

Gil Shohat

**Eichmann trial
opera**

libretto by Motti Lerner

Based on the play "The Eichmann Trial" by Motti Lerner

The libretto was inspired by real events that took place during the Eichmann trial in Israel and Germany, but it is not a documentary reconstruction of them. The characters that appear in it are also dramatic adaptations of characters who were involved in the trial, but they are not an exact reflection of them.

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Characters

1. Adolf Eichmann (55) – Born in Germany. In 1932 he joined the Nazi Party and the SS. In 1938 he was appointed head of the Department of Jewish Affairs and directed the extermination of European Jewry – **tenor**.
2. Gideon Hausner (46) – Attorney General and Prosecutor in the Trial – **baritone**.
3. Gabriel Bach (34) – Deputy State Attorney and Hausner's assistant - **Bass**.
4. Sarah Fried (50) – Advisor to the Israeli Prime Minister – **mezzo-soprano**.
5. Dr. Hans Globke (63) – Director General of the Chancellery in Bonn. He was the legal adviser of the Ministry of the Interior during the Third Reich - **baritone**.
6. Anna Vogel (40) – German intelligence officer, daughter of a Jewish mother and Catholic father. She was sent to Jerusalem by Dr. Globke to supervise the conduct of the trial – **soprano**.
7. Dr. Robert Servatius (72) – Eichmann's defense attorney. He served as an artillery officer in the Wehrmacht. At the Nuremberg Trials, he defended the Minister of Labor in the Nazi government - **baritone**.
8. Adv. Lisa Grude (30) Assistant to Dr. Servatius – **mezzo-soprano**.
9. Moshe Landau (49) – The Presiding Judge – **Bass**.
10. Benjamin Halevy (51) – Judge - **actor**.
11. Yitzhak Raveh (55) – Judge – **actor**.
12. Vera Eichmann (52) – Eichmann's wife – **mezzo-soprano**.

Witnesses

13. Benno Cohen (66) – **baritone**
14. Arna Peretz (50) – **soprano**
15. Moshe Beisky (39) – **tenor**
16. Rivka Yoselevska (45) – **soprano**
17. Esther Goldstein (42) – **mezzo-soprano**
18. Yehuda Bakon (31) – **tenor**
19. Yechiel Dinur (51) - **tenor**
20. Georges Wellers (55) – **tenor**
21. Joel Brand (54) - **baritone**
22. Aviva Fleischmann (40) – **mezzo-soprano**

Characters from past events in Act I

Duetto Episode 15

23. Mother (22) – **soprano**

24. Soldier (25) **Tenor**

Quartetto Episode 23

25. Daughter (15) – **soprano**

26. Mother (35) – **Soprano**

Terzetto e Coro Episode 31

27. Soldier (25) – **tenor**

28. Dr. Mengele (33) - **tenor**

29. Sister (28) - **soprano**

Duetto e Coro – Episode 32

30. Sergeant (30) – **tenor**

31. Bailiff - Actor

Space

The space allows for a plot in different locations and in parallel. Center stage is the courthouse with the seat of judges, the prosecution and defense benches, and the glass chamber of the accused. In the foreground and on its sides are the prosecution and defense offices, the office of Sarah Fried, the office of Dr. Globke, and the meeting room of the prison where Eichmann is imprisoned. Deep inside the stage there is a screen for projecting subtitles and documentary videos that correspond with the plot of the trial.

Plot structure

The plot proceeds according to the progress of the hearing in the District Court, but for the sake of clarification, Eichmann's cross-examination takes place simultaneously with the testimonies and not after them.

Documentary materials

During the opera, documentary films depicting the extermination of European Jews will be screened on the screen deep in the stage. The videos will be screened between the various chapters of the accusations against Eichmann: his activities before the outbreak of the war, his activity in Eastern Europe, in the ghettos, in the concentration camps and in Hungary. The purpose of the videos is twofold: to give visual expression to the process of extermination of the Jews of Europe, and to create a division of the opera into its chapters, in a way that will clarify to the viewer the main plot line.

Act I

1. CORO—Survivor Choir.

Choir: We, ashes rescued from fire, saw death with our own eyes in the ghettos and camps. He sent us his poisonous nails, too. We may have been saved by the skin of our teeth, but our world has been destroyed. The evil that shattered it continues to torture our souls. We came to look at the man who turned the wheels of the extermination machine, we came to see him helpless, kneeling and asking for mercy, we came to look at him without fear, to relieve our fear of him, so that he would not control us, so that we could continue living.

Bailiff: All rise!

Light on the courtroom. The judges, the prosecution and defense team in their seats. The defendant in the glass chamber. Light on Sarah Fried her Office in Jerusalem, and on Dr. Hans Globke and Anna Vogel in the Chancellery in Bonn. They listen to Hausner's speech.

2. Aria di Hausner

Hausner: Where I stand before you, judges of Israel, to prosecute Adolf Eichmann, I am not alone. Along with me stand six million prosecutors. But they are not able to point an incriminating finger at the glass booth and call out to the person sitting there: I accuse. Because their ashes were piled up between the hills of Auschwitz and in the fields of Treblinka and washed away in the rivers of Poland. Their blood cries out. But their voices cannot be heard. I will therefore be their mouth, And I will say on their behalf the terrible indictment... Murder, your honor, is not a new phenomenon in human history. It has been known to us since the days of Cain and Abel. But in the twentieth century, a new kind of murder has emerged before our eyes. An industrial murder planned by an entire government. An enormous criminal conspiracy hatched by murderers behind desks, involving many thousands at all

levels. Not towards one victim, but against an entire nation condemned to extermination... **(Darkness in court)**

3. Recitativo

Chancellery in Bonn. Globke and Anna Vogel. Globke turns off the radio.

- Globke: Verdammt. He doesn't just blame Eichmann. He blames all Germans. We were all part of "A huge criminal conspiracy involving thousands at all levels." We are all "murderers behind desks."
- Anna Vogel: We need not fear this trial, Mein Herr. Recognizing past crimes will help us do some soul-searching.
- Globke: I see that the Jewess in you has been resurrected. If you can't supervise this trial, I'll send someone else in your place.
- Anna Vogel: Acknowledging past crimes, sir, will prove to the world that we have changed.
- Globke: Frau Vogel, for fifteen years we have been doing everything to forget these crimes. This trial will destroy everything we have achieved.
- Anna Vogel: What shall we do about the accusations that Eichmann made against you in his investigation?
- Globke: I'm not worried. I never met him. I was never a member of the Nazi Party. My hands are clean.

4. Aria di Eichmann

Ramle Prison. The defense meeting room with Eichmann. Eichmann, Dr. Servatius, and attorney Lisa Grude are present.

- Eichmann: The prosecutor was deceived by the testimony of the SS leaders in Nuremberg. They blamed me for the extermination, in order to save their skin. Do I have to stand trial instead of the Führer? Instead of the Reichsführer Himmler? I was their most loyal officer. In my worst nightmares, I never thought that they would betray me. What chance did they leave me in front of Jewish judges who fled Germany and seek revenge?

5. Recitativo

Servatius: We can still save you from hanging. If you claim to have been a mediocre, middle-ranking official following orders...

Grude: that you didn't take any initiative, that you never came up with your own ideas...

Servatius: The judges will be convinced that your responsibility for the extermination was minimal.

Eichmann: They have minutes of meetings I attended with the most senior levels.

Grude: In these meetings you hardly spoke. Didn't argue. Didn't demand. Didn't suggest.

Servatius: No one was sentenced to death for being mediocre. Don't let your pride send you to the gallows.

6. Recitativo

Night. Sarah Fried's office. Sarah Fried, Hausner and Bach.

Sarah Fried: Ben-Gurion asked you to distinguish between today's Germany and the Nazi Germany, Gideon. In your speech, you mentioned Germany during the war, and did not call it Nazi Germany.

Hausner: From now on I'll be more careful, Sarah.

Sarah Fried: As for Dr. Globke, Director General of the Chancellery, Ben-Gurion asks that he will not be mentioned in the trial.

Hausner: I have documents linking him to Eichmann.

Sarah Fried: If you mention him, Chancellor Adenauer will cancel the aid he promised us.

Hausner: The world follows this trial, Sarah. It must not be seen as a show trial conducted by the Prime Minister's orders.

Sarah Fried: The government decided on this trial. It has political implications, so the government will continue to monitor it.

Anna Vogel enters. Sarah Fried shakes her hands.

Sarah Fried: Willkommen. **(To Hausner and Bach)** Frau Vogel, Chancellor Adenauer's envoy. **(Vogel)** Mr. Hausner. Mr. Bach.

- Anna Vogel: Thank you. The chancellor hopes that the trial will be conducted according to the rules accepted in progressive countries. This is the trial of one defendant, not an entire society.
- Hausner: Indeed, we have only one defendant, but we will point to many others who collaborated with him.
- Sarah Fried: **(To Vogel)** According to our law, the court hears only the defendant before it.
- Anna Vogel: The Chancellor reminds you of the Prime Minister's promise not to mention Dr. Globke, the Director General of his ministry, in the trial.
- Hausner: **(To Fried)** Did the Prime Minister make such a promise?!
- Sarah Fried: You already know his position.
- Hausner: Dr. Globke was the legal advisor of the Ministry of the Interior in the Reich government. His interpretation of the Nuremberg Laws provided the legal basis for Eichmann's actions. I must summon him to testify.
- Anna Vogel: I really hope you don't.

Hausner gets up and leaves. Bach follows him. Silence.

- Anna Vogel: Frau Fried. I am Jewish, a camp survivor, and I am trying to help you. If Dr. Globke is mentioned in the trial, He will act against you on the most important issues.

7. Interludio

A collage of documentary footage showing the actions against Jews in Germany in 1933-1939.

8. Aria di Benno Cohen

Court. The judges are already in their seats. The prosecution and defense on their benches. The defendant is also in the glass chamber. On the back wall is a caption: the testimony of attorney Benno Cohen from Berlin, chairman of the Zionist Organizations in Germany.

Benno Cohen: Then Hitler was appointed prime minister.

As he speaks, scenes from Kristallnacht occur. Echoes of windows breaking, German citizens burning books, SS men arresting Jews, beating Jews, one Jew struggling to save Freud's and Heine's books, but he is shot by an SS man.

Benno Cohen: He abolished laws that protected human rights and freedom of the press. Jews were fired, their businesses confiscated, their books burned, every day hundreds were arrested and sent to the camps. He enacted the Nuremberg Laws: Jew cannot be a citizen. Can't hold public office. Can't marry a German woman. On November 38, Kristallnacht took place. Hundreds of Jews were murdered, thousands of businesses were looted, every synagogue was burned, tens of thousands were sent to concentration camps. Masses of Jews stormed the embassies to obtain visas, but only the British Embassy issued a few visas to Israel. Eichmann summoned me to his office: I am the head of the Center for Jewish Emigration. If you don't get visas, you'll end your life in Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen.

9. Recitativo

The defense moves on to interrogate Eichmann. The investigation is already ongoing.

Servatius: Herr Eichmann, did you initiate the emigration of the Jews of Germany?

Eichmann: Not.

Servatius: And what was your position on this emigration?

Eichmann: I hoped that the Jews would come to land of Israel. I thought it was a humane solution for a people without a homeland, so that it would stop wandering. Therefore, I founded the office of Jewish Emigration. I saved tens of thousands in this way.

Hausner: Your honor, this is a despicable lie. Suddenly this man became a Zionist? I ask that the defendant points to one Jew whom he saved.

Landau: Mr. Hausner!

10. Duetto Eichmann & Vera

Visiting room at Ramle Prison. A guard lets Eichmann in. Another puts Vera in. They place a glass panel between the two, and are left to follow their conversation, which takes place on both sides of the glass panel using microphones and headphones.

Eichmann: Wie geht es dir, Vera? How do they treat you?
 Vera: They don't know who I am. I checked in at a hotel with my maiden's name. How are you?
 Eichmann: How are the children?
 Vera: The little one asks about you all the time.
 Eichmann: When he learns to write, ask him to write to me.
 Vera: The big ones are proud of you. They wear a swastika on their arm at every opportunity. Your friends in Buenos Aires are proud of you too. They are sure you will come out innocent.
 Eichmann: Jewish judges will not acquit me, Vera.
 Vera: Officers of your rank were sentenced in Nuremberg to two or three years.
 Eichmann: During the trial you'll hear things that will hurt the children. They better change their names. You, too, should be released from our marriage.

11. Aria di Vera

Vera: I know you better than anyone in the world. I will not leave you. You did what it took, Adolf. The Jews initiated the war. They forced it on us. The Führer himself said they wanted to destroy us. So, we had no choice, but to destroy them. Every people has the right to defend itself.

12. Interludio

A collage of documentary footage showing the actions against the Jews in Poland after its occupation by the German army.

13. Recitativo

Court. The meeting is already underway. The judges, the defendant, the prosecution, and the defense have already taken their seats.

- Hausner: Your Honor, this is the summary of a meeting that took place in the SS, in September 39, in which it was decided to concentrate Polish Jews in ghettos. This document proves that the defendant knew about the extermination plan at the beginning of the war.
- Eichmann: Your Honor, I don't remember being in that meeting.
- Servatius: His name does not appear in the protocol among the speakers.
- Hausner: Here is the list of participants. **(Shows it)** Here is the name of the accused.
- Eichmann: **(Embarrassed)** Even if I was in that meeting, my job was to write down the minutes.
- Hausner: This is a complete lie. You will not succeed in creating the impression that you were a small clerk, a typist. You were one of the planners of the extermination. You knew that all Polish Jews you sent to the camps would be murdered there, and yet you sent them there, and therefore you were complicit in their murder.
- Landau: Only the court will rule where and when the defendant lied.

14. Aria di Dr. Peretz

On the back screen is a caption: the testimony of Dr. Arna Peretz, a doctor in the Kovno ghetto.

- Dr. Peretz: Our life in the ghetto was very cheap. The Germans shot anyone they wanted. Once a rabbi who didn't lift his hat in front of a German. Once someone who returned from forced labor and a potato was found in his pocket. Every day I had to sew up women's genitals after the Germans searched them for food. In 1942 they banned women from giving birth. Women who were pregnant asked to have abortions. Women who gave birth secretly would burrow into pillows, so the Germans wouldn't hear the shouts. But the Germans discovered the babies and strangled them.

15. Duetto Mother & Soldier

A German soldier enters the stage holding two babies in his hands. The babies' mother runs after him.

Mother: Give them to me. Give them to me. These are my children...
 Soldier: You can choose one.
 Mother: One?!
 Soldier: Schneller!

She can't decide. The soldier turns to leave with the babies. She rushes after him in tears. The soldier throws the babies into an invisible truck.

16. Recitativo

Landau: Dr. Servatius, do you have any questions for the witness?
 Servatius: Nein, mein Herr, but to his attention, the witness did not mention the defendant at all.

On the back wall is a caption: Dr. Moshe Beisky from the city of Dzialoszyce, Poland.

Beisky: When the Germans occupied the town, they sent my parents to Belzec. I never saw them again. My brother and I were sent to the Plaszow camp. There we loaded coal onto wagons from morning to night. Those who were weak, were beaten to death. When we returned to the camp, we walked along the path in front of the commander's barracks.

Prisoners walk along the path in the camp. The camp commander shoots them with his pistol for amusement.

Landau: Dr. Servatius, do you have any questions for the witness?
 Servatius: Nein, mein Herr, But I reiterate his attention to the fact that he also...
 Landau: Mr. Hausner, you should instruct your witnesses to focus solely on events related to the defendant's actions.

17. Recitativo

Chancellery in Bonn. Globke and Anna Vogel.

- Globke: Can't you pressure the Israelis to shorten this damn sentence? The chancellor had already heard that the prosecutor there is going to summon me to testify.
- Anna Vogel: Frau Fried exerts very heavy pressure on the prosecutor, Mein Herr.
- Globke: I made a file for her. **(Gives her)** They need to know that without my efforts, the sanctions against the Jews would have been much harsher. If she doesn't cancel my summons, we'll stop the reparations to the survivors who live there.
- Anna Vogel: We'll stop the reparations?! That is impossible, sir. The survivors have already suffered enough.
- Globke: They will continue to receive reparations once my summons is canceled. If it is not, we will also freeze the arms deals we made with them.
- Anna Vogel: Did the Chancellor approve it? They need tanks and artillery.

18. Aria di Globke

- Globke: Frau Vogel, when the Israelis blame me, they blame all the state officials who served the Reich. These officials deserve to know that they are not war criminals. Their children read about the trial in the newspapers. They investigate, they condemn their parents, and their families fall apart. Mine too.

19. Recitativo

Visiting room at Ramle Prison. Night. Vera and Eichmann sit on opposite sides of the glass panel. The conversation takes place through microphones and headphones.

- Eichmann: I hope today's testimonies didn't depress you.

Vera: Everyone around me was crying. Some women fainted. Why didn't you say these witnesses were lying?

Eichmann: Didn't you know that the Jews of Poland were exterminated?

Vera: I knew what was written in the newspapers. What the Führer said in his speeches. Suddenly I see these Jews in court. Suddenly they have a face. You've never told me things like that.

Eichmann: Of course I told you.

Vera: Wann? I heard rumors in church. The neighbors were chatting behind our backs. I thought it was gossip. That they are jealous of the car. Of the driver. Of the gifts you brought to the children.

Eichmann: I told you every time I came back from the East.

Vera: About the elderly, women and children as well?

Eichmann: I didn't always know the details.

Vera: But you had nothing to do with these murders. Right?

Eichmann: Natürlich nicht. I never hit a Jew. I didn't hurt or kill. I moved as far away from them as I could, so as not to see them. Don't you believe me?

Vera: Of course I do.

Eichmann: I hope so. I can't trust anyone here, Vera. If you doubt me too, I will do what the Führer did to evade justice.

Vera: Don't you dare even think about it.

20. Recitativo

Night. The offices of the defense. Servatius and Lisa Grude.

Grude: Dr. Servatius, I'm not sure I can continue to defend this man. The stories of the witnesses break me. Today I almost got up and ran away.

Servatius: I see how hard it is for you.

Grude: When you offered me to join you, I thought he was a small clerk, that his part in the murder of Jews was limited. Today it's very hard for me to protect him.

Servatius: We protect him in order to expose his actions. To ask how so many of us took part in them.

Grude: And do you have an answer to that question?

21. Aria di Servatius

Servatius: I'm afraid I'll search for the rest of my life. In my generation, this mechanism we call conscience has gone wrong. Everywhere in the world, conscience tells man, "Thou shalt not kill.". Here it said: If you murder, you will be a good citizen. If you murder, you will serve the homeland. the race. The Führer. If you want to understand what happened, you have to stay here until the end of the trial.

22. Interludio

A collage of documentary footage presenting the Einsatzkommando activities against the Jews in Eastern Europe in 1941-1943.

23. Quartetto – Yoselevska, Mother, Daughter, Soldier

On the back screen is a caption: the testimony of Rivka Yoselevska from the town of Pohost, Poland.

Yoselevska: All day we stood in the square. No food. No water. The children cried in hunger. In the evening, trucks arrived. We were ordered to go up. Three kilometers from the town there was a hill with a pit next to it. When we arrived, we saw rows of hundreds of naked Yeeden who have already been shot...

Killing pit in Poland. Mother and daughter in Shabbat clothes. A German soldier points his rifle at them.

Daughter: Mutter, why did you dress me in Shabbes clothes? Why don't you answer, Mutter? What are we waiting for? Let's run.

Mother: I have already seen what happened to those who tried to escape.

Soldier: Undress. Schnell. Don't be shy. **(Mother and daughter undress. He addresses the mother)** Who to shoot first? You, or the girl?

She doesn't answer. He shoots the girl. The mother grabs and hugs her. The soldier shoots the mother in the head.

Yoselevska: We fell into the pit. People fell on us. I started choking. I moved to find air. I had no power. She dropped out of my hands. Still, I felt like I was rising above the others. People pull me down. Beating. Scratching. And I'm trying to breathe. When I came out, the Germans were no longer there. A few more people came out after me. Women and children too. All covered in mud and blood. It was impossible to recognize them. All the time, shouts could be heard from inside the pit. Take me out... Take me out... I started shouting to my daughter. Markella! Markella! In the morning, the Germans came and started shooting at the ghosts that came out of the grave. At night I returned to the grave. I wanted to go inside it and die. I dug with my hands, but the ground was already hard from the blood...

24. Recitativo

She falls silent. There was heavy silence in the courtroom. After a moment, Landau comes to his senses.

Landau: Dr. Servatius, do you have any questions for the witness?
 Servatius: Nein, mein Herr. But I must point out that the defendant was not involved at all in the actions of the SS in Poland. He was only coordinating the trains.
 Hausner: But you knew that the Jews you transported on those trains would be murdered.
 Eichmann: I opposed the murder of Jews, sir. I felt a terrible revulsion at the massacres in the pits. With my own eyes I saw jets of blood bursting out of them. When I saw Jews gassed, I begged my commanders: Don't send me there. Send someone more robust. I can't sleep at nights.
 Hausner: That, too, is a despicable lie. In all the discussions about the expulsion of the Jews, he never protested these mass murders. **(Shows in the protocols)** Not in the discussion of the deportation of the Jews of Warsaw or Gdansk, not in the discussion of the deportation of the Jews of Krakow, or Bialystok, or... **(Amazed)** Lviv... My hometown... Oh my God... In this discussion, he sends my family to the Belzec camp... All of them... My uncles... The aunts...

Their sons and daughters... Grandchildren...
 granddaughters... **(Throat choked)**
 Landau: Mr. Hausner? Mr. Hausner?
 Bailiff: All rise!!

25. Recitativo

Office of the defense. Attorney Lisa Grude alone. Bach enters.

Bach: Gutten Abend. These are a few more documents that we
 gathered ahead of tomorrow's hearing.
 Grude: Danke. I'll read them right away.
 Bach: By the way, I saw what you went through today during
 Mrs. Yoselevska's testimony.
 Grude: Many in Germany reacted as I did, when they saw the
 news.
 Bach: I really want to believe it.
 Grude: Germany has changed. Many of those who claimed they
 didn't know, admit they knew. They also admit that it's not
 just a few SS sadists that committed crimes against Jews.
 You: Mrs. Grude, even if this change occurs, your arguments in
 court do not contribute to it.
 Grude: What do you mean? You think I'm defending Eichmann,
 because I'm defending his actions?
 You: You don't defend his actions, but I haven't heard you
 condemn them. No German heard you condemn them.
 (exit)

26. Recitativo

Sarah Fried's office. Present are Sarah Fried, Hausner and Anna Vogel, who holds the file she received from Globke.

Anna Vogel: Mr. Hausner, these records indicate that Dr. Globke
 opposed the sanctions against the Jews, so there is no
 point in summoning him for questioning.
 Hausner: Dr. Globke was one of the leaders of the Reich's judicial
 system. He will have to explain how a man of his stature
 was captivated by Hitler's demagoguery and lost his moral

judgment. Without the cooperation of senior officials like him, Jews would not have been expelled to the camps.

Sarah Fried: The Reich's legal system is not on trial here.

Hausner: But exposing its failures will prove to the world that a legal system that protects Human rights, can prevent atrocities like those committed by the Reich.

Anna Vogel: For your information, Mr. Hausner, if you invite Dr. Globke to testify, the German government will stop reparations to survivors living in Israel.

Hausner: Excuse me?! Frau Vogel, the days in which a German threatens a Jew are gone. Dr. Globke should also realize it.
(Exit)

27. Interludio

A collage of documentary footage about the Wannsee Conference.

28. Recitativo

Court. The judges, the prosecution, the defense and the defendant are already in their seats.

Hausner: Your Honor, at the Wannsee Conference the decision was made to exterminate all the Jews of Europe. The defendant took part in the planning of this conference. He drafted the invitations to the participants, and he also sent them.

Eichmann: Your Honor, I had no part in the planning the conference. In 1940 the SS saw that the countries of the world refused to receive Jews from the Reich, and he decided to plan the final solution of the Jewish problem inside the Reich.

Hausner: You yourself admitted to the police that you drafted the conference resolution on the Final Solution: **(Reading from the record)** We will deport all the Jews of Europe to labor camps in the East, where they will be given "Appropriate treatment".

Eichmann: I didn't draft that decision. I prepared background material. I presented data...

- Hausner: And the main data was that there were 11 million Jews in Europe. You sat in front of the fireplace, in a villa on the lakeshore, snowflakes fell on the treetops, ate caviar, drank champagne, and decided to murder them.
- Eichmann: I haven't decided anything, sir. The conference participants were senior representatives of government ministries. I was the lowest rank of them all. I didn't give a speech. Didn't ask questions. All I did was to write down the protocol.
- Hausner: You just wrote down a protocol?! At the end of the conference, you are appointed to be the person responsible for the "Final Solution"!
- Eichmann: Your Honor, I was appointed to coordinate between the various ministries. My contribution at Wannsee was very small. The government officials who participated in it accepted the "Final Solution" without reservations. If they found no fault with it, who am I to oppose it?

29. Recitativo

Sarah Fried's office. Sarah Fried and Anna Vogel. Evening.

- Anna Vogel: Frau Fried, today, the court heard explicit claims that all Reich government ministries played part in the "Final Solution."
- Sarah Fried: These were arguments of the defense, Meine Dame.
- Anna Vogel: You leave us no choice. We are forced to stop also the arms deals with you.
- Sarah Fried: It will harm our security. Every day a war could break out here.
- Anna Vogel: And this trial harms our security. **(Turning to exit)**
- Sarah Fried: Frau Vogel, when we signed these arms deals, we pledged to recognize that Germany had changed. That there is a different Germany today. If we do not receive the weapons, we will not be able to fulfill this commitment.
- Anna Vogel: Are you out of your mind? Dr. Globke will not postpone these arms deals. He will cancel them. **(Silence)** Help me to help you. Respect the understandings between us, and you will receive the weapons. You can't imagine how much I risk for you, in front of dozens of officials who still think they work for the Reich.

30. Interludio

A collage of documentary footage showing the industrial extermination of Jews at Auschwitz.

31. Terzetto e Coro, Goldstein, Mengele, Sister

Court. The judges, the prosecution, the defense and the defendant are already in their seats. On the back screen is a caption: Testimony of Esther Goldstein from Kosice, Hungary.

Goldstein: When the train arrived at Auschwitz, we got out of the cars stunned and frightened. During the three days of travel, we didn't eat or drink. We hardly stood there on the ramp. My father and brothers are on one side. My mother, sisters and I are on the other side. My married sister was holding her two children. Suddenly, the Angel of Death appeared. Dr. Mengele.

Dr. Mengele enters and performs a selection among the choir members.

Mengele: Sie hier. Du bist dort. Sie hier. Du bist dort.... **(To Goldstein's sister)** You, give your children to your mother.

Sister: They are mine. I won't give them away.

Mengele: If you want to live, give her the children.

Sister: Leave them alone!! Don't touch them!!

But Mengele rips the girl out of the sister's hands and gives it to the mother. He forcibly takes the son and leaves.

Goldstein: We never saw the children again. Not my mother. Not my father and brothers. They all died within two hours. Gassed. My sister is alive. I tell her story because she can't tell it herself.

32. Duetto e Coro – Bakon, Sergeant

On the back screen is a caption: the testimony of Yehuda Bakon from the city of Morawska-Ostrava in Czechoslovakia.

Bakon: When a transport arrived, they led the people to the gas chambers. There was a "bathhouse" sign outside. At first, they were taken into the undressing rooms. On the side were hangers with numbers.

A sergeant addresses the choir.

Seargent: Remember the number of the hanger, so you can find the clothes later.

Choir: Water. Give us water. We didn't drink for two days.

Seargent: Schneller! After your shower, you will get coffee in the barrack.

Bakon: And they rushed to the gas chamber. There were showers in the ceiling, but they had no holes for the water. They are designed to calm down. When the doors closed, the SS sergeant pumped the gas through a pipe from above. After half an hour, the Sonderkommando opened the doors and took the bodies out to the crematorium. Then we, the children, took the ashes out of the ovens with rakes.

33. Aria di Dinur

On the back screen is the caption: Testimony of the writer Yechiel Dinur, born in Sosnowiec, Poland.

Dinur: I was there for about two years. On this planet, Auschwitz, time is not as it is on Earth. Every fragment of a moment goes there on different wheels of time. The inhabitants of this planet had no names. They had no parents. They had no children. They didn't wear the way we wear here. They were not born there and did not give birth. They Breathed according to other laws of nature. They did not live by the laws of this world and did not die according to them. Their name was their number Katzetnik. I stand here before you today thanks to the oath I swore to them there, to tell their stories. They walked away from me. And in the look of

our eyes was this oath... I see them. I see them. They look at me... I see them lining up for the... **(Paused)**

Dinur faints. Hausner and Bach rush to him. But two policemen take him outside on a stretcher. Judge Landau is distressed, and he hits his hammer.

34. Recitativo

Landau: Mr. Hausner, I have to stop the hearing...

Hausner: Your Honor, you saw with your own eyes the tortured soul of the witness. He didn't have the power to make his accusations against the accused. It is my duty to be his mouth, and to make them in his place. And it is the duty of this court to listen to them. **(Turning to Eichmann)** This is the report of the officer in charge of the production of death gas. According to this report, your deputy ordered a hundred kilograms of such gas from him. Did you know about it?

Eichmann: Nein, mein Herr.

Hausner: Your Honor, his deputy wouldn't have dared to order death gas without his order.

Servatius: Your Honor, the defendant is not a signatory to this document.

Eichmann: Your honor, I never purchased gas for Auschwitz. The gassing of the Jews is the greatest crime in the history of mankind. I knew about it, but I didn't participate in it. If I had to be an accomplice to this crime, I would have shot myself. I was involved in transportation. Nur im Transport!

Hausner: You didn't have to lead Jews to their deaths. You could have asked a transfer to another unit. But you didn't ask. You didn't ask because it was the most beautiful time of your life. You told your deputy in Berlin that even if Germany were defeated in the war, you'd jump happily to your grave, knowing that the death of six million Jews lie on your conscience...

Landau: **(angrily)** Mr. Hausner, the hearing is over!!

35. Finale – Coro e Solista

Mother from Chapter 15 and the Choir – The Children's Souls.

Mother: Where are my children? (**Addresses the audience**) Have
 you seen my children?

Choir: We will wait for you in paradise.

End of Act I

Act II

36. Coro – Survivors' Choir

Court. The prosecution and defense are in their places. Eichmann in the glass chamber. While the choir is singing, the judges enter and sit down.

Choir: we, ashes rescued from fire, we live every day the horrors we went through in those terrible days. Horrors we were afraid to remember and afraid to tell. We hoped to see this man exposed, denounced, defeated and hanged. We hoped to overcome the terror and fear that has dominated us ever since. And here we see him looking straight at the judges without fear, without awe, boldly, arrogantly. Confident of his victory. We see, and we panic. We hoped that this terrible war would end for us, and now our hearts tell us that it will never end. That we will have to fight for our sanity until the end of all generations.

37. Recitativo

Bailiff: All rise!!

Landau: Please, Mr. Attorney General.

Hausner: Your honor, the shocking testimonies we have presented, prove that the defendant participated in planning the ghettos and extermination camps in which millions of Jews were murdered. He was responsible for leading these Jews to their deaths. He even supplied the gas to Auschwitz. According to him, he acted because of the orders he received. Can the defendant finally explain to the court why he obeyed these orders? How did he explain their legality to himself?

Servatius: Your honor, the defendant does not need to explain the legality of the orders he received. Reich judicial officials need to explain it. Among them, for example, is Dr. Globke, who now runs the Chancellery. I ask that the court summon Dr. Globke to explain the legal basis for the establishment of the ghettos and the death camps.

- Hausner: The prosecution joins the defense's request. Indeed, Dr. Globke's interpretation of the Nuremberg Laws created the legal basis for the concentration of Jews in ghettos, but we will prove that the defendant was forbidden to obey these laws.
- Eichmann: Your Honor, the Concentration of Jews in the ghettos did not stem from the Nuremberg Laws, but from an explicit order of the Führer. Such an order was a supreme law, which was impossible not to obey.
- Landau: The Defendant will not intervene in the discussion, unless requested! **(To the prosecution and the defense)** I Hereby confirms Dr. Globke's invitation for testimony.

38. Recitativo

Chancellery in Bonn. Globke and Anna Vogel.

- Globke: **(Furious)** Verdammt. I will not appear in court in Israel. If they blame me, they will blame hundreds of our government officials. This time they will pay a heavy price for their audacity. Let them know that we're stopping the financing of the construction of their nuclear reactor in Dimona.
- Anna Vogel: I think this step goes too far, Mein Herr.
- Globke: If they want us to fund the construction of this reactor, they have to cancel my invitation to testify.
- Anna Vogel: Dr. Globke, I will not inform them without the Chancellor's approval.
- Globke: Here it is. **(shows her a document)**
- Anna Vogel: I can't lend a hand to this move. I would like to meet with the Chancellor. They need nuclear weapons. You know very well why.
- Globke: The Chancellor is busy, Frau Vogel. Keep in mind that if you force me to fire you, Israel's interests will be harmed. **(in frustration)** They think there, in Jerusalem, That I didn't see how the Nuremberg Laws paved the way to Auschwitz. I saw it clearly. But the cruelty of the Nazi Party was terrible. Those who spoke out against it were immediately sent to a concentration camp, interrogated, tortured, murdered. An entire society surrendered to propaganda about our racial superiority and obeyed the Party. I did what I could. Had I retired, its legislation

would have been much more monstrous. One day the Jews will thank me for what I have done for them.

39. Recitativo

The prison. The defense meeting room with Eichmann. Eichmann, Servatius and Grude.

- Servatius: The judges already understood that your role in the extermination was small. Now you have to stand up to them and put all the blame on Hitler and the Nazi party. You have to say that at the end of the war you saw the horror they inflicted on Europe, so you sobered up and abandoned them.
- Grude: Your disillusionment will make it easier for other SS men to express remorse. This will also make it much easier for Germany to accept you after you are released.
- Eichmann: I have already said that the murder of the Jews is the greatest crime in history.
- Grude: You must testify who is to blame.
- Servatius: And the main culprit is the Führer. Say that at the end War you saw that he was mentally ill. A hysterical megalomaniac who suffers tantrums. That in every picture of his in the newspapers you saw in his eyes that he lives on hormones...
- Eichmann: Is that what you think of him?
- Servatius: You should say in court that this what you think, too.
- Eichmann: I can't betray him. His death did not free me from my oath to him. I can't disappoint millions of Germans who believe in him. who are still confident that Germany will overcome its defeat. That it will win again.

40. Aria di Hausner

Prosecution office. Night. Hausner and Bach.

- Hausner: The whole world thinks our evidence is convincing. Except for the judges. Eichmann will soon convince them that he, too, is a victim of Hitler. If we can't convict him, we won't convict any other war criminal. What shall we

say to the victims? What shall we say to the survivors? We couldn't even prove his responsibility for the extermination at Auschwitz. At the end of the trial, we will have to apologize to him for prosecuting him.

41. Recitativo

Bach: If you think that we did not prove his part in the extermination at Auschwitz, then we need to bring more witnesses about the tortures in the transports he organized. About those who were dying in the cattle cars...

Hausner: The judges are already fed up with these witnesses.

Bach: We have a witness who was present at the transporting of the children from Paris.

Hausner: This witness also did not meet Eichmann.

Bach: But we have documents linking Eichmann to these children.

42. Recitativo

Enter Sarah Fried and Anna Vogel.

Sarah Fried: Chancellor Adenauer stopped funding for the construction of our nuclear reactor.

Anna Vogel: If you won't summon Dr. Globke, we will resume it immediately after the trial.

Hausner: I am ready to write to the Chancellor. I'm ready to meet with him. Dr. Globke's investigation will enable him to strengthen your legal system. To establish human rights...

Anna Vogel: The Chancellor does not need your advice on the internal affairs of the Germany.

Sarah Fried: **(Furious)** We will not stop the construction of the reactor, even if we have to stop this trial. Who had even heard of Globke before it? Over my dead body, you summon him for interrogation. **(Going out after Vogel)**

Hausner: We will not give up on Globke. If we do not investigate him in this trial, we'll investigate him in the next one, or the one after it. Jurists must know that they are obliged to protect human rights. Not to violate them.

43. interludio

A collage of documentary footage showing the deportation of France Jews to Auschwitz.

44. Recitativo

Court. On the back screen is a caption: the testimony of Prof. Georges Wellers, a doctor from Paris.

Weller: The Germans sent the parents to Auschwitz and the children to the Drancy camp near Paris. They got off the buses, frightened, silent with fear. The big ones held the hands of the little ones. They were housed in halls that had only dirty mattresses, infested with bedbugs.

Hausner: How many children came?

Weller: About four thousand.

45. Quintetto – 4 prisoners & Wellers

Prisoners holding "babies" in their hands turn to Weller.

Prisoner 1: Doctor, some children barely speak. We don't even know their names.

Weller: Choose a name for each child, write it on a note and hang it around his neck.

Prisoner 2: They still don't know how to eat by themselves.

Weller: Try to feed them.

Prisoner 3: They are not able to dress.

Prisoner 4: They cry all the time. They call their mothers.

Weller: Tell them they'll see them in a few days... **(to the judges)**
Honorable court, when I arrived at Auschwitz, a few months later, none of these children were alive.

46. Recitativo

Hausner: Your honor, this is the permission that the defendant gave his men in Paris to send these children to their deaths.
(Handing a document to the judges)
 Servatius: Herr Eichmann, did you decide to deport these four thousand children to Auschwitz?
 Eichmann: Nein, mein Herr. Reichsführer Himmler gave me the order.

47. Recitativo

The prison. The defense meeting room with Eichmann. Eichmann, Servatius and Grude.

Grude: Are you sure Himmler ordered the deportation of these children to Auschwitz?
 Eichmann: I would not give such an order on my own.
 Grude: I looked at his biography. When you gave this order, he toured the Eastern Front, and he gave you no order from there. I cannot defend someone who sent four thousand children to their deaths.
 Servatius: Frau Grude, the court would rule if he sent them.
 Grude: **(In tears)** This man has no compassion for people. Not even for helpless children separated from their parents. Therefore, he deserves no compassion. Although every criminal deserves protection, this man does not deserve it.
 Eichmann: Yes. I made the decision to send the children. I reported it both before and after the execution. No one protested. No one objected. No one was sorry. No one regretted it.
 Grude: But how could you make such a decision without thinking about it yourself?! You are a human being. A human being can think. Understand. Know. Therefore, he can distinguish between good and evil, even when his leaders try to confuse good and evil. Once you stopped thinking, you stopped being human. **(to Servatius)** And you stopped thinking too. You think you're only protecting him. But you also protect all his partners. Millions of Germans who see you, say in their hearts: If Eichmann is innocent, then my hands must be clean. **(Exits)**

48. Recitativo

Bach's office. Bach turns to get out. Grude enters.

- Grude: Gutten Abend. I brought you a biography of Himmler. **(gives him)** When Eichmann ordered the children to be sent from Drancy to Auschwitz, Himmler was on the Eastern Front. He couldn't give him any order.
- Bach: **(Reads the marked page)** I knew he was lying. Tomorrow we will present this book to the judges. May I ask why you brought it to me?
- Grude: I can't protect him anymore. I return home to demand that our Attorney General prosecute more criminals like him. You know very well who they are. I hope you will agree to help me.
- Bach: Frau Grude, I was born in Berlin. When I was a child, I experienced terrible hatred of Jews. Even with our neighbors. Even with their children...

49. Duetto Grude & Bach

- Grude: We don't expect forgiveness. There is no forgiveness for what our parents did. But if you come to Germany, you will see that many of us are trying to be different from our parents, and to recognize human rights for every human being. you saw us in the ghettos and the camps. You can tell us what we don't know about ourselves.
- Bach: I will not come to Germany in the next few years, Meine Dame. I will not sit in a restaurant where the waiter was a guard in Auschwitz. I won't sleep in a hotel where the receptionist was a bookkeeper, or the chambermaid was a secretary there. I won't take a bus where the conductor repaired stoves at the crematorium, or a train whose engine driver transported these four thousand kids from Drancy.

50. Recitativo

Visiting room at Ramle Prison. Vera and Eichmann are already sitting on opposite sides of the glass panel.

Vera: Now you will answer my questions without evading.
 Eichmann: I already answered in court.
 Vera: There you lied. I want to know who is the man I've lived with all my life, raised my children with. I want to know if I was blind or naïve. If I was cheated or deceived myself. Jews initiated this war?!

Eichmann: I didn't Plan the "Final Solution", Vera. The plan was forced on me. I couldn't stop it. I hoped that the war would end before we carried it out, or that someone above me would intervene and cancel it. Unfortunately, that didn't happen.

Vera: In the meantime, you have done everything possible to send more and more Jews to the camps.

Eichmann: Do you believe these Jews and don't believe me?!
(banging his fist against the glass wall) Don't you believe me? Don't you believe me? **(She doesn't answer)**
Aussteigen. Raus jetzt. Raus!!!

The guards overcome him and take him out.

51. Interludio

A collage of documentary footage showing the actions against the Jews of Hungary in 1944.

52. Recitativo

Court. Eichmann's investigation is ongoing.

Servatius: Herr Eichmann, what was your role in Budapest?
 Eichmann: Coordinate the schedule of trains departing to the east with the Hungarian Railways.
 Servatius: And why was an officer from your unit present in every ghetto when a transport was being deported?

- Eichmann: To count the Jews on the train, and make sure it leaves on time.
- Hausner: Did Rudolf Hess, the commandant of Auschwitz, visit you in Budapest?
- Eichmann: **(hesitantly)** Ja, Mein Herr.
- Hausner: In his biography he writes: **(Reads)** "The camp was unable to absorb the masses of Jews who came from Hungary. I went to Budapest to meet with Eichmann and asked him to reduce the number of trains to two a day. He insisted that he had to send four a day."
- Eichmann: I followed the instructions of Reichsführer Himmler, sir.
- Hausner: Did you receive this instruction in writing?
- Eichmann: Ja, Mein Herr. But unfortunately, all my department documents went up in flames...
- Hausner: His Honor, the defendant cannot present evidence that he received such an order because he did not receive such an order. He insisted on increasing the pace of transports because of his lust for murder. Only an immoral person, who has no qualms, can commit such a crime with such devotion.

53. Recitativo

The prison. Night. The defense meeting room with Eichmann. Servatius and Eichmann.

- Servatius: Don't fool yourself, Adolf. If the commandant of Auschwitz came to Budapest to bargain with you over the number of transports, then you were not a small official without authority. Even the claim that you followed orders no longer convinces the judges. We must find another way to protect you. If the judges get the impression that you are admitting to the war crimes of our generation, so that the younger generation will change, so that it will reject fascism, racism, human rights violations...
- Eichmann: Is that what you're protecting me for? So that the younger generation will change?
- Servatius: That way you might be able to save yourself from hanging.
- Eichmann: Had I thought I was guilty, I would have committed suicide at the end of the war.

54. Aria di Servatius

Servatius: Of course you're guilty! I knew this when I agreed to protect you. But I was willing to get dirty with your crimes in order to extract a confession from you, hoping that perhaps some more high-ranking Nazis would confess and express remorse after you. But you cling to the Führer's crazy delusions and force me to defend them. I never imagined that I would stand in court and lighten the severity of your actions. After you're hanged, I'll have to hang myself too. No decent German would hire me for work. Until my last day I'll have to work only with despicable Nazis like you. **(gives him a piece of paper and a pen)** If you want me to protect you, you will now write me a confession. Hast du gehört?!? Even if every word is a lie!

55. Recitativo

Hausner's office. Sarah Fried, Hausner and Bach are already in the midst of a discussion.

Sarah Fried: The government demands that in discussing the extermination of Hungary Jews, you do not mention the silence of the Allies.

Hausner: The Jews of Hungary sent desperate cries for help, Sarah. The Allies did not even bother to send planes to bomb Auschwitz.

Sarah Fried: Eichmann is now on trial. Not the Allies.

Hausner: They are on the trial of history. From the day Hitler came to power, they saw the decrees against the Jews as an internal German matter, and therefore they did not intervene, and therefore these decrees quickly turned into annihilation. The world must understand that human rights violations are not an internal matter. That it must come to the aid of every persecuted minority in every country.

Bach: Had the Allies agreed to absorb Jews, many of them would have been saved. This is a lesson to all the countries of the world to open their doors to refugees.

Sarah Fried: This sentence is not meant to repair the world. There are two million Jews here whose lives we are responsible for, and for that we need the support of the Allies. Other refugees will have to do without us. Is this clear? **(Exits)**

Hausner: We will not blame the Allies for anything. But our witnesses will blame. Joel Brand, for example.

56. Recitativo

Court. On the back screen is a caption: the testimony of Joel Brand, a member of the Zionist Rescue Committee in Budapest.

Brand: The SS men in Budapest knew about our rescue committee. They knew we were hiding Jews who had fled Poland and Slovakia and smuggling them to Romania. They also knew that most of our money came from American Jews, so they turned to us to create a contact for them with the Americans.

Landau: Why did they want contact with the Americans?

Brand: Himmler wanted to achieve a ceasefire agreement behind Hitler's back. He planned to start negotiations through us about rescuing Jews, and then continue political negotiations.

Hausner: Mr. Brand, what deal did the defendant offer you on Himmler's behalf?

Brand: When I walked into his office, he stood up and said: I solved the Jewish problem in Germany, Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Greece. Now it's your turn. I'm willing to sell you a million Jews. From Hungary, Poland, Austria, Theresienstadt, Auschwitz. Women who are able to give birth. Men who are able to procreate. Old. Children. Blood for goods. Goods for blood. I Asked: What goods are you interested in? Ten thousand trucks, he said. Where can we get ten thousand trucks? The Jews rule America. If we burn twenty thousand Jews every day, the Americans will give. tomorrow you fly to Turkey, meet with the American Ambassador. From tomorrow we'll send twelve thousand Jews a day to Auschwitz. An agreement with the Americans is their only chance.

Hausner: And what happened when you arrived in Turkey?

- Brand: I went to a meeting with the American ambassador. but as soon as I got on the train, I was stopped by the Police. I bribed an officer and went to Syria to ask for help from the Jews in the Land of Israel. Soon after, I was arrested by the British. And every day this man continued to send twelve thousand Jews to Auschwitz.
- Hausner: Many thanks, Mr. Brand **(to Eichmann)** If you wanted so much to promote the deal, as you claim, why did you keep sending Jews to Auschwitz, when you knew they were being murdered there?
- Eichmann: The decision on the transports was made by the Reichsführer.
- Hausner: Himmler wanted to sabotage a deal that he himself initiated?!
- Eichmann: The British and Americans sabotaged it, Mein Herr.
- Hausner: **(Taking Page)** Honorable court, in a meeting between Himmler and the accused, Himmler reprimanded him for violating his orders. "Until now you murdered Jews, now I need them alive." Himmler was willing to free a million Jews in order to save Germany from destruction. The defendant wanted to sabotage this deal. Therefore, he continued to send the Jews of Hungary to Auschwitz. And so they perished.

57. Duetto – Eichmann & Vera

Visiting room at Ramle Prison. Night. Vera and Eichmann sit on opposite sides of the glass panel. The conversation takes place through microphones and headphones. A guard hands Eichmann a Bible.

- Vera: It's your father's Bible.
- Eichmann: Why did you bring it to me?
- Vera: For you to read it.
- Eichmann: Now?
- Vera: Now, of all times.
- Eichmann: I didn't know you cared so much.
- Vera: You are my husband and I want you alive. The kids also need you. If you read the Bible, you will begin to believe, and God will save you from what you did in Hungary.
- Eichmann: Your God is too big to deal with my problems.

Vera: If you pray to Him, He will forgive you and soften the judges' hearts.

Eichmann: Am I going to deceive myself now? **(Tears up the Bible)**

Vera: Was machst du? Is that how you'll get forgiveness from Him?!

Eichmann: You accuse me of crimes in Hungary, without understanding what happened there. We all knew that the war was lost, and we could not bear the thought that the Jews would return to Germany. That they will walk the streets of our cities. They will live in our homes. They will raise our children. They will desecrate our women. That's why we wanted to eliminate them. Not just me. Every German who was there. The judges will never understand how difficult the defeat was for us. How difficult it is for us to this day.

58. Aria di Fleischman

Court. On the back screen is a caption: Testimony of Aviva Fleischmann from Budapest.

Fleischmann: On November 4, Hungarians posted ads in Budapest's neighborhoods. All Jews between the ages of sixteen and sixty were ordered to leave. They were led on foot by gendarmes towards Austria. Over the course of three weeks, fifty thousand Jews were sent to "build fortifications for the Germans."

A convoy of Jews marches on the stage. Among them are members of Fleischmann's family. Her mother leads her blind father. A Hungarian policeman shoots him. Her pregnant cousin has trouble walking. A policeman shoots her, too. Her mother gets tired and kneels on the ground. A policeman shoots her, too.

Fleischmann: We reached the border exhausted. The gendarmes threw us in a factory warehouse. None of us were able to work. We were dying there until the end of the war. Only a few survived.

The witness finds it difficult to continue her testimony. A policeman helps her get off the witness stand.

59. Recitativo

- Hausner: Your Honor, Eichmann's zeal for the extermination of the Jews of Hungary Indicates for his passion for extermination all over Europe. He was not an obedient official. He is a monstrous man poisoned by Jew-hatred. He fought with mad zeal to murder every Jew he could get his hands on. The claim that he followed orders does not clear him. No law in any country permits orders of genocide. Once he has fulfilled them, he has become an enemy of mankind, he and all his accomplices, whom we will capture, and prosecute. I ask the honorable court to sentence this man to death.
- Servatius: Honorable Court, the defendant was a junior officer. He was unable to carry out the acts attributed to him. He followed orders. In the sick world where these orders were legal, he could not see that they were illegal. He was blind to their illegality, because he was the product of two thousand years of Antisemitismus in Europe. Because he carried out the will of the great majority of Germans.
- Eichmann: Your Honor, I Not asking for mercy. I'm willing to hang myself, to deter Antisemiten throughout the world. The rumors that I was responsible for the execution of the "The Final Solution" are groundless. My great sin is that I did not have the courage to refuse the orders I have received. But who in Germany had the courage? Everyone obeyed. Everyone who swore to the Führer gave up his personality, his conscious, his self-judgment. Had I received an order to send my children to death, I would have carried it out. I did not persecute Jews out of lust for their elimination. The prosecution couldn't point to a single Jew I killed.
- Landau: Many thanks to the prosecution and defense. Thus ended the stage of testimonies, investigations and summaries. The court will soon publish the date of reading his ruling.
- Bailiff: All rise!

60. Recitativo

Chancellery in Bonn. Globke and Anna Vogel.

- Anna Vogel: The Israelis accepted all our demands, Mein Herr. I think it's time to lift the sanctions we imposed on them.
- Globke: Absolutely. But before that, they must pledge that they will no longer hunt down Nazi criminals, and that they will no longer prosecute them. These trials are an internal matter of ours.
- Anna Vogel: If you raise such a demand, sir, everyone will understand that you are afraid that the Israelis will hunt you down and put you on trial in Jerusalem.
- Globke: I won't hear such hints from you! **(Vogel turns to leave)** Wait a minute. **(Vogel pauses)** If the Israeli government gives us this commitment, I will resign. I have already discussed this with the Chancellor. Many of the senior officials who served in the Reich government would resign after me.
- Anna Vogel: They, too, want to secure themselves from prosecution in Israel.
- Globke: I do not intend to shirk responsibility for my actions in the Reich government. If our prosecution decides to prosecute me, I will defend myself in a German court and refute all the allegations against me.

61. Recitativo

Visiting room at Ramle Prison. Day. Vera and Servatius On one side of the glass panel, headphones are already on their heads. Two guards drag Eichmann into the room and seat him on a chair on the other side of the panel. Despite his objections, they put headphones on him.

- Vera: The judges asked for an extension. They're still undecided, Adolf.
- Servatius: Your admission and remorse forced them to reconsider their decision. If they do convict you, we will appeal to the Supreme Court.

Eichmann abruptly removes his headphones and tries to get up and get out. The guards seat him down.

- Vera: I will stay with you all the time. We'll have at least a few more months together. I will visit you every day. I'll bring the kids here.
- Servatius: The judges on appeal will judge you for what you did. Not for what Germany did.
- Vera: You can't be your own judge. Certainly not your own executioner. The last judge is God.

62. Aria di Eichmann

- Eichmann: I will not live at the mercy of the Jews. I will not ask them for mercy. Also the Judges in the supreme court are Jews, and they will seek revenge like every Jew. I had to stick a bullet in my head at the end of the war, do not hide and do not escape, so that I don't give these damned Jews the satisfaction of hanging me.

63. Recitativo

Sarah Fried's office. Hausner entered, a briefcase in his hand.

- Sarah Fried: Congratulations on your closing speech, Gideon. Ben-Gurion has already written you a letter of appreciation. **(gives him)**
- Hausner: For fulfilling my duty? It's a waste of ink. I acted according to my conscience. This trial is just the beginning. **(checks out a document)** Now it's the turn of more criminals. The first one is Dr. Josef Mengele, who is hiding in Brazil.
- Sarah Fried: Unfortunately, Mengele is not our top priority today.
- Hausner: Mengele is the most horrific expression of human evil. He made the selections at Auschwitz. He performed medical experiments on children, in twins.
- Sarah Fried: We prefer to focus on building the future, rather than rummaging into the past.
- Hausner: I will raise the issue for discussion in the Government. **(Turning to exit)**

- Sarah Fried: Wait. **(Hausner pauses)** The Germans conditioned the funding of our reactor on a commitment that we would no longer pursue Nazi criminals or prosecute them.
- Hausner: And you committed?! This commitment contradicts our commitment to the victims. Also for the survivors. We need to hunt down all war criminals and try them. These trials will oblige the countries of the world to examine the evil within them, and the legitimacy they give it.
- Sarah Fried: Israel is not concerned with the moral repair of the world. These criminals will die within a few years and be forgotten, and we will continue to fight for our lives in this bloody Middle East. And in order to survive here, we need a nuclear reactor.
- Hausner: Not just a nuclear reactor.
- Sarah Fried: You are the Attorney General of the government, and you will act in accordance with its instructions.
- Hausner: I will fulfill its instructions, but I will also fulfill my duty as a human being and as a Jew. Precisely because we were victims of the most monstrous evil in the history of mankind, we must continue to fight it. **(exits)**

64. Coro e Solista

Court. The judges, the prosecution team, the defense and the defendant in their seats. Sarah Fried, Globke and Anna Vogel follow the hearing from their offices. Judge Landau hits his hammer.

- Landau: The defendant will get up. **(Eichmann gets up)** Adolf Eichmann, this court finds you guilty of crimes against the Jewish people and humanity, and war crimes. In light of this, we sentence you, Adolf Eichmann, to death.
- Bailiff: All rise!

Everyone present gets up. The judges turn to leave, but Eichmann lashes out at the judge.

65. Aria di Eichmann

Eichmann: I despise your verdict. I go to my death with no fear. I saw so many dead that death became a colleague of mine. I have no sorrow and no regret. I'm as bad as anyone who can kill. In a world where millions can be sent to their deaths, there is no morality. There is no sin and no justice. In Auschwitz the most perfect human could be strangled with gas... That's why I didn't believe in human. And not even in God. I believed that I belong to a superior race in order to believe in myself. I also believed in the Führer to believe in myself. In my power. And in my death, I sanctify the evil to which I have dedicated my life, with immense satisfaction that I have succeeded in sending millions to their deaths...

The officers take him outside. Light on Hausner and the choir.

66. Finale – Coro, Hausner e tutti Solisti

Choir: He appealed. The appeal was rejected. He asked the president for a pardon. The request was denied. He was hanged. His ashes were scattered at sea, so that he would not have a grave and a tombstone on earth. Justice has been done.

Hausner: He was hanged, but hundreds of criminals continue to spread evil like him. And in the shadow of this evil, the evil that nests in us also occasionally rears its head. Proudly. Without any horror or fear. And from time to time, we are tempted to obey him and kill in his name.

Choir: It lurks at every turn, hiding in the hearts of cruel statesmen, fanatical military commanders, and clergymen who are holy in their own eyes, who do not recognize man's supreme right to life.

Hausner: God, full of grace and mercy, died, and with him died His grace and mercy. Man is left without them. He can't defeat the evil in him. And so this evil continues to strike us. Many millions are being murdered in the name of empty words...

Choir: Now we see how much evil there is in us. We are unable to suppress it save ourselves from it. Every morning, we wake up in fear that he has appeared, and he is already plotting to trap us. We pray that we will not be his victims and hope that we will not be his murderers.

END