

BERLIN

A Musical by Tim J. Spencer



Script

BERLIN

By Tim J. Spencer

List of main characters

Gustav Muller – ages between 26 & 49

Elin Muller – 24 & 47, Gustav's wife

Beppo Fischer – 26 – Gustav's best friend

Lutz Templin – 28 & 51 – another friend / IM

Hans Fischer – 36 & 59 Jailer at Bautzen Prison

Marietta Fischer – 33 & 56 His wife

Paul Freidrich – 45 & 68 Deputy of Arbeitsgruppe 6

Joshua Fischer/Muller – son of Elin - 23

List of sub characters

Rando Stiller – West Berliner – 40-63

Olga Stiller – Rando's wife – 38-61

Cabaret Singer – ageless

+ A Chorus

Place

The city of Berlin, Germany

The action takes place in two times

The First Act during the period March 18th – October 18th 1966

The Second during the period October 18th – November 9th 1989 culminating in the climax on the night the Berlin Wall was freed.

BERLIN

Act One

1966

PROLOGUE

Music 1 Overture

[PROJECTION ON SCREEN]

[We see a rebuilding of Berlin after the Second World War and then we see the building of the Berlin Wall from 1961]

[SEVERAL CAST ENTER AND CREATE TABLEAU of Elin and Gustav's wedding where Gustav is flanked by Beppo, also at the scene is Lutz – these must be defined characters visible to the audience as the later players in the show. The Wall theme breaks in and we see the Berlin Wall for the first time., Beppo now becomes the central character as we move into first scene on the streets of Berlin in front of the Wall, Lutz also must be still on stage as he is in the first scene, the rest of the cast exit]

ACT ONE – SCENE ONE

Berlin Street and Wall

[Beppo is now lit in a follow spotlight as he sings the opening part of this number. He is an angry young man but is just narrating at this point. He is a main character and wears a recognizable costume from the outset. Lutz is also part of the scene so must again be recognisable from the outset. As Beppo sings the Felix Dzerzhinsky Regiment (the Stasi police force) as visible hence the military feel]

Music 2 Hammer and Sickle

Beppo : *Nineteen Sixty One, a story is begun,
Overnight there's a wall of fear
Separating brothers, isolating others, imprisoning those too near
Five years on the nightmare hasn't gone
And the streets are alive with guards
Communism has a place but now it's gone too far*

FD Reg : *The Hammer and the Sickle – praise the flag
The emblem of the people, of the land
Which we are proud to serve, the State is in your blood
And thus we all can share the glory
Of the flag for which we all must stand
For the good of each woman and each man*

[The people of East Berlin enter and pass each other on the street, some greet each other]

Chorus : *There was a time when we were free here
You could live, for your life
But then the wall appeared so quickly
Our freedom went overnight
In a land so blessed with beauty
All the dreams now black and white
The Iron fist is filled with power
And they dictate from hell's gate with no parole
And the Wall divides a million souls*

[The chorus stay on stage, USL while the next scene is played out DSR]

The Office, Arbeitsgruppe 6
Music 2 continued Arbeitsgruppe 6

*[Karl Freidrich, Deputy of Arbeitsgruppe 6 is in his office]
[He is interrogating Lutz Templin, a desk and two chairs are set]*

Freidrich: You're a criminal Lutz Templin, it's as simple as that, you have committed crimes against the state, and you are now suffering the consequences...Guards.

[Two guards move forward, one is carrying an ugly Koch]

Lutz: No...please

[Freidrich gestures to the guards and they retreat reluctantly]

Freidrich: Yes Comrade? You wish mercy... well the State can be merciful...given the right incentives.

Lutz: What do you mean?

Freidrich: You ran a successful operation Mr Templin. Deluded, freighted individuals come to you for your help do they not?

Lutz: You've got the wrong man. I sell car parts, nothing more.

Freidrich: It's over Lutz, it's really over. Your little pipeline to the West is about to run dry. In the greater scheme of things you're a little itch, about to be scratched.

Lutz: I don't know what you're talking about...

[Freidrich slams his fist onto the table]

Freidrich: *(Losing control)* don't try it you little... *(Quieter, threatening)* We know what you are Mr Templin and we know what you do. If you don't already realise it, you mean nothing to the State, nothing at all. You gave up your right to live the moment you betrayed that State... *(Leaning right into Lutz's face)* and unless you want to spend the rest of your very, very short life living in a dark concrete hole...

Lutz: All right, alright, what...what do you want from me?

Freidrich: Just names Comrade Templin, just names and places nothing more do we ask of you. After we have what we need you will be able to live a quiet unimportant life, serving the state and paying for your betrayal. But you will be alive!

Lutz: I can't do this...

Freidrich: Oh, you can Comrade Templin and you will, because put very simply, it's you or them.

Lutz: *(Breaking up)* ...but they're not bad people.

Freidrich: Bad people, good people, what does it matter to us. Rules are rules.

Lutz: They're my friends...

Freidrich: *(Slowly)* They are enemies of the State Comrade Templin, nothing more, just enemies of the state.

*[Lutz exits the office and rejoins the street scene.
He does not sing.
The table and chairs are struck]*

[We return to the scene already in progress with both the FD Regiment and the people singing]

Music 2 continued Hammer and Sickle Berlin Street and Wall

FD Reg : *The Hammer and the Sickle – praise the flag
The emblem of the people, of the land
Which we are proud to serve, the State is in your blood
And thus we all can share the glory
Of the flag for which we all must stand
For the good of the people
For the good of the country
For the good of each woman and each man*

People: *In a land so blessed with beauty
All the dreams are black and white
The Iron fist is filled with power
And they dictate from hell's gate with no parole
And the Wall divides,
The Wall divides,
The Wall divides a million souls*

ACT ONE – SCENE TWO

A Bar in the Eastern side – March 18th 1966

Music 3 Link (Underscore)

[A cabaret singing drag act is on the stage in a little club/bar]

[Gustav and Beppo are sat at one of the tables – Elin is yet to arrive]

Music 3 Always Drink the Wine

Cab Singer : *In problems of the heart I feel I must impart
Beliefs I've always held near
They may attract your smile but in a little while
They'll silence all you hold dear
With problems such as this do not look behind
In your pity leave the city
There's a friend you always can find*

*So you can smile though his arms won't hold you
Smile, though you search for gold you never take the winning line
Smile, though he won't defend you
Smile, although the fates may send you sorrow
You can always drink the wine*

*These creatures that I find aren't taken by my mind
Their motives always are sure
Though you were in his bed, he'll forget all that he said
Next day when he leaves your door
But if he flees your glance be strong through it all
Please remember in the embers
There's a friend you always can call*

*So you can smile though his arms won't hold you
Smile, though you search for gold you never take the winning line
Smile, though he won't defend you
Smile, although the fates may send you sorrow
You can always drink the wine*

*So you can smile though his arms won't hold you
Smile, though you search for gold you never take the winning line
Smile, though he won't defend you
Smile, although the fates may send you sorrow
You can always drink the wine*

[The song ends and is greeted by disinterested applause from the patrons of the bar]

Music 4 The Bar

[Elin arrives in a bit of a fluster and goes to the table occupied by Gustav & Beppo]

Elin : *Sorry I'm late
But I've finished the painting
I had to make sure the picture lived
Beppo, Lutz
Gustav I'm sorry
I hope I haven't missed anything*

Beppo : *Elin don't worry
We've been here five minutes
Just long enough to reach the bar
You have one waiting
Please sit down and join us
I was about to explain how things are*

*The State and this country
Make life a dangerous game
You can't encourage what you want
Each man must want the same
Individuality is closed behind a door
And I know I can't take it anymore
The plan is very simple
And I know you both want "in"
But remember the risk you take
When fleeing East Berlin*

*The plan is all constructed
And we go tomorrow night
But you must make the choice
This is your last chance
To back out if your doubts have changed your mind*

Gustav : *Beppo you know we're coming too
Our minds' made up as much as you
Tell us the schedule
You say the word we're there*

[During the next section it becomes obvious that the rest of the people are trying to inconspicuously listen in to the conversation, interjecting, and then going about their business as if nothing happened]

Beppo : *Tomorrow night at 5 pm we meet at mine*

Chorus : *(Aside)*

The nation needs to know what's going on

Beppo : *Don't bring anything, just you, there isn't time*

Chorus : *(Aside)*

The nation needs to know what's going on

Beppo : *We will board the trunks
Which have been specially adapted
So I know that we can all just get inside
Elin, It's uncomfortable but it's the only way I know
To get us through into the other side*

Beppo : *Timed to be at seven we will reach our marks*

Chorus : *(Aside)*

The nation needs to know what's going on

Beppo : *Two separate checkpoints so two different sets of guards*

Chorus : *(Aside)*

The nation needs to know what's going on

Beppo : *They will never find us
It will only take a minute
Then we'll cross no-man's land to pastures new
Then when we are through
We will wait until eleven
Then we meet in Ulbrecht Park we lucky few*

*Lutz and Elin you in one car
Me and Gustav in the other
I don't want emotions in the plan
You will both not need to worry
You will see each other
When we'll reunite the happy family clan*

*This is the way it has to be
You will all choose your destiny
Each have a reason each have a life to live*

Gustav : *Beppo we are right there with you
We hate the State as much as you*

Lutz : *Tomorrow night we'll meet at five
Then we'll see how lives change*

Beppo : Til tomorrow

Elin : Tomorrow

Gustav : See you then

Lutz : I think I'll stay for another, I want to remember the moment, I will see you at five.

All : Goodnight

[Lutz is left in the bar whilst the other three leave. He is alone with his thoughts of how he must betray his friends – and what cost he would have if he fails in his mission. During this section the chorus become much more oppressive, although still an aside it is a much more vicious and sinister feel we get from the onlookers]

Lutz : *What gives the State the right to choose our lives*

Chorus : *The nation needs to know what's going on*

Lutz : *When one in six reports back to the Stasi's files*

Chorus : *The nation needs to know what's going on*

Lutz : *How did I get myself into this insane position
To betray my friends or go to jail alone
I wish I were stronger but I cannot face a prison
How can anyone call this mad country home*

Lutz : *But now it's time for Judas to betray his Christ*

Chorus : *The nation needs to know what's going on*

Lutz : *Though the soul is strong I won't forget this night*

Chorus : *The nation needs to know what's going on*

Lutz makes his way to a telephone nearby and we switch to the next scene

Music 5 Dispersal

ACT ONE – SCENE THREE

Arbeitsgruppe 6

Music 6 Arbeitsgruppe 6

*Karl Freidrich is sat at his desk in Arbeitsgruppe 6. It is late in the evening.
The Telephone rings, he answers it*

Freidrich : *Ah Templin (pause) (It is obviously Lutz on the other end of the phone)
Yes I am still in the office (pause).
My door is always open to friends of the State (pause)
Ten Minutes? I'll be waiting*

Music 7 The State and I

Freidrich : *Born into a Jewish brood who ran away to Russia
When the Nazis took control
Brought into a system and believed in it completely
Communism is my soul
Once the war had ended was a teenager no more
Went home to a country I once hadn't loved at all
Joined amongst the party and made progress with belief
Far from all the Nazi ridden grief*

*The State and I are inseparable it is the only way
Each individual has an equal say
Though I am a guardian
Each man is my brother til I die
The State and I*

*Now I am a deputy and everything I always wished
My life could ever be
Understand that men who try to undermine the system
Is an enemy to me
Each man owns his part and thus equality is theirs
How can it be wrong when everybody holds his share
Traitors of the State must be omitted from the scene
Jealousy in time will ruin dreams*

*The State and I are impassable the rules are there for all
And the system unbeatable as long as you play ball
I can never understand
The fools who think us wrong and so they lie
Against the State and I, unbelievable when we know all we do
Why try to deceive us when it only can hurt you
This State is impeccable and I will serve the land until I die
The State and I.*

Music 8 The Contact

[There is a knock at the door of the office. Lutz enters]

Freidrich : *Templin how kind of you
Just to pop round
Do you have news for me
Tell me what you've found*

Lutz : *(Agitated)* Do I have your word that I will be free

Freidrich : You have the State's word, far bigger than mine. You are a friend of the State, Templin. All of your crimes will be forgiven, but needless to say, not forgotten.

Lutz : And my friends.

Freidrich : It is for the good of the State, the good of the State

Lutz : I can start again ?

Freidrich : Of course. The details Templin.

Lutz : *7pm tomorrow night
Two cars arrive at border lights
Both with a cargo under the trunk
Four scared people
I will coat the plates with dirt
So you can't see the numbers
Then you will have them
But what becomes of me?*

Freidrich : *Templin you will be arrested and placed in cuffs as well
When your friends have gone you won't get to see the cells
We let you go.*

It would be pointless them knowing you are with us. You may be of use to us in the future but if you are known to be an informant it will be useless. Now Go! Sleep well, for tomorrow you will do your State a great service.

[Blackout]

ACT ONE – SCENE FOUR

Gustav and Elin's flat

Music 9 Elin and Gustav

[Elin and Gustav are in bed. Although Elin is asleep Gustav cannot – he is thinking too much about the possibilities of the plan going wrong and cannot shut his eyes for more than a few seconds. Elin is eventually disturbed by him and wakes]

Elin : *Gustav you must sleep*

Gustav : *I can't stop thinking
Thinking of all of the moves in the plan*

Elin : *Gustav it's simple
And Beppo wouldn't risk it
He says to trust him and you know we can
Soon we'll see West Berlin
Beppo's your best friend and we can trust him.*

*This is no place to
Bring up a family
Things will be different when we're through the Wall*

Gustav : *It sounds too simple
Surely it's harder*

Elin : *Beppo has never let you down before
I saw us in my dream
It was a vision and it will be real*

Music 10 The Vision (Hold me, love me)

Elin : *I had a dream that we were flying
Hand in hand over the Wall
At first I gasped for I was frightened
Then I wasn't frightened anymore
The city looked so small beneath us
And when we landed there were friends to greet us*

*Then I held you through the timeless night
In a city filled with neon lights
When I woke we were a family
Joshua, you and me*

Gustav : Joshua ?

Elin : Our child, it's a boy and we named him Joshua

Gustav : And if it's a girl?

Elin : It won't be....

Elin : *The city held a million dreamers
People just like you and me
We didn't have to run from anyone
And the life we lived was free
Tomorrow night the dream will be
Our first night of our fantasy*

*And I'll hold you through that timeless night
In a city full of neon lights
And then we'll wake and I'll be there with you
This dream will come true*

ACT ONE – SCENE FIVE – March 19th 1966
Berlin Street and Wall

Music 11 Car Arrest

*[Elin and Gustav are walking together on their way to the pick up points,
they can see the park from the East side as they walk]*

Gustav : *Elin, be safe I will see you this evening*

Elin : *Gustav I'll see you in the park
Eleven this evening, a new life will hold us*

Gustav : *See you tonight*

Elin : *See you tonight*

*[They leave and go their separate ways to the car pick up points.
The split scene must run almost identically until the arrest]*

Gustav : *Beppo*

Elin : *Lutz*

Lutz : *Elin*

Beppo : *Gustav*

[The greetings over Lutz and Beppo explain the way the night will work]

Beppo/Lutz : *This is the way it works
Right foot over and in
Stand up tall in the trunk
Then kneel down so you're low
The car will hold two people under the trunk & the back seat
It feels like a coffin
The hour will feel like a day but you can breathe*

Beppo/Lutz : *Seven P.M. we will be there
Ten minutes more at the checkpoint
Then it's a simple three minutes
Right through the wall and we'll join the others at eleven p.m.
In the park but now it's time to get in and time to pray*

[Beppo and Lutz exit after their music, two sets of guards enter either side of the stage chatting and lighting cigarettes. They carry a piece of paper (the registrations of the car). The scene is identical on both sides until the point where Elin and Lutz are led away and Beppo yells "Now"]

SOUND CUE 1 : Vehicles drawing up and stopping

Guard 1/3 : Search, all out

Guard 2/4 : Open the trunks.

Guard 1/3 : Out!!!

*[Elin and Lutz enter from one side with their hands on their heads,
Gustav and Beppo enter from the other side]*

[Elin and Lutz are led off. Beppo and Gustav also move as if to be led off]

Then

Beppo : NOW!!!!

Music 12 Dreamworld Sequence

[Beppo and Gustav struggle with the guards and hurl them back offstage. They then turn and run]

[Blackout – during this Olga and Rando's apartment is set USL]

**SOUND CUE 2 : Sirens, Dogs, Various gunshots and then finally one solitary clear shot
LIGHTING EFFECT : Follow Spots over audience**

[Beppo and Gustav are caught in a beam of light DSR. The clear shot rings out and Beppo fall]

[Gustav stops for a split second then realises he must continue. He runs offstage]

[More gunshots]

ACT ONE – SCENE SIX

An apartment in West Berlin

*[The lights go up on Olga and Rando's apartment block. Gustav, is in chair with
Blood wound on his right shoulder. He is asleep]*

Rando: I think he's coming around,

Olga: I'll get him some water...shouldn't we call somebody, the authorities or something.

- Rando.** I don't know Olga; I've never come across someone from the Eastside before.
- Olga :** At least the bleedings stopped.
- Rando :** He's lucky he staggered into the path of a nurse.
- Olga:** I don't think I did a lot, the bullet grazed his shoulder blade, just a flesh wound really, all I did was clean it up.
- Rando :** An escapee...
- Olga:** Rando...do you...do you think we will get into trouble for helping him.
- Rando :** No idea.
- Olga :** But we couldn't leave him out there could we.
- Rando :** No Olga, we couldn't leave him out there.
- [Gustav moans and opens his eyes, he panics and tries to rise]*
- Gustav :** Where am I?
- [Rando gently pushes him back into the chair]*
- Rando :** You're amongst friends.
- Gustav :** No, you don't understand, East or West?
- Olga :** West.
- [Gustav sags with relief and emotion]*
- Rando :** How do you feel?
- Gustav :** Groggy...tired. How long have I been unconscious?
- Rando :** Only about two hours, my wife dressed your wound.
- Gustav :** Thank you, thank you both.
- [Olga reaches over to shake Gustav's hand gently]*
- Olga :** Olga Stiller, you're welcome.
- [Rando also introduces himself]*
- Rando :** Rando Stiller, and don't thank me. I thought you'd had too much snapps, staggering about out there, its Olga that realised you were in real trouble.
- Gustav :** Well, Gustav Muller thanks you both anyway.
- Olga :** What happened, how did you get here?
- Gustav :** There were four of us in all.

Rando : We only found you.

Gustav : My friend Beppo...he...he didn't make it.

Olga : I'm so sorry.

Rando : He might have made it across you know, some do

Gustav : He's dead, I saw it happen...caught him full in the back...I can see his face...I'll always see his face.

Olga : You said there were others.

Gustav : *(attempting to stand)* Yes, I must see...I must see if Elin made it across.

Rando : Elin?

Gustav : Yes Elin...my wife, she's pregnant.

Rando : Pregnant?

Gustav : Yes, she only has a few weeks...

Olga : Oh my...

Rando : When were you supposed to meet up?

Gustav : Oh god...the time...what's the time.

Olga : Its ten thirty.

[Gustav tries to get up. He is successful but staggers. Rando steadies him]

Gustav : Eleven, we're supposed to meet at Eleven in Ulbrecht Park.

Rando : Olga, is he alright to move.

Olga : I think he's going to move regardless of whether he's all right or not.

Gustav : Yes I am, I have to!

Rando : Alright Gustav Muller, lets get you to that park. Olga get our coats.

[Gustav, Rando & Olga exit]

ACT ONE – SCENE SEVEN

The jail in Bautzen

[Hans, a jailer, is reading to Elin from a piece of paper]

Hans : Elin Muller. You are charged with illegally attempting to emigrate from this country without the permission required by the State. You will be held here in Bautzen Prison until such time that the State feels you are ready to return to common life.

Elin : That will never happen

Hans : Then you will be here a long time. Your rations are here. You should eat. The country is not unsympathetic.

Elin : *Just who are you telling
Me or your conscience
Why the hell do you believe the State
You can't trust anyone
This isn't freedom
You must be blind, you must be blind*

*You do your duty
Like a good soldier
You'll never see cause you don't look
It's all around you
God it astounds me
You are all fools, play by their rules*

Hans : *I do my duty
To a great country
People like you don't understand*

Elin : *You know nothing
Nothing about me
You don't know me, nor I know you
How can you say that "people like me"
Who are you to judge
You don't know why
The four of us
Ran for our lives from the State*

Hans : *Four of you, you say
I only know two
Who the State captured tonight
Yourself and another
Now locked up quite safely
Will find the way to the light*

Elin : *Two others fled another gate
One was my husband, now I'm late
Late for a meeting over the Wall
He'll be worried*

Hans : *Life is a choice you broke the law
You will not see him anymore*

Elin : *He had a friend who fled in tow
Beppo knew more than you can know
They will have made
I will always believe*

Your name?

Hans : Pardon

Elin : If you are going to keep me here, I want to know your name.

Hans : *(a little unnerved)* Fischer, Hans Fischer

Elin : The same as my friend Beppo.

Hans : Beppo's last name is Fischer?

Elin : That is his name, if only you were anything like him?

[Hans is struck dumb by Elin's statement, Beppo Fischer is his brother]

Hans : And his friend, your husband?

Elin : Gustav Muller, why do you want to know?

Hans : *(very agitated)* No reason. Just if you are going to be here I would like to know more about you. Your food. Eat well. You are obviously eating for two people. I will try to find more blankets.

Elin : *(confused in the change of tone)* Um.....Thank-you.

[Hans leaves Elin in the room]

Hans : *Eight years ago I joined the service
And left a family behind
Now eight years on I am suddenly lost
Was my brother there tonight*

*There's only one Beppo Fischer in Berlin
It used to be a game
And his best and only friend was a child called Gustav
Could it be these men are the same.*

*All of a sudden I have feelings for
A woman I've never met before
Hoping that she can get through the night
Hoping that she might see the light*

*As for the fate of the brother
I must find what truth I can
I will try to help this woman
Could her child be that man
I must see*

[Light fades on Hans, Comes up on the cell. Elin is alone]

Music 15 Take a Dream (Lullaby)

Elin : *When I was young I was scared of the night
 Haunted by demons
 Prayed for the light
 Mother would tell me don't think about the fear
 So I always used to try
 To see dreams and lullabies*

Elin : *Take a dream, a little dream
 One in which your hero
 Leads your hand to distant lands
 And wipes away your fear
 So once the dream is in your mind
 And everything's alright
 Lullaby, before you say goodnight*

*Lullaby to help you sleep
See the sun tomorrow
Hush a while, cry a while
Helps relieve your sorrow
Don't despair, just say a prayer
Pray to he who smiles on you
Lullaby when you feel like a child*

*Fairy tales with magic spells
And knights in shining armour
Princesses, white horses, unicorns
A prince or two, in love with you
To rescue you from danger
When it's real to you
You never know, it may come true*

*If you take a dream, a little dream
One in which your hero
Leads your hand to distant lands
And wipes away your fear
So once the dream is in your heart
And everything's OK
Lullaby until the break of day*

ACT ONE – SCENE EIGHT

West Berlin and Park

[Rando, Olga and Gustav are stood in the park. There is no sign of Elin or Lutz, Rando and Olga are worried about Gustav]

Rando : Gustav. It's eleven thirty

Gustav : They must have made it

Olga : They might be resting

Gustav : They wouldn't miss the time, it's been planned for weeks.

Rando : Maybe they've just been delayed

Gustav : Eleven o'clock sharp, if not this night then the following night.

Rando : They'll be here tomorrow then.

Gustav : Yes, Maybe. But there should be three more people here tonight.

Music 16 Always through Always

Gustav : *I'm stood here waiting so why aren't you here
Where are you hiding? Will you appear?
And if you are listening please show me a sign
If ever I needed to see you this is the time.*

*We made the plans, I can't do this alone
And what of our family? This was meant to be home*

*Beppo, my friend, this is not what was planned
You should be here too, you'd understand
Four of us meeting. Five would then live
Here with the freedom we wanted as kids*

*So how do I do this? How can I go on?
What's the point with no-one to share it
You should all be here, I don't think I can bear this
And why would you leave me? Just what can that mean?
I'm so scared, so frightened
I can't live in an abandoned dream*

*Always through always I still see your smiles
Won't you please join me just for a while
If always through always I need you with me
How do I survive the nightmare?
This was meant to be our dream*

ACT ONE – SCENE NINE

Arbeitsgruppe 6, a few days later

Music 17 Arbeitsgruppe 6

[Hans enters the reception area of Arbeitsgruppe 6]

Hans : I have an appointment with Herr Freidrich

Rec : Can I have your name please?

Hans : Hans Fischer

Rec : Just a moment (*Calls through to Freidrich's office*) Hans Fischer is here for his meeting with you Sir (*She waits for a reply – then looks back at Hans*) He says for you to go through, 3rd door on the left.

Hans : Thank-you

*[Hans goes through. He knocks on the door marked
PAUL FREIDRICH – DEPUTY OF ARBEITSGRUPPE 6]*

[The voice of Freidrich is heard]

Freidrich : Enter

[Hans enters a little cautiously]

Music 18 The Demand and Solitude

Freidrich : *Hans it's good to see you
It must be now two years
Since our paths last crossed*

Hans : Indeed sir

Freidrich : *You have made good progress
Since you took the post at Bautzen
This office felt a loss
Now you ask to see me it's the least that I can do
You have never called before so what is troubling you
We were always friends and you were confident with me
Tell me my friend, what do you need?*

Hans : *One of our prisoners Elin Muller
She is pregnant with a child
She has been there but a week now
She has told me of her file

How she tried to escape through the wall
She went with a friend but that's not all
How her husband went as well
With another friend but they chose another gate*

*She doesn't know yet what became
Of her husband who she named
Gustav Muller, there was another man
I would like to be able to tell her of their fate*

*I know that this is a large request
But I serve as I know best
I'd like to be able to ease her mind
A little at a fateful time*

[Freidrich ponders]

Freidrich : *I'm aware of these two people
That you have just mentioned
Yes, they were stopped as well
Both men chose to run
Our guards opened fire
I believe they went to hell
But why are you asking for a prisoner of the State
I find this confusing, are they not the ones we hate
I don't like this attitude, you'll start to worry me
Traitors can convince most easily.*

Hans : *She is not corrupting me I'd simply like to know
A woman with a baby due has feelings that will flow
It could save me time and grief, and now I know the truth
I can play the situation, like the State is due*

Freidrich : You say she's pregnant, how long til it's due

Hans : Not more than two weeks I would think, the doctor is keeping her under surveillance.

Freidrich : As it should be, but a baby (*his attitude obviously changes from sympathetic to heartless*).....well....yes.... it is the only way.

*Hans you must do this great service unlike things before
This is not an option it is now the law
You will wait until the child is born
Then you take the child and kill it, let the mother mourn
You will tell her that the child perished in it's birth
For the good of the State*

*The State and I will not tolerate the traitors in our midst
We must eliminate the threat that still exists
You are sworn to secrecy so you will never tell
Or you will die, don't deft, The State and I*

That will be all Hans Fischer. You have your orders, you will abide them, you may go.

[Hans leaves, dumbstruck at the order – In the streets his thoughts race]

Hans : *How can someone be so cruel
She won't have any soul to lose
How can they do this, this isn't right
The man is crazy
Surely there is some other way
I am in danger if my words stray?
This isn't just
You can't just play with life
So what am I to do, carry out his scheme?
And ruin the shreds of the woman's dream
This just can't be*

ACT ONE – SCENE TEN

Hans' Apartment

Music 19 Hans and Marietta

[Hans returns home, in a state, over the orders that Freidrich has just given him]

Hans : *Mad, heartless man how can this be
Why all the torment now in me
I worked for that man for six good years
And I never saw, never knew
He doesn't realise what he's done
Broken the faith of a faithful son
Of a country I cannot love again
When they ask you to kill the faith just ends*

Marietta : Tell me

Hans : There's a woman in the prison, she's been there a week. She tried to escape through the wall but was captured. She was one of four, one of the others was my brother, Beppo. She and another were arrested but she didn't know what happened to Beppo or her husband, Gustav so I went to find out from Arbeitsgruppe 6. Freidrich said they were both killed but I don't know whether he's telling the truth but they aren't they weren't arrested otherwise Freidrich would have told me. Elin, the woman is pregnant and due very soon. I mentioned this to Freidrich who decided instantly that I must kill the child. He ordered me to. Me kill a child, after they might have killed my brother, me kill an innocent child. I can't, I won't. There must be some way to save it from that. There must be.

Marietta : What can you do, go against the State?

Hans : I've been thinking. Ever since he ordered me to do it. I've come up with an idea, but it's crazy, the risk is unbelievable, I think it can work, and it's the only way.

Marietta : How crazy?

Hans : What if Beppo had a child, what if we adopted it, as family members.

Marietta : What are you saying?

- Hans :** I take the child away, but instead of killing it, we keep it, adopt it, we raise it. Then one day when it's safe we tell the child of it's true identity and reunite the two of them.
- Marietta :** You are crazy
- Hans :** I can get the documents, they'd never know. It would be our little secret.
- Marietta :** This is the only way?
- Hans :** I've thought it over a thousand times since. The answer is always the same, it is the only way.
- Marietta :** You would do this for this woman?
- Hans :** For my brother, I wasn't there. For him, for Elin, for anyone that the State has ever done this to. Would you stand with me?
- Marietta :** Always, but only if you're sure
- Hans :** Sure is not the answer, it is the only way.
- Marietta :** Then you are sure.

ACT ONE – SCENE ELEVEN

West Berlin and Park

[Again Gustav is in the park, this time only with Rando who has accompanied him. This is the sixth night, Gustav is not the clean cut man of before, he is dishevelled at the loss of his wife – again they wait, again she is not here]

- Rando :** Gustav it's eleven forty-five, I'm sorry, we really should return to the house, much longer and Olga will worry.
- Gustav :** Six days, six days – what the hell happened to them? Where are they Rando? Are they alive?
- Rando :** I'm sure they are well, wherever they are.
- Gustav :** You don't know what the State is like, how can you know?
- Rando :** Gustav, please, we know a fair deal, but alas I have never lived there. But I have lived here – you must try to pull yourself together, you can't live like this forever.
- Gustav :** You don't understand
- Rando :** I understand my new friend is deeply upset and quite understandably so. But I also know that if you are to wait for her every night here, surely you should get to know your new city so that you can introduce your wife and child to it when they arrive...

Music 20 The West in the East

[During the song the chorus enter and the scene becomes busy with hustle and bustle. The final chorus is sung by all to Gustav]

Rando : *Deep behind the Iron Curtain
The island in the land is here
One little hive of Freedom
Welcome to West Berlin*

*Happiness all around you
There's a heart and soul to give
To prosper, succeed and to flourish
Gustav take a look at where you now live*

*It's the West in the East free in it's beliefs
You can live how you choose there's no way you can lose
In a city filled with dreams, exciting, busy, serene
You have no need to hide there's no need to stay inside
Take a tour of the town find what's around
And there's no need to fear as long as you're here
The West in the East is Grand*

*It's OK to be rich,
It's OK to be poor
Only you decide your future
To reach high or to stay on the floor*

*People make their own decisions
No-one to spy on you all of the time
Work how you want and play how you play
Give it a chance Gustav, what do you say?*

*It's the West in the East free in it's beliefs
You can live how you choose there's no way you can lose
In a city filled with dreams, exciting, busy, serene
You have no need to hide there's no need to stay inside
Take a tour of the town find what's around
And there's no need to fear as long as you're here
The West in the East is Grand*

*Gustav I know you'd rather give in
But before you do look around
Make your life great so one day when they're here
They won't believe what you've found*

Rando/Chris : *It's the West in the East free in it's beliefs
You can live how you choose there's no way you can lose
In a city filled with dreams, exciting, busy, serene
You have no need to hide there's no need to stay inside
Take a tour of the town find what's around
And there's no need to fear as long as you're here
The West in the East is Grand
There's no need to fear as long as you're here
The West in the East
The West in the East
The West in the East is ours*

*[Rando has convinced Gustav quite a lot about getting life sorted for when Elin does eventually arrive,
Gustav is thinking]*

Music 21 Gustav's Lament

Rando : *Gustav I'm off home
Why don't you sit a while, alone
Think about what I said
Then come back and go to bed
In the morning start this life
Prepare it for your wife*

[Rando exits leaving Gustav in the park alone]

Gustav : *Lost in my mind
Of where you are and how you are
And why you're not beside me
So now I find
I'm all alone without a home
Without your love tonight
Still I see you & wish you'd just appear
Say that you've been teasing me
And you were always near*

Like that's going to happen. But Rando is right, (to an invisible Elin and Joshua)
You will arrive, one day, and you will have somewhere, we will have the dream.

Gustav : *Can I start again
Have I the strength to begin
How can I still win
Tell me why you aren't by my side
I will come here every night
In the day I'll build a life
That one day you will be proud of when you see
With your own eyes*

ACT ONE – SCENE TWELVE

The Jail in Bautzen

[Marietta enters carrying a bundle, a disguise of a child, Hans is already carrying the sleeping Joshua]

Music 22 The Deception

Hans : *Take the child keep him safe
Take him far from this cold place
Run the plan like we said
Get him home and tucked in bed
There's a woman I must see
And unfold a tragedy*

*It's a lie that we'll live
But it's all we have to give
We'll help him, help him grow
But one day he will know
That the world is cruel with bitter rules
We'll tell him of this night
It's the only way, cheat the State
Take him from their sight.*

[Hans leaves to tell Elin (which is depicted whilst Marietta leaves). Marietta begins to sing to Joshua]

Music 23 When the dream is gone

Marietta : *One little child, a spec of light
A candle burns for one sweet soul throughout the night
A woman cries her heart in two
I wish that I could hold you close, be there for you*

*I am with you tonight, though you don't know my name
I close my eyes and pray for you
Find the courage and faith to guide you
When the dream is gone*

[Hans re-enters shock on his face of what he has had to do]

Hans : *This can't be real, must be a dream
I'll wake up and the nightmare will go
I'm only one man, but think that I can
Defy the State to help one I know*

Marietta : *I wish your smile could light a mother's distant eyes
While I take care of you you'll never realise
That someone else is lost and I must live a lie
I'm not the one who should be by your side*

Hans : *Now my life's a lie
But there was nothing I could do but this
And this is far too hard
Who gave the State their rights, then made me God oh*

Marietta : *One day he will be yours, until that time is here
I'll keep your child so near to me
You won't see all the joy just sorrow
When the dream is gone*

Hans : *The worm has turned and now it learns
All too soon
There is no way to win here
She won't see all the joy, just sorrow
When the dream is gone*

Both : *Find the courage and faith to guide you
When the dream is gone*

[Hans exits, overcome]

[Elin is now alone on stage and the small pin-prick of follow spot flicks out, like a candle snuffed out at the end of a church service]

[Marietta is still holding Joshua in another small spot]

Marietta : *When the dream is gone*

Act Two

1989

ACT TWO – SCENE ONE

Berlin Street and Wall

[Beppo is a ghost. The Wall has to create an impression of having haunted life in it. Beppo's ghost sings the "Chant of the Wall", whilst he does so the Wall comes to life with wails. The chorus sing their lines but the lines must sound twisted, haunting and not quite right as if haunting]

Music 24 Chant of the Wall

Beppo's Ghost : *Very close to midnight the guards patrol the grounds
The chant of the Wall begins
And terror echoes round
The faces of the people who have failed to cross the Wall
Have their masks entombed in the stone*

*Twenty-eight years since the Wall first stood so tall
It holds the writings for the souls
Who had to fall
As soon as midnight comes the silence ebbs away
And the requiem of the lost starts again*

Victims : *Die, die, no time to cry
Cry, cry, don't even try
Try, try, you cannot fly
Fly, fly, you'll only die*

Beppo's Ghost : *Many people tried and failed to see the promised land
But one wrong move, the Wall will win
And fate will slay your plans
Each night the wall begins its Requiem of moans
And the voices cry from the stone*

Victims : *Die, die, no time to cry
Cry, cry, don't even try
Try, try, you cannot fly
Fly, fly, you'll only die*

*[Beppo improvises over the top of the chant phrases such as
"Don't try it, you'll die,
Don't try it, say goodbye,
Don't try it, where's your wings,
You'll die the Wall sings*

*Die, die, no time to cry
Cry, cry, don't even try
Try, try, you cannot fly
Fly, fly, you'll only cry]*

Beppo's Ghost : *Only Die!!!*

ACT TWO – SCENE TWO

Elin's apartment in East Berlin

Music 25 Elin's Art

*[Elin's apartment. She is reading a letter that has arrived.
Her apartment is full of paintings and is quite messy]*

Elin :

An exhibition

Finally it's happening

Dresden accepted, in six weeks.

"Choose fifty paintings you wish to display"

Where do I start, where do I start

Always til now it's been bits and pieces

Enough to survive but not much more.

Thirty years painting suddenly

There is a feeling I can succeed

The one thing not in the jigsaw is him

Gustav I wish you were here for this moment

You'd be so proud of me

Twenty three years and my heart still paints memories

Is it never to be?

An exhibition Gustav I wish you could see

Twelve years in prison

Focussed the mind

They say that great artists need such pain

Now I believe them

Eleven since I first was released

I was released

Hans let me paint and gave me the brushes

The only kind man in the jail.

Twelve years I practised then I was let out

Where would I start, where would you start

Tried to find Gustav

Asked the wrong people

Took me to prison again

Three years more torture studied my art

Until I was freed once again

So I kept quiet now I paint memories of them

They are the two I'll remember for life

A man and a son I can't see

But one day in heaven

They both might be waiting

So I paint their image for me

Now I can show my loves and the nation will see

ACT TWO – SCENE THREE

West Berlin and Park

Music 26 The Bar in the West

*[Gustav and Rando are in a bar in the West side.
They have obviously been there a while and are a little tipsy]*

Rando : *Another drink old son*

Gustav : *I've had too many
It's time to take a stroll to the park*

Rando : *Gustav one more
It's barely 10.30
That place can't be fun in the dark*

Gustav : *Alright one more
But just a single
Or I'll need your help to get home*

Rando : *Gustav did I ever say how proud I am
Of how you've made your life on your own?*

Gustav : Always Rando. Every time we drink together.

Rando : Well it's true my good friend. Once you'd made up your mind of course. But now that little shop of yours is the most successful on the Western strip. Not bad for a boy from the East side. When Elin eventually gets to see it she'll be so proud.

Gustav : Still you have as much hope as I

Rando : Faith Gustav,faith. One day I'm sure I will see again your family again.

Music 27 Berlin belongs to me

Rando : *Take a look at everything you have
1989 things aren't so bad
You are a success
Your little business is expanding
And the house you own is better now than mine
Come on Gustav smile
West Berlin's phenomenal
Let's go hit the town
Gustav we've got time*

*Your life and my life
Are better than a dream
One day I know
Elin will be here
And then this life will be
All you've ever seen
Smile a little drink some more
Berlin belongs to me*

Rando : *Everything happens for a reason
Though you miss her I'm sure that one day
She will see the life you've built
And you'll be truly happy
But til that day you must smile a little more
Come on G it's only me
Relax for a while.
G unlock that door*

*And see that
Your life and my life
Are better than a dream
One day I know
Elin will be here
And then this life will be
All you've ever seen
Smile a little drink some more
Berlin belongs to me*

Rando : Come on my friend relax. You work too hard sometimes

Gustav : You know how it is

Rando : It's always the same when you drink. Come on finish it my boy, then we'll go to the park together - I could do with the fresh air Olga wo't be impressed. We'll wait for Elin then, if she arrives tonight we will show her the best bar in town

Gustav : Whatever you say Rando, whatever you say

*One day you will see her and you'll understand just why
I still go and wait for her every single night
Without you though I'd have either died or given in
How do you put up with me my friend*

Rando : *I'll tell you why
It's because*

Both : *Your life and my life
Are better than a dream
One day I know
Elin will be here
And then this life will be
All you've ever seen
Smile a little drink some more
Berlin belongs to me*

[Blackout]

ACT TWO – SCENE FOUR

Hans' Apartment

Music 28 Joshua's Birthday

Marietta : *Joshua*
 Our deepest love
 On your 23rd birthday
 It doesn't seem
 A year ago
 Since you had your last one

Hans : *I remembered what it was*
 You said you were wanting
 Make a wish and close your eyes

[Joshua does so and Hans presents him with a brand new easel for his art]

Joshua : *Where did you get this sculpture from*

Hans : *I had it handmade - I hope it's not wrong*

Joshua : *Father it's glorious*
 Of course it's not wrong
 It's absolute beauty.
 I can throw away the one I have
 It's about time the wood's gone bad.
 It's just what I wanted
 Thank-you it means the world to me.

[Joshua kisses Marietta on the cheek and shakes Hans' hand]

Joshua : Would you mind if I took it into the kitchen? There's an idea I had this afternoon.
 I'd like to start sketching.

Marietta : On your birthday?

Joshua : Ideas don't care about birthdays.

Hans : If that's what you want to do on your birthday, carry on. Maybe we can see it
later.

Joshua : Of course

[Joshua exits with the easel]

Hans : *It is time he was told
Of that night so long ago
It has been much too long
Now this time we will be strong.
We said his 21st.
It is now his 23rd
Two years more than we planned
He has grown into a man
And the truth will hurt but he must know
We tell him tomorrow night*

Marietta : *I wasn't brave before
But now is the time
And I'll stand behind you
But please don't let me
Have to see his face
When he learns the truth*

Hans : I will tell him by myself, you don't have to be in the room. It will hurt us all but he will know tomorrow night. It has been long enough, too long. I am going out for some air and to think.

[Hans leaves the room. Marietta is alone]

Music 29 Judgement Day

Marietta : *I always knew I'd have to face this day
Now it's here I long to run away
The past is haunting, the future daunting*

*He, he who I have raised as if my own
Now if he should leave and I'm alone
How could he lose me? But why, he didn't choose me*

*Days, days I watched him grow into a man
Years, years that raced on by
With sparkles in my eyes
The son I'd always wanted*

*Will, will he forgive the past and still want me
What about the mother he can't see
This, my Judgement Day, it has to be*

ACT TWO – SCENE FIVE

A Shop

Music 30 Elin and Lutz

[Incidental music as lights come up on a shop. Lutz is there just in the process of paying when Elin enters]

Lutz : 6 marks. It was five last week for the same list.

Storekeeper : Inflation Lutz, you can't beat it. Every day a new price it seems.

Lutz : So it would seem.

Storekeeper : So how is the Templin family business nowadays?

[Elin has by now noticed Lutz and has pricked her ears up at the name]

Lutz : Oh, so, so. You know how it is.

Storekeeper : I know exactly how it is, Lutz.

[Elin is by now staring at Lutz]

Elin : *It is you
I can't believe it
You look so much older*

Lutz : *Do I know you*

Elin : *So long since
That fateful night
Or have you forgotten*

Lutz : *(Realises with a shock who she is)* Elin, Elin Muller.

Elin : Yes Lutz Templin. How are you?

Lutz : *(Now getting edgy, does she suspect something)* Fine...er...very well. How are you?

Elin : Very good nowadays. It took some readjusting when they let me go.

Lutz : How long were you there?

Elin : Twelve years.

[Lutz cringes at the truth he pays the shopkeeper. Once paid the shopkeeper exits]

And you?

Lutz : *(Thrown by the question)* About the same..

Elin : *(Changing the subject)* Did you ever know what happened to Gustav & Beppo?
(She is obviously anxious)

Lutz : No, I take it you don't know or you wouldn't be asking me.

Elin : I tried to find out once... And ended up in prison for another three years.

Lutz : No !! (*Once again shocked*)

Elin : Truly. So now I paint and hope that they are alive. Until today I hoped for you too. Now my mind has one less to worry about.

Lutz : Very true.

Elin : What are you doing on Wednesday evening.

Lutz : Nothing.

Elin : We should go for dinner. There is so much to catch up on.

Lutz : I'm not sure.

Elin : Lutz. After so many years there must be so much to talk about.

Lutz : I don't like eating out that's all I have my own cafe. I tell you what. I was always the cook. I'll prepare a meal that Gustav & Beppo would love. It's the least I can do.

Elin : That sounds lovely.

Lutz : Wednesday night at 8?

Elin : I'll look forward to it.

Lutz : (*Writing*) Here is the address. Will you find it?

Elin : It is two streets from me - I'll be there.

Lutz : Then I will see you Wednesday

Elin : See you then.

[Lutz leaves leaving Elin in the shop]

ACT TWO – SCENE SIX

Hans' Apartment

Music 31 The Admission

[Marietta, Joshua & Hans are sat in the sitting room. Hans passes Marietta a rod, it is time - she leaves the room]

Hans : *(aside)* ***This is the night I have always wished away.
But now the time for strength is here.
The hardest thing I will ever have to do.
Hold your breath control your fear.***

(To Joshua) Joshua. I have to tell you something. Something we have always known, something we always knew you would have to know.

Joshua : Sounds very serious

Hans : It is and now the time has come I must admit - I have never been more frightened of anything in my life. Before I start I want you to know that you mean everything to me and Marietta.

Joshua : I know that but what's so wrong?

Hans : *(Takes a deep breath)* We, Joshua are not your real parents. *(looks at Joshua waiting for a reaction)* We have cared for you all your life and always will. But we aren't your blood.

[Joshua is obviously stunned and says nothing, Hans continues]

Music 32 Joshua

Hans : ***You must understand the truth, I must tell you***

***We all make mistakes
And some of those made worse by fate
There was a time before the wall
A woman loved with all her soul
She tried once to escape that was her crime
And ever since that day she served her time
She needed a friend
In some ways I was there
You take the chance although you're scared***

***Joshua you really have to know
The state makes life a precious thing to hold
And though I couldn't do what they ordered me to do
I wouldn't change the way I played that scene
Joshua it's time you learned the truth
And trust the man that lived a life through you
The parents you have known
And the place that you call home
Are not quite what they're meant to be
But you must now believe in me
Joshua my son, you really are the one***

*Inside a jail she had a child
And though it lived was told it died
A jailer took the child away
Gave it a home, but knew one day
That he would have to face the lie he gave
To save a woman's son a choice was made
She never knew, the choice was mine
Joshua I've known for all your life*

*Joshua you really ought to know
The story that was made so long ago
For years we've lived a lie, only love our Alibi
And now the time has come to share the truth
Joshua you really shouldn't cry
You have to know the woman thought you'd died
The state was told the same so it's me you have to blame
But please forgive me when I say I couldn't find another way
Joshua my son you really are the one*

[Chorus offstage provide 'Godly Aahs' during the instrumental part and continue until the final few bars]

*Joshua please don't ask me why
I had to take the chance to save your life
Believe it was for you and a woman I once knew
So please forgive me when I say I couldn't find another way
Joshua my son, you really are the one
Joshua forgive me what I've done
My son.*

[Joshua stands there for a minute, slightly disbelieving and overawed by what has just been said to him – He begins to sing, acapella at first, stuttering. Overall in this song he has to emphasise that Hans and Marietta are not in danger of losing him and that he is grateful for everything they have done, but also there is no a sense that he must find his real parents]

Music 33 Just your son

Joshua : *Is this reality, this is my family
All at once I feel to blind to see
Is this true
You have always been there
Taught me to love and care
Why did you teach me that this life was fair
So where do I go from here?*

*If life was all you ever granted
I could hate you both and leave
But that isn't so, so now I know
Why am I trembling from head to toe*

*Nothing has changed in me
 But you must help me seek
 The two who were never told
 Those who gave me my blood
 Now I can't be just your son*

ACT TWO – SCENE SEVEN

*Three places (West Berlin in the Park – Gustav, Elin – East Berlin Street,
 Joshua with Hans at Hans' Apartment)*

Music 34 Trio

Elin : *I'm all alone, all on my own
 The night once more draws near
 It only seems like yesterday
 The dreams I had were here
 But then the world that I had known
 Was brushed into the dark
 And since that day I've wished away
 The waking years apart*

*I hold you close, I hear your voice
 And still it seems so clear
 I think of you, I pray for you
 And try to stop my tears
 I've only had two loves in life
 And both are far away
 I'd give my life tomorrow
 To be with you here today*

Gustav : *If only you could see my soul
 Then you'd see I'm no longer whole
 Without your love, without you touch
 And though I've had to change
 I've rearranged, I've learnt to start again
 And yet I see you smile
 I'd give my life tomorrow
 To be with you here today*

Elin : *If you were here, here with me now
What would I say? What would I do?
Are you still there thinking of me?
Do you still hope? Do you still feel?
I need your love, I need to hear
That you're alive and you are near
You're still with me, here in my heart
So many years, so long apart, so long apart.*

Gustav : *Once long ago, I didn't know
I'd find someone like you to share my life
Then it was sweet almost complete
So long ago
Over the years, I searched for you
I could search for another lifetime more
Just to see you, smiling again
So many years, so long apart*

Joshua : *A history I never knew
You are my life, I can't blame you
But I must see if I can find
The family that have been blind all this time*

Elin : *I need your love, I need to hear
That you're alive and you are near
You're still with me, here in my heart
But we have been so long apart I know.*

Gustav : *Over the years, I wait for you
I could wait for another lifetime more
Just to see you, smiling again
I need you here that I know*

Joshua : *What else can I do, If they only knew
Maybe they would understand the past
I can't love them any more, than my life before
But I must do this now I have to know*

ACT TWO – SCENE EIGHT

Lutz's Cafe

Music 35 The Meeting I

[Hans and Joshua are walking along a street talking - Elin and Lutz are eating at Lutz's Cafe, all are visible to the audience]

Hans : As I said to you Joshua. This man Templin was with your mother the night they tried to escape. I don't know whether he will know where she is but it was the best lead I can find. It would have been too dangerous to try to get direct information. If Templin doesn't know anything I have couple of other options but it is a start.

Joshua : Anything is a start.

Elin : *So I told him
It was Picasso
Who had led me into art
Then he said that
My collection
Was good and gave me start
The exhibition ran
And I've never looked back
And now I can survive on art*

Joshua : Does he know we're coming.

Hans : No I thought it best not to ask. The country makes people very cautious. He might think we're trying to set him up for the State.

Lutz : *Now the cafe is mine
It takes up of all my time
I suppose in a way that's good*

[Hans and Joshua arrive at Lutz's café, Hans goes to the counter, Lutz 'serves' him]

Lutz : *Can I help you*

Hans : *We're looking for a man
Lutz Templin are you him
We need to ask him about the past*

Lutz : *I'm him but I am really run off my feet tonight*

Hans : *It won't long can we begin?*

Lutz : *What is this about
Have I done something wrong*

Joshua : *Not at all, we'd like to talk*

Hans : *We're looking for a person we think you once knew
Elin Muller was her name*

[Lutz again looks like he's seen a ghost]

Lutz : Maybe you should leave.

[Lutz is getting edgy. But before Hans and Joshua try to plead their case Elin spots Hans]

Elin : You. What the hell are you doing here?

Hans : Elin. *(As shocked as her)* This isn't how it was meant to be. Elin we had to look for you.

Elin : I haven't done anything I'm not going back again.

Hans : Elin, please relax. That is not why I am here. In any way that is not why I have been looking for you. This must be done correctly. Please listen and let me try to explain.

Music 36 Meeting II

Hans : *Years ago
I met a girl
Frightened in a cell
Her love was lost
I knew not where
She lived an Earthly hell
She had a child and lost a child
Because the State is cruel
I was the one
Ordered to kill your son
But this I couldn't do*

*I hatched a plan
A crazy plan
The only thing I could see
I took the child
But didn't kill the child
We raised him, my wife and me
I always knew I'd tell the truth
And this is what I've done
Elin, this is Joshua
This is your son*

Elin : *This cannot be*

Hans : *Elin it's real*

Elin : *This is a dream*

Hans : *Reality*

Elin : *You can't expect me just to believe.*

Hans : *Twenty three years.*

Elin : *This can't be true*

Hans : Elin it was done for you, and I couldn't live with the guilt.

Elin : *I wish you were
Telling the truth*

Hans : *Elin I am*

*I have no wish to hurt you.
This was the only way.
Listen to me, this is your son*

Elin : *How I prayed.*

Hans : *This is your son*

[Joshua speaks for the first time in the room]

Joshua : *This man has raised me as his son.
Given me everything I own.
But he has told me I am yours
This isn't a lie
This is the true story.*

[Elin stares a while]

Elin : This isn't a trap?

Hans : No Elin, I promise

Elin : But why?

Hans : The State ordered me to kill Joshua. I am a man of the country but I couldn't kill an innocent child. It was all I could think of, but I was always going to find you. Joshua wanted to me you. This is your son Elin, but I never wanted it to be like this *(pause)* Beppo was my brother.

Elin : Your brother?

Hans : Yes, I told the State I adopted Beppo's son. Beppo and Gustav were never caught, n ever seen again. It was the only way.

[Elin now realises that Hans has been telling the truth – suddenly emotion takes over]

Elin : *Joshua so many nights I cried
And prayed that somehow you were still alive.
I never did believe but I never once have grieved
For Someday I knew we would meet again.
Joshua you'll never see the pain
I won't let you go again
The stories we must share. Hans you must be there.*

Hans : *Then come to ours tomorrow night
And put the wrongful years to rights*

Elin : *Joshua my son you really are the one*

[Lutz has been listening intently. He will see Freidrich soon]

ACT TWO – SCENE NINE

Arbeitsgruppe 6 – Friday 9th Nov 1989 – 7.30 PM

Music 37 Arbeitsgruppe 6

[Hans is speaking to the receptionist at Arbeitsgruppe 6. He is a little concerned. He has been summoned by Freidrich]

Hans : Herr Freidrich has requested me. He asked me to as soon as I could get here. I do not know if I have an appointment.

Secretary : Name please

Hans : Fischer, Hans Fischer.

Secretary : *(not needing to look at her schedule)* Ah you're Fischer. Yes Herr Freidrich is expecting you. He is with someone at the moment. Please take a seat and I will let him know you're here. He won't be long.

[Hans sits and is very worried]

[After a short time the door to Freidrich's room is opened and Lutz exits. He catches Hans line of sight and Hans knows Freidrich knows the truth]

Secretary : Herr Freidrich will see you now.

[Hans knows that Freidrich will know the truth thanks to Lutz. He is a very worried man indeed. Hans enters very cautiously - he knows the situation or so he thinks]

Freidrich : *(Sternly)* Fischer, come in.

[Hans enters a little more but is frightened]

Freidrich : It looks like you know what this is about. You have met Lutz Templin then?

[Hans nods]

Music 38 Hans and Freidrich

Freidrich : *Fischer I am disappointed
With the tale I've heard
More than you can ever know.
You were once a bright young man
Who lived and breathed his country
When did you lose your control?*

Hans : *I betrayed the country and a man I once admired
I could not obey the order kill a new born child.*

Freidrich : *I can understand your conscience
But the State is fair
Let us take a walk in open air.*

[Freidrich gets his coat from the stand in the corner. Hans can do nothing except join him. He is resigned to dying which is what the audience should suspect too. They leave the office and Freidrich approaches her]

Freidrich : I am leaving for the remainder of the day. Please take notes for me. *(To Hans)*
Fischer come with me.

[Hans and Freidrich leave the Arbeitsgruppe 6 building. Freidrich leads Hans to a back street where there is no-one other than the two of them. The conversation begins as they leave the building]

Berlin Street and Wall

Freidrich : *What we are about to do
Isn't through the State
This is because of what was said
Many years ago a time I have not forgotten
I was sure the child was dead
But suddenly I find that you betrayed the State for years
Now there is no choice over what must happen here
You must be shown how the State has always been
You've never seen what I've seen.*

*The state and I are inseperable we live and breathe the same.
Each little move is made according to the game.
But I now must tell before fate shows the next move
I will tell you
The full truth*

Freidrich : *Years ago you came to see me to ask about the men she was with
I told you that they both were shot at the scene
But I now know one of them lived
Now Templin says that one was your brother
I know it was he that died,
But Muller's husband reached the other side
We've known a long time
He's still alive.*

Freidrich : *The State and I never can accept the way you lived this lie.
You've served for 30 years, but you should rightly die
For the good of the country this must be
The State chose me*

Hans : *I have done nothing
To harm the State
I will not kill, I'll take my fate.
And I will die content*

[Freidrich produces a gun]

Freidrich : For the good of the country this must be done. You must see death with eyes open.

Hans : Willingly, I didn't do anything wrong.

Freidrich : I know Hans

[Freidrich raises the gun and shoots himself. Hans, expecting to die, is stunned]

Music 39 Run

Hans : *My God
What has he done
I thought he'd shoot me
What now
The family I must get home*

*He knew everything but he chose to kill himself
What becomes of me
I'm the only witness to the scene
If he knows of the history
There could be guards already home and then what
Joshua, Marietta, Elin
What fate is behind the truth that I have laid*

Hans : *Now he tells the truth after all these years
Gustav made it to the West
But the brother I once loved is gone
I can't grieve
Elin's man's alive but is there time to tell her
I must get there
First to home then to Elin's – get them
They must be in danger with the hand he's played*

*Two more streets then maybe they are safe
Templin I will see you next in hell
You betrayed your friends though you would say
Friends are always worth more than the State*

ACT TWO – SCENE TEN

Hans' apartment

[Hans is, by now, in a blind panic. Elin and Joshua are seated on the sofa, not that Hans really notices. Marietta is, on the other hand, completely calm. The three of them are watching the television and know that something very different is happening, Hans at this moment though, is unaware.]

Hans : *(Cont)* ***We have got to leave we have got to go***

Marietta : ***Hans what's wrong***

Hans : ***Freidrich called me in, he knew all
I must get Elin now***

Marietta : ***She's already here
Will you please slow down***

Hans : ***There's no time we have to leave***

Marietta : ***What***

Hans : ***Freidrich pulled a gun
And then shot himself not me
There had to be a reason why he chose to die***

Marietta : ***Hans will you calm down
He's lost everything today***

Hans : ***How can you say this?
What is going on?***

Marietta : ***Please listen***

Hans : ***Freidrich is a chief
You do not just watch him kill himself
There has to be a reason***

Marietta : ***There's a reason***

Hans : ***Elin, Gustav is alive
Templin was the traitor who lied to you always.
And Beppo died but Gustav is alive***

Marietta : ***Hans stop, sit down
Please listen to me***

Elin : ***Gustav is alive?
Gustav is alive?***

Hans : *(calming himself)* Gustav is alive Elin, yes. Freidrich told me. Templin was the man the informer both times. Freidrich took me outside, we talked, I thought he was going to kill me - but he shot himself.

Marietta : Elin's been here for the last hour, she saw the commotion on the streets and came around. Freidrich has lost everything, the State is finished, it's over. We're safe

Hans : How can you say we're safe

Marietta : *There's a commotion in the streets
Look at the television please
People are gathering around the monstrous wall*

Music 40 The Wall is Open

TV : *And so tonight the wall is open
East to West is open
I repeat the wall is open
East to West is open*

Hans : *Can this be true, is this a joke*

Joshua : *(To Hans) It can't be, it must be real*

Hans : *(Finally beginning to comprehend the situation)
I understand, Freidrich knew
And so his soul was gone*

TV : *And so tonight the wall is open
East to West is open
I say again the wall is open
East to West is free*

Joshua : *We're going through the wall tonight*

Elin : *We're going through the wall tonight*

All Four : *We're going through the wall tonight so pray*

ACT TWO – SCENE ELEVEN

Hans' apartment / Berlin Street and Wall

[Joshua is first to react to the news on the television, whilst the other three are mildly disbelieving he begins the final section]

Music 41 Freedom I

Joshua : *Is this a moment I'll recall for a lifetime?
Is this a dream or is it real?
Suddenly something holds you completely
Did I hear right, is this our night*

*Four words are spoken and the tyranny's broken
In a mere sentence are we free?
I can see people laughing and singing
I did hear right this is our night*

*The touch of freedom holds our hands today
We can breathe, the wall is history
And the fear is swept away
The kiss of freedom sweeps a nation's soul
The boundary crushed for the state is hushed
To the gate this evening we will go*

[Elin, Joshua, Hans and Marietta leave the building and head out into the streets of East Berlin. Outside other people that heard the broadcast are on the streets heading for the Wall. News is travelling fast and on the streets the atmosphere is one which will never be repeated]

Chorus 1 : *Try, try, see the other side
Fly, fly, over the wall tonight
Try, try, see the other side
Fly, fly, over the wall tonight*

Chorus 1 : *Try, try, see the other side
Fly, fly, over the wall tonight*

Chorus 2 : *Hold my hand, see the other land
Is this real, is this a dream*

Chorus 1 : *Try, try, see the other side
Fly, fly, over the wall tonight*

Chorus 2 : *Hold my hand, see the other land
Is this real, is this a dream*

Chorus 3 : *Sometimes, see the light, we're free
Sometimes on this night we're free*

[Elin turns to Joshua as the people gather at the Wall. She knows that she must go to the park just in case Gustav is there, if he has heard and if he is alive after all this time. She asks Joshua to come with her]

Elin : *Joshua we must go
To the park I dreamed of so long ago
Come with me my son
I have to see if someone
Is where I think he might just be
Hold my hand and help me see*

[The two leave and we see the park and a solitary figure standing alone, it is Gustav, Joshua stops at the side of the park and Elin slowly moves towards the figure, as soon as she recognises him she begins the song]

West Berlin and Park

Music 42 Hold Me, Love Me

Elin : *I woke this morning and a dream I'd dreamt
Kept recurring in my mind
I felt secure and not alone anymore
I could see though I'd been blind*

Gustav : *Is that you standing here beside me?
Are your arms once more there to guide me?*

Both : *Hold me til the sun don't shine
Hold me til the last blue sky
Love me til no rivers flow
Never let me go*

Gustav : *So many years I couldn't say to you
All the things my heart could feel*

Elin : *I always knew that I would wait for you
Always knew our love was real*

Both : *Tomorrow morning when I wake
You won't be so far away*

*Hold me til the sun don't shine
Hold me til the last blue sky
Love me til no rivers flow
Never let me go*

[Joshua sings stood on his own, watching the unfolding scene transfixed]

Elin/Gustav : *Hold me til the sun don't shine
Hold me til the last blue sky
Love me til no rivers flow
Never let me go
Never ever, let me go.*

Joshua : *This is like a fairy story
Someone's dream come true
And here I am to share the moment
Never let it go
Never ever let it go*

*[Gustav and Elin hug, kiss and hold hands as they make their way across the park for Elin to introduce
Gustav to Joshua]*

Elin : *(To Joshua)* This is your father, Gustav Muller

(To Gustav) This is your son, Joshua

Gustav : *(To Elin)* Just like you said, a boy.

Elin : *(To Gustav) Our boy.*

Berlin Street and Wall

Music 43 Freedom II

Joshua : *So much emotion words can't describe
Feelings I just can't explain
So much to give, years to relive*

Gustav : *We have the time, now is our time*

Elin : *Tears of injustice vanish so quickly
In just one night a nation breathes*

Joshua : *Tonight celebrating while tomorrow is waiting*

All 3 : *This is the time, this is our time*

All 3 : *I feel my freedom showing me a way
To an ecstasy, a reality that our dreams can be arranged
I feel the freedom the power of the soul
So a million eyes see a nation rise
And the freedom of this land is ours*

*[Now surrounded by the entire chorus who are breaking down the Berlin Wall in a massive celebration
the whole chorus sing the refrain, which Joshua has just laid down]*

All : *I feel my freedom showing me a way
To an ecstasy, a reality that our dreams can be arranged
I feel the freedom the power of the soul
So a million eyes see a nation rise
And the freedom of this land is ours*

*[The final moments of the musical are a combination of celebration and ecstasy as the people of Berlin en
mass gathered around the Berlin Wall at the Brandenburg Gate on the evening of November 9th 1989, the
night the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time in 28 years]*

THE END

BERLIN

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Ages given in first then second half

Gustav Muller Aged 26 & 49

Gustav grew up in East Berlin and saw the Wall rise around his 21st birthday. His childhood friend is Beppo who leads the party on their escape through the Wall. Gustav met Elin in the same year as the Wall went up. The two of them have been together and are totally in love. His world revolves around her, and finds, once in the West, it hard to survive without her. Rando, at that point, needs to be the driving force to break the somber mood. His faith in meeting Elin once more is paramount once they are separated.

Elin Muller Aged 24 & 47

Elin is a lady who begins the show very much led by her husband and full of innocence about how the plan to break through the Wall could go horribly wrong. She is full of optimism that is sadly cut short but her imprisonment. At first she is angry and then resolute and the character grows with the situation that is enforced upon her. Obviously she has to deal with the 'death' of her son, and then 23 years later, the actual story and the reunion. As the piece goes on she must gather more weight as a character and gathers more strength from the survival over all the heartache she is forced to endure.

Hans Fischer Aged 36 & 59

Hans is a child of the State. He has always served his country with pride, until the day he is faced with Elin in his prison. Then questions over his whole existence appear. He begins to realise that he's not sure what he should be fighting for. When he questions Freidrich he is left in an impossible position and the faith he once had in the system is gone. From there he knows he must find his own path to satisfy his own conscience. He makes the decision to save Joshua against everything he originally believed in and is resolute in his actions. Even when he has to explain the real story to his adopted son. He permanently lives with the knowledge that he will probably die for his actions and is thrown completely when Freidrich, instead of killing Hans, kills himself.

Beppo Fischer Aged 26

Beppo is Gustav's childhood friend. He is the dominant of the two characters and is the protagonist of the piece. After his death he reappears at the start of the second half as the voice of the Wall itself, and works in some ways as a narrator and bystander on the action.

Lutz Templin Aged 28 & 51

Lutz is weak, or so it appears. He actually is more designed as one who is more frightened for himself than others. This is a situation that, at the time in East Berlin, was true of many people. He is not a bad man, he is just someone who is put in a no win situation and hasn't got the strength to be the hero. Even in the second half he is too frightened to not inform on his previous friend Elin, and the jailer Hans.

Paul Freidrich Aged 45 & 58

Freidrich's story is told in the song 'The State and I'. He lived through the holocaust by escaping to the Soviet Union a move that saved his family and he has always been a believer in the Communist way of life. In essence he is also not a bad man. He totally believes in the system of government and is very 'black and white', if you don't agree with the State you are the enemy. At no point does he does anything that should seem malicious, he is only doing what he believes is best for the country, and at the point where the country is no longer to be believed in, the night of Nov 9th 1989, he chooses to end his life in front of Hans, rather than live in a country that no longer is Communist.

Marietta Fischer Aged 33 & 56

Marietta is Hans' devoted wife. She will always support her husband whatever the consequences including the rescuing of the child, Joshua. She has always wanted a son anyway so agrees to Hans' plan to save the child. Over the 23 years she treats Joshua like her own and is far more scared of losing 'her child' than Hans, who has always remembered how this will end.

Joshua Muller Aged 23 (only in the 2nd half)

When we first meet the adult Joshua, on his 23rd birthday, he has to be without a care in the world. He loves his parents, as he knows them, Hans and Marietta. Once he is told the true story of where he came from he is curious to find his real parents, but never bears animosity towards the parents who saved him. He asks Hans to help him trace his real parents and Hans, as always, assists Joshua to reunite the family the night the Wall came down.

Rando Stiller Aged 38 & 61

Easiest described as think Brian Blessed or Simon Callow in the film 'Four Weddings and a Funeral'. Must be full of life and nothing is ever too much of a problem. His time with Gustav must be driven by Rando's infectious mood. He tries to pull Gustav out of the depression that Gustav is in danger of dropping into with his jovial and well meaning banter.

Olga Stiller Aged 36 & 59

Rando's wife. She is the stabilising influence in Rando's life. She is a nurse and also the caring one who does sympathise with Gustav's plight.

Cabaret Singer Ageless

This is a drag artist (although could be played by a lady) in traditional Berlin-esque cabaret. It's a very light hearted and fluffy song that the character sings and must be over the top interacting with the audience (chorus) who are in the bar at the time. It's a throwaway to break the somber mood but needs to snap the audience's attention.

Director's Notes

Berlin is an Epic show, therefore the work can be staged fully, but will also work played more minimalistically.

The main staging point of the show is how to portray the Wall. In it's conception the opening number of the second act is with the Wall 'coming to life' and being part of the song.

The story though, is essentially one of love, and faith in people. Each of the characters hold their own beliefs, whether right or wrong, Freidrich inherently believes in Communism whilst Gustav and Elin believe and trust in each other.

Costumes again can be set as realistically or symbolically as the director chooses. Obviously the two acts are two different times of both history and fashion, but always the West is brighter and more colourful.

The staging of the Wall escape attempt is left really to the director's discretion, it is written as a spotlit freeze shot sequence but can be retranslated however works best for the director.

Musical numbers are as such unchoreographed, more staged, the only two songs in the piece that lend themselves to choreography easily are the two numbers in the West : 'The West in the East' and 'Berlin belongs to me'. All other numbers are more likely to be staged, although 'Chant of the Wall' may be choreographed depending on the director's interpretation.

Lighting should give a far lighter and brighter air again when in the West, whereas the East should have a hint of the grey. But again this is not essential.