



**SOULPEPPER**

YOUNG CENTRE  
FOR THE  
PERFORMING ARTS

DISTILLERY  
HISTORIC  
DISTRICT

50 TANK HOUSE LANE  
TORONTO ON  
M5A 3C4

416 203 6264  
SOULPEPPER.CA  
BOX OFFICE: 416 866 8666

## Production background notes

Written by Soulpepper Resident Artist Paula Wing

## INCIDENT AT VICHY

ARTHUR MILLER

Arthur Miller would've been a hundred years old in 2015 and we're celebrating his centennial with this dynamic play, directed by Toronto's masterful Alan Dilworth. Set in wartime France and based on real events, *Incident at Vichy* unfolds in a suspenseful ninety minutes. A group of mostly Jewish men are rounded up by German and French officers for an "identity check." In fact, they are being detained so authorities can determine which of them are Jews. We know the stakes couldn't be higher but the detainees – mostly – don't. They've heard rumours of mass killings in Germany but they find it hard to believe such atrocities could really have happened. Those of us watching have to wonder: if more people had believed the rumours sooner, how many lives would have been saved? The German Major in charge of the operation is disgusted with Nazi policies but he carries them out anyway. If all who personally opposed the policies had refused to carry them out, how many lives would have been saved? With typical blazing clarity, Miller examines guilt and responsibility, the difficulty of resistance and the nature of collaboration and complicity. The play suggests we all have the power to combat evil through personal sacrifice. If every person in the occupied countries had made just one sacrifice, how many lives would have been saved? We'll never know but this powerful play reminds us that the will to resist is a potent weapon. Provided we use it in time.