

PRESS RELEASE: “Lost” Kurt Weill song for new biographical revue

“Here I’ll Stay”, the story of Kurt Weill’s journey from Nazi Germany to full-on Broadway, which opens on July 7th at the Rosemary Branch in Islington, will feature a number from Weill’s only English musical, *A Kingdom for a Cow*, not seen or heard in London since 1935.

The musical was an adaptation of an unperformed German work, *Die Kuhhandel*, which Weill was unable to get put on in Germany. The English impresario CB Cochran insisted that Weill write half a dozen new songs to make the story – a morality tale about arms dealing in the Caribbean – more acceptable to English audiences. “As Long as I Love” is one of the six songs.

Director Peter Scott-Presland says, “A friend of mine knew my passion for Weill and came across the sheet music and an original theatre programme at a car boot sale. It’s a fascinating piece because it shows Weill’s talent for being a musical chameleon. Hearing it, you think of Ivor Novello, or Vivian Ellis, but it still somehow retains Weill’s fingerprints.”

The original production closed after two weeks, mainly because of anti-Semitic reviews (The fascist-sympathising “Times” wrote that Weill’s music was a good reason for Hitler to throw him out of Germany). *Die Kuhhandel* was revived in an English translation by Opera North in 2006, but the English musical remains completely unheard and unknown.

“Here I’ll Stay: Kurt Weill In America” runs at the Rosemary Branch July 7th – 26th.

<http://www.homopromos.co.uk/shows/hereillstay.html>

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