



STATS:

Production dates: Previews November 16-18, Run November 19-December 31, 2022

Student Performance dates: November 29 and December 6, 7:00pm

Approximate Run Time: 2 hours 30 minutes

Guide Designed for: Grades 9-12

The purpose of this guide is to give Educators, Parents, and Administrators more information about the production before you choose your viewing experience.

ABOUT THE SHOW:

In here, life is beautiful.

Willkommen to Kander and Ebb's iconic CABARET, which transports us to 1939 Berlin and the dynamic and pleasure-filled Kit Kat Klub. As a dark shadow falls over the city and the power of the Third Reich begins to mount, the Klub's performers and patrons must decide if they'll wake up to the evil on their doorsteps or continue to escape to the alluring fantasy world of the cabaret.

Since its debut in 1967, this classic musical has won countless awards, including the Tony Awards® for Best Musical, Best Score, and Best Revival of a Musical. Packed with vibrant and beloved songs like "Willkommen," "Maybe This Time," "Money," "Don't Tell Mama," and, of course, "Cabaret," this timely masterwork will burst to life on stage under the direction of Broadway and Asolo Rep favorite Josh Rhodes.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

Below is information about the show you are going to see that will aid educators in priming their students for more difficult or adult situations onstage.

Cabaret contains **sexual innuendo and reference to sex and sexual acts, homosexuality, smoking, drinking, and drug use.** In addition to the moments listed above, a major plot point **discusses and references abortion.**

The events of *Cabaret* take place amongst the backdrop of 1930s Berlin, as the Nazi party rises to power. As a result, this musical contains **antisemitic actions and language, hate speech, the displaying and wearing of swastikas and other Nazi propaganda, and visual references to Nazi concentration camps.** These moments are used to depict the ignorant, harmful beliefs of the Nazis within the context of the musical, not to glorify the ideas of the party.

Why see it: *Cabaret* is a parable that warns the audience about the dangers of apathy in the midst of social and political crisis, and through its characters outlines how fascism swiftly and subtly overtakes a community. Alongside dazzling choreography and a famously captivating score, *Cabaret* remains a powerful call to action.

THE LANGUAGE OF CABARET

Please be aware that the language below is in the script and may be used with negative intention:

- Virgin (2)
- Underpants
- Tart
- Communists (3)
- Nazis (2)
- Socialists
- Homosexual
- Oriental
- Fucking

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use these questions to prepare for or reflect upon the production at Asolo Rep. For more classroom resources, visit: <https://www.asolorep.org/engage-learn/school-programs/classroom-connections>

Pre-Show

- Think about a place that makes you feel the happiest. Where is this place? What does it look, feel, and sound like? Why does it make you happy?
- How do you convince those around you to care about something important?
- What does trust mean to you? How do you know who to trust?
- What kinds of entertainment (music, films, books, etc.) do you turn to when you need an escape?

Post-Show

- How did Kander & Ebb's music and lyrics help tell the story of *Cabaret*?
- How did the visual elements of *Cabaret* (set, lighting, costumes, choreography) work together to tell the story?
- Why do you think the creators of *Cabaret* chose to structure the events of the musical around the Kit Kat Klub?
- Which character did you connect with most in *Cabaret*? Why did you connect with them?
- The characters in *Cabaret* do not recognize the gravity of the Nazis' rise to power until it's too late. If they had understood what was happening to them earlier, would their outcomes have changed? Why or why not?
- What do you think is the main message of *Cabaret*?

CPALMS STANDARDS

	Theatre	Social Studies
Grades 9-12	TH.912.C.1.6 TH.912.H.1.1 TH.912.H.2.2 TH.912.H.2.4 TH.912.H.2.5	SS.912.H.1 SS.912.HE.1.2 SS.912.HE.1.5 SS.912.W.7.6 SS.912.W.7.7 SS.912.W.7.8

THANK YOU to our wonderful Education & Engagement sponsors.

To learn more, please visit:

<https://www.asolorep.org/engage-learn/school-programs/student-series>