



Park Square Theatre – Virtual Scenes from *The Diary of Anne Frank*

<https://parksquaretheatre.org/education/education-matinees-2019-2020-season/education-matinee-2019-20-the-diary-of-anne-frank-videos/>

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

A special presentation created by artists in isolation

By Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett

Directed by Ellen Fenster

It's utterly impossible for me to build my life on a foundation of chaos, suffering and death. I see the world as slowly being transformed into a wilderness, I hear that approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too, I hear the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better."

— Anne Frank

As people around the world are sheltering in place, the artists and theatre makers at Park Square Theatre looked to its mission and existing work to find a new way to engage with one another, with the current global insecurity and with the past.

Park Square was set to open its 21st production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* to over 12,000 middle and high school students when Minnesota's shelter in place orders took effect. While not being able put on a live show, there was a compulsion on the part of the cast and company to share the play's essential message with students, educators, and parents engaged in distance learning, and with a country experiencing social isolation and anxiety about the future in unprecedented ways.

When it became clear that there was no way to assemble to record the staged version, the cast began rehearsing and recording a Zoom reading of the play. It was released on April 21, Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.



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THROUGH THE ARTS

In this time of great trial across the globe, we invite you to get to know this extraordinary young woman who wrote:

It's difficult in times like these: ideals, dreams and cherished hopes rise within us, only to be crushed by grim reality. It's a wonder I haven't abandoned all my ideals; they seem so absurd and impractical. Yet I cling to them because I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart."

— Anne Frank, July 15, 1944

Special Thanks:

To Aaron Fiskradatz for video and Zoom support.

To Samuel French for permission to present this experience free of royalties.

Dr. Stephanie Lein Walseth, Theater Education Specialist, is available for questions regarding any of these theater resources via email at Stephanie.walseth@pcae.k12.mn.us.

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