

INTIMACY AND CONTENT DISCLOSURE FOR CABARET FALL 2022

Content discussed and/or witnessed in this show: WWII, Nazism, antisemitism, white supremacy, homo-pan-bi-sexuality, polyamory, expansive gender expression, homophobia/transphobia, abortion, staged violence, romance-kissing and intimate touch, sexually intimate and suggestive choreography/dance, provocative performance art, drug usage-cocaine, drinking, sex work, smoking, and tight fitting/burlesque-style costumes.

PLEASE CAREFULLY READ ALL OF THE INFORMATION BELOW.

SETTING: This is the 1998 version of CABARET. The setting of the musical is the Weimar Republic in Berlin, where people from around the world (seeking **an alternative lifestyle**) come to Berlin to play-to be themselves. Conservatives may consider them to have “loose morals,” but those involved **reject the life of their parents**. After witnessing WWI, this generation (known as the *lost generation*) want to **reclaim** their options in life. They want to **enjoy life** while they can! They know all too well that **life is short, and freedom can be stripped away at any time**. This is sadly what begins to happen as the rise of white supremacy, anti-LGBTQ laws, and antisemitism (Nazis) begin to overtake Berlin.

Director's Central Concept: *Artists can create a free space for authentic self-expression, but outside forces can threaten this freedom at any time.*

Director's Theme: *“Politics? But what does that have to do with us?” To continue to have rights and freedom, everyone must pay attention to the events happening around them.*

THINGS TO NOTE: Gender expansive costuming and casting, as well as **provocative artistic expression** will be heavily explored. Though this show is often defined as a “sexy show,” it is more important that we view this expressed sexuality as liberation. As a celebration of non-normative or queer behavior. Most of the characters in this show might be considered pan-sexual by our definitions today. **Sexually suggestive moments found in this show are a protest against the government, and people, that hope to ban or censor what they fear**. Instead of pushing the boundaries of our audience by wearing revealing costumes, we will push boundaries through queer and non-binary forms of expression and fashion. **Almost every role in this production engages in some form of intimate or romantic touch, from kissing to sexually suggestive choreography.** These actions are not meant to be gratuitous, nor are they present just to make the production feel or look

“sexy.” Every choreographed moment will be discussed thoroughly, as to how it reflects our concept/theme. (Dramaturgy presentations will address the historical accuracy of these concepts.)

It is important that we begin to honestly discuss your individual boundaries/gates ahead of casting. While you will still be required to initially audition, we *may* decide that this production is not appropriate for you at this time. For those who are cast, boundary/gate checks will continue throughout rehearsals and performances.

Why do CABARET? - Unfortunately, this musical continues to be relevant. Sally’s line, “Politics? But what has that to do with us?” speaks to my main theme of the show. Theatre has long been a home for those viewed as “others.” It is easy to get swept up in the stories we want to tell ourselves. The lives we are able to create in our small, mostly “safe” communities. However, it is important to stay aware of politics, and participate. It is important to think carefully, “what would you do?” if/when history repeats itself. How can actions now prevent the loss of freedom and the rights of vulnerable populations?

Character Breakdown and Content Guide

Cliff- an American from Harrisburg, PA. Though he has come to Berlin to write his novel, he finds the people (and parties) too enticing to resist. He may have had a fling with Bobby in London, and he falls in love with Sally-while continuing to enjoy all Berlin has to offer. Once it becomes clear something bad is coming to Berlin, he wakes up and realizes the party is almost over. Vocal range is flexible.

POSSIBLE COSTUMING ELEMENTS: androgynous style of clothing, feminine elements of dress.

CONTENT: homo/bi/pan-sexual (1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 1.10), drinks gin (1.5), kiss with Sally (1.5, 1.6, 1.10, 1.12), kiss with Bobby (1.5, 1.9), kiss with Kit Kat Klub dancers (1.5), intimate touch with Sally (1.5, 1.6, 1.10, 1.12, 2.4), sexual tension with Ernst (1.2, 1.6), discussion of abortion (1.10, 2.6), stage violence (2.5, 2.6)

Sally- a mysterious and illustrious cabaret singer/dancer from England (has an English accent). She is extremely complex and aloof-no one knows where fact and fiction collide when it comes to her shadowy past. She has a very appealing, persuasive, and sensual personality. She accidentally falls in love with Cliff, and learns that the “normal” life simply

isn't for her. She would rather live life in the moment and take it day by day. Mezzo-soprano with a strong belt.

POSSIBLE COSTUMING ELEMENTS: burlesque-style clothing, performance art costuming, masculine elements of dress.

CONTENT: possibly bi/pan-sexual (general backstory discussion), might "smoke" a fake cigar or cigarette (1.5, 1.12, 2.5), drinks gin (1.5, 1.9, 2.6), kiss with Max (2.5), kiss with Cliff (1.5, 1.6, 1.10, 1.12), intimacy with Cliff (1.5, 1.6, 1.10, 1.12, 2.4, 2.6), Intimacy with all Kit Kat Klub dancers (Willkommen, Don't Tell Mama, Mein Herr, Cabaret), is pregnant (1.10-2.5), discusses and chooses to have an abortion (1.10, 2.6), drinks "raw" egg (1.6), possibly snorts cocaine (1.5)

The Emcee- the enticing host of the Kit Kat Klub, invested in making life beautiful. They provide an escape from worries by creating this wonderland of fantasy. They are larger than life, they have a dark sense of vaudeville-style humor, and they are extremely comfortable with their pansexuality. This character must have strong movement skills and should feel comfortable pushing the boundaries of gender, sexuality, and everything that is considered proper by society. By the end of the show, they lose everything and are forced to try and "pass" in mainstream culture. Possibly has a German accent. Tenor range.

POSSIBLE COSTUMING ELEMENTS: burlesque-style clothing, provocative performance art, androgynous clothing-both masculine and feminine, may appear shirtless (after discussion with the actor)

CONTENT: pansexual, intimate choreography with other Kit Kat dancers (Willkommen, 1.5, Two Ladies, Money), kissing with Kit Kat dancers/Sally/Cliff/Max/Patrons/"Girl" 1 and 2 (Willkommen, 1.5, Two Ladies, Money, 1.12, 2.1, 2.3), choreographed spanking of Helga (Willkommen), choreographed intimate touch and sex simulation with "girl" 1 and 2 (1.7), intimate touch with gorilla dancer (2.3), stage violence (2.5), recipient of trans/homophobic actions (2.1, 2.5, 2.6).

Fraulein Schneider- she is an upstanding German citizen that is constantly forced to make some questionable decisions in order to survive. She has been through and seen a lot these past 50 years. She is in puppy love with Herr Schultz. They bring out the best in each other, and ultimately THEY are the heart of this story. Schneider has an incredible depth of emotion, though she would never let you know it. Possibly has a German accent. Alto range.

POSSIBLE COSTUMING ELEMENTS: masculine elements of dress or standard time period clothing.

CONTENT: Kiss and intimate touch/dance with Herr Schultz (1.3, 1.8, 1.11, 1.12, 2.2), dances with Sailor (1.12)

Herr Schultz- is the true light of this play. Schultz has an incredible sense of humor. He is a humble, Jewish, fruit shop owner who represents hope. He believes that love, above all else, should rule a person's choices. He embraces everyone around him. That is the only way for him to live. Schultz is madly in love with Fraulein Schneider and, though he is no spring chicken, she makes him feel like a schoolboy. Has a German accent. Vocal range is flexible.

POSSIBLE COSTUMING ELEMENTS: likely standard time period clothing

CONTENT: kiss and intimate touch/dance with Fraulein Schneider (1.3, 1.8, 1.11, 1.12, 2.2), is drunk (1.12), subject of antisemitic discrimination (2.2)

Ernst- an attractive and charismatic man that harbors strong political beliefs. He is likely bi/pansexual and loves to visit the Kit Kat Klub, as well as other queer/free-thinking establishments. We should be shocked that he is actively supporting the Nazi party. Perhaps he is more preoccupied with economics than hypocrisy? This character needs to speak some German. Has a German accent. Vocal range is flexible.

POSSIBLE COSTUMING ELEMENTS: slight feminine elements, and a nod toward Nazis clothing, a swastika armband is possible (1.12, 2.1, 2.5, 2.6).

CONTENT: possible sexual attraction to Cliff (1.2, 1.6), Nazis sympathizer/antisemitism (1.12, 2.1, 2.5, 2.6), kiss or intimate touch with Kit Kat dancers/Cliff/Sally/Patrons (1.5, 1.6, 1.10, 1.12, 2.5), drinks gin (1.10) and schnapps (1.12), stage smoking is possible, dances with Kost (1.12), Stage violence (2.5)

Fraulein Kost- a free spirit and sex worker who always has sailor guests (of multiple genders) in her apartment. Kost can match anyone in a battle of wits/words. She is very body positive and confident with who she is. Maybe she was influenced by someone in her past, because she supports nationalist/conservative politics of the Nazi party. Possibly has a German accent. Mezzo-soprano.

POSSIBLE COSTUMING ELEMENTS: burlesque-style clothing, possible moment in a towel (1.3), some masculine clothing elements

CONTENT: Might appear in wrapped towel (1.3), sex worker (1.3, 1.8, 1.11, 1.12), Nazi sympathizer (1.12, 2.5), kiss and intimate touch with sailors (1.3, 1.8, 1.11, 1.12), dances with Ernst (1.12), stage smoking is possible

Bobby- a queer Kit Kat Klub dancer who loves to live life freely and without any apologies. He feels comfortable in his relationship with Cliff, the Emcee, and Victor. Possibly has a German accent.

POSSIBLE COSTUMING ELEMENTS: burlesque-style clothing, feminine clothing pieces, provocative performance art, may appear shirtless (after discussion with the actor)

CONTENT: queer, intimate touch with Victor/Emcee/Cliff (Willkommen, 1.5, 1.9, 1.12, 2.1, 2.5), intimate choreography with Kit Kat dancers/Victor/Emcee/Sally (Willkommen, Don't Tell Mama, 1.5, Mein Herr, Money, 1.12, 2.1, 2.5), kiss with Victor (Willkommen, 1.5, 1.9, Money, 1.12, 2.1), kiss with Cliff (1.5, 1.9), stage smoking is possible

Victor- Kit Kat Klub performer, should move well, and feel comfortable in their relationship with Bobby and the Emcee. Possibly has a German accent.

POSSIBLE COSTUMING ELEMENTS: burlesque-style clothing, feminine clothing pieces, provocative performance art, may appear shirtless (after discussion with the actor)

CONTENT: queer, intimate touch with Bobby/Emcee/Cliff (Willkommen, 1.5, 1.9, 1.12, 2.1, 2.5), intimate choreography with Kit Kat dancers/Bobby/Emcee/Sally (Willkommen, Don't Tell Mama, 1.5, Mein Herr, Money, 1.12, 2.1, 2.5), kiss with Bobby (Willkommen, 1.5, 1.9, Money, 1.12, 2.1), stage smoking is possible

Max- the "part" owner of the Kit Kat Klub, and lover of Sally at the start of the show. He is a businessman and sometimes money is all he is concerned with. Possibly has a German accent.

POSSIBLE COSTUMING ELEMENTS: some feminine clothing elements, and a nod toward Nazi clothing

CONTENT: Nazi sympathizer (1.12, 2.5, 2.6), kiss with Sally (2.5), intimate touch with Kit Kat dancers/Sally/Emcee/patrons (Willkommen, Don't Tell Mama, 1.5, Mein Herr, Money, 1.12, 2.1, 2.5), stage violence (2.5, 2.6), stage smoking is possible

ENSEMBLE-

This ensemble will play various ensemble roles like: onstage swings, club patrons, sailors, train conductor, customs officer, SS officers, Nazi sympathizers, Chanteuse (French nightclub singer), and bodyguards, as well as named dancers for the Kit Kat Klub.

**Please note that the role of Chanteuse will likely be separated from Fraulein Kost. And the "Two Ladies" trio will be cast from the ensemble.*

POSSIBLE COSTUMING ELEMENTS: performance art costumes, gender expansive costumes, costumes or uniforms that allude to Nazi or SS uniforms

CONTENT: homo/bi/pansexuality (a general backstory discussion), antisemitism (1.9, 2.1-2.6), kissing or intimate choreography with Kit Kat Klub Dancers/Emcee/Sally/Cliff/Patrons (Willkommen, Don't Tell Mama, 1.5, Mein Herr, Money, 1.12, 2.1, 2.5), stage smoking is possible

FEATURED ENSEMBLE-

Kit Kat Klub Dancers- named dancers for the Kit Kat Klub. These performers likely escaped conservative upbringings to explore another part of themselves here in Berlin. They are from all parts of the globe, and bring with them a beautiful intersection of identities. The Kit Kat Klub offers them a safe place to create and be art. The ability to play an instrument is greatly appreciated.

POSSIBLE COSTUMING ELEMENTS: burlesque-style costumes and gender queer clothing, may appear shirtless (after thorough discussion with the actor)

CONTENT: homo/bi/pansexuality (a general backstory discussion), intimate choreography with other Kit Kat dancers/Emcee/Sally/Max/Patrons (Willkommen, Don't Tell Mama, 1.5, Mein Herr, Money, 1.12, 2.1), kissing with other Kit Kat dancers/Emcee/Sally/Max/Patrons (Willkommen, Don't Tell Mama, 1.5, 1.12, 2.1)

Two Ladies- Girl 1 and Girl 2 (any gender)- in an intimate relationship with the Emcee, kissing, choreographed intimate touch and sex simulation possible (Act 1 scene 7)

Rosie and Lulu- in a relationship/intimate touch/kissing (Willkommen, 1.5, Money, 1.9, 1.12, 2.1)

Helga- is spanked by the Emcee (Willkommen)

Sailors/Rudy (multiple genders)- Might appear shirtless in towel (1.3), intimate relationship with Kost—they pay for sex/kiss/intimate touch (1.3, 1.8, 1.11, 1.12), dances with Schneider (1.12)

Gorilla dancer- a vaudeville number where the dancer is dressed as a gorilla, which is used as a euphemism for a Jewish person, intimacy and possible kiss with Emcee (2.3)

Bodyguards/Nazi sympathizers- stage violence or intimidation (1.9, 1.12, 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6), homo/transphobia (1.9, 1.12, 2.1, 2.5, 2.6)

Conductor/Officer- speaks German and has a German accent

Patrons- New Year's Eve Kiss (1.5), possible Nazis sympathizers (1.12, 2.5), stage smoking is possible