



“The past is never dead. It’s not even past.”
—William Faulkner

DEDICATION

Written, Produced and Performed by Roger Peltzman

Directed by Jessi D. Hill



Roger Peltzman

is a pianist and teacher in New York City. Among his many public performances, Roger has played to sold out audiences at Carnegie Hall, The Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York's cutting-edge venue—Le Poisson Rouge and various concert venues in Europe. He is also an actor, writer, theater producer and film director. In 2018 he began writing his one-person show *Dedication* under the tutelage of renowned actor/director Austin Pendleton (Obie winning director).

Over the next 3 ½ years Roger refined *Dedication* with input from famed Broadway director Seth Barrish (Mike Birbiglia). In August of 2021 the play was staged and filmed in NYC. (Due to pandemic related delays in live performance opportunities.) The film version of the play turned out so well that it was picked up for distribution by Menemsha films and has been shown at some of the world's most prestigious film festivals.

In August 2022 *Dedication* made its live theatre premier at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival — garnering 4 star reviews from critics and overwhelming response from audience members.





DEDICATION SYNOPSIS

New York pianist, Roger Peltzman's one-person show, *Dedication*, recounts his family's tragic history fleeing the Nazis in war-torn Europe using drama, humor, powerful images and musical performances of everything from blues to Chopin.

Drawn into the story of people he never knew, Peltzman develops a "relationship" with his uncle, Norbert Stern, a brilliant pianist who was murdered in Auschwitz at age 21. Learning that Holocaust trauma can be inherited, Peltzman recounts his coming to terms with second generation survivor trauma and the role of music in helping to manage wounds that will never fully heal.

A singular tale from the Holocaust that is at once extraordinary and relatable.

TRAILER FOR PLAY <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/684034950>

FULL VERSION OF PLAY* <https://vimeo.com/649067433> Password: norbert

* There have been changes to wardrobe (no shorts), several scene cuts in play since film was made and 10 more minutes of piano playing.



REVIEWS FOR DEDICATION



“Peltzman’s one-hour solo show is put together with such grace, beauty and sorrow that it offers a richly rewarding and thoughtful experience. At key moments during the show, Peltzman takes to the grand piano on stage, and plays like an angel.”

JOYCE MCMILLAN, THE SCOTSMAN



“The combination of story, music, history, and heart is incredibly potent and poignant. An extraordinary story... powerful and moving.”

THE WEE REVIEW



“A beautiful celebration of a lost talent.”

UKTW

“Throughout the performance, Peltzman’s style of storytelling was captivating and touching. A heartbreaking story ... told beautifully through images and music.”

THEATRE TRAVELS

AUDIENCE REVIEWS

Roger Peltzman is instantly likeable, charismatic and holds the audience in the palm of his hand with an incredible stage presence and a wonderful ability for story telling. He befriends his audience with such ease, it's like watching an old friend on stage. The show is a technical marvel with amazing projection, video and multimedia elements turning the show into a full blown theatrical experience allowing the audience to see all the real people and real places depicted in his story. This really brings the production values up to a level rarely seen at fringe shows. – Liam B

I would highly recommend this show and wish anyone who goes to see it good luck trying not to cry. – Thomas H

Roger is not a slick performer but an authentic one, which makes the piece charming and heartfelt. The music and graphics are wonderful. – Michelle J

Powerful and moving story told engagingly. This is a must see.
– Aviva G

An incredibly moving experience that I will never forget. This is an incredibly human

story and show that will touch the emotions of everyone. If you go, you will forever be grateful for the way it will bring history home to you.
– Chris S

Gripping, emotional story well told. Absolutely worth seeing, I feel thankful there's people like Roger to keep these atrocities heard, done his family proud. So glad I took my family to this.
– Stacey J

Fantastic show very cleverly put together. Please go and see it. You won't regret it.
– Denise W

Best show we have seen. Moved me to tears.
– Clare M

Theater that is essential to see. Tells a compelling story with fantastic musicianship, humor and passion. You'll leave moved and with tear-filled eyes. Go see it!!
– Robert J

Roger Peltzman creates this homage to his Uncle Norbert though a marriage of verbal, visual and music that make a compelling and well developed memoir. A must.
– Mary Louise M



WHAT INDUSTRY PEOPLE & ACADEMICS ARE SAYING ABOUT DEDICATION

“Arresting, beautiful, heart-felt and entertaining. Exquisite.”

– Jim Taylor, Oscar winning screenwriter of *Sideways*.

“A rare masterpiece! Should be seen worldwide.”

– Seymour Bernstein, pianist and star of *Seymour: An Introduction*

“Absolutely loved it! Beautiful story and superbly done.”

– Stewart Lerman, music producer for *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*

“Truly extraordinary!”

– Ulrika Citroen, co-chair of USC Shoah Foundation’s Next Generation Council.

“Amazing work and performance.”

– Karel Fracapone,
UNESCO division for peace

“A seamless tour de force!”

– Mirriam Lewin, documentary filmmaker

“Beautiful, intelligent, wise....”

– Alexander Batthyany, director of
Viktor Frankl Institute

“A beautiful show and production!”

– Christophe Busche, director of the
Hannah Arendt Institute

“An elegant and beautiful tribute.”

– Michael Garafalo, Peabody award
winning radio producer

“What a great piece of Art!”

– The Bridge
(English language theater, Brussels)

“Deeply moving and wonderful.”

– Walter Ponce concert pianist,
head of UCLA piano dept.

“Beautiful.....what a performance!”

– Stephan Kutzenberger,
Viennese author and professor

“A masterpiece! A jaw hanging performance. Simply brilliant.”

– Chris Butler, songwriter, founder of the
group The Waitresses

“So good! Amazing stories! I’d pay good money to see this!”

– Linda Thompson, legendary British vocalist



SUPPORT **AND** AWARDS

DEDICATION HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM:



The New York State Council on the Arts



The Leon Levy Foundation

The Franklin Jay Fund and 300 Kickstarter contributors

**DEDICATION RECEIVED THE DEREK AWARD FOR
BEST OVERSEAS SHOW AT THE 2022 EDINBURGH FRINGE**



PRAISE FOR ROGER PELTZMAN AS A PIANIST

“Assured, clear-sighted and impeccable”

– Gramophone

**“There is no pretending in his art.
Reminds me of Cortot and Rubinstein’s playing.”**

– Pianist Ivan Moravec

“An accomplished and sensitive pianist.”

– Classics Today

CREATIVE TEAM FOR DEDICATION

Director Jessi D. Hill

Jessi D. Hill is a theatre director based in New York City. New York credits include new work at New York Theatre Workshop, The Public Theater/Joe's Pub, 59E59, P73, The New Group, Rattlestick and many others. She has been a director and teacher at Yale School of Drama, Juilliard, The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center/NTI, Playwrights Horizons Theatre School, and others. She is currently Artistic Director of The Flying Carpet Theatre Co and is on the Artistic Team at Rattlestick Theater. Her work has been seen internationally in Edinburgh, London, New Zealand, Berlin, Hamburg Rome and Venice.

Projection Design Jason Thompson and Kaitlyn Pietras of PXT Studios

They've designed for major companies and theaters all over the world including: The Industry, Vienna State Opera, Oper Frankfurt, Walt Disney Creative Entertainment, Center Theatre Group, LA Philharmonic, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Carnegie Hall, The Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, New World Orchestra, The Public Theatre, Broadway, The Guthrie Theatre, Kansas City Rep, The Geffen Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, and Ars Nova. Collectively they have won two Los Angeles Ovation Awards, four LADCC awards, as well as having work showcased at the Prague Quadrennial in 2019, 2015, and 2011.

Lighting Design Kate Ashton

She is the Resident Lighting Designer for Williams College Dance Department and Syren Modern Dance. Kate's work was selected for the 2011 Prague Quadrennial, and she was nominated for a 2011 Henry Hewes Award for Outstanding Lighting Design for A Tree Grows in Brooklyn. She made her Public Theater debut in February 2015 with Josephine & I, directed by Phyllida Lloyd. In 2016, Kate lit director Edward Berkeley's adaptation of Romeo & Juliet at the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Marin Alsop.

Sound Design Jane Shaw

In New York City her design and composition work includes The Killer, Measure for Measure (Theater for a New Audience), Actually (MTC/Williamstown Theatre Festival), Men on Boats (Clubbed Thumb, Playwrights Horizons/ Drama Desk Nomination), Ironbound (Rattlestick, Women's Project), and numerous productions at the Mint and the Pearl.

International touring includes Merce Cunningham, Baryshnikov Productions, and Wind Up Bird Chronicles.

TECHS AND SPECS

RUNNING TIME

1 hour and 10 minutes

CAST SIZE

1

STAGING

Minimum Proscenium Opening: 20' wide x 20' (6.1m wide x 6.1m high)

Minimum Stage Depth: 20' (6.1m) from Plaster Line to upstage most line set.

Please note - this performance can be adapted to most spaces, as long as there is no audience behind the piano. Dimensions will also depend on whether front or rear projection is used.

EQUIPMENT

Presenter must provide One (1) – 6-7' Grand Piano. Steinway, Yamaha, Mason & Hamlin, or comparable instrument. In good working order.

Presenter must provide one (1) 12-20K Panasonic DLP Laser projector (depending on size of screen and space) with at least 1920 x 1080 pixels of resolution. Exact lensing will be specific to each theater.

Theater must provide a Projection Surface, to be agreed upon, appropriate to stage space.

LIGHTING

Front light and sidelight washes in no color or color correction (TBC)

6-9 LED PAR down or back lights

Piano downlight special

Ability to isolate 6 areas (DR, DC, DL, UR, UC, UL)

Control of light spill off of projection screen

ETC console

TECHNICAL RIDER

AGE RESTRICTIONS

Recommended for audiences 12 + due to distressing themes and occasional strong language.

TARGET AUDIENCES INCLUDE THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN:

- Jewish history and the Holocaust in particular.
- The journey of artistic self-development.
- The continuing impact of historical events.
- The intergenerational legacy of trauma.
- The healing power of art.
- Beatles, blues, classical music and Chopin in particular.

Due to the educational nature of Dedication, the artist would be happy to participate in talk backs and workshops.

CONTACT

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