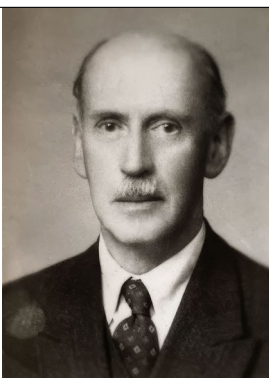
Heinrich Glücksmann
Photograph: Atelier Willinger, 1934
© KHM-Museumsverband, Theatermuseum



Maria Gutmann
in: *Radio Wien*, picture supplement 45/1,
6 August 1928, p. 23
Source: ANNO / Österreichische
Nationalbibliothek



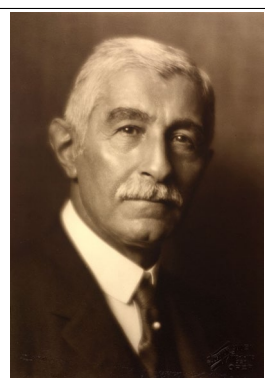
Henny Pia Herzer, undated
© Stadtmuseum Bad Ischl



Bernhard Krakauer, undated
© Miriam Rothbacher



Hans Liebstöckl
Photograph: unknown photographer,
undated
© ÖNB-Bildarchiv / picturedesk.com



Siegfried Löwy
Photograph: Georg Fayer, from the picture
book *Bildnisalbum zur Beethoven-
Zentenarfeier* (1927)
© ÖNB-Bildarchiv / picturedesk.com

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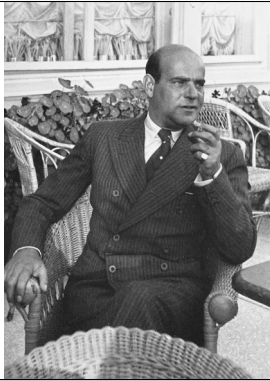
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Josef Rehberger, undated
© KHM-Museumsverband, Theatermuseum



Helene Richter,
Photograph: Photo Fayer, Vienna, 1931
© ÖNB-Bildarchiv / picturedesk.com,
inv. no.: Pf 47.910:C(1)



Lia Rosen
Photograph: Marie Mertens,
Photographisches Kunstatelier 'Moderne'
Vienna, c.1915
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Opening hours

Daily except Tue 10 am – 6 pm

Entrance fees

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theatermuseum.at/newsletter

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We request that, in addition to mentioning your medium, you also specify the date of your visit and attach a scan of your valid press pass. Many thanks for your understanding!

Contact

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