

After the War  
Adapted by Brittany McDaniel  
From the book by Tom Palmer

North Platte High School  
Competition One Act  
2025

**Cast List:**

The Boys

Yossi  
Leo  
Mordecai

Yossi's Family

David  
Rebecca  
Mina  
Anna

Windermere Workers

Talia  
Marie  
Jock  
Marion  
Felix's Father  
Pilot  
Red Cross Worker

Windermere Children

Felix  
Henrich  
Thomas  
Sala  
Windermere Ensemble

Flashback

Factory Worker #1  
Factory Worker #2  
Guard #1  
Guard #2  
Flashback Ensemble

The neighbors

Dorothy  
Joyce  
Arthur  
Peter

# **Original *After the War* Cast and Crew**

The following is the list of students and staff who first performed this adaptation in November and December 2025.

## The Boys

Yossi - Henry Cline  
Leo - Brett Pfeifer  
Mordecai - Carter Barnason-Foster

## Yossi's Family

David - Finnley Eickhoff  
Rebecca - Isabella Frazier  
Mina - Camie Bertschinger  
Anna - Laci North

## Windermere Workers

Talia - Katelynn McNeel  
Marie - Kaylee Lundgreen  
Jock - Asher Strecker  
Marion - Karley Shultz  
Felix's Father - Diego Moreno  
Pilot - Allison Guthrie  
Red Cross Worker - Rebecca Keneipp

## Windermere Children

Felix - Ben Carhart  
Henrich - Derek Ebmeier  
Thomas - Pluto Axthelm  
Sala - Joselynn Eyten

## Flashback

Factory Worker #1 - Lydia Jenny  
Factory Worker #2 - Keirra Forden  
Guard #1 - Eban Spratt  
Guard #2 - Sam Macias

## The neighbors

Dorothy - Isabella Mitchell  
Joyce - Avery Luenenborg  
Arthur - Kasen Manary-Schumer  
Peter - Jacob Martinez

## Ensemble - Windermere and Flashback

Ensemble Captain #1: Mischa Luna  
Ensemble Captain #2: Taleigh Kadner  
1. Audrina Barton  
2. Khloe Culpepper  
3. Amaya Dittmer  
4. Nathan Howery  
5. Kadia Lleras  
6. Maya Race  
7. Aiden Rodriguez  
8. Itzel Rodriguez  
9. Penelope Simpson  
10. Drew Jones

## Crew

Spot - Autumn Pirnie  
Spot - Khloe Stutzman  
Sound - Amelia Bruck  
Lights - Saya Reading  
Floor lights - Faith Gatitu  
Floor lights - Kaylee Rohrbouck  
Crew Captain - Zoey Husemoller  
Backstage - Prudence Werkmeister, Ashlee Kinyua, Beth North, Rowena Morgan, Khloe Fickensher

Directors - Brittany McDaniel and Nicole Cepel

## 1. To new beginnings

*(Lights up on the boys and girls sitting on the floor of the plane. Someone is crying and maybe someone is getting sick.)*

YOSSI: How can this huge piece of metal with all of these people on board take off and then land without breaking into pieces?

TALIA: You'll have to ask the pilot when we land.

YOSSI: Do you think he'll talk to us?

TALIA: I don't see why not.

MORDECAI: What are you doing?

LEO: There is a spool of wire down here. I'm trying to get it.

YOSSI: Why?

LEO: You never know when it might come in handy.

YOSSI: I love aeroplanes.

LEO: *(slightly distracted and busy)* I don't. They frighten me.

MORDECAI: *(not looking up from his book)* You're perfectly safe.

LEO: It doesn't feel right being on a plane built to carry bombs.

TALIA: Not any more.

LEO: It was still used to kill people.

MORDECAI: *(looking up from his book)* Give it a rest.

TALIA: I know, Leo, but not anymore. Now it is being used to take children to a new home.

*(The plane lurches and the kids react.)*

LEO: I remember the first time I saw a bomber.

## 2. The German Cross

YOSSI: Me, too. It was the first Friday in September, 1939.

*(DAVID enters and calls YOSSI out of the plane)*

DAVID: Yossi? Yossi!

YOSSI: Over here!

DAVID: Come. We must go.

YOSSI: Papa, why is everyone in a hurry today?

DAVID: Everyone is always in a hurry. It is almost the Sabbath.

YOSSI: Yes, but today feels different.

DAVID: *(Beat)* Things are changing. There is/...

*(We hear an aeroplane as it flies overhead. They take a moment to watch it.)*

YOSSI: What is that? On the plane.

DAVID: *(Breath.)* The German cross. Come. Mother and your sisters will be waiting. We can talk more at home.

*(DAVID exits and YOSSI returns to the plane)*

## 3. Paradise

TALIA: Come and sit down. The plane is getting ready to land.

LEO: What can you see out of the window? What does it look like?

YOSSI: I see Paradise.

SALA: Tell us more.

YOSSI: It's beautiful. There are fields and roads and small villages. Just like back home in Poland...

*(There is a quick, tense silence on the plane)*

YOSSI: *(Beat)* But this is England. They're going to feed us. They're going to give us clothes. We'll be safe. Won't we, Talia?

TALIA: Right.

MORDECAI: What if it's not like that?

YOSSI: *(Pulling chocolate from his pocket)* What is this?

MORDECAI: Chocolate. You've not eaten it?

LEO: I'm saving mine.

YOSSI: When were you last given chocolate before today?

*(The plane shudders.)*

MORDECAI: Before the war.

YOSSI: Exactly. Life was good before the war, wasn't it?

LEO: Yes.

YOSSI: We have been given chocolate now. Things can be good again.

*(They all lurch as the plane lands.)*

#### 4. Fresh sheets

PILOT: *(Coming from "cockpit" upstage)* I know we are all excited and maybe a little bit nervous, children. But there are people waiting outside with tea and food and to help you get settled in your new home.

*(Everyone starts to leave, YOSSI lingers.)*

MORDECAI: Are you coming?

YOSSI: I'll be along in a minute. *(To PILOT)* Do you like flying?

PILOT: I do. Do you like aeroplanes?

YOSSI: Yes. When we saw you coming, we cheered. We would run out of our building in the concentration camp and watch you and hope that you'd drop bombs near where we were.

*(There is an awkward but maybe pitying moment between the two. PILOT takes off his hat and gives it to YOSSI as LEO, MORDECAI and TALIA come back on.)*

PILOT: For you.

YOSSI: To keep?!

PILOT: Yes.

YOSSI: I...thank you.

*(LEO eyes the hat)*

YOSSI: It's mine. You can't take it. Understand?

LEO: Oh, really?

*(They play fight for a moment and walk as the stage is transformed from the plane to Calgarth.)*

TALIA: Come. Let's find your rooms.

MORDECAI: What is this place?

TALIA: It's called Calgarth. And that is Lake Windermere. Families live there in those houses, but there are also blocks of rooms where you will sleep.

MORDECAI: Are there beds?

TALIA: Yes. In each room there is a bed, a table, and a wardrobe/

MORDECAI: What sort of bed?

TALIA: A mattress. Sheets. Blankets.

MORDECAI: Sheets?!

TALIA: Sheets.

MORDECAI: *(Beat)* Will it be dark?

TALIA: Each room has an electric light in the ceiling. You can leave your light on all night if you like. Light or dark: it's up to you. You won't be cold or hungry.

MORDECAI: *(Nervous)* Will there be guards?

TALIA: No. No guards.

*(Transitioning to YOSSI's room)*

## 5. Goodnight

TALIA: Yossi, this is your room. I still have several children to get settled in so I'll say goodnight to you. These two are in the rooms next to you.

YOSSI: Goodnight.

*(TALIA, MORDECAI, and LEO exit while YOSSI takes a moment in his room, sits on his bed and starts to unpack)*

## 6. To the ghetto

*(REBECCA and MINA enter)*

REBECCA: Yossi, are you packed?

YOSSI: Almost.

REBECCA: Remember, only what you can carry.

YOSSI: Is another boy going to live in my room?

REBECCA: Who knows. Don't ask such questions.

MINA: Mama, the silverware is so heavy.

YOSSI: I'll carry it.

*(He takes the packages as ANNA enters, carrying two silver candlesticks)*

ANNA: What do you want to do with the Sabbath candlesticks?

REBECCA: I will carry them.

*(DAVID enters with his bike packed with bags and bundles. They take a moment.)*

DAVID: Alright, family. Let's go.

## 7. The first night

*(They exit, leaving YOSSI alone on his bed. He lays down for a moment and then a knock. LEO and MORDECAI enter and without speaking, YOSSI moves over and makes room for them to crawl into bed with him. They stay asleep together until the stage is switched to breakfast time and everyone else enters.)*

## 8. Cake and jam

LEO: *(Waking up)* Breakfast will be mayhem.

YOSSI: Look, people are already there.

MORDECAI: There will be enough for everyone. Talia told us so.

*(The boys elbow their way from their bedroom to the dining hall area, looking for a place to sit)*

LEO: Here! The food comes from there and we will be closer.

*(They sit as women in the kitchen come out and serve bread to each of the tables as well as jars of jam)*

MARION: Good morning boys. I'm Marion. We are so glad you are all here. Some bread and jam for you all.

YOSSI, LEO, and MORDECAI: Thank you.

THOMAS: Bread? This is bread?

LEO: It is not! It's cake! Can you believe that they eat cake for breakfast?

MORDECAI: And jam.

YOSSI: Is it real? The jam?

*(HENRICH is trying to slip one of the jam jars into his pocket.)*

THOMAS: Hey! Put that back!

HENRICH: Why don't you put back the bread you have in your vest?

(*MARION delivers another basket of bread.*)

MARION: Please don't worry. There will always be more.

THOMAS: Put the jam back.

HENRICH: I saw it first. It's mine.

THOMAS: All the bread is mine then.

(*HENRICH and THOMAS start brawling over the table and end up on the floor. YOSSI, MORDECAI, and LEO use the distraction as a chance to grab more bread and others begin to panic and fight.*)

TALIA: Boys! Stop! Stop this at once. Ladies, don't start!

(*HENRICH and THOMAS freeze on the floor*)

## **9. Mother would be proud**

TALIA: There is plenty of food to go around. No more fighting. Do not make me shout more. There is enough food for today and tomorrow and the day after that. Come and see.

(*DOROTHY enters from the kitchens. The children crowd around the doorway but MORDECAI starts cleaning the tables and picking up the plates and silverware. We cannot see LEO*)

TALIA: Dorothy is in charge of the kitchens.

DOROTHY: We have plenty of supplies. We have enough meals for a week, a month, more. You don't have to worry.

TALIA: You won't go hungry again. I promise.

(*MORDECAI stumbles with an armful of plates and they clatter on the table. DOROTHY notices and goes to help him set them down. She whispers something to him, he pauses for a moment and then runs out of the dining area to the dock while the dining hall is cleared away*)

TALIA: Mordecai?! What happened?

YOSSI: I'll go check on him.

TALIA: Come, children. Let's follow his example and help clean up.

## 10. Finding the bike

*(Everyone exits, taking the dining room with them. YOSSI and MORDECAI are left alone.)*

MORDECAI: She said that I was very good to clear the table after the meal. That my mother would be very proud.

*(YOSSI sits with him)*

MORDECAI: My mother is/

YOSSI: I know, Morde. I know.

*(They sit in silence for a moment. LEO enters with a bike.)*

LEO: Look what I found! And this! *(He pulls a jar of jam from his pocket.)* I knew he loved chocolate.

YOSSI: Who?

LEO: Henrich or Thomas. Whichever one. I saw him swipe it at breakfast today. I knew he'd trade it for a piece of chocolate.

YOSSI: And what are you going to do with jam?

LEO: Something. I don't know yet. But look! I just need to fix the chain on it and then we will be able to ride it.

## 11. It isn't fair

*(MORDECAI and LEO examine the bike while DAVID, GUARD #1 and GUARD #2 enter.)*

DAVID: Come, Yossi.

YOSSI: I don't understand.

DAVID: What do you mean?

YOSSI: First we are not allowed to sit on the benches in the park, then we have to walk in the gutter instead of the pavement! Now we have to give our bicycles to them!

DAVID: It is not for us to understand.

YOSSI: But/

DAVID: Or to question. They say turn in our bicycles, then that is what we must do.

YOSSI: It isn't fair.

DAVID: The life of a Jew rarely is.

YOSSI: I won't do it.

DAVID: One day you will ride again. I promise. Now, we need to go.

*(DAVID wheels his bicycle offstage)*

## **12. A new friend**

LEO: *(Having fixed the chain)* There! Good as new. You ride it first, Yossi!

YOSSI: Okay!

*(YOSSI hops on the bike and begins to ride around. It might take him a minute to remember how it all works and feels. JOYCE enters from the other side of the stage and watches them for a moment.)*

JOYCE: Where did you get that bike?

LEO: It's ours. We found it.

JOYCE: It is not yours. It belongs to my father.

*(YOSSI stops riding it around, but stays on the bike, unsure of what to do)*

MORDECAI: If she says it's her father's, you have to give it back.

LEO: But I mended it.

MORDECAI: I'm sure they'll be very grateful.

JOYCE: Come on then. You can wheel it back for me. It's not far.

### 13. Meeting Joyce's family

*(They cross to JOYCE's house as DOROTHY enters from inside their home)*

DOROTHY: Ah... You've found dad's bicycle.

JOYCE: And new friends.

LEO: *(Formally)* Hello. This is Mordecai, Yossi. And I am Leo.

DOROTHY: I'm Dorothy. I believe we met briefly this morning, but hello again, and welcome. And your new friend, my daughter, is Joyce.

*(LEO takes out the jar of jam and hands it to her.)*

DOROTHY: *(Stiffling a laugh)* Jam?

LEO: *(Seriously)* Jam.

DOROTHY: *(To Mordecai)* How would you have said thank you back home?

MORDECAI: Dziekuje.(djeh-koo-ja)

DOROTHY: *(To LEO)* Dziekuje.

LEO: You're welcome. *(Sniffing. Beat.)* That smells good...

*(MORDECAI and LEO are embarrassed. They know what he is trying to do.)*

DOROTHY: Would you like some? It's scouse. Like stew. Just vegetables, but no meat. With bread?

*(The boys all look each other and then back at DOROTHY and nod)*

DOROTHY: Better go in and sit down then.

*(They exit into the house. YOSSI remains onstage)*

#### **14. How can I work?**

*(DAVID, FACTORY WORKER #1, and FACTORY WORKER #2 enter with a cart of heavy fabric)*

DAVID: Yossi! You cannot stop!

YOSSI: How can I work like this? I am too cold and too hungry.

FACTORY WORKER #1: Here. Take these.

*(She takes off her ragged gloves and scarf and hands them to him)*

DAVID: We couldn't.

FACTORY WORKER #1: I can borrow my husband's. You need them.

FACTORY WORKER #2: *(Handing him a piece of coarse bread)* And here. We have this for you, too.

YOSSI: *(In disbelief)* What?

FACTORY WORKER #2: I will try to sneak you more when I can.

*(YOSSI just holds it and stares at it.)*

FACTORY WORKER #2: Well, aren't you going to eat it?

YOSSI: *(Looking to DAVID)* Mina and Anna are hungrier than I am. We can all share it when we get home.

FACTORY WORKER #1: Look sharp now. The guards are coming.

*(YOSSI shoves the food in his pocket as two guards enters)*

GUARD #1: Hurry up! The next cart is ready. Get this one out of here. Move!

*(DAVID, FACTORY WORKER #1 and FACTORY WORKER #2 briskly continue moving the cart offstage followed by the GUARD #1 and GUARD #2)*

YOSSI: Papa! Wait!

GUARD #2: Move!

*(DAVID does not hear him and continues off. YOSSI steps back into the present as ARTHUR enters)*

### **15. That's my brother**

ARTHUR: *(Looking gruff)* I hope you boys have left some for me...*(Shifting to a smile)*  
Only kidding. You're very welcome here.

DOROTHY: This is Arthur, my husband. He works at the seaplane factory down the road. These boys found your bike.

JOYCE: More like borrowed...

YOSSI: You work on the aeroplanes?

ARTHUR: I do. I was working at a factory in Liverpool but then our house was bombed. Windermere seemed as good a place as any to start over.

*(Awkward beat)*

LEO: Who is this?

JOYCE: That's my brother. Peter.

LEO: Is he dead?

*(MORDECAI and YOSSI kick him under the table)*

LEO: *(Confused)* What?

DOROTHY: No. Or we hope not. He was fighting. Near Japan, we think. But we've not heard from him in months.

*(A pause.)*

YOSSI: I'm sorry, ma'am...Thank you for the...scouse...ma'am.

LEO and MORDECAI: Yes, thank you!

YOSSI: We've overstayed our welcome. We should be getting back soon.

DOROTHY: Like Arthur said, you are always welcome.

LEO: Sorry we stole your bike.

ARTHUR: You are welcome to ride it any time you want. Just leave it parked beside the shed when you are done.

LEO: Thank you!

*(DOROTHY, JOYCE and ARTHUR exit into their house. TALIA enters with MARIE with books in her hand, JOCK, and children.)*

## **16. Meeting the teachers**

TALIA: Ah, boys! You are just in time. Children, I would like to introduce you to two new friends and teachers that will be joining us here at Calgrath. Ms. Marie Paneth and Mr. Jock Lawrence. Ms. Paneth is an artist and is here to set up a studio for you.

MARIE: We won't have traditional classes like you might have had in school, but you will be welcome to come paint and draw. Please come and create whatever you would like.

TALIA: And Mr. Lawrence is a physical education teacher. He is here to help you regain some of the strength you may have lost.

JOCK: We will play football and go swimming. We are going to have a jolly time.

## **17. Dad?**

*(FELIX'S FATHER enters and watches from the side.)*

MARIE: We know you have been through a lot. But we are here to help you. We cannot get you back the past six years of your life, but hopefully we can work and prepare you to face the new world before you.

FELIX'S FATHER: I'm sorry to interrupt, but I'm looking for Felix. Is he here? I was told I could find him here.

FELIX: Dad? Dad!

FELIX'S FATHER: Felix!

FELIX: You found me. I didn't think you were...I thought you...

FELIX'S FATHER: I know. But we are together now.

FELIX: How? I don't understand. Is mother/

FELIX'S MOTHER: /It's a long, long story.

TALIA: Come, let me take you to get something to eat and we can talk more.

*(TALIA, FELIX'S FATHER, and FELIX exit while everyone else stands still for a minute, processing.)*

## 18. The list

MARIE: During the war...most of you were separated from your parents and other members of your families. We will be visited by the Red Cross soon. They want to take details, lists of the names of your families, to try to reunite people...people like yourselves who have become split up from loved ones because of the war.

*(The children all look at each other, shifting their weight uncomfortably. JOCK helps hand out books)*

MARIE: Here are some exercise books for you. Over the next few days please try to make a list of the names of your family. Parents. Siblings. Grandparents. Anyone you remember from family gatherings, bar mitzvahs, weddings. Try to remember where they lived, their jobs. The more information you can provide the better.

*(They all start writing in their notebooks.)*

MARIE: I know this may be hard. Difficult. But I am here if you need me.

*(As YOSSI starts to write, his family and others from the concentration camp appear as the children, JOCK, and MARIE vanish)*

YOSSI: David Frenkle, 44, father. Rebecca Frenkle, mother. Sisters: Anna Frenkle, Mina Frenkle...

*(YOSSI continues to write names and escalates until he starts scratching them out. More and more violently. The flashback ensemble crowds around. They are on the train now. REBECCA, DAVID, ANNA, and MINA move to the front.)*

## **19. Auschwitz**

REBECCA: Children, listen to me. The train is slowing down. You must lie. Make yourself look bigger. Older. We must try to stick together.

*(The train slows to a stop. GUARD #1 and GUARD #2 enter.)*

GUARD #1: Get out. Stand up and get out.

GUARD #2: Form a line. No talking. Move this way.

## **20. One last hug**

GUARD #1: Age?

YOSSI: Umm...Fourteen.

GUARD #1: Trade?

*(YOSSI blanks.)*

GUARD #1:: Trade?!

YOSSI: Tailor.

GUARD #1: To the right.

GUARD #2: Age?

DAVID: 37.

GUARD #2: Trade?

DAVID: Jeweler.

GUARD #2: To the right. Age?

REBECCA: 34.

GUARD #2: *(looking her up and down)* To the right. *(Looking at both the girls)* Left.

REBECCA: No! They are old enough. I promise. They are hard workers. Strong. Please.

GUARD #1: Stand back, woman.

REBECCA: Send me left, too then.

YOSSI: NO!

GUARD #1: Makes no difference to me.

*(YOSSI grabs her and tries to pull her to the right)*

REBECCA: Let go, Listen to me. Live, my sweet boy. I love you.

YOSSI: No! I won't let you.

*(She embraces DAVID, touches JOSSI's cheek)*

GUARD #2: Move.

*(GUARD #2 pulls REBECCA to the left)*

DAVID: It's alright. Your mother will look after your sisters.

YOSSI: No.

DAVID: *(Upset. He understands. YOSSI does not.)* They need her. You have me.

YOSSI: Why?

DAVID: Come. The line is moving.

*(Windermere ensemble comes running in with MORDECAI, LEO, and MARIE and his bedroom as the flashback ensemble vanishes and DAVID exits. )*

## 21. Feathers

MARIE: Boys! Help me, please!

LEO: PILLOW FIGHT!

MORDECAI: No! Not my pillow!

LEO: Fine. Not your pillow. Yossi's!

YOSSI: Hey! Not mine either!

MARIE: Not helpful!

LEO: Too late!

SALA: Get the boys!

*(The girls and boys start an all out brawl. Laughing and chasing each other until a pillow burst and feathers fly into the air. Time freezes as they fall around the kids, DAVID enters with a few other concentration camp men and GUARD #1)*

## **22. Ashes**

YOSSI: Is it snowing? What is this stuff?

*(DAVID grabs YOSSI and tries to turn him away.)*

DAVID: Don't look.

GUARD #1: *(Laughing)* That's your mother and your sisters.

GUARD #2: Roll call time. Don't be late unless you want to join them.

*(GUARD #1 and GUARD #2 drags DAVID off. YOSSI is shaken.)*

## **23. I'm fine**

YOSSI: Stop! *(Trying not to be sick)* Please go out now. Go with Marie.

MARIE: *(sensing the change)* Come. Let's go paint down by the lake.

*(MARIE and the others exit but LEO and MORDECAI stay.)*

LEO: What's wrong?

YOSSI: I'm fine. Please leave.

LEO: I don't understand. What just happened?

*(MORDECAI bends to pick up some feathers and watches them drop through the air. He puts his hand on YOSSI's shoulder but YOSSI shrugs it off)*

YOSSI: Let me be. Go!

*(MORDECAI and LEO exit as YOSSI goes to his room. He trashes his room in a fit of grief and rage. Exhausted, he lays down. There is a lighting change and it's morning. TALIA enters)*

## 24. I'm not getting up

TALIA: Yossi? Aren't you coming for breakfast?

YOSSI: No.

TALIA: You need to eat.

YOSSI: I ate three times yesterday. Four.

TALIA: And you must eat again.

YOSSI: Not today. I'm not getting up or eating or doing anything today.

TALIA: And why's that?

YOSSI: *(Building, like a dam about to burst)* Why? Why should I? After everything I've been through. After the last six years...why should I get up and eat breakfast? Why should I wash my face and brush my teeth? Why not just lie here instead? I am weak. I can hardly run or swim without losing my breath. Why get up and feel so tired that I want to go back to bed. Everyone is dead. Except maybe my father. Who knows. What is going to happen to me in a month, in six months? Soon we will have to leave here and I don't know what will happen when we do. But I do know that I can just lie here and it feels all right.

*(TALIA takes a step back. YOSSI curls into a ball under his bedding, not sure where this all came from. A breath.)*

TALIA: The Red Cross are coming. We gave them your books. There might be someone from your family. Someone out there. You mustn't give up.

YOSSI: I'm not giving up. I'm just not getting up.

TALIA: I'll come back later. Maybe you should go to see the doctor?....Or talk to Mr. Lawrence?

*(YOSSI doesn't answer or respond. TALIA sighs and then exits)*

## **25. Get up and wash your face.**

DAVID: (*Entering*) I know it's cold.

YOSSI: (*Rolling over*) It's freezing.

DAVID: But we have to get up and wash. If we let ourselves go, the Germans will think that they were right: that we are not human.

YOSSI: I can't.

DAVID: You can. Washing your face, getting up, it is an act of defiance. Resistance. It was then and it still is now.

(*YOSSI takes a moment. DAVID waits. Expectant.*)

YOSSI: (*Silence*)

DAVID: If not for you, do it for me.

(*A moment. A breath*)

YOSSI: Alright.

## **26. Yossi talks to Jock**

(*YOSSI gets up as DAVID leaves, his room disappears and JOCK enters with some other boys.*)

JOCK: Come on, gentlemen. High knees. Higher, Thomas.

THOMAS: I'm sore.

JOCK: Good. That means it's working. You're getting stronger and healthier.

HENRICH: No, it just means that he's whiny.

THOMAS: Shove it, Henrich.

YOSSI: Mr. Lawrence, could I talk to you?

JOCK: Of course. Boys, press ups.

*(The group of boys start doing push ups. JOCK and YOSSI step to the side)*

JOCK: What can I do for you, son?

YOSSI: I want to get strong.

JOCK: We can do that.

JOCK: The important thing is not to start too fast. Today and the next few times, just doing it is enough. Build some strength with the exercises we are doing. Swim a little. Men, toe touches.

YOSSI: Okay.

JOCK: What do you think you want to do after you leave here? What is next for you?

YOSSI: I think maybe I'd like to become a pilot?

JOCK: My brother was in the RAF!

YOSSI: As a pilot?

JOCK: *(Something different in his voice)* He was a gunner. *(JOCK pantomimes)* Gentlemen, sit ups.

YOSSI: *(Beat.)* Is your brother dead?

JOCK: He is.

YOSSI: I'm sorry.

JOCK: Gentlemen, twists. Thank you. He was flying over Germany in Lancaster. They must have been hit by anti-aircraft fire.

YOSSI: I saw them. The Lancaster bombers. They came to save us. Your brother. Maybe I saw his aeroplane?

JOCK: Maybe.

YOSSI: He is a hero.

JOCK: Thank you, lad.

THOMAS: Are we done yet?

HENRICH: Don't complain. He'll make us do more.

JOCK: I will not. But we are close enough to lunch.

THOMAS: Food?

LEO: I'm starving!

JOCK: *(Laughing a bit)* Come on then. Let's go wash up.

*(They all exit as DAVID, other concentration camp ensemble, GUARD #1 and GUARD #2 enter)*

## **27. Where are you going?**

GUARD #2: March. Keep walking.

DAVID: *(Weak but trying)* Yossi!

YOSSI: We cannot stop. One foot in front of the other.

DAVID: I need to rest a moment.

YOSSI: You cannot give up. There are rumors that the Russian front line is getting closer. There is hope. We just have to make it a little bit further.

DAVID: Yes. Listen to me. Go find your friends. Keep each other safe.

*(A few gunshots fire as people continue to file pass)*

YOSSI: What? No. The guards...

MORDECAI and LEO: *(From offstage)* Yossi! Yossi, where are you?

DAVID: Go. They are worried about you.

YOSSI: No matter what, you'll keep walking? Promise me!

DAVID: I promise.

MORDECAI and LEO: (*From offstage*) Yossi!

(*DAVID is absorbed by the crowd and exits*)

YOSSI: I'm over here. (*Turning back to DAVID*) Come on! Father? Father! Where are you?! Where. Are. You? (*Still fighting through the crowd. Grabbing someone*) Have you seen my dad? Where did he go?

(*MORDECAI, LEO, and JOYCE enter, chasing after some of the other kids. They are covered in paint. The younger kids continue running off, getting some paint on YOSSI as well.*)

MORDECAI: (*Entering, and shocking YOSSI back to the present*) Yossi! Help me.

## 28. No home left

YOSSI: (*Still reeling*) What did you do?!

JOYCE: We were helping Marie with art today.

LEO: (*Still laughing*) We maybe got a little out of hand.

(*They cross and DOROTHY comes out. She shakes her head and smiles*)

DOROTHY: You know the drill. (*She sighs and looks back at the road.*)

(*LEO and MORDECAI exit for a moment*)

YOSSI: Still no word from him?

JOYCE: (*Grabbing onto DOROTHY*) Nothing yet.

YOSSI: Can the army not tell you anything?

DOROTHY: No.

(*Moment of awkward, pressurized silence. No one knows what to say. MORDECAI and LEO enter*)

DOROTHY: Did you ever try to go home? Once the war was over? Before you came here?

*(MORDECAI and YOSSI shake their heads)*

LEO: *(Just to DOROTHY)* I tried.

*(MORDECAI and YOSSI are shocked and a bit hurt. They didn't know.)*

LEO: Some Scottish soldiers took me to Krakow and gave me some money. When I got home I saw that the synagogue had been burned black and was falling down. Some other family was living in my.... None of our neighbors were there. I sat down because I didn't know what else to do and two men came out and saw my hair and my clothes and they knew what I was.

DOROTHY: *(A gasp)* Oh.

LEO: They shouted at me. Threw things at me and chased me and told me if I was there in the morning, they would kill me. There was no life for me there so I came back to Theresienstadt.

*(DOROTHY embraces LEO. They boys are silent. JOYCE doesn't know what to do. The boys cross to leave as JOYCE and DOROTHY exit. They sit on the bed and lights change)*

## 29. No news

*(HENRICH, THOMAS, and SALA enter with nervous excitement)*

HENRICH: They're here!

SALA: Come on!

YOSSI: Who's here?

HENRICH: The Red Cross. Let's go!

SALA: They are waiting for everyone to get there. Hurry up!

*(They cross and make their way toward the group that has appeared on stage along with RED CROSS WORKER, MARIE, TALIA, JOCK)*

MARIE: *(They are too excited and noisy to listen or hear her)* Children. Please. I know you are feeling lots of things, but please. Quiet down so we all may hear.

RED CROSS WORKER: Good morning, children. After intense searching and checking it is with immense regret that I have to tell you the results of the meticulous research the Red Cross has been doing on your behalf (*Buzzing/ringing starts here as the envelopes are dispersed*) we have envelopes for each of you with as much information as we could find at the moment. We will continue to work tirelessly to find some sort of connection to any family at all...

*(As RED CROSS WORKER continues, we hear a buzzing and ringing sound like YOSSI can no longer hear. The boys and girls react and YOSSI starts panic. He covers his ears and closes his eyes. The others exit to read open their envelopes privately)*

### **30. I know you**

*(YOSSI bolts to the lake. What emotion is he feeling? He feels and shows several. He rips up his envelope without even opening and then tries to put it back together after he realizes what he's done)*

YOSSI: I cannot give up. I have to believe. Just because they haven't found him, doesn't mean he's dead.

*(PETER enters from the back of the house. He is lost and holding a piece of paper, trying to find his way. He coughs. YOSSI notices him and holds his breath for a moment)*

YOSSI: Peter?!

*(PETER stops and drops his rucksack on the ground.)*

PETER: *(Guarded)* Yes?

*(YOSSI runs to him and meets him in the aisle. He awkwardly, but genuinely, embraces him.)*

YOSSI: It's you!

PETER: Last time I checked.

YOSSI: I know you.

PETER: Me?

YOSSI: I mean...I know your family. Joyce. Dorothy. They have been waiting for you and looking for so long.

PETER: Do you know where they live? I was given this address but/

YOSSI: (*He starts back toward the stage*) /Yes! Just this way.

(*PETER hasn't moved. YOSSI goes back to him*)

YOSSI: Come on! What are you waiting for? Dorothy!

### 31. Mom?

(*DOROTHY comes to the door of her house and freezes*)

PETER: (*Almost a whisper*) Mom?

DOROTHY: Peter?

PETER: Mom!

(*ARTHUR and JOYCE enter and ARTHUR catches DOROTHY as she falls. PETER is running to the stage with YOSSI behind him.*)

DOROTHY: My son! My son. My son! You're here.

PETER: I'm here. I'm fine. I promise. I'm okay.

JOYCE: (*Hugging Yossi*) You found him! You really found him! My brother. He's home! Can you believe it?

YOSSI: It's unbelievable.

JOYCE: (*Pulling away. Realizing*) This must be...Oh, Yossi, I'm so sorry.

YOSSI: (*Trying to hide his emotion*) No. Please don't be. It's...I'm so glad. You have your brother back.

JOYCE: I won't stop hoping. Your dad will find you. I pray for it. I believe it. It has to be true. And you will live here and we will be neighbors.

YOSSI: Go. Be with your family.

JOYCE: Come to dinner tonight. We will have a big celebration!

YOSSI: (*Gently*) We'll see. Go.

JOYCE: Thank you, Yossi.

*(JOYCE joins the whole family in an embrace as YOSSI watches for a moment and then as PETER's family exits)*

### **32. One last goodbye**

*(MINA and ANNA enter.)*

MINA: We are okay now, you know.

*(REBECCA enters)*

ANNA: We were scared and it hurt for a moment, but we didn't even really know what was going on.

REBECCA: And I was with them the whole time.

YOSSI: *(Almost a cry)* Mom!

REBECCA: Let me look at you, my son. My Yossi. You did it. You survived.

YOSSI: This is not survival. I am barely existing. And now...I cannot do this alone. I cannot find father and....

*(DAVID enters)*

DAVID: I'm here. With my Rebecca and your sisters.

YOSSI: *(Angry)* No. You weren't supposed to stop. You promised.

DAVID: I know. But I was so tired.

YOSSI: You lied!

DAVID: We will wait for you, though. To grow up. Start your own family. Become something. Live, my son. And then come home to us.

YOSSI: I can't.

REBECCA: You can. You are stronger than anyone I know.

MINA: Do it for us.

ANNA: Tell our story.

DAVID: Get up, Yossi. Wash your face.

*(One final family embrace. During the next lines, REBECCA, DAVID, MINA and ANNA exit without YOSSI noticing.)*

YOSSI: I will, papa. I will.

### 33. What's next?

MORDECAI: *(From offstage)* Yossi! Where are you?

LEO: *(From offstage)* Joyce said she saw him come down this way.

YOSSI: I'm down here. On the dock. *(He realizes they are gone.)*

MORDECAI: What are you doing?

YOSSI: I just needed a minute.

LEO: What's wrong?

YOSSI: *(Breath)* I've just...I....

LEO: What?

YOSSI: *(Making a choice)* We are alone in the world. We don't know what the future holds. But...

LEO: We've made it this far.

MORDECAI: And we have each other now.

YOSSI: So wherever we go from here, we go together.

LEO: As survivors

MORDECAI: Friends.

YOSSI: No. *(Pause)* Family.

TALIA: *(From offstage)* Boys! Supper time!

MORDECAI: Come on. Let's go.

*(The sound of a sea plane taking off. MORDECAI and LEO exit while YOSSI watches it as it gains altitude and flies away. Blackout)*