


**WATCH ON THE RHINE**  
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by Lillian Hellman  
directed by Charles Metten

in the Margetts Arena Theatre  
January 28, 29, 30 February 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

Brigham Young University Department of Theatre and Cinematic Arts  
1982 

WATCH ON THE RHINE  
by Lillian Hellman

Scene: The living-room of the Farrelly country house, about twenty miles from Washington, D.C., on a warm Spring morning.

Time: Late Spring, 1940.

Act I: Early on a Wednesday morning.

Act II: Eight days later, early evening.

Act III: A half-hour later.

There will be one five-minute intermission after Act II

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

Lillian Hellman is known for six plays: The Children's Hour, The Little Foxes, Watch On the Rhine, Another Part of the Forest, The Autumn Garden, and Toys in the Attic. Watch on The Rhine was written in 1940, when she and her friends were deeply concerned with America's failure to enter World War II. Washington, D.C., where the play is set, was dominated by isolationists who were unable to acknowledge the existence of German death camps.

In Pentimento, her second volume of memoirs, Hellman describes the atmosphere in America just before World War II: "I could not write a history of those years as it seemed to us then or, more accurately, I could not write my own: I have no records and I do not know when I understood what. I know that Hitler had shaken many of us into radicalism...."

"Many Europeans had moved here with the triumph of Hitler in the 1930's. Few of us asked questions about their past or present convictions because we took for granted that they had left either in fear of persecution or to make a brave protest. They were our kind of folks."

The premiere of Watch on the Rhine was on April 1, 1941, in New York City (the day after Rommel had attacked North Africa). It won the American Critics Best-Play Award for that year. America entered World War II seven months later on December 7, 1941.

Our production is dedicated to those men and women throughout the world who have protested and continue to protest against injustice and intolerance.

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The BYU Department of Theatre and Cinematic Arts gratefully acknowledges the loan of the antique furniture by David K. Newren and the Karl Newren family and the loan of the Luger pistol by the Van Wagenen Finance Co.

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COMING PRODUCTIONS:

King Lear: February 11-27  
Whittlin' Whistlin' Brigade--Productions for the Family: March 16-27  
Fires of the Mind: March 18-April 2

