

*Goodby Marianne* Presented by Young Company  
by Rosemarie Howard  
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A slide collage--black and white images of children and their parents from 1938 Germany--flashes across a screen to the rhythm of vintage-sounding music. A roomful of fourth, fifth, and sixth graders at Mountview Elementary in Salt Lake City watches with interest. The story of Marianne begins.

Marianne lives in Hitler's anti-Jewish Berlin, and through her eyes we glimpse the story of one eleven-year old girl-- one of ten thousand Jewish children who were saved from almost certain death by the kindertransportes created and operated by the British government ten months before war broke out.

Sobering, but not the stuff nightmares are made of, the story as presented by BYU's Young Company leaves the group of elementary students in a quiet, thoughtful mood as they exit the auditorium to return to their classes.

The cast is able to interact with Mrs. McBride's fifth grade class. Responding to the question: "What similarities between the prejudice shown the Jews and situations in your own life do you see?" the fifth graders responded with, "I have two cousins who are black. When one of my friends discovered this, she wouldn't be my friend any more." and "It's like the way whites treat latinos." and "It made me think of when my parents were divorced and I had to leave my dad." Food for thought--not only for children, but the adults who are their caretakers. All are issues that need to be addressed.

Teachers receive a study guide before the play is presented in their school; it contains a description of the story, as well as background information, a vocabulary guide, questions to guide a classroom discussion, and activities. Classroom discussion of the play and the questions it raises are encouraged, before and after the children see the show.

*Good-by Marianne*, written by Irene Kirstein Watts ( a kindertransportes survivor), is offered this year by the BYU Young Company as a touring production to elementary schools. Now in its 25th season, The Young Company, sponsored by the Department of Theatre and Media Arts at Brigham Young University under the artistic direction of Harold Oaks, offers students a chance to have a hands-on experience with theatre for young audiences.

When asked why she chose this particular piece, Megan Ann Scott, a graduate student and director of *Good-by Marianne* said, "I chose the play because I liked its structure; it treated what could be a very gruesome subject in a serious, but not totally grim way. There is a theme of hope that pervades the story."

Members of the company agree that they have felt a certain sense of mission as they work together to present the play. One of the actors, Matt Beidel, commented, “Student responses have been the highlight of the tour for us so far.”

Cast members include: Laura Hoppe, as the mother; Cyndi Ball, as Marianne; Alexa Scharman Bayles, as secretary/Inge/Nazi youth; Shane Boyles, as Ernst, and Matt Beidel, as the dad and Mr. Altmann. Original music was written for the play by Ruthanne Lay, who performs her work during the show.

Along with touring to elementary schools through April, the show is being presented in the Nelke Theatre on campus at BYU. The production opens Wednesday, February 16, and runs through February 26 (with no shows on Sunday or Monday and a matinee performance at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, February 26). Tickets are \$5 for general admission and \$4 for students and faculty. For more ticket information call 278-4322.