General Information:
Composer: Gerald Cohen
Librettist: Deborah Brevoort
Stage Director: Omer Ben Seadia
Set Designer: Francois-Pierre Couture
Lighting Designer: Francois-Pierre Couture
Costume Designer: Jessica Jahn
Projections Designer: Hana Kim
Stage Manager: Katie Preissner
Built by: Opera Colorado
Year Built: 2017-2018

Synopsis:
Act One – June 1943 to February 1944
In Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, friends and family gather to celebrate Lisette’s birthday. Amongst the guests are Manja and Jaap Polak, unhappily married, but having agreed to stay together until the war ends. Jaap is immediately drawn to another party guest: Ina Soep, attending with her parents and her fiancé Rudi. Festivities are interrupted by a troop of Nazis who arrest several of the guests, including Rudi.

Manja, Jaap, his parents, and Lisette arrive at Holland’s Westerbork Transit Camp. They are warned about so-called Tuesday Transports, at which time prisoners are regularly dispatched to crueler camps in the East. Ina and her parents also arrive, Ina fearful of the fate of Rudi, who has been delivered to another camp. Jaap advises her that imagining a better future is the only way to survive their present horror.

The Commandant announces that it is time for Tuesday Transport. Jaap’s parents are amongst those selected, but Jaap manages to pocket the Commandant’s pencil. He writes a love note to Ina, and Lisette passes it onward. She also brings back Ina’s reply.

Word of the budding romance spreads. Manja, humiliated, insists it must stop. Now the Commandant reads the list of names for the next Tuesday Transport: both Jaap and Manja are amongst those to be sent to Bergen-Belsen.

Act Two – May 1944 to June 1945
Ina, too, arrives at Bergen-Belsen. She and Jaap meet behind the barracks, dreaming of the simple joys they intend to share someday. Manja, and Ina’s father Abraham, both declare the romance must end. Jaap and Ina agree, though they pledge to continue writing letters. Ina, who works in the Commandant’s office, is asked to steal for Jaap another pencil. Hearing word of grim events at Auschwitz, she fears for the survival of Rudi.

On Passover, the guards are counting the prisoners. Ina slips off to steal a pencil for Jaap. Word comes that the camps it to be evacuated. As the prisoners are dispatched to other camps, Ina and Jaap find themselves heading in opposite directions. Seriously ill, he collapses unconscious.

Back in Amsterdam, everyone in the neighborhood searches for word of loved ones...

For More Information, please contact:
Katie Preissner, Director of Production
kpreissner@operacolorado.org
303.468.2049 (direct)
Roles / Original Cast:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Voice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ina Soep</td>
<td>Inna Dukach</td>
<td>Lyric Soprano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jaap Polak</td>
<td>Gideon Dabi</td>
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<td>Manja Polak</td>
<td>Adriana Zabala</td>
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<td>Rudi Acohen</td>
<td>Nathan Ward</td>
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<td>Abraham Soep</td>
<td>Andrew Garland</td>
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<td>Lisette</td>
<td>Katherine Beck</td>
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<td>The Commandant</td>
<td>Heath Martin</td>
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<td>Nazi / SS Guard #1</td>
<td>Nicholas Kreider</td>
<td>Baritone</td>
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<td>Nazi / SS Guard #2</td>
<td>Andrew Hiers</td>
<td>Bass</td>
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Chorus:
8 (SSAATTBB)

Act 1, Scene 1: Amsterdam Party-goers
Remainder of show: Prisoners of Westerbork & Bergen-Belsen
(Ina’s Mother and Jaap’s Parents will be in the chorus)

Orchestration:
- Winds: Flute (doubling piccolo), Oboe (doubling English Horn), Clarinet in Bb, Bass Clarinet in Bb, Bassoon, Horn in F
- Percussion: 1 player (Timpani, Glockenspiel, Triangle, Suspended Cymbal, Snare Drum, Wood Block, 3 Tom-Toms)
- Piano
- Solo String: Violin I and II, Viola I and II, Cello, Bass

For Musical Rights, please contact Composer – Gerald Cohen – gerald@geraldcohenmusic.com

Rental Information:
Number of Trucks: 1
Size of Truck: 53’
Costs: Available upon request
Rail shipment permitted: No
Insurance Required: $165,000

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<td>Sound</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approx. Time</td>
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<td>8 hrs</td>
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First Rights of Refusal and Royalties:
Director – Omer Ben Seadia – FRR or royalty equal to 10% of rental fee if unavailable
Lighting Designer – Francois-Pierre Couture – FRR or royalty equal to 10% of rental fee if unavailable
Projections Designer – Hana Kim – FRR or royalty equal to 10% of rental fee if unavailable
Costume Designer – Jessica Jahn – Royalty equal to 10% of rental fee

Technical Information / Venue Details:
Production presented in the Elaine Wolf Theatre, Mizel Arts & Culture Center at the JCC, Denver
Proscenium Width: 38’        | Orchestra Pit Opening: 16’4” x 6’3”
Proscenium Height: 20’ to border | Orchestra Pit Depth: 8’
Fly Space (top of proscenium to ceiling): 8’6” | Stage Depth (plaster line to back wall): 25’5”
Production Photos:

STEA A PENCIL FOR ME

Act 1, Scene 1 – Life in Amsterdam

Act 1, Scene 3 – Arrival at Westerbork
Act 1, Scene 5 – Ina talks to Rudi

Act 1, Scene 7 – A pencil is stolen
Act 1, Scene 8 – Messenger of Love

Act 2, Scene 1 – Roll Call: Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp
Act 2, Scene 4 – Darkness Descends

Act 2, Scene 6: Passover/Roll Call Contemplation
Act 2, Scene 9: Amsterdam
Costume Photos:

STEAL A PENCIL FOR ME

Act 1

Ina Soep

Act 2

Manja Polak
Rudi Acohen

Commandant

First Nazi

Second Nazi

Coro Man Act 1

Coro Man Act 2