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THE
INVISIBLE

AGENTS OF UNGENTLEMANLY WARFARE

WRITTEN, COMPOSED & DIRECTED BY JONATHAN CHRISTENSON



STUDY GUIDE

WITH THANKS TO



NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
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Canada is our stage. Le Canada en scène.

GRANDTHEATRE

SPRIET STAGE, JANUARY 16 TO FEBRUARY 3, 2024

OPENING NIGHT JANUARY 19

CATALYST THEATRE'S

THE INVISIBLE

AGENTS OF UNGENTLEMANLY WARFARE

Book, Music & Lyrics by

JONATHAN CHRISTENSON

FEATURING

DOROTHY WARD/ENSEMBLE	KRISTI HANSEN*
JACQUELINE KOVACS/ENSEMBLE	KAYLEE HARWOOD*
EVELYN ASH/ENSEMBLE	MELISSA MACPHERSON*
MADELINE BARRÉ/ENSEMBLE	SARAH NAIRNE*
BETTY ANDERSON/ENSEMBLE	AMANDA TRAPP*
SZARLOTTA JAZINSKI/ENSEMBLE	JUSTINE WESTBY*
ANNA SIDIQI/ENSEMBLE	TAHIRIH VEJDANI*

CREATIVE TEAM

SET, LIGHTING, COSTUME & PROJECTION DESIGN	BRETTA GERECKE
ORIGINAL CHOREOGRAPHY	LAURA KREWSKI*
CHOREOGRAPHY	COURTNEY ARSENAULT*
SOUND DESIGN, ADDITIONAL MUSIC, MUSIC PRODUCTION & PROGRAMMING	MATTHEW SKOPYK**
MUSIC DIRECTOR (VOCALS)	RUTH ALEXANDER
VOCAL ARRANGEMENTS	JONATHAN CHRISTENSON WITH RUTH ALEXANDER
COPYIST	STEPHANIE URQUHART
DRAMATURGE	SARAH GARTON STANLEY

Directed by

JONATHAN CHRISTENSON

Developed with support from the National Arts Centre's National Creation Fund.



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PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCTION MANAGER	LEE O'REILLY
STAGE MANAGER	BRIAN SCOTT*
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	FRANCES BUNDY*
FRONT OF HOUSE AUDIO MIXER	MICHAEL CARON
ASSOCIATE PROJECTION DESIGNER	FRANK DONATO
ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER	JEFF PYBUS
ASSOCIATE PRODUCTION MANAGER	RAE McCALLUM
ASSOCIATE PRODUCTION MANAGER	LAUREN REBELO
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER	JESSICA GLOVER

Produced by
TRACY CARROLL

MUSICIANS

SYLVIA CHOW (VIOLIN 1), NEDA YAMACH (VIOLIN 2),
YITIAN FAN (VIOLA/TROMBONE), NICHOLAS YEE (CELLO),
KURTIS SCHULTZ (DRUMS), JASON KODIE (ACCORDION)

LANGUAGE CONSULTANTS

ILDIKO CIUTACU (ROMANIAN), DR. CLAUDIA R. KOST (GERMAN),
KRISTI HANSEN* (FRENCH), EVA JAROSOVA (CZECH)

** Appears with Permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association*

*** Indicated designers are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659.*



The Grand Theatre and Catalyst Theatre are both active members of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and engage, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement (CTA), professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

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IN MEMORY OF MELANIE PIATOCHA

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
<i>*Content Advisory*</i>	4
<i>Creation of The Invisible</i>	4
<i>Historical Influence</i>	4
<i>Curriculum Connections/Themes</i>	4
WWII, SOE, and Women at War	5
Synopsis	6
<i>Act I</i>	6-7
<i>Act II</i>	8
List of Characters	9
List of Musical Numbers	10
Pre and Post Show	11
<i>Discussion Questions</i>	11
<i>Classroom Activities</i>	11

GRANDTHEATRE

THE INVISIBLE – AGENTS OF UNGENTLEMANLY WARFARE

STUDY GUIDE

Content Advisory: This production contains loud noises and mature content relating to WWII, Nazi Germany, the violence of war, and residential schools.

Age Recommendation: 14+

Creation of The Invisible

Written and composed by Jonathan Christenson, *The Invisible – Agents of Ungentlemanly Warfare* is a new musical created in 2019.

Historical Influence

The story of *The Invisible* takes influence from the covert intelligence organization (British Security Coordination or BSC) set up by Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and led by Canadian William Stephenson during WWII. The BSC was connected with the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) and the Special Operations Executive (SOE). Many female and male agents were employed with the SOE, and were trained in spy facilities across Canada and Great Britain.

Curriculum Connections

- **History** (Grade 10 Canadian History since World War I -> Strand C: Canada 1929-1945; Grade 11 World History since 1900: Global and Regional Interactions -> Strand C: Economic and Political Crises, 1919–1945)
- **Social Science and Humanities** (Gr. 11 Gender Studies; Gr. 11 Equity, Diversity, and Social Justice; Gr. 12 Equity and Social Justice: From Theory to Practice; Gr. 11 Philosophy: The Big Questions)
- **The Arts** (Dance; Drama; Music)
- **First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies** (Gr. 10 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Canada -> Strand A & E)
- **English**

Themes

- ★ STRENGTH & RESILIENCE
- ★ JUSTICE
- ★ WAR
- ★ SACRIFICE & LOSS





World War II

Considered one of the most destructive wars in history, this major conflict happened between 1939 and 1945, and was fought on land, sea and air. In an effort to rule Europe, Germany (led by Adolf Hitler) invaded Poland on September 1st, 1939. Refusing to stop the invasion, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany, which marked the beginning of World War II. This war involved more than 50 nations, but the main combatants were the Axis powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan) and the Allies (Great Britain, Canada, the Soviet Union, the United States, China and many others).



Special Operations Executive (SOE)

Headquarter Location: 64 Baker Street, London, UK.

Nicknames: The Baker Street Irregulars, Churchills Secret Army,
Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare

Connected with the British Security Coordination (BSC) and the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6), the Special Operations Executive (SOE) was a British intelligence organization that was established in 1940, and was dissolved in 1946. The purpose of the SOE, was to attack the Axis Powers (including occupied France), through irregular means of warfare (sabotage, espionage, assassination etc.).

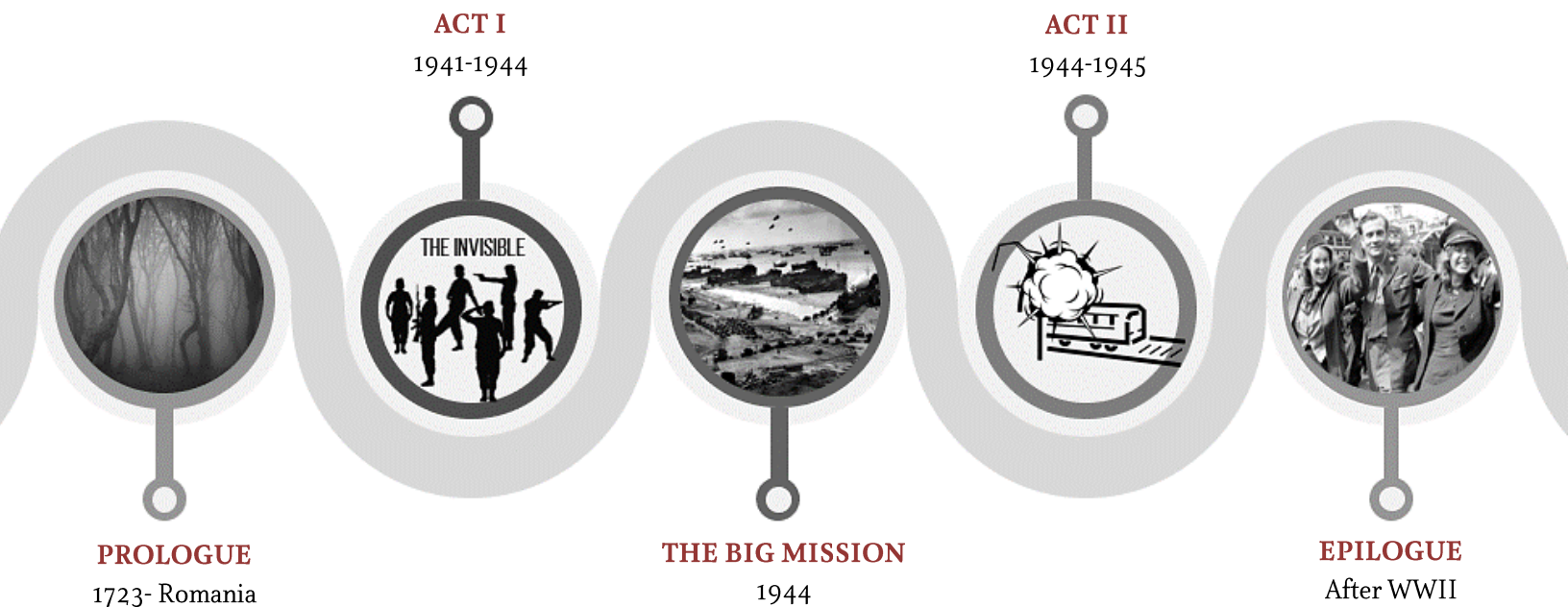
Women at War: SOE Agents

Approximate numbers

Total SOE Agents: 13, 000	Total Female SOE Agents: 3,000
Total SOE Agents in France: 470	Total Female SOE Agents in France: 39

As male agents continued to be targeted and captured, the SOE saw an opportunity for female agents to join the field. These women became valuable couriers, spies, saboteurs and radio operators. Receiving the same training as their male counterparts, they learned martial arts, explosives, weaponry, morse code, anti-interrogation techniques, map and compass work, along with cover story creation tactics.





Prologue:

1723 in the Hoia Forest of Romania: The story begins in 1723, with the tale of Maria Popa and the Devil. Maria has been invited to visit her suitor Darius Lupu at his home, but when she arrives at his house, he isn't there. Discovering that the door is unlocked, Maria enters his home and walks to the end of the corridor where she finds a room containing countless skeletons and dead bodies [**"Be Bold"**]. As Maria tries to leave, she spots her suitor Darius through the window dragging a girl by her hair. Darius drags the girl down the corridor and cuts off one of her hands. When she finds a moment to escape, Maria grabs the severed hand and takes it with her.

That evening, Maria, her four younger sisters, and Darius have dinner together. At the table, Maria holds the severed hand in her lap and shares an "extraordinary dream" she had the night before. This "dream" recounts what she had seen in Darius' house earlier that day. As she reveals the severed hand to him, it has disappeared! Darius denies that her story was ever real.

Act I:

Evelyn Ash reflects on the horrors that happened during the second World War, and the choices that she made. She explains that there were opportunities not just for men to fight back, but for women too [**"Can you Imagine?"**]. By 1940, Germany controlled most of Europe, and the Nazi's seemed unstoppable. In order to take the war off the battlefield and into the hands of civilians, The Department of Ungentlemanly Warfare (D.U.W.) was created.

September 1941 – The D.U.W.: Evelyn (Evvy) Ash started working with the D.U.W. in 1941. She was secretary to Albert Pemberton-Hayes (Bertie), who was an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.). Together, they were responsible for the male D.U.W. agents in occupied France. As their agents

were continuing to get arrested, Evelyn suggested they recruit women, which Bertie was against. It wasn't until 1942, when they lost thirty-one male agents (largely due to Nazi Officer Martin Engel's efforts), that Bertie allowed Evvy to quietly search for female recruits [**"Nacht Und Nebel"**]. Evelyn found six potential candidates in her search: Bette, Maddy, Charlie, Jack, Anna, and Dot. Shortly after meeting with each of them, Evelyn was able to recommend them for training [**"Maybe, Just Maybe"**].

Isle of Coll, Scotland – Training: All six women trained on the Isle of Coll, for six weeks. Although their initial progress reports were quite poor, they each begin to find their own area of expertise [**"We'll Be Warriors"**]. Jack excelled in shooting, Bette had a special gift for explosives, Anna was quick at translating Morse code, Maddy could blend in with a crowd, Dot made bulletproof plans, and Charlie was a natural leader. After finishing their training, and upon Bertie's recommendation, the women formed the D.U. W's first all-female cell. They called themselves "The Invisible" [**"The Invisible"**].

June 8th, 1943: On June 8th, 1943, the women were given orders to leave for France. Before leaving London, all six women and Evelyn met for dinner and then went to "La Popote" to see Madeline Barré (Maddy) perform [**"La Popote"**]. The following evening, Evelyn drove with the women to R.A.F. Tangmere (in Sussex), where they flew to France behind enemy lines [**"The Roses of England"**].

Missions completed in France:

July 10th- August 24th 1943	In just six weeks of being in France, the women completed three successful missions; 2 trains were derailed, and a bridge was demolished.
August 24th – October 6th 1943	As six more weeks passed, 3 more trains were derailed, 2 more bridges were demolished, and a tunnel was rendered useless.
October 6th – April 6th 1944	Six months more, 15 trains were derailed, 8 bridges were demolished, and 6 tunnels were blown to smithereens.
TOTAL DAMAGE:	20 trains, 11 bridges, and 7 tunnels

Rumours began to spread of a team of unstoppable female agents. This not only infuriated the Germans, but also Nazi Officer Martin Engel.

April 10th 1944: Bertie delivered news from cabinet to Evvy about a big mission, that was part of a larger plan. It would require all of the D.U.W. agents, even the female recruits.

June 6th 1944 (D-Day): With nearly six weeks of planning for this mission, the women couldn't have been more prepared. Once they completed their mission, they were to radio headquarters as confirmation of their success. However, the message never arrived [**"Be Bold (Reprise)"**]

Act II:

Evelyn reflects on the decisions she made surrounding D-Day (Operation Overlord), and if they were the right ones [“**Les Sanglots Longs**”]. D.U.W.’s role in Operation Overlord, was to disable the French rail system to prevent Nazi’s from transporting troops to the West Coast of France [“**All We Aimed For**”]. The Invisible team successfully blew up the train tunnel, stopping 500 German soldiers from heading to Normandy. However, as the team began to leave the scene, Nazi soldiers approached them and shot Jack.

While Evelyn waited patiently for the women to radio in their success, the team quickly escaped to their safe house. Although the team was reluctant to split up, Anna left the safe house to send a message to London headquarters, so that Jack could receive help [“**Picture the World**”]. After Anna completed her initial message to headquarters, she was captured by Nazi officer Martin Engel. While captured, she sent another message to headquarters, asking for the coordinates of the safe house. In desperation to have The Invisible team safe, Evelyn never did her security checks on the message she received from Anna, and gave the coordinates to the safe house [“**The Invisible (Reprise)**”]. All communication stopped after that message, and Evelyn never heard from the Invisible team again.

Within a month after the end of World War II, Evelyn went to Baden, Germany, to visit Martin Engel in prison. Evelyn questioned Martin, to find out what truly happened to her girls during the war. Martin began to explain what he had done to each of the women on The Invisible team. Four of the women were tied to laundry posts in a courtyard and shot dead, but one died at the safe house [“**Dreaming**”]. Anna was forced to watch as her friends were shot in the courtyard [“**All I Believed**”].

Martin explained that he sent Anna to Ravensbrück Concentration Camp. On March 29th, 1944, a month before the camp was liberated, Anna was shot by a camp commandant. During all of this time, none of the women ever surrendered.

Epilogue:

When Evelyn was a girl growing up in Romania, her mother told her a folk story that was passed down for generations; Maria Popa and the Devil. It cautioned strong women, that they were still living in a “man’s world”. However, Evelyn believes that women should be as bold as they want to be [“**No More Barriers**”].

The Characters

Maria Popa	Lives with her four younger sisters. Her suitor is Darius Lupu
Darius Lupu	The suitor of Maria Popa
Evelyn Ash (Evy)	Secretary to the Head of the D.U.W.
Albert Pemberton-Hayes (Bertie)	Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) of the D.U.W.
Sturmbahnfuhrer Martin Engel	A Nazi officer known as “The Angel of War”
Betty Anderson (Bette)	From Regina, Canada. She moved to England to be closer in helping with the war effort. Her first language is Cree, but she knows French and English. She lived at a Residential School (St. Michael’s) from the time that she was 5. Her mother died while she was at St. Michael’s. She was recruited by Evelyn to be part of The Invisible team.
Madeline Barré (Maddy)	Her father came to France in 1915 from Senegal. He came to work in the factory making shells and mustard gas, but died from an explosion in the building (49 Senegalese migrants died that day). Having her mother as her only family, Maddy turned to singing. Her mother became a courtesan to provide for Maddy. She grew up in the streets of Montmartre. She was recruited by Evelyn to be part of The Invisible team.
Szarlotta Jazinski (Charlie)	From Warsaw, Poland. Her mother was a wealthy Jew, and her father was a penniless Polish count who died on her 18th birthday. She worked with the Polish Resistance since the start of the Second World War. She has led several successful missions against the Germans. She was recruited by Evelyn to be part of The Invisible team.
Jacqueline Kovacs (Jack)	Was born in Paris, but spent most of her life in London, working at Woolworth’s on New Cross Road. Her husband, Andrej, was from Prague and was with the French Foreign Legion. He was killed in Bir Hakeim by Germans. Her 8-year-old daughter Sonja lives with Jack’s parents. She was recruited by Evelyn to be part of The Invisible team.
Anna Sidiqi (Anna)	Follows the Muslim faith. Her father was an Islamic Mystique from India, Baroda. He was a musician, spiritual leader, and teacher. He taught her that there is strength in truth, selflessness, and love, and that these things can change the world. She was recruited by Evelyn to be part of The Invisible team.
Dorothy Ward (Dot)	From Connecticut, USA. Her grandfather Jefferson Ward made a fortune on railroads. She studied at Wellesly College for Romance Languages, and then at Sorbonne University for Political Science. She planned a career as a diplomat, but a riding incident left her with a short leg (which she calls Gertrude). She was recruited by Evelyn to be part of The Invisible team.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

BE BOLD!	<i>FULL COMPANY</i>
CAN YOU IMAGINE?	<i>EVELYN & COMPANY</i>
NACHT UND NEBEL	<i>FULL COMPANY</i>
MAYBE, JUST MAYBE	<i>MADDY & COMPANY</i>
WE'LL BE WARRIORS	<i>FULL COMPANY</i>
THE INVISIBLE	<i>ANNA, DOT, CHARLIE, MADDY, JACK, BETTE, EVELYN</i>
LA POPOTE	<i>MADDY & COMPANY</i>
THE ROSES OF ENGLAND	<i>BETTE & COMPANY</i>
BE BOLD! - REPRISE	<i>FULL COMPANY</i>

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

LES SANGLOTS LONGS	<i>EVELYN & COMPANY</i>
ALL WE AIMED FOR	<i>FULL COMPANY</i>
PICTURE THE WORLD	<i>JACK & COMPANY</i>
THE INVISIBLE - REPRISE	<i>FULL COMPANY</i>
DREAMING	<i>FULL COMPANY</i>
ALL I BELIEVED	<i>ANNA & COMPANY</i>
NO MORE BARRIERS	<i>FULL COMPANY</i>

Pre-show Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important to study/tell stories from the past?
2. Do you have folklore or oral stories in your culture or family that have been passed down through generations? What lessons do they intend to teach?
3. How did women support the war effort in the Second World War? What jobs did they take on? Were they able to do these jobs before the Second World War?

Pre-Show Classroom Activities

1. When understanding history, why do you think it's important to learn from different perspectives? For the class, play the Ted Talk "[The Danger of a Single Story](#)" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Discuss in small groups/elbow partners the following questions, and then talk about your findings as a class:
 - What resources am I using to study history or learn about current events?
 - Who has compiled that information for me? What country are they from? What experiences do they have?
 - What knowledge do I already have about WWII? Where did that knowledge come from? Whose perspective am I learning from? Whose perspective am I missing?

Post-Show Discussion Questions

1. Are there still barriers women face in the military divisions today (air force, army, navy etc.)?
2. What missions were completed by The Invisible team? Would you consider these "successful"? Explain why successes in war are complicated.
3. In this musical, there are many chairs that are used as props onstage. What do these chairs symbolize throughout the show? Why do you think chairs were used symbolically?

Post-Show Classroom Activities

1. Jonathan Christenson took inspiration from various female SOE agents that fought in WWII when writing *The Invisible*. Some of these agents were: Vera Atkins, Noor Inayat Khan, Violette Szabo, Christine Granville, Virginia Hall, Jacqueline Nearne, and Didi (Or Eileen) Nearne.

Choose an agent from this list and research about their story.

From your research, write down the following information about your SOE agent: name, country of origin, involvement with SOE, and special skills. Using magazines, newspapers, or online images, create a virtual or physical collage that represents the SOE agent you decided to research. Attach the written information to your collage.