

Schindler

When rehearsing/practicing this piece....remember and learn from the past.

Listen: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qLePhm-xGs&feature=related>

SCHINDLER'S LIST

Part 1-The war begins **Plot Summary**

SCHINDLER'S LIST opens in a Jewish family's home. The Jews are reciting in prayer for the Sabbath day around a table full of brightly-lit candles. When the Jews are gone from the house the candles slowly burn out.

The German forces defeat the Polish in weeks. Soon afterward, the Jews are forced out of their homes to report to the train station, where their names are registered. Over 10,000 Jews are being shipped off to Krakow. People tease and yell at any Jew they see in the street.

In Krakow the ghetto is overcrowded with Jews. The Jewish people are all gathered together and organized into working groups by the Judenrat (Jewish council comprised of twenty-four elected Jews responsible for the order). Oskar Schindler visits the ghetto. He is a German businessman, who wishes to see Itzhak Stern, a Jew that owns a pot-making factory. Jews are no longer allowed to own businesses, so Oskar makes a deal with Itzhak, and plans to take over the factory after trading money and appointing him his factory manager.

It is now March 20, 1941 - the deadline for entering the ghetto. Edict 44/91 establishes a Jewish district. All Jews are now forced to pack their belongings and move out of their homes by German soldiers. When the Jews arrive to the ghetto, they receive housing assignments and are forced to be in tight living quarters.

The next morning, the people are gathered outside and information on their education and working experiences are reported. Some of the Jews that can't be used for work are loaded onto trucks and sent off to horrible camps. Some of the Jews that are able to work will soon report to Oskar Schindler's factory.

Under Sterns influence, Schindler has come to feel an empathy and responsibility toward his workers, and when the Nazis confine all Jews to a forced labor camp commanded by the sadistic Amon Goeth, Schindler volunteers to keep "his Jews" confined at the factory. At his own expense, he constructs barracks and strings barbed wire. He apparently creates a outpost of the labor camp which in reality is a safe haven from the sinister Goeth, who regularly sends "unfit" Jewish workers to Auschwitz.

Oskar starts to promote his new factory by sending baskets full of goods to many German leaders. The Jews begin their work in the factory. They are taught how to make pots and pans. These workers are very grateful to Oskar for the jobs because it keeps them out of the camps and alive. A one-armed man personally thanks Oskar for his job. The Germans later murder him because of his handicap.

Thousands of Jews are shipped off on a train to a concentration camp. The entire luggage is stolen and gone through by German soldiers. By mistake, Itzhak Stern is placed on a train. Oskar hears of this mistake and rushes down to the station and desperately retrieves him from the train.

Untersturmfuhrer Amon Goeth is the German officer that is in charge of the construction of the Plaszow labor camp. The Jewish people build the camp, along with Goeth's house located inside the camp. Goeth is sadistically cruel -- a man that is not reluctant to shoot anybody in the camp. He is very angry about the success of the Jewish people, and says that all they have done in the past will soon be forgotten.

Intermission

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Part 2 - The Rescue **Plot Summary**

It is now March 13, 1943, and liquidation of the ghetto takes place. Thousands of armed German soldiers run wild through the streets of Krakow. Jews are randomly pulled from their houses and killed. The soldiers violently raid the Jews' homes and steal their belongings. Many run and hide from the soldiers, but are soon found. Many of the residents of the ghetto are killed. Only a few live and some of them are taken to Plaszow forced labor camp.

After the horrible day of killing, Oskar reports to the camp. He has lunch with some of the leading German men. Oskar is very upset; he has no workers anymore because they were all captured and taken off to the camp. He is allowed to take back most of his workers to the factory.

Once everybody returns to work, a young lady that wishes for him to hire her parents visits Oskar. The lady's parents are at the camp and she is very worried about them. She feels as that if Oskar hires them they will live. He gets angry with her and says that he will not hire them, but he does the next week out of kindness.

Several days later at Plaszow the sick Jews are separated from the healthy. The ladies pricked their fingers and rubbed their own blood on their faces so they would look healthier. The weak and sick Jews were killed so there would be more room for the new shipments of Jews arriving at the camp. All of the children were placed on trucks and sent away. Several of them attempted to hide so they wouldn't have to leave their family. Most were unsuccessful.

It is now Oskar's birthday. He throws a big party with many of his German friends. Several young Jewish factory workers come to his party to give him a gift. One of the young girls gives him the gift and in return he kisses her. This is a mistake. He broke the Race and Resettlement Act by kissing the Jewish girl. Goeth discusses what happened that night and Oskar apologizes.

In April 1944 Goeth receives orders to exhume and burn the bodies of more than 10,000 Jews killed at Plaszow and the Krakow Massacre. The living Jews at the camp are forced to recover and burn the dead from a year before. The little girl in the red coat, from earlier in the movie, is burned.

Evacuation orders are received. All the Jews from Plaszow are being moved to a different camp to avoid the advancing Russians. But Schindler creates a desperate plan. Digging deeper into his fortune, he constructs a new factory farther west and bargains with Goeth to 'buy' all the Jewish workers he will need to staff it. With Stern, he draws up a list of names, "Schindler's List", consisting of more than 1,100 men, women and children. He races against time to save them. In the end, through impossible luck and unyielding determination, Schindler rescues "his Jews" - the Schindlerjuden, as they will call themselves.

<http://www.historyinfilm.com/schnlist/>