

JOB

Musical Theater

Concept and Composition

Julia Schwartz

Texts

All dialogs and most song lyrics are lifted directly from Joseph Roth's novel *Job*, unless otherwise indicated. The poems in all of the men's choruses as well as *Sommernachtstündchen* are by Heinrich Heine. The text of the duet between the brothers in the first act is partially from the novel; it has additional lines written by the composer. The composer also wrote most of the Narrator's speeches. A few of his texts are verbatim from the novel and are marked as such.

The Cast

The Narrator, who is also the pianist in the ensemble, *speaking part*

Mendel Singer, a poor Jewish teacher, *bass-baritone*

Deborah, his wife, *mezzo-soprano*

Jonas, their son as a boy and as a young man, *baritone*

Schemarjah, their son as a boy and as a young man, *tenor*

Mirjam, their daughter as a girl and as a young woman, *soprano*

Menuchim, their 10-year-old son, (he can be played by one of the other brothers), *silent part*

The Rabbi of Kluczysk (he can be played by one of the men from the second act), *baritone*

Mac, a friend of Schemarjah's, *speaking part*

Vega, Schemarjah's wife, *speaking part*

Ivan, a Cossack / a messenger / Mr. Fogl / a doctor / Mr. Frisch (can all be played by one actor), *baritone*

Mendel's friends in America: Mr. Skovronnek, Mr. Groschel, Mr. Menkes and Mr.

Rottenberg, *speaking parts / men's chorus*

Mrs. Skovronnek (she can be played by the same woman who plays Deborah) *speaking part*

Men's chorus (immigrants, soldiers. The chorus mostly sings from offstage: all of the men who are not on stage sing along)

Two stretcher-bearers (these can be played by any of the male actors), *silent part*

The Ensemble

Violin, double bass, piano (played by the Narrator), percussion (discrete ad lib.)

About the costumes

Mendel wears the same clothes throughout the play: a petersham cap, a caftan and high boots, all in black. His clothes should look worn in the second act. The other characters dress according to the time and place.

Visual Inspiration

The painting *Strange Worlds* by Todros Geller