

Technical Analysis

A Bright Room Called Day by Tony Kushner

ACT / SCENE / PAGE	SCENIC ELEMENTS	PROPERTIES	COSTUMES / MAKEUP	LIGHTING	SOUND	SPECIAL EFFECTS
Preshow Notes from the Script						
Preshow Script Notes	<p>"A BRIGHT ROOM CALLED DAY is set entirely in AGNES' apartment, a small flat in a large 19th century apartment building in a low rent district in Berlin. The apartment has no more than three rooms. Only the main room is visible. It is cluttered, cozy, and has large windows. The set should be as uneasily realistic as the text is, and the apartment must be a room everyone would want to occupy. The ZILLAH interruptions take place in the apartment 57 years later, and something - lights or an actual physical change in the set - should connote the transformations of time."</p> <p>"The photograph of the Nazi rally referred to in the stage directions is an actual photograph and can be obtained from the author."</p>	<p>AGNES: Mid to late 30s, preferably heavyset. Bit player / character actress in the German film industry.</p> <p>GREGOR BAZWALD (BAZ): Early to mid 30s. Homosexual who works for the Berlin Institute for Human Sexuality.</p> <p>PAULINKA ERDNUSS: Mid 30s but looks younger. Actress in the German film industry; a featured player on her way to becoming a minor star.</p> <p>ANNABELLA GOTCHLING: Mid 40s. Communist artist and graphic designer.</p> <p>VEALTININC HUSC: Mid 40s. Cinematographer. Hungarian exile. Missing an eye, he wears spectacles with one lens blackened.</p> <p>ROSA MALEK: Mid to late 20s. Minor functionary of the KPD (Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands).</p> <p>EMIL TRAUM: Mid to late 20s. Slightly higher-ranking functionary of the KPD.</p> <p>DIE ALTE: A woman, very old but hard to tell how old - somewhere between 70 and dead-for-20-years. White face and rotten teeth. Dressed in a nightgown, once white but now soiled and food-stained.</p> <p>GOTTFRIED SWETTS: Ageless; when he looks good he could be 30, when he looks bad he could be 50 or more. Distinguished, handsome, blond, Aryan.</p> <p>ZILLAH KATZ: Contemporary American Jewish woman. 30s. BoHo/East Village New Wave with Anarcho-Punk tendencies.</p> <p>ROLAND: In his 20s, born in East Germany back when there was such a thing. Now hanging out in what was formerly West Berlin. Speaks no English.</p>	<p>"The slides are essential; the scene titles aren't meant to be printed or projected."</p> <p>See Scenic Elements / Properties notes for information about transformations in setting and time.</p>	-----	See lighting notes. Work with director on execution of slides.	
PROLOGUE: "Evening Meal in a Windstorm"						
I / Prologue / 15	<p>Empty Apartment, 1990</p> <p>See lighting notes. Projector may be needed.</p>	<p>ZILLAH: Suitcase with handle for carrying</p> <p>ZILLAH: Large Book ("A Photo History of the Third Reich") She shows its open pages to the audience.</p>	-----	<p>Repeated slides of a "huge crowd rallying in support of Hitler, everyone giving the fascist salute. With each slide the people in the crowd draw nearer, till finally fixing on a single figure, a woman who isn't saluting.</p>	-----	See lighting notes.
I / Prologue / 16	<p>Apartment is AGNES' in Berlin, 1932. Actors are seated around a table.</p>	<p>The scene is lit with candles, which may be set dressing as well. This means practical candle lighting.</p> <p>The script indicates that "everyone has been drinking," which may mean that alcoholic bottles may be needed for the table. There are five characters present.</p> <p>AGNES denotes that it is midnight of the New Year, which means she needs some indication of time such as a clock.</p> <p>GOTCHLING mentions coffee. This may be within the set as well.</p>	-----	<p>Slide: "JANUARY 1, 1932."</p> <p>Lights up on AGNES' apartment in Berlin. It is night, and the scene is lit by candlelight.</p>	-----	-----
I / Prologue / 17	-----	<p>All five actors need some sort of drinking glass to pose a toast. Consumable: Drinkable liquid in bottles and/or glasses.</p>	-----	-----	-----	-----
I / Prologue / 18	-----	<p>Candles within the set and on the table are blown out by GOTCHLING.</p>	-----	<p>GOTCHLING blows out the candles onstage, and there is darkness.</p>	-----	-----

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Post Prologue Slides						
I / Post Prologue / 18	-----	-----	-----	Slide: "JANUARY - JUNE 1932." Slide: "POLITICAL TENSION." Slide: "FIERCE FIGHTING, SOMETIMES IN THE STREET." Slide: "CRISIS / TRANSITIONAL PERIOD / CHANGE." Slide: "THE ISSUES ARE PARLIAMETARY & REVOLUTIONARY." Slide: "THE WEIMAR COALITION IS A SHAKY AFFAIR." Slide: "AN UNEASY MARRIAGE OF LEFT-LIBERALS AND MODERATES." Slide: "IN APRIL, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION." Slide: "HINDENBURG DEFEATS HITLER." Slide: "JANUARY - JUNE 1932."	-----	-----
Scene One: "Love Scene with Lemon"						
I / 1 / 19	-----	AGNES is listening to the radio. It is playing jazz. This could mean a sound cue or a practical radio prop. HUSZ pulls a lemon from his pocket.	-----	Slide: "MAY 30, 1932."	AGNES is listening to the radio. It is playing jazz. This could mean a sound cue or a practical radio prop.	-----
Scene Two: "All Day in the Rain"						
I / 2 / 20	-----	-----	DR. BLOOM is described as "a Jew with a big belly and bushy eyebrows...He has hair, dark hair, on the back of his hands. On his knuckles, like a wolf!"	Slide: "MAY 30, 1932." Lights up on AGNES and PAULINKA.	-----	-----
First Interruption: "Berlin 1990: Hysteria"						
I / First Interruption / 22	ZILLAH and ROLAND are in the apartment.	-----	-----	-----	ZILLAH speaks mostly to the audience. Perhaps she is mic'd?	-----
Scene Three: "Late Night Struggles on Towards Dawn"						
I / 3 / 24	AGNES is working on the skit at the table. She is sitting in a chair. HUSZ yells from "off in the bedroom," as he is trying to sleep there. There is a door to the bedroom onstage that he uses to enter and exit from.	AGNES has a pencil, paper, various materials including The Red Baby - a doll - and a little Hitler doll. The pencil must be practical, as she writes with it on the paper. Consumable: The paper will be written on each performance, and will therefore need replacements each show. The small Hitler doll is played with, made to dance, and more onstage.	-----	Slide: "May 30, 1932. LATE NIGHT."	HUSZ yells from offstage. Perhaps he is mic'd?	-----
I / 3 / 25	HUSZ exits the stage using the bedroom door. It is slammed.	Consumable: The lemon is sitting on the table. AGNES cuts into the lemon, and sucks on it. AGNES will also need a working knife to cut the lemon.	-----	-----	-----	-----
Scene Three A: "Die Alte (The Old One)"						
I / 3A / 25	DIE ALTE opens the window from without, and comes into the apartment. Window must be operable, and seen by audience. DIE ALTE sits opposite AGNES at the table, in a 2nd chair.	-----	-----	Slide: "MAY 30, 1932. AN HOUR AFTER MIDNIGHT." The apartment is very dark.	-----	-----
End of Section						