

Cabot House Theater



Die Dreigroschenoper

DIE DREIGROSCHENOPER

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Made possible with the support of the Harvard
Provostial Fund for Arts and Humanities

Performed in German by GER 118
Friday, April 24, 7pm
Saturday April 25, 7pm

GERMAN 118 PRÄSENTIERT:

DIE DREIGROSCHENOPER

***VON BERTOLT BRECHT (TEXT) UND KURT WEILL (MUSIK),
UNTER MITARBEIT VON ELISABETH HAUPTMANN.***

REGIE: LISA PARKES

SYNOPSIS

AKT I

1. Bild: Peachum's outfit shop for beggars

We meet Jonathan Jeremiah Peachum, who runs a highly organized business outfitting and managing London's beggars. He explains how to exploit pity for profit. When he learns his daughter Polly has secretly become involved with the notorious criminal Macheath (Mack the Knife), he resolves to stop the relationship.

2. Bild: A stable in the heart of Soho: Polly's wedding

Polly and Macheath celebrate their wedding in a stolen, makeshift ceremony held in a stable, surrounded by his gang. Their inability to provide suitably light entertainment leads to Polly singing herself. The scene mixes parody of bourgeois marriage with criminal bravado. Despite the romance, Peachum is already plotting revenge.

3. Bild: Peachum's outfit shop for beggars

Polly returns home and proudly announces to her parents that she has married Macheath. The Peachum couple is infuriated. But Polly then inadvertently reveals that Macheath is actually a good friend of police officer Brown. Peachum understands he might be able to use that connection to destroy Macheath.

AKT II

4. Bild: Stable in Soho

Polly tries to warn Mac that her father wants him arrested, but he first takes it lightly. She ends up convincing him he needs to flee London after listing all the charges against him. Polly and Mac say their goodbyes, and Polly asks Mac to remain faithful.

5. Bild: A brothel in Soho

Macheath visits his usual haunts, including prostitutes who know him well. Jenny ultimately betrays him to the police for a reward from Frau Peachum. He is arrested, showing how loyalty collapses under economic pressure.

6. Bild: Jail cell in Old Bailey. Polly and Lucy

While imprisoned, Macheath is visited by both Polly and Lucy (Tiger Brown's daughter), each claiming to be his true wife. Their rivalry exposes his duplicity. Macheath manipulates them and, with Lucy's help, manages to escape.

AKT III

7. Bild: Peachum's outfit shop for beggars

Peachum prepares a large-scale demonstration of beggars to disrupt the coronation procession. He plans to flood the streets with visible poverty to embarrass the authorities and force them to act against Macheath. Tiger Brown feels pressured to maintain order and avoid scandal and Jenny ultimately betrays Mac's whereabouts again.

8. Bild: Prison cell in Old Bailey

Back in prison, Mac tries desperately to bribe his way out of death. It soon becomes clear that none of his "friends" will give the money he needs to bribe the prison guard. Mac is led to the gallows, but at the last moment, a royal messenger arrives with an absurd pardon, granting him freedom, wealth, and status. This deliberately unrealistic ending satirizes conventional opera endings and critiques social injustice.

BESETZUNG



Mackie Messer.....	Kyler Hoogendoorn-Ecker
Jonathan J Peachum	JP Rocha Frazao
Celia Peachum	Chloe Call (Akt I & II), Rose Giroux (Akt III)
Polly Peachum	Linda Wnetrzewska
Tiger Brown	Henry Mattoni
Lucy Brown	Elizabeth Bennett
Spelunken-Jenny	Noemi Gilbert
Smith	Jon Mould
Charles Filch	Emma Fromont
Münz-Matthias	Malcom John
Hakenfinger-Jakob	Jon Mould
Ede	Noemi Gilbert
Jimmy	Emma Fromont
Walter	Rose Giroux
Säge-Robert	Elizabeth Bennett
Die Huren	Elizabeth Bennett, Emma Fromont, Rose Giroux
Ein Moritatensänger	JP Rocha Frazao

BAND



Trumpet	Jake Hepler
Piano	Philip Liston-Kraft
Clarinet	Peter Ren
Saxophone	Rose Giroux
Bass	Brendon Lau
Percussion	Kyler Hoogendoorn-Ecker
Banjo, Guitar	Prof. John Hamilton
Accordion	Elizabeth Bennett

SCHAUSPIELER*INNEN

Elizabeth Bennett

is a senior in Dunster House studying Music with a secondary in Government and language citations in French and German. As a Music student, she's excited to demonstrate her musicianship in this production by not only yelling obscure German insults at her classmates, but *singing* obscure German insults at her classmates.

Chloe Call

is a Junior in Kirkland House studying History and Germanic Languages and Literatures, with a secondary in European Politics and Societies. She first learned German during her 2 gap years living in Frankfurt in 2022/2024. This is her first time acting in a German Marxist Jazz Opera, and she is hyped about it.

Emma Fromont

is a first-year PhD student in Sociology. She studies identity formation and shifting racial boundaries across national borders. She first learned German in school and worked for the Deutsch-Französisches Jugendwerk in Berlin in 2022/2023. It's (probably) unrelated to her research, but she's excited to act in German.

Noemi Gilbert

is a junior in Dunster House studying English with a secondary in German Languages and Literatures. She started learning German at Harvard and delights in applying this newfound knowledge to all the music she learns as a violinist. She likes to eat bread, bask in the sun, and do Handlesungen.

Rose Giroux

is a senior at Harvard College studying the History of Art & Architecture. She arrived at German after being thoroughly disturbed by Egon Schiele's pregnancy portraits and realizing she wanted to learn his visual and written language. She likes wearing newsboy caps and causing mayhem.

Kyler Hoogendoorn-Ecker

is a Junior in Dunster House concentrating in Comparative Literature and German. He began studying German in his sophomore year at Harvard and has worked in theater as an actor, stage manager, and director. He is looking forward to wearing a top hat around.

Malcom John

is a Senior in Eliot House concentrating in English with a secondary in German studies. He is from Orlando, Florida, and was drawn to German Studies through the connections between German Romanticism and the development of literary movements in English writing.

Henry Mattoni

is a Freshman in Quincy House hoping to concentrate in Physics. He was inspired to learn German in high school because of his Austrian family history and love of German food, especially Weißwurst und Spätzle.

Jon Mould

is a third year student concentrating in Economics and German. He began learning German during his sophomore spring to better connect with his German speaking family. He is a first time actor, so let's cut him some slack when he forgets his lines.

JP Rocha Frazao

is a Senior in Lowell House studying Economics and Government, with a German and Germanic Literature secondary. He first started studying German in High School, after a bet with his friends on who could hold a Duolingo streak the longest (he currently sits at 2000+ days unbeaten, but has since then changed languages).

Linda Wnetrzewska

is a senior in Currier House double majoring in Physics and Music with a secondary in German. She is from Warsaw, Poland, and has sung with the University Choir, Harvard College Opera, and Gilbert&Sullivan Players. Any mistakes on stage are fully intended for *Verfremdungseffekt*.