

**THE DAY AFTER  
PERFORMANCE SYNOPSIS PER SCENE.**

**SCENE 1**

**End of World War I (1914-1918).**

**8,000,000 dead soldiers**

**21,000,000 wounded.**

An unemployed Irish actor enters; he is a gravedigger in the trenches. Like Hamlet, he starts talking to the skull of a fellow actor. Through him we learn about the destruction of three empires: the Austro-Hungarian, the Russian and the Ottoman, the formation of independent nation states and the experiment of liberal democracy throughout the interwar period Europe.

**SCENE 2**

**TREATY OF VERSAILLES**

***Video from the opening of the Conference***

***Versailles Peace Conference, February 1919.***

*The "Big Four"*

*The President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson*

*The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, David Lloyd George*

*The Prime Minister of France, Georges Clemenceau*

*The Prime Minister of Italy, Vittorio Emanuele Orlando*

The negotiators of the four big winners reallocate lands. Italy, who suffered high casualties and material losses, was the most unfairly treated among the "Big Four", since it failed to achieve one of its major war goals; i.e. gaining control of Fiume.

**SCENE 3**

**OCTOBER REVOLUTION.**

***Russia,***

***October Revolution 1917***

A revolutionary in Moscow delivers a speech to his comrades giving information about the Russian revolution, which is now concluded; he explains the Soviet positions and expresses the requests of his government, which was not invited to the Versailles Conference.

**SCENE 4**

**THE DESTRUCTION OF ASIA MINOR**

***Izmir 1922***

On the deck of a French ship and with Izmir -having the Greek army protecting it- on the background, a French admiral and an American reporter inform us on the fate of the Treaty of Sèvres, one of the treaties that followed the Treaty of Versailles, and present the possibility of a big war approaching as a result of the humiliating terms imposed to the Germans by the winners.

**SCENE 5**

**UNEMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY.**

The unemployed queuing. People garbage picking. Four workers, a woman and three men, talk about poverty, unemployment and hunger and the failed socialist revolutions.

**SCENE 6**

**SACCO AND VANZETTI**

***1921. Anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti are arrested in Massachusetts, USA. Worldwide commotion and demonstrations of support***

*A policeman stops two immigrants in the street for identification check.*

*An anarchist girl talks, while on the rake, about the worldwide movement supporting Italian unionists Sacco and Vanzetti who were wrongly accused and sentenced to death in the electric chair.*

**SCENE 7**

**CABARET IN THE INTERWAR**

***A Cabaret in Berlin during the Interwar period.***

The host informs the audience that the girls will not be dancing because they are on a strike. Following the continuing insistence of the audience, big-name Lisa comes to the stage and performs a jazz version of a piece from a hugely popular operetta of the time.

**SCENE 8**

**RISE OF FASCISM IN ITALY**

Unable to converse with the workers of his plant -which have taken over the factory- and burdened with debt, an Italian industrialist seeks help from the fascist groups already starting to form in order to stop the strike.

## **SCENE 9**

### **LIFE IN THE SOVIET UNION DURING THE FIRST YEARS OF THE REVOLUTION.**

The anarchist girl we met before is invited to attend the lectures of the Communist International. However, she is conflicted with the edifiers since she discovers the other side of the revolution, realizes the omnipotence of the party and confirms that there is no revolution without justice, love and freedom.

## **SCENE 10**

### **RISE OF FASCISM IN GERMANY**

A German prison.

A former German officer in civilian clothes visits an ex-soldier, member of a paramilitary group, in prison. Through their conversation we learn about the deadlock the German society was in after the Treaty of Versailles, the impact Hitler's ideas had and his initially unsuccessful coups.

## **SCENE 11**

### **THE PARALLEL TRAJECTORY OF TWO PREVAILING SYSTEMS**

In the Soviet Union: Lenin's death.

In the capitalist world: the unrestrained rise of the stock market and credits.

In Charleston style, two girls rave about the new era of the credit market while their brother raves about the gambling at the stock market; their grandpa warns them about the catastrophic results that all these may bring, as if presenting the forthcoming crash of the stock market.

## **SCENE 12**

### **OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN GERMANY-ITALY-USA: THE CRASH OF 1929**

Germany: a worker gives us an update on the Red Front, the Socialist-Communist coalition, the back-to-back elections; another worker, a national socialist, informs us about the Nazi gaining power.

In the United States the stock market bubble is getting bigger and bigger and promises wealth to everyone.

In Italy, the Vatican signs the Lateran Treaty and comes to terms with Il Duce.

Grandpa is constantly listening to the radio and comments on everything and everyone.

## **SCENE 13**

### **FAMINE-GENOCIDE IN UKRAINE**

A Commissar in Moscow controls the papers of a (Ukrainian) young man who just survived the famine and is trying to get an approval in order to study. After stating his requests, he addresses the public and talks about the fate of his family and nationals.

## **SCENE 14**

### **HITLER CHANCELLOR**

A radio correspondent in Berlin describes Hitler's first speech; he interviews his supporters who are filled with excitement and present their ideology.

At the same time, on screen, Erich Ludendorff, a German general and hero of WWI warns us about the untold misery that Hitler shall bring upon his country.

## **SCENE 15**

### **PERSECUTION OF JEWS IN HITLER'S GERMANY. INTELLECTUALS FLEE.**

A bench in a square in Berlin. A young professor and a student of his talk about the persecutions occasioned by a violent incident in a bookstore owned by a Jew, the provocative arson attack on the Reichstag building by the Nazis and the burning of books in universities. They decide to flee the country in order to save their dignity.

## **SCENE 16**

### **TORTURING OF LEFT-WING LEADERS IN DACHAU.**

We listen to the verbal and physical abuse of prisoners in one of this hell's corridors.

## **SCENE 17**

### **GRADUAL SPREAD OF TOTALIARISM ACROSS EUROPE.**

Purge of the SA by the SS in Germany; president Hindenburg dies and Hitler is proclaimed the absolute leader of the country.

In two balconies, two women talk arrogantly about which country has the most effective and most authoritative state; we come to understand that the experiment of the European liberal democracy is failing. Parade in Greece under the fascist regime of Metaxas.

## **SCENE 18**

### **PARABASIS**

Aristophanic *parabasis* (part of the structure of Ancient Comedy where the chorus addresses the audience on the topics of the day and hurls scurrilous criticism at prominent citizens).

In this case we get acquainted with the views of modern-day historian Mark Mazower, through his book *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*.

#### **SCENE 19**

##### **THE JEWISH WIFE**

A piece from *The Jewish Wife* by Berthold Brecht where the Jewish wife of a German doctor decides to leave her country and her husband as a result of the situation in Germany.

#### **SCENE 20**

##### **NAZISM – COMMUNISM – WORKS AND DAYS.**

The town planning tendencies and the love for grandiose works in Moscow and Berlin emerge through the affairs in the limelight during those days.

#### **SCENE 21**

##### **THE FRENCH POPULAR FRONT. BENEFITS TO EMPLOYEES.**

Two workers enjoy their first-time-paid vacation at the beach; they talk about the Socialist-Communist coalition under Léon Blum and the benefits granted by his government.

#### **SCENE 22**

##### **OCCUPATION OF ETHIOPIA BY FASCIST ITALY – THE MOSCOW TRIALS**

We follow these events through the headlines and the radio news of the time.

#### **SCENE 23**

##### **SPANISH CIVIL WAR**

We witness an ordinary day at the “Mujeres Libres” commune where two men and the anarchist girl we already met discuss General Franco’s coup against the democratically elected Spanish government.

Then, in the trenches, we follow the Battle of Madrid, the International Brigades and the persecution of Anarchists and Trotskyists by Stalin.

Finally, we mourn for the assassination of Federico García Lorca.

#### **SCENE 24**

##### **ANNEXATION OF AUSTRIA INTO GERMANY.**

A tea party in Vienna; a debate between pro-Nazi supporters and leftists in the aftermath of Hitler’s overwhelming reception in Austria.

#### **SCENE 25**

##### **ESCALATING EVENTS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR II.**

At a card table in Paris a Russian immigrant, an Englishman, a French woman and a German General comment on the news they listen to the radio and are depicted on the screen. Meanwhile, at the bar, the French owner of the club and a Jewish employee express in different ways their worries about what is happening.

At the end, everyone listens to King George VI addressing his people and announcing the declaration of the new Great War.

#### **SCENE 26**

##### **FINALE.**

Flash forward to the Battle of Stalingrad; partisan songs; reappearance of the gravedigger-actor who gets back to work. Vasily Grossman, writer of *Life and Fate*, appears in a photograph as a war correspondent from the battlefield while we listen to a passage from his book:

***“Human history is not the battle of good struggling to overcome evil.***

***It is a battle fought by a great evil struggling to crush a kernel of human kindness.***

***But if what is human in human beings has not been destroyed even now, then evil will never conquer.”***