

QUESTION SHEET FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Recently, your child saw a production of Hana's Suitcase at Young People's Theatre. Go through these questions with your child to get an understanding of their experience.

To familiarize yourself with the story please see the synopsis below.

SYNOPSIS:

It is March, 2000. A child's suitcase arrives from Auschwitz for an exhibit at the tiny Children's Holocaust Education Resource Centre in Tokyo, Japan. Spurred on by Maiko and Akira, children at the Centre, Fumiko Ishioka, curator and teacher, begins to search for more information about the life of Hana Brady. Hana's name, birthdate and designation (Waisenkind or orphan), painted on the side of the suitcase, are the only clues. The relentless search by Fumiko, leads her across Europe and North America until she uncovers the fate of Hana and the remarkable survival of Hana's only brother, George, who lives in Toronto. Fumiko brings the painful story of Hana to Maiko and Akira. They start a children's club, the Small Wings, to remember the children of the Holocaust. The second act tells the story of Hana and her family. Hana's childhood in the Czech town of Nove Mesto is shattered when her mother and father are taken prisoner by the Nazis. Hana and George are protected by a Christian uncle, but are eventually taken to the concentration camp of Theresienstadt. Hana is separated from George and the two children have radically different fates at the hands of the Nazis.

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD:

1. Tell me the story of Hana's Suitcase.
2. How did the play make you feel?
3. In your opinion, what was the most important moment in the play? Why?
4. How did the set, costumes and lighting help to tell the story? Is there anything you would have changed about these elements? If so, how would you change them?
5. Are you left with any questions?