LUNA STAGE AND RICHARD JORDAN PRODUCTIONS
WITH THE TRAVERSE THEATRE
PRESENT

Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library

BY
JENNY LYN BADER

DIRECTED BY
ARI LAURA KREITH

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WITH THE TRAVERSE THEATRE
PRESENT

Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library

BY JENNY LYN BADER
DIRECTED BY ARI LAURA KREITH

— CAST —

Hannah ..... ELLA KAILLE*
Karl ..... BRETT TEMPLE*
Erich (Sep 12–20) ..... DANIEL CANTOR*
Erich (Sep 22–Oct 4) ..... DREW HIRSHFIELD*
Erich (Oct 6–25) ..... TOMMY SCHRIDER*

— PRODUCTION TEAM —

Playwright ..... JENNY LYN BADER
Director ..... ARI LAURA KREITH§
Scenic Design ..... LAUREN HELPERN†
Lighting Design ..... ZACHARY CONNELL
Sound Design ..... MEGAN CULLEY
Costume Design ..... DEBORAH CANEY†
Production Stage Manager ..... INGRID PIERSON*
Assistant Stage Manager ..... RAFI LEVAVY*
Sound Board Operator ..... HANNAH STARR
Creative Producer ..... RICHARD JORDAN
Casting Director ..... JUDY BOWMAN
Production Manager ..... MATT MONACO
Producers ..... LUNA STAGE
and RICHARD JORDAN PRODUCTIONS
Associate Producer ..... TRAVERSE THEATRE

Time: 1933
Place: Berlin

Run time: 90 minutes with no intermission

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

†Member of United Scenic Artists. Designers in LORT Theaters are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.

§The Director is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

What do we do when we no longer trust that laws will keep us safe? How do we act with integrity when governments become chaotic? How do we know which "facts" are true? At what point do we break rules, challenge authority, risk everything?

These questions lie at the heart of ***Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library***. Set against the backdrop of impending fascism, the play challenges us to hone our moral imaginations. It reminds us that there's a difference between doing what's "right" and doing what's right. It reminds us that sometimes the most dangerous thing is to do our job well.

And it inspires us to look deeply at our human capacity for connection and explore how we can understand one another even in seemingly impossible circumstances. It offers a glimpse of how we might move beyond entrenched ideologies. It suggests that when we stay in the room together, there exists the possibility for connection, understanding, and change.

Theater is a laboratory that allows us to explore our capacity as human beings, and to stretch beyond what we believe is possible. I hope this play invites you to listen deeply to someone you thought you never could, and to stand up boldly for what you know to be true.



Ari Laura Kreith

HISTORICAL NOTE

The 1920s and '30s were a time of immense political upheaval in Germany. By the spring of 1933, the Nazi party had risen to power and begun to persecute political enemies and those deemed undesirable by the party — including the Roma people, leftists, gay people, those with disabilities, and Jews. At this moment, many Germans still believed that their nation could return to the progressivism of recent decades, but the Nazis were attempting to stamp out any such liberal sentiment, eventually leading Europe into the most destructive war in human history.

This play is inspired by real events that took place in 1933 Berlin.

ELLA KAILLE
(Hannah)



Ella Kaille is delighted to be back at 59E59 Theaters where she first performed in ***Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library*** before traveling with the show to WP, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, Luna Stage, and Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre. Other Off Broadway/NYC: ***Can You Forgive Her?*** (Vineyard Theatre), ***Intimacy*** (The New Group), ***Card and Gift*** (Clubbed Thumb), ***Connected*** (59E59 Theaters), ***On the Verge*** (Attic Theater), ***Three Musketeers: 1941*** (Project Y), ***A Splintered Soul*** (Rosalind Productions). Other regional: ***The Two Hander*** (NJ Rep), ***Joy and Pandemic*** (Huntington Theatre Company), ***Actually*** (Aurora), ***The Wolves*** (Capital Stage); ***Sovereignty*** and ***Thomas and Sally*** (Marin Theatre Company); ***The Siegel*** (City Lights); ***4000 Miles*** and ***You Will Remember Me*** (Hudson Stage); ***Visitors*** and ***The Screenwriter's Daughter*** (Martha's Vineyard Playhouse); ***Twelfth Night*** (Payomet). TV/Film: *Phil Spector* (HBO), *The Affair* (Showtime), *Lie to Me* (Fox), *Knife Fight, Two-Bit Waltz, Addiction: A 60's Love Story, I Am Michael, Pitching Tents*, and starring in the upcoming film *God of Earth*. Training: Yale University and LAMDA.

BRETT TEMPLE
(Karl)



Brett Temple is thrilled to return to 59E59 Theaters in ***Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library*** after its run at the Traverse Theatre during Edinburgh Fringe. He originated the role at Luna Stage directly out of university and has since traveled with the company to 59E59 Theaters, WP Theater, and Martha's Vineyard Playhouse. He is grateful to Luna for this opportunity. Recent credits include the Audible original audiobook series *Aunties*. Stage credits: ***Ardor*** at the Brooklyn Center for Theatre Research, ***The Valley of the Shadow*** at WP Theater, and Prince Hal in ***Henry IV: Part One*** at Shakespeare's Globe (Rutgers Acting Conservatory). Screen credits include the upcoming feature *When the Moon Was Twice as Big, Mrs. Fletcher* (HBO), and *Bull* (CBS). Training: Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts.

DREW HIRSHFIELD
(Erich)



Drew is lucky enough to have worked on plays by Bertolt Brecht, Francis Beaumont, Sandy Rustin, Arthur Miller, Kate Hamill, Robert Askins, Jordan Seavey, Lucas Hnath, Anton Chekhov, Steve Martin, Peter Shaffer, Lanford Wilson, Sam Shepard, Oliver Goldsmith, Tom Stoppard, Neil Simon, Steven Sater, Shakespeare, and many others, at theaters and rehearsal rooms large and small across the country. He earned an MFA from American Conservatory Theater.

DANIEL CANTOR
(Erich)



Daniel Cantor's acting credits include the Broadway cast of ***Leopoldstadt***; Off Broadway in ***Things You Shouldn't Say Past Midnight***, ***Tuesdays with Morrie***, ***Strictly Personal***; the national production of ***Picasso at the Lapin Agile***. Chicago credits include Goodman Theater, Court Theater, Victory Gardens, Drury Lane, Chicago Shakespeare, Silk Road Rising, Next Theater, American Theater Company. Regional credits include A.C.T., Berkeley Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse, Milwaukee Rep, Cleveland Play House, Studio Theater (DC), Hartford TheaterWorks, Marin Theater, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, CATF, Barrington Stage, Notre Dame Shakespeare, Arkansas Rep, Worcester Foothills Theater, Mill Mountain Theater, National Shakespeare Company. TV/film appearances include

Empire, Chicago Fire, Chicago PD, Law & Order, Law & Order: SVU, Law and Order: CI, Conviction, Sopranos (webisode), *As the World Turns, Asphalt Man, Miskits, The Auteur Theory, Alchemy, Justice, House of Satisfaction, Alternative Universe: A Rescue Mission.*

TOMMY SCHRIDER
(Erich)



Tommy Schrider appeared in ***War Horse*** on Broadway, as well as shows at Signature Theater, Theater for a New Audience, Red Bull Theater, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Ensemble Studio Theater, Irish Rep, New York Theater Workshop, Keen Company, Classic Stage, PROTOTYPE Festival, Rattlestick Theater, Sheen Center. His regional credits include Yale Rep, South Coast Rep, Huntington, Westport Playhouse, Berkshire Theater Festival, Williamstown, Syracuse Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Hangar Theater, Andrew's Lane Theater in Dublin. TV: *The Gilded Age, The Americans, POSE, Blacklist, Elementary, The Good Fight, The Enemy Within, Madame Secretary, Medium, Numbers, L&O.* Podcasts: *Othello, Pericles* for Play On/Next Chapter Podcasts. He teaches acting at Adelphi University. MFA: NYU.

JENNY LYN BADER
(Playwright)

Jenny Lyn Bader is thrilled that ***Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library*** is back at 59E59 Theaters following its European premiere at Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre. Her other plays include ***Equally Divine*** (14th St. Y), ***In Flight*** (Workshop Theatre), ***Manhattan Casanova*** (Hudson Stage), and ***None of the Above*** (New Georges). One-acts include ***Miss America*** (NY Int'l Fringe, "Best of Fringe" selection) and ***Worldness*** (Humana Festival). Audio productions include ***Communal Table*** (Broadway Podcast Network) and ***Tree Confessions*** (TINATC, w/ Kathleen Chalfant). Her work has appeared in *Plays International & Europe, Lincoln Center Theater Review,* and *The New York Times,* where she was a frequent contributor to the "Week in Review." A Harvard alumna, she has received the Best Documentary One-Woman Show Award (United Solo), Athena Playwriting Fellowship, Edith Oliver Award (O'Neill Center), and Lark Playwriting Fellowship (nominated by Wendy Wasserstein). Named a 2025 "Visionary Playwright" by Theater Masters, she belongs to the Dramatists Guild, LPTW, and Honor Roll.

ARI LAURA KREITH
(Director)

Ari Laura Kreith is artistic director of Luna Stage, and director of the world premiere of ***Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library*** at 59E59 Theaters, WP Theater, and Luna Stage, as well as its European premiere at Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre. She commissioned/directed the world premiere of ***RIFT*** at Luna Stage and its European premiere at Traverse Theatre (*Scotsman* Fringe First Award); conceived/directed ***The Ground on Which We Stand*** as site-specific, ensemble, and solo performances (Giles R. Wright Designation for Excellence in African American History); directed the world premiere and Off Broadway transfer of ***Pirira*** (NY Innovative Theatre Award for Outstanding Premiere), as well as world and international premieres of ***Mourning Sun*** in the US (West End Theatre) and Uganda (Kampala Int'l Theater Festival); created immersive productions for Queens Museum and the New York Transit Museum; and conceived/directed Theatre 167's ***Jackson Heights Trilogy*** – 3 full-length plays collaboratively written by 18 playwrights featuring 37 actors in 93 roles in 14 languages. She is a recipient of the LPTW Lucille Lortel Award, a Yale alum, and grew up in 27 countries.

INGRID PIERSON
(Production Stage Manager)

Ingrid Pierson returns to ***Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library*** following working

as stage manager for its previous New York productions. Other credits include: ***All The Devils Are Here***, ***Ghost of John McCain***, NJ Rep, Disney Theatrical Group, 59E59 Theaters, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Origin Theater Company, Page 73, Pan Asian Rep, Jewish Plays Project. National tour: ***Aladdin***, Theatreworks USA. Regional: Contemporary American Theater Festival, Riverside Theatre (FL), Theatre by the Sea, Gateway Playhouse, Sharon Playhouse, Gloucester Stage Company, Theater at Monmouth, Argyle Theatre, Luna Stage, Mill Mountain Theater, Weathervane Repertory Theatre. Proud member of AEA.

LAUREN HELPERN

(Set Designer)

Lauren Helpern is an award-winning theater designer, and also creates scenery for comedy specials — including *Ari Shaffir: Jew* and *Jordan Jensen: Take Me With You* on Netflix, and *Randy Feltface: First Banana* and *Human Trials* on YouTube — as well as events, activations, and exhibits. She is a partner in Butter Designs.

ZACHARY CONNELL

(Lighting Designer)

Zachary Connell is a New York City-based lighting designer and programmer whose work spans theater, opera, and dance. He returns to ***Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library*** for his third production, following engagements at Martha's Vineyard Playhouse and Luna Stage. As a programmer, he has worked with Roundabout Theatre Company and Manhattan Theatre Club and is the current programmer on the second national tour of ***Hadestown***. Zachary holds a BFA in Lighting Design from Boston University.

MEGAN CULLEY

(Sound Design)

Selected design credits include: ***Antigone*** (Cleveland Play House); ***Cullud Wattah*** (The Public Theater), ***Holmes & Watson Apt. 2B*** (KCRep); ***Grounded/Hurricane Diane/Stew/Rust*** (Dobama Theater); ***Terminus*** (New York Theatre Workshop), ***Stranger Sings!*** (Off Broadway), ***Inanimate*** (The Flea Theater), ***The Last Match*** (B Street Theatre), ***Roan @ the Gates*** (Luna Stage), ***The Color Purple*** (Theatre Horizon). Broadway Associate Design: ***Purpose***, ***Eureka Day***, ***Floyd Collins***, ***McNeal***, ***Uncle Vanya***, ***A Christmas Carol*** (2022), ***Jaja's African Hair Braiding***; ***Flying Over Sunset***, ***The Balusters***. Other Selected Associate Design: ***Dolly: A True Original Musical***, ***The Secret Garden*** (Center Theatre Group); ***The Preacher's Wife*** (Alliance Theatre), ***King James*** (MTC).

DEBORAH CANEY

(Costume Designer)

Deborah Caney has been designing costumes for over 25 years. She has been the resident costume designer at Luna Stage since 2008. Recent productions include the 2025 Scotsman Fringe First Award-winning play ***RIFT*** at the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh. She also designed costumes for ***Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library*** Off Broadway at 59E59 Theaters and WP Theater. Other credits include: the operas ***Ghosts of Gatsby***, ***The Beautiful Bridegroom***, ***Hansel & Gretel***, and ***The Medium***, directed by Karen Driscoll at The Alexander Kasser Theater; ***Ain't Misbehavin'*** directed by 2019 Tony Award winner André De Shields at NJPAC and Crossroads Theatre Co.

RAFI LEVAVY

(Assistant Stage Manager)

Rafi Levavy has worked on 14 Off Broadway productions, and with Jim Henson Productions and Walt Disney Theatrical Productions. Select regional experience includes Interlochen Shakespeare Festival, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Central Square Theater, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Virginia Stage Company, Casa Mañana, Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater, Lyric Stage Company of Boston, Lincoln Center Theatre, Berkshire

Theatre Festival, Barter Theater, George Street Playhouse, Maine State Music Theatre and Paper Mill Playhouse. Additionally he has toured nationally with ***Beautiful: The Carole King Musical***. A proud member of Equity, Rafi holds a degree in computer science from Brandeis University.

JUDY BOWMAN, CSA
(Casting Director)

Judy Bowman, CSA is honored to be the casting director for this show's journey over the last 2 years, from 59E59 to WP Theater, Martha's Vineyard, Edinburgh, and now back to 59E59. Recently at 59E59: ***Not Nobody*** (Brian Dykstra/Margarett Perry). Upcoming: ***The Blue Violinist*** (Theater Row/Jonathan Silverstein), Peter Macklin's ***Bullethead*** (dir. Scott Schwartz), and ***Effa Loves Baseball*** (Premiere Stages). With Luna Stage: ***RIFT***, ***A Case for the Existence of God***, ***Westphalia***, and several workshops. Film: *God of Earth, First Shift, Hurricane Bianca, Copenhagen, Gold Star*, and *Separation*. Resident casting director for Jewish Plays Project. Artios Award nominee for Best Webseries Casting, PJ Barnum Award recipient.

www.judybowmancasting.com

TRAVERSE THEATRE
(Associate Producer)

Traverse Theatre is a champion of performance, experience, and discovery. Enabling people to access and engage with theatre is our fundamental mission, and we want our work to represent, speak to and be seen by the broadest cross-section of society. Across our programme, you can encounter trailblazing creativity that offers unique opportunities to explore the world around us, connect with the lives of others and spark that vital curiosity in what it is to be human. Our programming model holds space for community-inspired and co-created collaborative work. Alongside traditional plays and commissioning trajectories, these works with social change at its core make for a resonant, relevant, and impactful programme. We make theatre and tell stories with heart, for audiences across the UK and internationally, always aiming to reach those who may not traditionally visit the theatre or connect with live performances. As Scotland's premier new work theatre, this commitment drives each strand of our work, ensuring that the Traverse continues for another six decades and long into the future. We empower artists and audiences to make sense of the world today, providing a safe space to question, learn, empathise and – crucially – encounter different people and experiences. Conversation and the coming together of groups are central to a democratic society, and we support equal expression and understanding for the future of a healthy national and international community.

LUNA STAGE
(Producer)

Luna Stage develops and produces bold new plays about local and global experiences. Located in West Orange, Luna creates art that celebrates the diversity of our communities and speaks to the most urgent issues of our time. Luna is honored to have premiered and produced ***Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library*** Off Broadway, regionally, and internationally. Recent commissioned world premieres include Gabriel Jason Dean's ***RIFT*** at Luna and its international premiere at Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre (2025 Scotsman Fringe First), and the collaboratively authored, site-specific ***The Ground On Which We Stand*** (2024 Giles R. Wright Designation for Excellence in African American History). Other Luna premieres include Matthew Lopez's breakout play ***The Whipping Man***, which went on to become one of the most widely produced plays in the US, Nikkole Salter's ***Carnaval*** and ***Lines in the Dust***, Craig Alan Edwards' ***The Man In Room 306***, Matt Schatz's ***The Tallest Building in the World***, and Jack Angelo ***Cummings & Sons***. Voted Favorite Small Theatre In New Jersey, Luna received a 2026 NJEDA A.R.T. grant to create community-inspired work in underserved public spaces.

www.lunastage.org

RICHARD JORDAN PRODUCTIONS
(Producer)

Richard Jordan Productions is a leading London-based multi-award-winning creative production company led by British Artistic Producer Richard Jordan. Described by The Stage newspaper as "one of the UK's most prolific theatre producers", for the past 27 years Richard Jordan Productions has been driven by a strong social agenda, committed to developing, commissioning, and producing plays and musicals by new and established writers and artists from around the world. Recipient of 70 international theatre awards including the Tony Award for Best Play (and 11 other Tony nominations); Olivier, Dora, and Emmy Award. The company has produced over 280 productions (36 New York presentations) in 29 countries, incorporating 95 world premieres, producing and collaborating with many of the world's leading theatres including a 23-year producing relationship with Scotland's National Theatre for New Writing, The Traverse in Edinburgh. At the Edinburgh Fringe, Richard Jordan Productions is the recipient of 19 Scotsman Fringe First Awards – the highest number awarded to any independent producer in the fringe's history. In 2013, Richard Jordan Productions became the first UK producer to have been awarded every notable Best New Play Award on and Off Broadway. Richard was the first recipient of the Society of London Theatre New Producers Bursary Award and has been named seven times in The Stage Top 100 UK Arts and Entertainment Professionals. Richard is delighted to continue his relationship with Luna Stage following their award-winning production of ***RIFT*** at the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh, as well as his relationship with 59E59 Theaters following their Brits Off Broadway collaboration with hit plays ***Shellshocked*** (2025) and ***Youth in Flames*** (2026).

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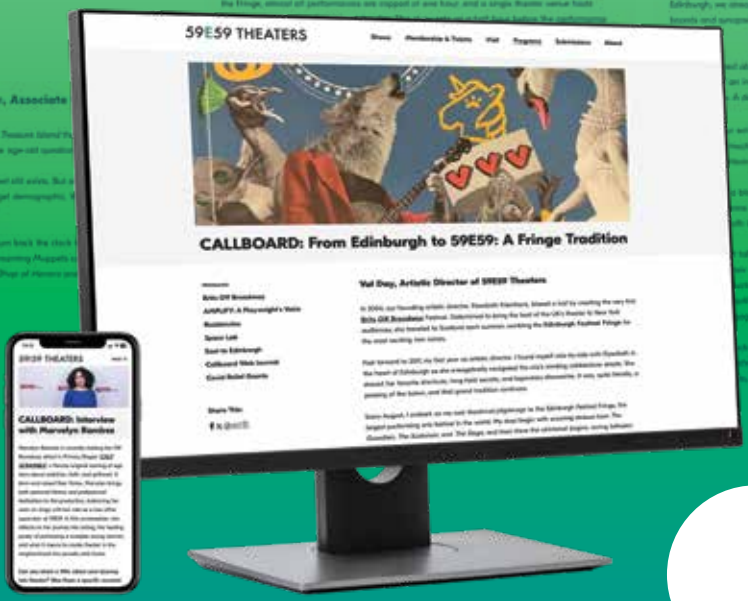
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CURATOR'S NOTE

Luna Stage is a leading voice in New Jersey's Valley Arts District theater scene, dedicated to building community by developing and producing plays with both a local and global perspective that promote diversity and understanding.

It's rare that I bring back a show I've already programmed, but during its first run, we had to turn away so many patrons that I knew Luna Stage's ***Mrs. Stern Wanders the Prussian State Library*** had struck a chord with audiences and deserved more time—and a larger stage—to spread its wings.



VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

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OUR MISSION

59E59 Theaters was established by the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation in 2004 to grant professional space and expertise to non-profit theater companies premiering their work in New York City. Under the leadership of Val Day, Artistic Director, and Brian Beirne, Managing Director, 59E59 Theaters presents a year-round curated program of Off Broadway plays and musicals that are nurtured and supported by providing performance spaces and equipment as well as production, ticketing, FOH, marketing, and press support. These theater companies receive 80% or more of the ticket revenue and pay no weekly rent to 59E59.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

This presentation is not a production of the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation, Inc., which offers its facilities, when available, for productions by not-for-profit theater companies. For further information regarding licensing this theater or other theaters in this Theater Building, contact Brian Beirne, Managing Director. The use of cameras and other recording devices in the Theater is prohibited by law. There is no smoking in this Theater or any part of the Theater Building.