

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRICAL ARTS FOR STAGE AND SCREEN

# *sharing* **STAGE**

IMAGINATION • CREATIVITY • INNOVATION

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## *Cabaret*

BOOK BY **JOE MASTEROFF**

BASED ON THE PLAY BY **JOHN VAN DRUTEN**

& STORIES BY **CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD**

MUSIC BY **JOHN KANDER** LYRICS BY **FRED EBB**

DIRECTED BY **ROB MOFFAT**

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## DRAMATURG'S NOTE

The year is 1929. The city is Berlin, Germany during the Weimar Republic, a place where lovers and dreamers come to embrace a new and exotic lifestyle. The government has been torn after the abhorrent damage of World War I. Germany is forced to sign a treaty that they consider a great humiliation, causing multiple political parties to rise up and seek control. This leaves the country in shambles, with an unstable economy. Even though everything seems to be going downhill for Germany, one thing is going up: the nightlife becomes the best in all of Europe.

Due to the lack of government involvement, censorship has decreased and artists are going unpunished. This means that people are able to do whatever they want without repercussions. Directors, actors, writers, dancers, and all types of artists come to Berlin to express themselves freely in whatever manner they please. All kinds of people are welcomed and accepted, from foreigners to homosexuals, who are discriminated against in other countries.

People come to Berlin to forget their troubled lives, their unemployment, or their tenuous social standing. At night, it is the place of dreams where the line between reality and fiction is erased. Tonight we invite you to blur those lines and leave your troubles at the door.

- Danae Devey, Production Dramaturg



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# "Leave your worries outside."

-Emcee, *Cabaret*

## TIMELINE

- 1914  
WWI begins
- 1918  
WWI ends
- 1923  
Hyper-inflation & depression in Germany
- 1929–30  
Time period of *Cabaret*
- 1933  
Hitler becomes Chancellor
- 1939  
WWII begins

## WELCOME TO THE CABARET

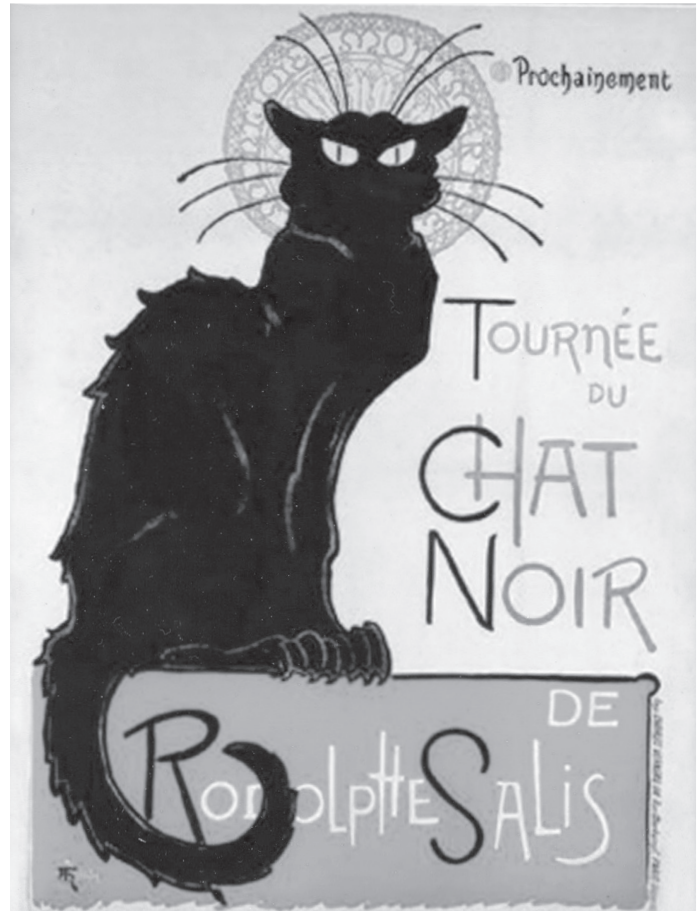
The first official cabaret, Le Chat Noir, originated in Paris in 1881. However, there are places that were similar to cabarets that date back to the 16th century. These were places where people went to discuss art, poetry, writing, and music. It later became a place where artists of all styles could share their new works and critique mainstream society without repercussions. Cabarets involved drinks, food, low lighting, and intimate interaction between performers and audience members. They even had telephones for calling other audience members in order to talk or ask for a dance or a date. Audiences loved that they were not just watching a show but they were a part of it.

“Life is a Cabaret,  
old chum;  
Come to the  
Cabaret.”

-Sally Bowles, *Cabaret*



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## UNDERSTAND GERMAN

- **Willkommen** (VILL-komm-en): Welcome
- **Gutten Abend** (goo-ten AH-bent): Good Evening
- **Ja** (yah): Yes/ Yeah
- **Fräulein** (froy-lyne): Miss
- **Frau** (frou): Mrs.
- **Herr** (hair): Sir, Mr.
- **Ja! Gut!** (YAH! GOOHT!): Yes! Good!
- **Hals-und Beinbruch** (HULS oont BINE-brook): Break a neck and leg (German version of “Break a Leg”).



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## WAS SALLY BOWLES REAL?

Do you want to hear the real story about Sally Bowles?

Check out Christopher Isherwood's book *Berlin Stories*, the book that *Cabaret* was inspired by. If you look, you may find some other familiar characters in this novel.

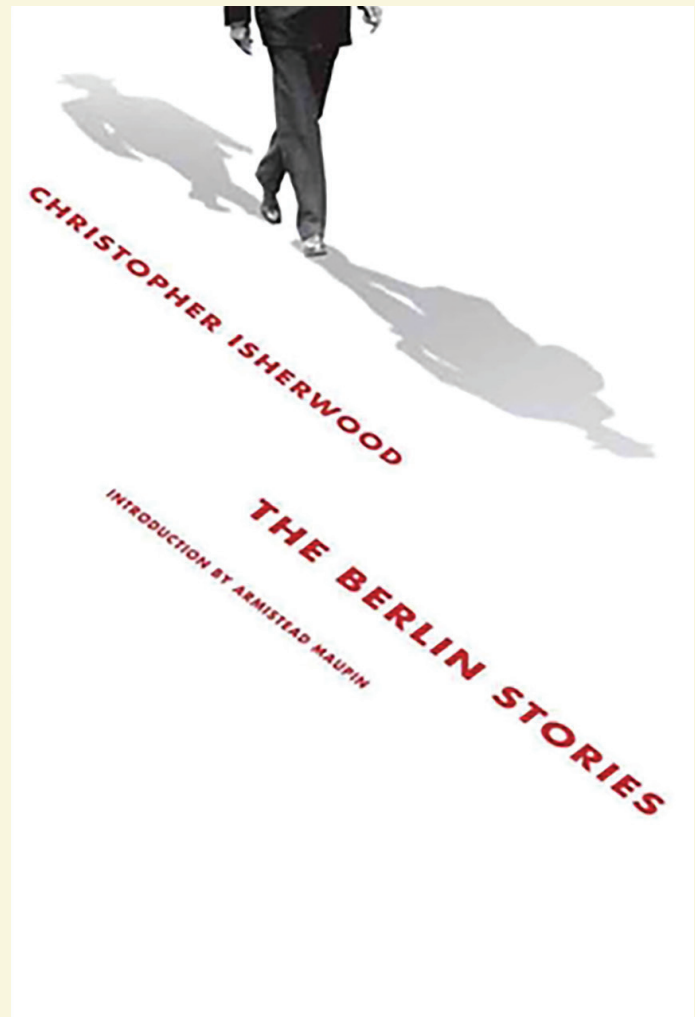
## LEARN THE CHARLESTON

Do you want to go back in time?

Want to learn how to dance like the Cabaret dancers?

Watch this Youtube video to learn the most popular dance in 1920.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0oHxyensok>



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## CREDITS

Learning Stage is published by the TYE Center for Theatre, Youth, and Education at UVU. This issue was guest edited by dramaturg Danae Devey under the direction of Dr. John Newman, Director of the TYE Center, and Dr. Lisa Hall Hagen, faculty advisor. Graphic Design by Jason Warren.

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