



IN THE PRESS

THEATER IM DELPHI: A DEDICATION TO HIS UNCLE.

In the play “Dedication,” Roger Peltzman tells the story of his family, who were deported by the Nazis. by Katrin Richter

When Roger Peltzman sits down at his piano, he thinks about his uncle quite often. "Especially when I'm playing Chopin," says Peltzman, "I'm paying attention to the quality of the sound or trying to get to the note on time, then I ask myself: 'What is he thinking?'"

He is Norbert Stern, a piano genius since early childhood. A critic once praised his playing as “brilliant and impressive.” There is no recording; Norbert was murdered in the Auschwitz extermination camp at the age of 21. Roger Peltzman tells Norbert's story and that of his family in his one-man play Dedication.

However, this evening begins by showing the audience a scar on his knee and a photo of his mother, dressed as a nun. In the next few days, Peltzman will show the Berlin audience how this all works together. With Dedication, the New York musician with the warm narrative voice makes a guest appearance at the Theater im Delphi in Prenzlauer Berg. "I'm really excited and tense," says Peltzman, describing his feelings before the show, "because I'm producing everything myself." There's a lot going on in his head in the days before the Berlin premiere: Does the equipment work, what's the stage like, is the sound working? and will the piano arrive on time?

The piano is his instrument. “There is nothing more beautiful than playing the piano. It's the most expressive and satisfying thing I can do in the world.”

For a long time it was not clear to him that he would one day tell the story of his family with this instrument and in front of an audience. "Of course I wanted to keep the memory of my family alive, I also wanted to talk about my experiences growing up with this knowledge in a New York suburb.

Until he started writing about it, he was not aware of how the trauma of his family was also reflected in him. “I suddenly realized: Oh, my God, I'm affected by this. My whole life is shaped by it.”

It was a cathartic moment for the artist. Where there was once a hole in his soul, there was now the history of his family, which he got to know even better through his work on Dedication. When he's on stage, he's with his family. "I can then spend an hour with my mother, who has already died, and with the family I didn't know."

The Berlin audience can now be guests under the striking arches of the Theater im Delphi, where the series Babylon Berlin was filmed, of which Peltzman is a big fan. He is an attentive observer of his time. He also notices the rising anti-Semitism in the USA, he reads about it - New York, says Peltzman, is perhaps the only place in the world where Jews outside of Israel don't have to feel like a minority. "I'm probably an agnostic at best," he says, citing "Jewish culture, like the Marx Brothers and George Gershwin, Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen" as his source of inspiration. What would his uncle Norbert have said about that?

“Dedication” can be seen on February 23rd, 24th and 25th at 7:30 p.m. in the Theater im Delphi, Gustav-Adolf-Straße 2. Tickets cost 23 euros. Further information at www.theater-im-delphi.de and www.rogerpeltzman.com