

1 INTERVIEW WITH: Sandor and Jean Maibaum

2 INTERVIEWER: James Miller

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10 MR. MILLER: 1985. My name is James Miller, and  
11 I'm interviewing this evening Sandor Maibaum and his wife,  
12 Jean Maibaum, who spent their lives up until 1939 in Germany  
13 and were fortunate enough to leave. Sandor, in June or May,  
14 I believe of --

15 MR. MAIBAUM: Of '38.

16 MR. MILLER: Oh, '38. Excuse me. 1938. And his  
17 wife and their first son followed in December was it?

18 MRS. MAIBAUM: December.

19 MR. MILLER: December of 1938.

20 And we will proceed with Sandor giving his account  
21 of the political events leading up to Hitler's takeover, and  
22 following that what life was like for him in Germany under  
23 Hitler's regime.

24 And also Jean Maibaum will be contributing her  
25 experiences as well. Sandor.

MR. MAIBAUM: Thank you.

It was quite clear from the many elections  
preceding 1933 that the Nazi party was increasing its  
membership at a frightening rate. We all knew that

1 eventually there may be a time when they might be in power,  
2 but we did not expect it would happen so soon. In  
3 December -- no, in January 1933, Hitler was named  
4 Chancellor, which is a very powerful position, in a way  
5 similar to the power of the Prime Minister in a  
6 parliamentary system like England.

7 When he was nominated to this important job, we  
8 expected, naturally, many changes. What we did not expect  
9 was that the changes would come so soon and with some  
10 dramatic effect.

11 At the evening of this day -- I believe it was the  
12 30th of January, 1933 -- we listened to the radio, and we  
13 were entirely unprepared when we heard on the radio that in  
14 a public square not too far removed from where we lived a  
15 torchlight parade was being held and that seemingly out of  
16 nowhere thousands of Brown Shirts suddenly were there in  
17 their brown uniforms. And there were speeches and  
18 exclamations which to us listeners were frightening because  
19 it was so -- such a sudden change, so dramatically organized  
20 and apparently it was well organized. We never had expected  
21 anything like this.

22 And the next day we heard over the radio that the  
23 whole movement was lauded a benefit for the German people  
24 and a doomsday for all the Jews. It was again a dramatic  
25 announcement.

1           It turned out that the changes could not be made  
2 effective as fast as the party expected, but the shock that  
3 we suffered was there in each individual who was obviously  
4 concerned. We acted in a personal, different way. You  
5 really could not anticipate what would happen.

6           There was one dramatic incident -- well, I would  
7 say dramatic just because it affected us personally. My  
8 father and I represented several factories which  
9 manufactured electric supplies. Almost immediately one  
10 owner of one of those factories cancelled our contracts  
11 effective immediately for the reason that his cousin had  
12 been named Minister of Culture in the new cabinet. But this  
13 was an exception.

14           Even if we expect the reaction from our customers  
15 as well as from the factories we represented, the change  
16 came slowly. Many of our customers who had appreciated that  
17 we had given them good service for many years didn't want to  
18 turn their back to us. And though there were substantial  
19 differences, they seemed a little -- not surprised but a  
20 little ashamed and reluctant to speak to us, and they made  
21 it clear that we certainly, personally an exception. In a  
22 way it was an insult because many implied that all other  
23 Jews should be condemned and that we are an exception.

24           But it turned out that many of the customers, as  
25 well as the manufacturers we represented, were loyal to us

1 and that a surprisingly large number of them had the civil  
2 courage to support us as long as they could. Surprisingly  
3 enough, quite a few of them belonged to a group of people  
4 who would be considered definitely right of center. But  
5 they belonged to the old German aristocracy which, up to a  
6 certain point, had always been anti-Semitic without using  
7 any violence. This was just that they seemed to belong to a  
8 different class of people.

9 But the change and the threats which came from the  
10 radio almost daily were very frightening. Sometimes we  
11 thought it better to do business by phone instead of making  
12 personal calls on the customers. And I think that many of  
13 the customers felt the same way. Anyway, it seems that in  
14 the beginning we didn't lose much business.

15 And there was something else, which was rather  
16 personal, but I think in this context it may be mentioned.  
17 My father was very much affected from the first day of the  
18 change. He suffered from a nervous breakdown, which  
19 affected his stomach, and I had to take care of the business  
20 by myself, but with reduced efforts as I just mentioned  
21 previously.

22 There was something else. I had belonged to the  
23 League for Human Rights, which was an organization to which  
24 members of the left and right belonged. It was a matter of  
25 principle. And I remember one man, Count &From-at-yet-skee,

1 who had been a nobleman and also the editor of a magazine  
2 which was similar -- if I may compare it to the United  
3 States -- to the Nation or to the New Republic, who was a  
4 sacrifice of a trial held by the Nazis. And surprisingly  
5 enough, before he was condemned by the court and executed,  
6 he had a possibility to give a speech which had been  
7 published by foreign newspapers. It was one of the few  
8 occasions that other countries realized what really had been  
9 going on behind the scenes.

10 MR. MILLER: And what was his alleged crime? Just  
11 the fact that he was the editor of this magazine?

12 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes. And that he had stood up for  
13 human rights.

14 MR. MILLER: And this was shortly after the  
15 changes in 1933 or was it --

16 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes, it was.

17 MR. MILLER: It was. Uh-huh.

18 MR. MAIBAUM: Fortunately for me personally, the  
19 office manager of the League for Human Rights destroyed the  
20 membership cards in time, before the Nazis searched this  
21 office.

22 Another thing which I have not mentioned before, I  
23 knew somebody who was working for the Resistance, and he  
24 needed, among others, an address to which mail could be  
25 sent. And I received a few letters which obviously were

1 written by a child. These letters were promptly picked up  
2 by the man for whom they were intended. My parents noticed  
3 that these letters came quite frequently and realized also  
4 the danger and forbade me definitely, which was sensible, to  
5 sever this connection.

6 There was also something else which I mentioned.  
7 It was some almost eerie reason. I had written some reviews  
8 -- not so much criticism, more reports of, well, important  
9 lectures or less important performances. And I had tried to  
10 express a little bit of my opinion, though I was not  
11 considered a critic, more a reviewer of the fact. I tried  
12 to sever this connection with the paper, but the  
13 editor-in-chief asked me to stay on for a little while  
14 because the Nazis just didn't have people who had the  
15 background to do a job like that. It is rather a sad  
16 statement for the Nazis when there was no person to replace  
17 somebody as young as I was then who had a good educational  
18 background that certainly was no expert, expert in any  
19 field.

20 One assignment remained in my memory very  
21 strongly. It was a meeting of astrologers who discussed  
22 their horoscopes that they had made on the dates which were  
23 available on Hitler's birth and so on. And they all came to  
24 a frightening conclusion -- frightening for me -- that  
25 Hitler had a brilliant future. None of these participants

1 apparently had expected that a member of the Jewish race  
2 would be present.

3 Another ticklish occasion prior to this state was  
4 when I went with my uncle to a meeting of the &Societe Conq-  
5 al-mon, which was officially a society to try their best to  
6 bring a cultural rapprochement between the German and the  
7 French government, who had been arch enemies. And I  
8 remember that there were two lectures, one in French and one  
9 in German. I was sitting right behind &Fron-sur-fron-say,  
10 who &had-head at the time in the German ambassador -- I mean  
11 the French ambassador in Germany. And the man who spoke in  
12 German was a very well known critic of the paper for whom --  
13 with which I was connected.

14 It is a ticklish proposition to report everything  
15 exactly without making a mistake because a wrong sentence  
16 may have some political implications.

17 A short while after the Nazis took power we know  
18 from history books that the Reichstag, the German diet, was  
19 burned, and the Nazis blamed many people, including Jews,  
20 for the arson, but finally some Communists were declared the  
21 culprits.

22 Then about three months -- no, six months after  
23 Hitler took the power, one of his closest associates by the  
24 name of &Wern, the leader of the Brown Shirts, was suddenly  
25 arrested. It had been almost universally known that &Wern

1 had been a homosexual, and the Nazis had talked about  
2 perversive people of that kind without naming &Wern. But it  
3 seemed that there was a political revolt and &Wern was  
4 trying to take the power from Hitler.

5 Whether it is true or not has never been made  
6 clear to us. If any mention of these rumors was made, I  
7 suppose the best known historian of that time was William  
8 Shirer in his Berlin Diary.

9 Up to a certain degree, it was still possible to  
10 lead a fairly normal social life.

11 MR. MILLER: I'd like to ask you about that.  
12 You've mentioned, of course, your own reactions to the  
13 changes in 1933 and the reactions of your business  
14 connections, your customers and so forth. I would be  
15 interested in knowing what the reactions were of friends and  
16 acquaintances who are not Jewish and if changes took place  
17 along those lines in a personal way for you.

18 MR. MAIBAUM: Not really. The few friends, few  
19 non-Jewish friends we had, had about the same opinion of the  
20 Nazis as we had. There was especially a friend, a writer,  
21 his name was &Claus-Hel-mut, and when he came he made very  
22 sure that all doors in our room in our apartment --

23 MRS. MAIBAUM: Windows too.

24 MR. MAIBAUM: -- and the windows were closed, and  
25 then we could talk.



1           There were always reports through the grapevine of  
2 terrible things which had happened. For instance, there was  
3 one street in the center of Berlin near the &Potsdamer  
4 Platz -- I forgot the name of the street, but it was street  
5 diagonally away from the &Potsdamer Platz, one of the main  
6 squares in the city, that there were many rumors which I  
7 could not substantiate, that there were one or two buildings  
8 which were considered his torture chambers. All these  
9 things were just rumors we heard. It was impossible to find  
10 out at that time what actually happened.

11           But was still the opportunity that we met  
12 sometimes with friends at one of the many outdoor cafes  
13 which were well-liked by people in Berlin and we were able  
14 to talk about subjects which were noncommittal at all, but  
15 after awhile we tried to sever these occasions.

16           During the hot months we were often on the balcony  
17 to eat dinner and sometimes we realized that we had spoken  
18 something and possibly somebody could have heard on another  
19 floor or an open window, and we were deathly afraid and also  
20 when we left a door open in our apartment and our maid might  
21 possibly have heard something that we really not the least  
22 suspicion but she would report anything. But this constant  
23 fear. On the other hand, there seemed (inaudible) some ups  
24 and downs.

25           We had occasion to get some foreign newspapers.

1 We were one or two places where foreigners wanted to get  
2 news from their homeland. The easiest for us was to get two  
3 Swiss papers & and & (cannot figure out how to spell them  
4 phonetically), which were printed in German. I also had  
5 sometimes the opportunity to pick up the French paper &Le-  
6 Ton, which was definitely very conservative, but had some  
7 relation to the attitude of reporting news like the London  
8 Times, which was rarely obtainable. There was some times we  
9 were able to get a Spanish newspaper, but the information  
10 there was not enlightening.

11 MR. MILLER: Were these foreign newspapers  
12 enlightening as far as publishing accounts of what was going  
13 on throughout Germany to the Jewish people as opposed to  
14 what the German newspapers printed? Did they have the  
15 information there?

16 MR. MAIBAUM: Some of it. And even details which  
17 were mentioned had often been unknown to us and meant  
18 important information. Italian newspapers were not very  
19 good because Mussolini was in power and though he was not  
20 quite as bad as Hitler, the information was unreliable as  
21 far as we were concerned.

22 MR. MILLER: But I think it's interesting to note  
23 that at least the French and the Swiss newspapers whatever  
24 they were able to report, what information they had  
25 obviously was then reported also to the outside world so

1 that even in the mid '30's the rest of the world had the  
2 opportunity to at least see a portion of the changes taking  
3 place and perhaps get a hint of what was to come. Would you  
4 agree with that?

5 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes. One of the reasons why the  
6 Nazis let some foreign newspapers in were that they tried to  
7 get foreigners to come to Germany because the Nazis  
8 desperately needed foreign currency, and they wanted to  
9 encourage people to come to Germany and leave their dollars  
10 or other valuable currencies there.

11 Now, something else. The cultural background was  
12 such that during the 1920's and the early '30's Germany and  
13 especially Berlin had such importance, so much news, so many  
14 experiments in theater, in music, in dance, in everything,  
15 yes, in art too, were available which historically is known  
16 also in previous very unsettled times that culture had an  
17 unusual blossoming.

18 Many of the German artists had to remain. They  
19 were even asked by the German government because they were  
20 considered good. But some of them, also some non-Jewish  
21 artists, left Germany out of protest. And the cultural  
22 presentations suffered considerably.

23 The Jews were permitted to form an organization  
24 where they could present theater and musical performances,  
25 including operas, in the organization, which was -- which

1 could be admitted only to Jews. And there were rumors that  
2 Gentiles heard that some of these performances had been very  
3 good, and they were (inaudible) that they could not enjoy  
4 these performances.

5 MR. MILLER: So the Jews were then prohibited from  
6 performing in the previously established centers?

7 MR. MAIBAUM: That's correct, yes.

8 MR. MILLER: Yes. And also what about attendance  
9 then? Were you prohibited from attending those...?

10 MR. MAIBAUM: No, we were not.

11 MR. MILLER: But you chose to not attend?

12 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes, that's right. We found it  
13 inappropriate.

14 MR. MILLER: It was then a well-known fact, it was  
15 a publicized fact what had happened that the Jews were not  
16 allowed to take part in these performances or was it more of  
17 just a rumor?

18 MR. MAIBAUM: No, it was not forbidden, but it was  
19 considered bad taste by, I mean, by the Jews.

20 MR. MILLER: No, no. I'm not saying to attend,  
21 but for the Jewish performers, for the actors and the  
22 singers, were they prohibited from...?

23 MR. MAIBAUM: Practically, yes.

24 MR. MILLER: So what was the --

25 MR. MAIBAUM: (Inaudible). Even if they had

1 contracts. I mean, contracts didn't mean much at that time.

2 MR. MILLER: So what was formed then was a  
3 separate Jewish -- I think you mentioned it before, the  
4 &Cultur-ban?

5 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes.

6 MRS. MAIBAUM: It was &Cultur-ban --

7 MR. MILLER: &Cultur-ban, yes.

8 MRS. MAIBAUM: Culture band actually, a group.

9 MR. MILLER: Right.

10 MRS. MAIBAUM: Culture group where Jewish actors,  
11 Jewish artists, Jewish singers, Jewish conductors.

12 MR. MILLER: All performed and -- right.

13 MRS. MAIBAUM: It was in a, in a theater in  
14 Berlin. I don't even remember where it was anymore. Do  
15 you?

16 MR. MAIBAUM: I don't remember.

17 MR. MILLER: It was in one particular theater?

18 MRS. MAIBAUM: In one theater only (inaudible).

19 MR. MILLER: Yeah. So whereas before there had  
20 been Jews employed both in, say, orchestras --

21 MRS. MAIBAUM: Oh, yes.

22 MR. MILLER: Singers --

23 MRS. MAIBAUM: Oh, yes. Conductors --

24 MR. MILLER: Conductors and dancers --

25 MRS. MAIBAUM: -- singers, artists, actors --

1 MR. MILLER: -- actors, in several theaters --

2 MRS. MAIBAUM: In all theaters, all the theaters.

3 MR. MILLER: -- all the theaters around Berlin,  
4 now they were reduced in a sense --

5 MRS. MAIBAUM: Limited to only one.

6 MR. MILLER: -- limited to one.

7 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yes.

8 MR. MILLER: So obviously for those people there  
9 must have been a substantial loss of income and a great  
10 uncertainty on their part as far as their futures.

11 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yes. And do you know how many  
12 theaters there were in Berlin? Sandy, do you remember?

13 MR. MAIBAUM: I don't know, but --

14 MRS. MAIBAUM: A lot. There were theaters going  
15 on every day. If you looked in the paper, you don't know  
16 where you wanted to go to, you know. They had --

17 MR. MILLER: Yes, tremendous variety.

18 MRS. MAIBAUM: They had -- like in France, they  
19 had these round -- in English.

20 MR. MAIBAUM: &Litposts.

21 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yes. What are these things that  
22 they have where they announce all the activities, and the  
23 theater? It's in the street and it's --

24 MR. MILLER: Oh, the kiosks or something, yeah,  
25 where --

1 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah, it's round. It's a round  
2 thing.

3 MR. MILLER: Yeah, yeah.

4 MRS. MAIBAUM: And you know you want to decide to  
5 go to the theater. Well, where do you go? There are  
6 several opera houses. There was the &Dolt-shoi opera, there  
7 was the --

8 MR. MAIBAUM: Four opera houses.

9 MRS. MAIBAUM: Four opera houses. &Dolt-shoi  
10 opera, &Deutsch Staatsoper--

11 MR. MAIBAUM: &Krowl opera.

12 MRS. MAIBAUM: &Krowl opera. Where they play  
13 operettas mostly.

14 MR. MAIBAUM: No.

15 MRS. MAIBAUM: No? What was --

16 MR. MAIBAUM: &Glim-po.

17 MRS. MAIBAUM: (Inaudible.) Well, anyway, I mean  
18 we had plenty of opportunity to go.

19 MR. MILLER: Yes, yes.

20 MRS. MAIBAUM: And then all of a sudden we were  
21 restricted to just one theater where they only, of course,  
22 put on one event at a time in one evening. It was always  
23 packed.

24 MR. MILLER: Right.

25 MRS. MAIBAUM: I saw Don Carlo. Not &Verde --

1 &Nabuco I mean. &Nabuco. My first time &Nabuco.  
2 Don Carlo was when we went --

3 MR. MAIBAUM: That's what I wanted --

4 MRS. MAIBAUM: That's what you wanted --

5 MR. MILLER: I'm going to ask about that. A  
6 question just came to my mind.

7 MRS. MAIBAUM: What?

8 MR. MILLER: Could you -- it's hard to phrase  
9 this. Let's just limit it to conductors for instance. The  
10 conductors who continued to conduct the orchestras after the  
11 changes took place, &Furtwangler, &von Karajan, some of  
12 these people, would they have had to be members in good  
13 standing -- not necessarily party members -- but individuals  
14 in good standing with the Nazi Party or were they -- would  
15 you describe them merely as opportunists who had the  
16 opportunity to conduct and continued? Obviously, they were  
17 not bothered in their conscience by the actions that had  
18 taken place. Could you comment on that?

19 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes. &Hope-lim-u-ler was bothered  
20 by his conscience, and he had the guts to defend &Bruno  
21 Walter when &Walter was supposed to leave or had to leave.  
22 &Hope-lim-u-ler said it's a shame for Germany and required a  
23 great deal of courage to do that.

24 MRS. MAIBAUM: &Karajan wasn't conducting under  
25 the Nazis (inaudible)?



1 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes.

2 MR. MILLER: Yeah, I believe so. I don't know if  
3 he was a celebrated --

4 MRS. MAIBAUM: I don't remember him.

5 MR. MILLER: -- conductor, but I know he was  
6 conducting.

7 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes.

8 MRS. MAIBAUM: I didn't know.

9 MR. MAIBAUM: In &Su-ber-stray-man's house.  
10 (Inaudible). He went to New York.

11 MRS. MAIBAUM: He was a little Jewish, wasn't he?  
12 Was he Jewish?

13 MR. MILLER: As I understand he was and then he  
14 converted.

15 MR. MAIBAUM: Yeah. He converted to Catholic --

16 MR. MILLER: Yeah.

17 MR. MAIBAUM: -- and then he became a Jew again.

18 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah. I guess this country's  
19 followed him too.

20 MR. MILLER: Yeah. Well, as I understand it, he  
21 converted in order to further his own career at the time,  
22 much the same as Mahler had in an earlier generation. There  
23 were no Nazis at the time, but it was the accepted --

24 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah. Mahler was converted too.

25 MR. MILLER: -- necessity at the time evidently to

1 do that.

2 Well, let's continue then. That was interesting.  
3 Let's continue. You mentioned a performance in the &Cultur-  
4 ban --

5 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes.

6 MR. MILLER: -- theater of the play Don Carlo.

7 MR. MAIBAUM: This was a theater which was not  
8 Jewish.

9 MRS. MAIBAUM: That was not in the &Cultur-ban.

10 MR. MILLER: Oh. I see. Okay. Go ahead. It's  
11 important to know.

12 MRS. MAIBAUM: Mixed audience.

13 MR. MILLER: Mixed audience.

14 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes. This was at a time when we  
15 were married already. So it must have been at least two  
16 years later.

17 &Schemmer was considered the greatest dramatist in  
18 the German language, and I think this was rightly so. The  
19 Nazis, therefore, had to consider him as such a great  
20 artist, and they could not prevent a performance or  
21 production of his drama Don Carlos. It is a famous scene in  
22 which Phillip the 2d of Spain said we have all the freedom  
23 here, everything is quiet; and the Marquis &Fol-zer says  
24 yes, it is quiet; it's quiet like a cemetery. Please, your  
25 Majesty, finally give us some freedom to think and say what

1 has to be said; we want to express our opinion. And in this  
2 famous speech to the dark theater, there was sudden noise.  
3 It seemed to come from all sides, and then suddenly  
4 stopped. People in the audience in the dark theater looked  
5 around whether anybody had seen them applauding, which was  
6 obviously demonstration against the present government.

7           Something else. There were quite a few cabarets  
8 in Berlin, small places. You could not compare it to a  
9 nightclub. Small, like an intimate place, not more than two  
10 hundred people at most. (Inaudible). Maybe like the Hungry  
11 Eye. That's where (inaudible) stays. And there were  
12 certain masters of ceremonies who had unusual courage to  
13 make remarks. Their jokes were so obvious against the Nazi  
14 government. But there was actually no proof. They used  
15 words that made it clear what they intended to say. And  
16 there were several of these people.

17           MRS. MAIBAUM: Everybody understood --

18           MR. MILLER: Subtle, subtle protests, yeah.

19           MRS. MAIBAUM: Very subtle protests and very --  
20 innuendos, you know.

21           MR. MILLER: Yeah.

22           MR. MAIBAUM: Some of them played piano and sang  
23 little songs. I remember &Mischa Polinsky.

24           MRS. MAIBAUM: I don't remember that.

25           MR. MAIBAUM: Yes.

1 MRS. MAIBAUM: Like, you know, that political  
2 satirist here that's on the PBS. What's his name?

3 MR. MILLER: Mark Allen or something?

4 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yes. Allen.

5 MR. MAIBAUM: Russell.

6 MRS. MAIBAUM: Huh?

7 MR. MAIBAUM: Mark Russell.

8 MR. MILLER: Mark Russell.

9 MRS. MAIBAUM: Mark Russell, yes.

10 MR. MILLER: Yeah. Right, right.

11 MRS. MAIBAUM: That's also political satirist. So  
12 this man was &Wer-nak-bern I think, and he was a political  
13 satirist, and he -- the innuendos and the, you know, there  
14 was a very fine line between what he said and what he meant.

15 MR. MILLER: Right.

16 MRS. MAIBAUM: But you understood.

17 MR. MILLER: Right. That's interesting.

18 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah. Well, they got him too.

19 MR. MILLER: Oh.

20 MR. MAIBAUM: In 1933 I got the permission for a  
21 short trip with a very limited amount of currency, and I  
22 visited friends who had emigrated in Holland, &Amster; in  
23 Antwerp, Belgium; and to Paris.

24 MR. MILLER: Now, they had emigrated after Hitler  
25 had --

1 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes.

2 MR. MILLER: Okay. So this is all in 1933.

3 MR. MAIBAUM: But very shortly after Hitler came  
4 to power.

5 MR. MILLER: Right. And you visited them yet in  
6 1933?

7 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes.

8 MR. MILLER: Okay. And they made such a poor  
9 living that I really came back after a short trip. I  
10 admired them that they had the guts to get out, but I  
11 realized also the difficulties to make a living. And from  
12 personal experience you were able to make very comfortably  
13 living in Berlin at the time. It is very difficult to take  
14 chances.

15 There is something else I wanted to mention.  
16 After World War II, and after my father came back from his  
17 service in the army --

18 MR. MILLER: World War I?

19 MRS. MAIBAUM: World War I.

20 MR. MAIBAUM: World War I (inaudible).

21 MR. MILLER: Okay.

22 MR. MAIBAUM: -- he decided it would be about high  
23 time that we acquired the German citizenship, which was no  
24 problem. But when the Nazis came to power, all Jews who had  
25 become naturalized citizens lost the German citizenship but

1 did not regain their former citizenship but became  
2 stateless. It means we got passports which indicated that  
3 we had no protection from any country, and we had to get  
4 permission every few months to get a rubber stamp that said  
5 that we have temporary permission to stay until a certain  
6 date but that this permission can be revoked at any time.  
7 And that, of course, is a very uncomfortable feeling even  
8 when you live under a dictatorship.

9 MRS. MAIBAUM: Actually, I don't even remember why  
10 we needed any passports at all if we were stateless. We  
11 only needed it to emigrate.

12 MR. MAIBAUM: No, we needed --

13 MRS. MAIBAUM: I mean we would ordinarily only  
14 need it --

15 MR. MAIBAUM: We needed it when we made trips  
16 abroad.

17 MR. MILLER: For business purposes?

18 MR. MAIBAUM: For business purposes.

19 MR. MILLER: Right.

20 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah, but in the city itself you  
21 didn't need it.

22 MR. MAIBAUM: But we needed something that when  
23 somebody came and said, "Show me your papers," we had to  
24 have them handy.

25 MRS. MAIBAUM: All right, if you were traveling.

1           MR. MAIBAUM: No, not only that. We always could  
2 be accosted by the police or by anybody else.

3           MRS. MAIBAUM: That's true. That's true.

4           MR. MAIBAUM: We had to show our identifications.

5           MRS. MAIBAUM: Do you know that I had to have a  
6 passport for my one-and-half year old baby and a good  
7 behavior certificate before I could leave the country from  
8 the police department that he hasn't done any criminal acts  
9 or anything like that, and he wasn't even two years old.

10          MR. MILLER: (Inaudible).

11          MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah.

12          MR. MAIBAUM: And we had to report to the police  
13 any change of address. Even if you should move within the  
14 same building to another apartment, we had to report it to  
15 the police.

16          MRS. MAIBAUM: But that you had to do all the  
17 time. I mean, everybody had to. That was a rule, rule all  
18 over Germany even before the Nazis came that whenever you  
19 changed your address you had to report it to city hall. For  
20 what reason, I don't know.

21          MR. MILLER: I had one other question on the  
22 culture. Once the Jewish theater was established, the  
23 &Cultur-ban, were Wagner's works performed there?

24          MR. MAIBAUM: No. Only something that had to do  
25 with Jews, like &Nabuco or Samson and Delilah.

1 MR. MILLER: Yeah.

2 MR. MAIBAUM: Or Carmen, which was written by a  
3 Jewish composer.

4 MR. MILLER: Right. Bizet was Jewish.

5 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah.

6 MR. MILLER: Was this a restriction? In other  
7 words, were you restricted what could be performed?

8 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes.

9 MRS. MAIBAUM: We were?

10 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes.

11 MRS. MAIBAUM: I don't remember that.

12 MR. MILLER: All right. So the Nazis then limited  
13 the repertoire for any performing medium to be -- it had to  
14 be basically of Jewish content or subject matter or  
15 something.

16 MRS. MAIBAUM: Well, actually, there weren't but  
17 very many Jewish writers outside of &Lessing and --

18 MR. MAIBAUM: &Lessing was not Jewish.

19 MRS. MAIBAUM: Wasn't he Jewish? But he wrote  
20 &Mat-Nathan, the Wise One, didn't he?

21 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes. But this was during the time  
22 of Enlightenment.

23 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah, but I mean there weren't any  
24 Jewish --

25 MR. MAIBAUM: Oh, yes.



1 MRS. MAIBAUM: Writers, yes, but not playwrights.

2 Not many. Like who?

3 MR. MAIBAUM: &Kranz-ber-tel --

4 MRS. MAIBAUM: &Kranz-ber-tel.

5 MR. MAIBAUM: -- who was very --

6 MRS. MAIBAUM: (Inaudible). Was he Jewish?

7 MR. MAIBAUM: No.

8 Something very interesting. A friend, whom I  
9 mentioned before, this friend &Claus-Hel-mut, had written a  
10 satirical comedy, and he had submitted it for performance at  
11 different theaters. Very strange. It was accepted by the  
12 State Theater in Berlin, which belonged to a Prussian state,  
13 and this play had many satirical references which under  
14 veiled words were a criticism of much of what the Nazis were  
15 doing, but the Nazis had not been aware of it, and he gave  
16 us --

17 MRS. MAIBAUM: Stupid.

18 MR. MAIBAUM: -- our friend gave us tickets to  
19 this performance. And I still can remember one of the  
20 actors, very well known person. But after that we went home  
21 and did not discuss it publicly, of course.

22 MRS. MAIBAUM: I don't remember that. Did we go?  
23 Did I go with you?

24 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes. &Har-e-bet-rush.

25 MRS. MAIBAUM: &Har-e-bet who?

1 MR. MAIBAUM: &Har-e-bet-rish-er.

2 MRS. MAIBAUM: &Har-e-bet-rish-er.

3 MR. MAIBAUM: (Inaudible) was the main actor.

4 MR. MILLER: Very interesting.

5 Well, let's turn, if we could, to the  
6 Kristallnacht, Jean.

7 MRS. MAIBAUM: Okay. Okay.

8 MR. MAIBAUM: May I --

9 MR. MILLER: Oh, excuse me. Yes, go ahead.

10 MR. MAIBAUM: May I mention about my emigration  
11 (inaudible)?

12 MR. MILLER: Oh, yeah. Please do, yes.

13 MR. MAIBAUM: At the end of 1937 a minor incident  
14 happened that made me suddenly realize that it was high time  
15 that we had to get out of Germany, and there was no time to  
16 lose. I don't recall which incident, of course, but it  
17 happened. And I also realized --

18 MR. MILLER: Excuse me. Was it an incident that  
19 happened to you personally or was it just a political  
20 incident?

21 MR. MAIBAUM: It happened to me personally.

22 MR. MILLER: Okay.

23 MR. MAIBAUM: I also realized too late, but I  
24 realized that all the money doesn't mean so much, and that  
25 when you try to keep your money at all costs, you risk your

1 life, and that is more worth -- worth more than the money.  
2 It is something that we should have realized at an earlier  
3 time.

4 I wrote to my uncle in New York whom I had never  
5 seen. He responded that he could give an affidavit only for  
6 one person, would be for myself, because he couldn't afford  
7 to support the whole family. He sent us the affidavit and  
8 after soul searching -- we didn't have much time to lose --  
9 my parents and Jean agreed that I should accept it because  
10 if I don't try to take this chance I would not be able to  
11 get the rest of my family out. It took months at the  
12 American Consulate in Berlin, but finally I got it; I had  
13 visa. And immediately got booking on the first available  
14 steamer, which happened to be American. And I never forget  
15 when I said goodbye to my mother was (inaudible) the water,  
16 her arms, and then on the ship my father first said goodbye  
17 and walked down a pier which seemed to be very long,  
18 unusually long. After every few steps he turned back and  
19 waved, and at the end of the pier he turned around. And  
20 I've never seen him again.

21 Somehow it was comparatively easy to say goodbye  
22 to Jean because I was young enough to have confidence that I  
23 would get a job and I would let her come soon on the  
24 (inaudible) quarter. I did not realize at that time that  
25 the depression in the United States was by no means over.

1 But I don't want to go into any detail how I got a job.  
2 Only the fact that these months where I stayed first with my  
3 uncle and then later in a small furnished room were  
4 terrible.

5 And I listened to the news from Germany. Though I  
6 could not understand too much English, it was so  
7 frightening, as if it was a nightmare. And if I may  
8 interject, that these nightmares come to me sometimes  
9 nowadays, and it so happened that a few weeks ago -- it had  
10 been quite some time before you asked me about it, whether I  
11 dream, which I, not somebody else, could express, and  
12 visually it just shows that --

13 MR. MILLER: Continue, please.

14 MR. MAIBAUM: For years afterwards I suffered from  
15 insomnia. I still was afraid that I hear steps, that people  
16 would get me. And I sometimes got up at night and took the  
17 dog for a walk --

18 MRS. MAIBAUM: (Inaudible.)

19 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes. -- until I calmed down  
20 sufficiently to go back.

21 MRS. MAIBAUM: That was when we were here in San  
22 Francisco.

23 MR. MILLER: Yeah, yeah.

24 MRS. MAIBAUM: You jumped there. There is no  
25 connection there, Sandy.

1 MR. MILLER: Yeah, but this is -- it's frightening  
2 because it's years afterwards. And even as you mentioned,  
3 just several weeks ago. Now this is four years -- forty-  
4 five years or more after since you've left. Yeah, yeah.

5 MRS. MAIBAUM: He still thinks about (inaudible).

6 MR. MILLER: My thinking is, yeah, it's in your  
7 subconscious. It's something that can never be --

8 MRS. MAIBAUM: It's like the Vietnam veterans, you  
9 know; they are still suffering from (inaudible).

10 MR. MILLER: In a sense you're haunted by it to a  
11 degree, yeah, yeah. Terrible.

12 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah, yeah. Terrible. It is.

13 MR. MAIBAUM: You wanted to ask Jean some  
14 questions?

15 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah.

16 MR. MILLER: Yeah. Let me turn to you, Jean.  
17 Sandy left in 1938.

18 MRS. MAIBAUM: In June.

19 MR. MILLER: In June.

20 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah. And between June and  
21 December I was trying to get out, which I finally  
22 accomplished in December.

23 So the first thing I did, when I went back to  
24 Berlin, set the wheels in motion, set the wheels in motion  
25 to get a visa.

1 MR. MILLER: Right.

2 MRS. MAIBAUM: And I filled out applications, and  
3 I went to the American Consulate, and took my little boy was  
4 then, then only about a year-and-a-half old. And we were  
5 daily guests at the American Consulate. And finally then  
6 Sandy sent an affidavit for me finally in 19 -- in what was  
7 it? November? After the Kristallnacht.

8 Kristallnacht, that's what I wanted to tell you.

9 MR. MILLER: Yeah, yeah.

10 MRS. MAIBAUM: That was in November 30th in 1938 I  
11 think it was. There was a Nazi killed by a Jew in Paris.

12 MR. MILLER: Yeah, Paris, yeah.

13 MRS. MAIBAUM: The whole male Jewish population  
14 all over Germany was taken. No matter how old, as long as  
15 it was a male. The middle of the night windows were  
16 smashed. Screaming. Dirty Jews, dirty this and dirty that.

17 And I had a girlfriend, her husband was taken. I  
18 had several friends. They just came to the door, knocked on  
19 the door, opened the door, rang the bell, took all the  
20 Jewish males.

21 And books were burned. And this went on all night  
22 long. It was terrible. Terribly frightening.

23 MR. MILLER: Yeah. Terror. Yeah.

24 MRS. MAIBAUM: It wasn't terror. Terror. I don't  
25 know what the word is. It was -- I was glad Sandy was

1 here. Otherwise he would have been taken too.

2 MR. MILLER: You were glad he had already left  
3 Germany, yeah.

4 MRS. MAIBAUM: He had already left Germany. He  
5 left in June, and this was in November.

6 MR. MILLER: Yeah.

7 MRS. MAIBAUM: And after that --

8 MR. MILLER: You must have feared for Walter, for  
9 your child at the time.

10 MRS. MAIBAUM: Well, we were hiding with another  
11 family, you know.

12 MR. MILLER: Yeah.

13 MRS. MAIBAUM: And my father was taken, my brother  
14 was taken. And -- actually, they were hiding out. My  
15 father and brother -- I heard from them after I came to the  
16 United States, but I couldn't get them out anymore.

17 MR. MILLER: Yeah.

18 MRS. MAIBAUM: Finally I got an affidavit after  
19 that, his uncle and Sandy, combination affidavit. And  
20 finally in December I got my visa.

21 And it was a terrible -- I was actually feeling  
22 guilty because there were hundreds of people at the  
23 consulate that wanted to come out.

24 MR. MILLER: Yeah.

25 MRS. MAIBAUM: I eliminated our office. I

1 eliminated -- I packed my things and stuff and for  
2 everything that I took with me I had to give the equivalent  
3 of money. Like if I bought a pair of stockings for the  
4 trip, I had to give the same amount of money to the  
5 government. Everything was what they called &de-visa --  
6 what is it in English? You can't translate it.

7 MR. MAIBAUM: Foreign currency.

8 MR. MAIBAUM: Foreign currency, you know.

9 MR. MILLER: So you would pay for the article in  
10 the store --

11 MRS. MAIBAUM: I would pay for everything.

12 MR. MILLER: -- but then you would have to pay the  
13 government --

14 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah.

15 MR. MILLER: -- the same price for the privilege  
16 of taking the article with you.

17 MRS. MAIBAUM: That's right. And I could only  
18 book passage on a German passenger liner. And it was very --  
19 not funny ha-ha but strange because a few weeks before -- I  
20 was born in Hamburg -- and I was -- always I loved ships,  
21 loved (inaudible), and Sandy and I went to Hamburg once and  
22 we were taking a tour of this particular passenger liner,  
23 and I said, "Oh, I would love to go to the United States on  
24 that one." And I did.

25 MR. MILLER: Is that right?



1 MRS. MAIBAUM: (Inaudible). I was on the  
2 Deutschland. It was a very -- one of the biggest ships that  
3 the German shipbuilders had built. And I had to go on a  
4 German ship because that's the only way they allowed me to  
5 leave Germany.

6 MR. MILLER: Right.

7 MRS. MAIBAUM: And I finally made it. And I took  
8 my little boy. And my father was with me. And they saw me  
9 off. And my brother I didn't see anymore.

10 And I got onto the ship and I was on board already  
11 and over the loudspeaker I heard my name being called back  
12 down. And at each side of the gangplank were these two SS  
13 men standing with big books of all the Jewish names. And  
14 they called me back, and I had my little boy, and I said,  
15 "Oh, my God (inaudible)." But they wanted to know why I was  
16 going to leave Germany so I left -- I said I was going to  
17 see my husband. I didn't know what to say. I was very  
18 intimidated. I was scared out of my --

19 MR. MILLER: Yeah. The passengers on the ship  
20 then were not all refugees? They were --

21 MRS. MAIBAUM: They were German crew.

22 MR. MILLER: Yes.

23 MRS. MAIBAUM: German crew. You had to be very  
24 careful of what you were talking -- who you were talking. A  
25 lot of Jewish passengers were on the ship.

1 MR. MILLER: There were?

2 MRS. MAIBAUM: There were a lot of Jewish people  
3 on board. They all went to New York.

4 MR. MILLER: It's odd that they would ask you why  
5 -- it would seem to me that they would assume why you were  
6 going.

7 MRS. MAIBAUM: I don't know. I think just, just,  
8 just chicanery or whatever.

9 MR. MILLER: Just -- yeah, intimidation.

10 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah, yeah. Intimidation.

11 And I finally arrived in the United States after,  
12 after a terrible trip. It was the middle of December. It  
13 was very rough. It was, it was awful. It was awful. But  
14 the time between Sandy's departure and my living in Berlin  
15 without him...

16 MR. MILLER: Must have been very terrifying.

17 MRS. MAIBAUM: It was terrible.

18 MR. MILLER: Yeah.

19 MRS. MAIBAUM: Terrifying and terrible. You know,  
20 I mean, I went to the park with the yellow benches. My  
21 little boy, who was very blond, couldn't play with other  
22 kids. You know, with other children (inaudible).

23 MR. MILLER: You had to wear the badge?

24 MRS. MAIBAUM: We had -- well, no, we didn't wear  
25 any badges. That wasn't that yet.

1 MR. MILLER: Oh, I see.

2 MRS. MAIBAUM: That wasn't -- that was a little  
3 later after I left.

4 MR. MILLER: Oh. Uh-huh.

5 MRS. MAIBAUM: But we --

6 MR. MILLER: But you knew there were still  
7 restricted areas for you?

8 MRS. MAIBAUM: They knew. There were soldiers and  
9 SS men all around all the parks. They knew exactly who was  
10 Jewish and who was not. They -- you know, we were so  
11 intimidated we just hovered all the time.

12 And I eliminated his business, and I eliminated --  
13 got rid of all my belongings and finally left. That was  
14 all.

15 Then when I came to New York, of course we had to  
16 learn English. I didn't want to speak up. I was still  
17 intimidated. It was terrible.

18 MR. MILLER: Yeah. The conditions in Germany in  
19 between his leaving and your leaving --

20 MRS. MAIBAUM: They deteriorated.

21 MR. MILLER: Of course. I mean, was food  
22 available to you?

23 MRS. MAIBAUM: I was just going to come to that.

24 MR. MILLER: Was there any problem with that?

25 MRS. MAIBAUM: We had to stand in line for every

1 bit of bread, for every bit of milk. For all groceries.

2 MR. MILLER: Was this true for the population in  
3 general?

4 MRS. MAIBAUM: That was for everybody.

5 MR. MILLER: It was.

6 MRS. MAIBAUM: There was, there was, there was  
7 nothing available.

8 I remember distinctly when I came to New York I  
9 couldn't get enough white bread. I was crazy to have white  
10 bread. All the time. Because, you know, we didn't have any  
11 bread, we didn't have any butter or milk. Even for our  
12 little children we couldn't have anything. And on Sunday  
13 not one store was open. There was nothing like you could go  
14 shopping here. You know, you couldn't buy anything. And  
15 you had to be in by a certain time in the evening.

16 MR. MILLER: A curfew.

17 MRS. MAIBAUM: A curfew. And --

18 MR. MILLER: Did the thought occur to you at all  
19 that perhaps you weren't going to be able to join him? Not  
20 that he wasn't going to have the necessary affidavit for  
21 you, but that perhaps the law would change and restrict  
22 you? It must have been in your mind.

23 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah. I didn't think it was going  
24 to be easy.

25 MR. MILLER: Yeah.

1           MRS. MAIBAUM:    But I think the American consulate  
2 helped me a great deal because I came under preference  
3 quota.

4           MR. MILLER:    Right.

5           MRS. MAIBAUM:    Because he had emigrated recently.  
6 So it wasn't that difficult. But when we -- when Sandy was  
7 still in Berlin, when we were still thinking about going to  
8 the United States, I know there was a Jewish agency that  
9 helped. Like helped, tried to resettle people in other  
10 countries, Jewish people. And we all had a book. There was  
11 a big book about the conditions into which country we could  
12 go and what the conditions were, what they --

13          MR. MILLER:    The requirements.

14          MRS. MAIBAUM:    The requirements were. And it was  
15 almost impossible to come into the United States. I mean --  
16 remember that Sandy? We were thinking about going first to  
17 Czechoslovakia because that's where they had business. And  
18 then we decided, well, let's try. Maybe we can go to the  
19 United States. Impossible. You know, the requirements with  
20 an affidavit and --

21          MR. MILLER:    Quota system.

22          MRS. MAIBAUM:    Yeah, quota system. This is what  
23 made it so bad, the quota system.

24          MR. MILLER:    Yeah, yeah.

25          MRS. MAIBAUM:    It's nothing now.

1 MR. MILLER: No. No, no, no.

2 MRS. MAIBAUM: Immigration laws certainly have  
3 changed.

4 MR. MAIBAUM: Let me just say a few words about my  
5 parents. They emigrated to Czechoslovakia end of '38. The  
6 last letter I received was dated just before Pearl Harbor  
7 Day. I received it a little later. After the war was over,  
8 we tried immediately to find out if anybody could get us  
9 some information. I had the last address of my parents.

10 MR. MILLER: In Czechoslovakia?

11 MR. MAIBAUM: In Czechoslovakia. I sent a wire.  
12 I sent a letter, which came back no such person here. I  
13 still have the envelope, which I've never opened the letter  
14 that we wrote. We tried the Red Cross. It was a Jewish  
15 organization, &Hi-ez. Another one, Ort, O-r-t. And there  
16 were some other organizations which had information about  
17 the bookkeeping that was done in different concentration  
18 camps. Nothing. Only months later I got a letter written  
19 in Czech, which I had translated, that all they knew that  
20 one night they were taken away by the police or the SS and  
21 had never been heard of since.

22 MR. MILLER: And this letter was written by...

23 MR. MAIBAUM: &Her-bert-Eat-on, where they had  
24 rented room from.

25 MR. MILLER: Ah. Terrible.

1           MRS. MAIBAUM: My brother got married after I had  
2 left, and he sent us a picture. He sent us a picture of the  
3 wedding. (Inaudible.) All in dark clothes. His face is so  
4 worn, you know. I never met my sister-in-law.  
5 (Inaudible.) It's terrible.

6           MR. MILLER: And you also were not able to find  
7 any, get any satisfactory --

8           MRS. MAIBAUM: No. We have never --

9           MR. MILLER: -- confirmation what had happened.

10          MRS. MAIBAUM: I mean, we all knew what happened  
11 to them, you know.

12          MR. MILLER: Well, of course, but, but -- yeah.

13          MRS. MAIBAUM: But we could never find out. My  
14 father -- my mother passed away in 1929, I believe, so she  
15 wasn't -- she didn't go through all this anymore. But my  
16 father did, of course. (Inaudible.) And so my brother was  
17 four years younger. We would love to have them here, you  
18 know.

19          MR. MILLER: Terrible thing.

20          MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah.

21          MR. MAIBAUM: Let me just mention a small incident  
22 which happened before I left. During a business trip -- it  
23 must have been about 1936 -- I was in Czechoslovakia, and it  
24 so happened I was in the capital of the province of Moravia  
25 when the news came that the president, the first president

1 of Czechoslovakia, &Thomas Mas-so-vik, had died. He had  
2 been a professor of philosophy at the university, and he was  
3 genuinely liked by the Czech people.

4 The day I went down in the elevator in the hotel  
5 where I lived, I saw a man I thought I recognized. He was a  
6 man who I had seen and heard in recitals giving reading, one  
7 of the most amazing productions, a single person giving  
8 whole life of some poetry, mostly &De-hein-ich, (Heinrich?)  
9 also some other German poets, in a beautiful voice. And  
10 then I met this man in the elevator in Czechoslovakia, and I  
11 wanted to congratulate him on what a great artist he was,  
12 and he just was like hunted animal. He seemed to stay in  
13 himself. He was afraid to talk to anybody.

14 MRS. MAIBAUM: Who was it?

15 MR. MAIBAUM: His name was &Harth.

16 MRS. MAIBAUM: Who?

17 MR. MAIBAUM: &Hart.

18 MRS. MAIBAUM: &Hart.

19 MR. MAIBAUM: I forget his first name.

20 MRS. MAIBAUM: &Paul Hart?

21 MR. MAIBAUM: No. He was an eminent artist, and  
22 this appearance of the hunted animal, it stuck in my mind.

23 MRS. MAIBAUM: (Inaudible.)

24 MR. MAIBAUM: Just occurred to me.

25 MR. MILLER: Well, this has all been very



1 helpful. I want to thank you both for your contribution to  
2 our project here. It's very important. And it's very good  
3 of you to go through these horrible memories for us so that  
4 they can be preserved forever. Thank you very much.

5 MRS. MAIBAUM: You're quite welcome. I mean, we  
6 don't -- I would say fortunately we never had to go through  
7 any of these concentration camps so our contribution --

8 MR. MAIBAUM: Yes.

9 MRS. MAIBAUM: -- our contribution is not as  
10 important as the people that had to go through that.

11 MR. MAIBAUM: I want to mention it may seem  
12 strange, but at the time when we were in Germany, we had no  
13 idea of the enormity, and hardly any idea of the existence  
14 of the concentration camps. There were just rumors. But it  
15 sounded so horrible that we thought it could not be the  
16 truth. And when we didn't know about it and majority of the  
17 German people did not know about it. It came out much  
18 later.

19 MRS. MAIBAUM: I think there are still some people  
20 that don't believe it.

21 MR. MAIBAUM: Oh, I know that.

22 MRS. MAIBAUM: Don't you think so?

23 MR. MILLER: Yeah, yeah. Well, of course, the use  
24 of them certainly increased dramatically after you left, and  
25 it is documented that they were quite well known; certainly

1 once we got into the '40's and closer to 1943, '44, '45,  
2 they were definitely a part of German society, at least in  
3 the nearby towns, yeah, they were (inaudible).

4 MRS. MAIBAUM: Do you know, when you think about  
5 it, how in the world is it possible that one man, one  
6 single, evil person can do something like kill millions of  
7 (inaudible). Not only Jews, (inaudible), Catholics,  
8 anybody. Like, you know, the children denouncing their  
9 parents.

10 MR. MILLER: It was one man, but it was economic  
11 and political times. But it was also -- it took more than  
12 one man in those situations. It took a lot of followers to  
13 violate whatever conscience they had to carry out his  
14 decrees and elaborate on them and offer even more sinister  
15 suggestions. It's a mistake I think to just say it's Hitler  
16 because he had a following, a network, and they certainly  
17 were capable of carrying these things out, and on their own  
18 they did.

19 MRS. MAIBAUM: Who was it the other day -- we were  
20 listening either to the television and they were comparing  
21 this man that Hitler probably patterned himself after. Who  
22 was that? Do you remember? There was a program there. We  
23 were talking or eating or -- it was a PBS show, and I forgot  
24 what it was. (Inaudible) or some Chinese suggested it, the  
25 Chinese.

1 MR. MAIBAUM: Mao.

2 MRS. MAIBAUM: Mao.

3 MR. MAIBAUM: Mao Tse-tung.

4 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah.

5 MR. MAIBAUM: But I also mentioned before when  
6 studying the life of Wagner, if Wagner had been a politician  
7 he might have been just as bad as Hitler because he also was  
8 able to sway people's opinions. In spite of his terrible  
9 behavior towards our people, he was able to express  
10 opinions, political opinions, and his writings are so  
11 frightening --

12 MRS. MAIBAUM: Whose? Wagner's?

13 MR. MILLER: Wagner.

14 MR. MAIBAUM: -- that we just are lucky that he  
15 was a musician.

16 MRS. MAIBAUM: Yeah. Really. That's really true  
17 because, you know, his music is very Teutonic (inaudible).

18 MR. MILLER: Well, yeah. Of course, yeah. The  
19 subject matter, the --

20 MRS. MAIBAUM: Very German, very German.

21 MR. MILLER: Yeah, yeah.

22 MRS. MAIBAUM: And but for the genius (inaudible)  
23 he was a genius. That's what he was. And it is amazing how  
24 many Jewish people, including me, love his music. Not all  
25 of it, but most of it.

1 MR. MILLER: Yeah. Yet it is prohibited in  
2 Israel, and even of late there was a --

3 MR. MAIBAUM: Not anymore.

4 MRS. MAIBAUM: Not anymore.

5 MR. MILLER: No, they rescinded the ban. But I  
6 understand there was a performance by the Israeli  
7 Philharmonic that was going to take place of some music by  
8 Wagner after the ban had been lifted, and then they changed  
9 it, and it was not. And as I understand it, yet to this day  
10 it is still not performed.

11 MRS. MAIBAUM: Well, that's exactly what the Nazis  
12 did in Germany with the German composers -- Jewish  
13 composers.

14 MR. MILLER: Yeah, yeah.

15 MRS. MAIBAUM: And the German -- Jewish writers.  
16 And I think, actually, culture wise, I don't think anything  
17 -- that has nothing to do with politics (inaudible). Music,  
18 you look at it as a culture, not as a political thing. And  
19 do you agree?

20  
21 END OF TRANSCRIPTION. AT THIS POINT THE VOLUME  
22 LEVEL OF THE TAPE DROPS TREMENDOUSLY AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE  
23 FOR ME TO HEAR CLEARLY THE REMAINDER OF THE INTERVIEW.  
24  
25