

## Scheune-Text

3 Performances, each with 2 sections where text is interspersed with music fragments.

3 Narrators: A,B (Man) & C

..the scene..

In the barnyard is a tractor, farm machinery.. stuff which has been taken out of the barn to make room for the refugees.

In the barn, the audience is sitting on suitcases and boxes, car tyres, straw bundles.. as if they are refugees. It should feel cramped and uncomfortable, seating is improvised.

In the first part "War " the positioning of the narrators suggest a road through the barn..the to and fro of soldiers through the village. When a narrator speaks, he/she climbs onto a suitcase/crate, the better to be seen and heard.

.....  
**Performance 1: War**

**I / I**

*(Music)*

A: I was 11 years old when the war started. I remember seeing the German soldiers marching past on their way to the Polish border.

*(Music)*

B: It was just before the war, when Poland was invaded. My father was conscripted to join the Army. When Russia was invaded, many from our village were among the fallen, young men, someone from every family .

*(Music)*

C: the endless troops marching through here, it went on and on- A: day and night -B: thousands & thousands of soldiers - C: always heading towards the East..

*(Music)*

A: Then the first prisoners came, from Poland: a troop of 20-year-olds in uniform. They were lodged here and divided out to the farmers. Many of the young men from our village had joined the army and there was a desperate need of labour.

*(Music)*

B: Later, the Russians took the German prisoners to Russia, and put them in work-camps.

*(Music)*

C: Thousands came through here on the way back, along the main street, it went on for days. Several died in the scorching heat. We ran back and forwards with water, we tried at least to give them something to drink. These people.. they were all German..

*(Music)*

B: The war was returned to those who had taken it over the borders into Europe.

*(Music continues)*

**I / II**

B: Then the German soldiers came back.. as prisoners of war. From early in the morning till late at night, day in, day out, they marched along the main street, going west. Those who couldn't go on any further were shot.

*(Music)*

A: They brought back all of the prisoners and we had to join them. We had to march, march, for days on end, but we kept our heads up, that was the main thing..

*(Music)*

C:.. I climbed out of the waggon and went into some farmyard, to ask for something to wrap the baby in... I saw the fires burning in the sky...it was Dresden burning, we were somewhere between Cottbus and Schlabendorf, in the forest..

*(Music)*

A: The house opposite the Gaststätte there, 3 soldiers were shot there, in the yard. We were just children, we watched the whole thing. 2 fell over and died, but one had blood coming out of his ear, and they shot him again.

*(Music)*

B: The war was returned to those who had taken it over the borders into Europe.

*(Music continues)*

## Scheune-Text

### Performance 2: Flight and Occupation

#### II / I

*(Music)*

A: on 18. April '45 they said on the radio that the Russian tanks were moving towards Schlabendorf from Cahlau. We left the village the same evening, with lots of others. We took the waggon, we had a cow to pull the waggon and we could only take the bare necessities.

*(Music)*

B: Practically the whole village, everyone wanted to leave, as they'd already heard so many terrible stories about the Russians.

*(Music)*

C: We left with the horse and cart, and with tractors. We didn't get very far, and the Russians overtook us. They took the horses. We all wanted to go home after that, so we had to walk, pushing the waggons ourselves. It took weeks and weeks...

*(Music)*

A: When we got back to Schlabendorf, we found the school and the house in an indescribable state. The furniture was stolen or smashed, human waste was in every room.

*(Music)*

B: Nearly everyone had buried their household stuff, but the Russians had dug it all up and smashed everything. The things that they could use themselves, they stole.

*(Music)*

C: There were Russians everywhere, we couldn't live in our own house. We had to stay with a farmer until the Russians left. Then we had to clean up the whole mess and somehow set up house again.

*(Music)*

A: It took a long time for us to get the farms working again.. I helped too. But we had to work for the Russians.. we had to do everything they ordered us to do..

*(Music continues)*

#### II / II

B: It was a particularly difficult time for the women, and not just because they were caring for the children and old people. Often in the evenings, the women had to hide in Willi Wildau's hayloft, hoping that the Russians wouldn't find them.

*(Music)*

C:..we were scared of the Russians, they would search for us during the night...

*(Music)*

B: They were always chasing the women, and many were assaulted and raped by the Russians.. They searched through the wardrobes, and if they found colourful dresses they knew that there was a girl in the house..

*(Music)*

A: ..we were scared of the Russians, they would search for us during the night...

*(Music)*

C: They took every single thing they could lay their hands on..

*(Music continues)*

### Performance 3: Coalmining & / Partition

#### III / I

*(Music)*

B: When the war ended, the village was full of refugees, who were trying to live together in every available space. There were so many strangers here..

*(Music)*

B: So many essentials were missing in our daily lives. We managed to make do in the terrible years after the war, with rationing, quotas and the distribution of foodvouchers.

*(Music)*

B: Neither the settlers, nor the refugees had a decent place to live. Some were even living in the washhouses. Life was very, very hard.

*(Music)*

A: The Russian Major came and called us all together... "The border has been decided" he told us.. "Here is the border, and the border is closed. You all have to leave and go West, into German territory". Poland was sealed off.. the border was over there and we couldn't stay here..

*(Music)*

## Scheune-Text

C: My sister had a small baby, a boy, who was born too early. We wrapped him in blankets and we travelled towards the West, across the border. We had to cross the bridge, we stayed the night there and then they blew up the bridge.

*(Music)*

C: We were sent here.. we had to search around, begging for something to eat. Here , with the baby, we had a small advantage, everyone wanted to help us. We stayed with a women and her husband, they were quite old but had no children of their own. We spent our first night in Schlabendorf there.

*(Music)*

A: We couldn't have known that Germany would be divided. We wanted to go home, the war was over, and we thought that we could go back. But we couldn't.

*(Music continues)*

### III / II

A: We couldn't have known that Germany would be divided. We wanted to go home, the war was over, and we thought that we could go back. But we couldn't.

*(Music)*

A: The mine came closer and closer, and everyone said that Schlabendorf would be demolished...

C:...and people knew how to live here, they went dancing every week. That was normal, here.

*(Music)*

A ...until the mine came. That changed everything, didn't it? C:... it came closer and closer, we lived with it for years...

*(Music)*

B: Alot of small villages had already been demolished, but nobody dared to protest then, in the DDR years..That's how it was.. A:... and it came closer and closer...

*(Music)*

C: We were forced to leave our homes in 1944.. did we really have to leave our homes again, for a second time?

*(Music continues)*