

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

Expose

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
His Life in Germany
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

Lyonel Feininger ist uns bekannt als expressionistisch-kubistischer Maler und als eine Künstlerpersönlichkeit von einmaligem Format. Sein künstlerisches Schaffen zeigt eine ziemlich große Palette.

Die ersten 36 Jahre seines Lebens verdient er sein Geld als Karikaturist und durch die Entwicklung von Comics. Auch in diesem Genre zeigt er unvergleichbares Können. Er fertigt Holzspielzeug an, produziert mehr als 100 beeindruckende Holzschnitte, schreibt nach Bachschem Vorbild 11 Fugen für Klavier und Orgel und gewinnt schließlich als Maler überragende Bedeutung.

In seiner Jugend in den USA lebend, kam er mit 16 Jahren nach Deutschland und entwickelte hier seine künstlerischen Fähigkeiten.

Das Musical begleitet seinen Lebensweg von 1887 bis 1937 von Hamburg – Berlin – Weimar - Dessau – Halle – und zurück nach Berlin, von wo aus er mit seiner Frau Julia vor den Nazis in die USA floh.

Das Musical versucht, Wissen über Feiningers Persönlichkeit als Mensch und Künstler zu vermitteln, wie er radelnd die Weimarer Landschaft entdeckt, beobachtet, fotografiert und malt.

Die Gründung seiner Familie, die Not im 1. Weltkrieg, die Freundschaft mit bedeutenden Künstlern des Kubismus und Expressionismus, die Arbeit im Bauhaus, seine inspirativen Aufenthalte an der Ostsee, seine Begeisterung für Halle und schließlich sein schmerzhafter Abschied von Deutschland, verursacht durch das Naziregime, sind Szenen, die sein Leben beleuchten.

Dabei wird er als problematischer Familienvater, als schwankende Künstlerpersönlichkeit zwischen Musik und Malerei gezeichnet und es werden vor allem auch die extremen Bauhausideen ausgekostet.

Das Musical soll vor allem Schüler ab Klasse 5 ansprechen und Interesse für eine solch eminente Künstlerpersönlichkeit wecken.

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist His Life in Germany

- 1. Scene: Arrival in Hamburg - Decision**
- 2. Scene: Berlin- drawing caricatures**
- 3. Scene: Baltic Sea- Meeting Julia Berg**
- 4. Scene: Weimar:**
- 5. Scene: Exploring the landscape | Between Cartoons and Fine Art**
- 6. Scene: Holidays on Rügen and Usedom – Paris**
- 7. Scene: Shape Dance**
- 8. Scene: Children, developing toys | Woodcuts**
- 9. Scene: First World War**
- 10. Scene: 1919 Gropius/ Bauhausevents**
- 11. Scene: Triadic Ballet**
- 12. Scene: Feininger as a composer**
- 13. Scene: Deep / Problemes in Bauhaus Weimar**
- 14. Scene: Halle 1929-1931**
- 15. Scene: Desperate situation in Germany**
- 16. Scene: Dessau – Berlin – Return to America**

Equipment:

Cast:

**Feininger/ Julia/ Guy/ Lawrence, Andrew, Lux /Hedda / Gropius/ Kandinsky / Schlemmer/ Itten/
Klee/ Muche /Dancing master / Schradt/ Rive/ Nazis/ children/ Klumpp**

Scene 1

Arrival in Hamburg

Song: 1

I came from America
just across the sea.
just across the sea.
I've come to see Germany.
Here I can feel free!

Mom and Dad want me
to study music- but I don't agree.
I think I'll stay in Hamburg-
it's best for me!
it's best for me!

Young Man:

Hey mate, what are you looking for?

Feininger:

I actually don't know.
I came from New York just a few hours ago.
I should go to Leipzig to study violin-
but on that, I'm really not keen.

Young man:

Why don't you stay here? Be wise,
Hamburg is really nice!

Feininger:

You are right.
I've to sleep about that one night!
I think it would be cool
to study drawings at the Trade School.
I'm as keen as mustard
to try a new start.

Song 2 *Singing*

To paint is what I want to do
otherwise I'll be feeling blue!
To paint is what I want to do
otherwise I'll be feeling blue!
otherwise I'll be feeling blue,
Feeling blue!

Both go their own way

A few months later they meet again

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Young Man:

Oh. Hello mate! You are back here again?

Feininger:

Oh yeah! I want to say bye -bye!

Young Man:

I see you are an unstable guy!

You want to try new things?

Let's see what it brings!

I see, you wait in the wings

Feininger:

Now I'm going to Berlin to the Royal Academy.

There, I see a new challenge for me.

Song 3

I have to learn a lot-

I have to learn a lot-

not only in one spot.

not only in one spot.

not only in one spot.!

Song: 4

Live and learn -that's my way.

Live and learn -that's my way.

Gaining experience every day.

Gaining experience every day.

The wealth of experience - I think that's what count -

On opportunities I'll pounce!

Singing

I have to learn a lot-

not only on one spot.

I have to learn a lot-

not only in one spot.

not only in one spot.

not only in one spot.!

Young Man:

So let's say Bye -bye!

Get on your way -

maybe we'll meet again some day!

Feininger alone crossing the stage

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Song:

Berlin- Lüttich - Berlin- Paris -
a try is better than a miss.

Singing

I´ve learnt a lot-
in every spot!

I have to learn a lot-
not only in one spot.

Scene 2

Berlin – Drawing Caricatures

Feininger sitting on a chair, a sketchbook in his hand, scribbling and doodling

Children discover him

1.child:

Look at this man. What is he doing there?

2.child: let´s ask him. Who will care,

Approaching him

Feininger: *to the children*

Are you curious?

I´m a caricaturist and I scribble cartoons!

3.child:

Oh, they look like goons!

Feininger:

Oh no, I think they are serious.

1.child

The people are all different sizes!

Feininger:

I draw clergyman and men in disguise-
all of a different size!

Huge people and little dwarves,
fat and chubby or skinny-
a smart man or a ninny -
a different kind of art.

2.child:

But not worth a fart!

Not much of a start!

Feininger

I do what I can!

3.child:

So you´ll won´t get one fan!

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Feininger:

It keeps me fit
and I can live with it!

Children:

Hahahaha! What `s that supposed to be?

1.child: Unreal!

2.child: bizarre!

3.child: absurd!

All: grotesque, comical!

1.child: What do you call that?

Feininger! This is called „the newspaper reader „

2.child: And this one with the the blue fish?

Feininger: It ´s called: „A Fisherman“

3.child: And this one?

Feininger: It ´s called „Carnival“

1.child: And what ´s this.

Feininger: This is a man with a violin!

Children:

They`re all tiny- only one of them is tall!

You must be off your rocker!

Feininger

Scare them off

Go away! Shut up you mocker!

Song: 5

Wherever he lingers –

There ´s a pencil in his fingers!

Wherever he lingers –

a pencil in his fingers!

Feininger:

Oh, you are right!

Song:

Wherever I linger –

I`ve a pencil in my fingers

Wherever I linger –

a pencil in my fingers

to fix the impression –

it`s passion and obsession!

Children:

It itches in his fingers

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wherever he lingers
He only can obey.
That is just his way!

Feininger:

I sharpen my senses
for colour, shapes and light
I scribble, doodle and sketch
till late in the night!

Scene 3

Baltic Sea – Meeting Julia Berg

Feininger:

Hallo, pretty woman! What are you doing here all alone on the shore of the Baltic sea?
What a feast for the eyes – a real eye candy!

Julia: I`m on holiday!

Feininger: I`ve been here every year since 1891.- I`ve never seen you before!
I`ve never met you along the shore!
What`s your name, Lady?

Julia: I`m Julia Berg. And what about you?

Feininger:

I`m Lyonel Feininger, a cartoonist.

Julia: I know you already!

You are famous but I`m nameless! -
You are very popular with your eye-catching style - a unique mastership!
Your message cuts to the quick!
All the newspapers want cartoons from you! -
How did you become so famous - Can you give me a clue?

Feininger:

Do you have an obsession?
What`s your profession?

Julia: My parents are painters and so am I-
and so I try to aim high!

Feininger: My parents are musicians-
but that`s probably not my mission!

So dear Ma`m,
we both have a problem:
I`m struggling for fame

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to stabilize my name
and you are a beautiful miss!
May I have a kiss while saying bye-bye?
don't be so shy!
It was really nice to meet you!

Julia: How nice to have met you too!

Feininger: Don't go away! Please stay!
Don't leave me in the lurch -
for you I will search!
Wherever you will go- I'll follow you!

Julia: I'm going to Weimar!

Feininger: Okay, that's not too far!

Scene 4

Weimar

Some weeks later

Feininger: Hello Julia
I hope you know that I was looking for you in every nook and corner!
To see you again – what an honor!

I was yearning for you with eager anticipation.
Now I have the occasion
to confess to you my love!
Still you should know
I have two daughters and a wife.
But I can't pay the price
of living with an unloved wife.
And I promise: first,
I have to get divorced!

Song:6

You are my darling, you are my dove!
Our bond should be forever,
nobody should split us ever!

An unforgettable moment it should be
when you'd say „Yes“ to me, „I do“ –
then I will say „I do too“.
Come to London and marry me-
and I'll be the happiest person –you'll see!

I hope and guess, guess, guess

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you`ll say „yes, yes, yes“!
I hope and guess
you`ll say „yes“!

Julia:

Oh my darling, oh my dove
you are my love, you are my love!
I`ll follow you wherever you`ll be.
You`re the best thing in my life,
the best for me!

Feininger/Julia:

Oh my darling, oh my dove
you are my love, you are my love!
I`ll follow you wherever you`ll be,
You`re the best thing in my life, the best for me!

Duet:

Lyonel:

My heart will leap in my breast
and it will not rest
when I see you,
when I think of you,
when I feel you –
because you are the best,
the best thing in my life!

You are indeed
all that I need!
You are indeed
all that I need!

Julia:

My heart will leao in my breast
and it will not rest
when I see you,
when I think of you,
when I feel you –
because you are the best,
the best thing in my life!

You are indeed
all that I need!
You are indeed
all that I need!

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Lyonel/ Julia:

You are indeed
all that I need!
You are indeed
all that I need!

Julia:

You are a wonderful cartoonist
you make amazing comics.
But why don't you try new techniques
like lithographs or engravings -
it will open up new ways.
It would help you to get out of your crises.
Go and look around-
new projects can be found!

Scene 5

On his way around Weimar

Children: *discovering Feininger*

Look, Feininger bought a bike!
Every day he goes out for a ride:

Song:7

Through villages, forests and over the hills,
passing houses, churches and mills.
He scribbles, doodles and sketches-
later he 'll check if it matches!
He scribbles, doodles and sketches-
later he 'll check if it matches!

Song:

Wherever he lingers –
there's a pencil in his fingers
Wherever he lingers –
a pencil in his fingers

Feininger:

Oh, you are right!

Song:

Wherever I linger –
I've a pencil in my fingers
Wherever I linger –
a pencil in my fingers
to fix the impression –
it's passion and obsession!

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Children:

It itches in his fingers
wherever he lingers
He only can obey.
That is just his way!

Feininger:

I sharpen my senses
for colour, shapes and light
I scribble, doodle and sketch
till late in the night!

Julia: I see you`ve discovered Gelmeroda.
You´ve caught an enchanting motif-
You`ll turn over a new leaf
that will inspire you for your whole life -
go on and strive!

Even when you`re so far
and you´ll be back in America-
you will complete this idea!
It´s an enchanting object for you, my dear!

My sweet darling, I know you do a pretty good job.
But you aren`t at the top.
Your craftsmanship in this style is unique.
You are already 36 and your art is a mix
of cartoons, lithographs and comics.

Song:8

I think you should paint, paint, paint till you`ll drop.
Don`t waste your time in another branch of art
Come on, make a start!
Become a fine artist – that will be good for you
in the long view!

Please be aware of the fact -
we`ll go to wrack
if you don`t earn enough money!
Please consider that, my honey!

Feininger:

Our stay in Paris was a real experience-
It sharpened my senses for other styles of art.
The acquaintance with Colarossi has deeply
influenced me.

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Julia:

He led you away from impressionism
and showed you a new style, cubism!

Feininger:

And furthermore
You gave birth to our first son.
I was so happy, my darling sweet one!
My sun!

Scene 6

Rügen/Usedom - Paris

Feininger alone at the beach

Feininger: Here I feel free at the sea!

I love the sea, the Baltic sea-
Lots of inspiration for me.
Rapt and engrossed in thoughts
far from „shoulds“ and „oughts“

Song 9

When I stay at the shore-
It seems like being at heaven`s door.
The sea sometimes silver,
the sea sometimes gold,
the sea sometimes blue,
the sea sometimes gray- wherever I stay
the colours of the the sea are blending with the sky –
all these colours are even up high,
I stay in a daze –
all these colours are reflected in my face!

No artist can capture that impression
But I feel the obsession and a prickling in my hands
reaching for a pencil in my pants
and start to scribble a sketch –
every day the same match!

The shore, the horizon, the ships, the water at all-
The world is like an amazing hall

Boy: Hello Mister! Do you remember me?
I know you from Berlin- and now you are here, at the sea?

Feininger: Every year I`m here.
And you, my dear.?

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Boy: I`m here with my family, with brothers and sister, Mister!

Boy - eyeing the picture

But you changed your style!
In your former pictures the houses were small
And the people were pretty tall.
And now in a sudden burst
Everything is reversed!

Feiniger:

Oh yes, it`s a different style of art –
I see you are very smart!

Song:

Wherever I linger –
there`s a pencil in my fingers!
Wherever I linger –
a pencil in my fingers
to fix the impression –
it`s passion and obsession!

Children:

It itches in his fingers
wherever he lingers.
He only can obey.
That is just his way!

Feininger:

I sharpen my senses
for colour, shapes and light
I scribble, doodle and sketch
till late in the night!

Boy: *taking a look at his paintings*

I see rectangles, triangles, circles and even a square-
difficult to bear,
surfaces pushed into each other –
not worth the bother!
All your pictures are square and angular!

Come on boys, girls and fans
Let`s do a picture-dance:
Let`s present a colourful slapstick!
Be quick! Just for a kick! Be quick!

Scene 7

Shape Dance

Song 10: The dance of shapes

Triangles here and triangles there –
triangles really everywhere

Squares here and squares there –
squares really everywhere!

Rectangles here and rectangles there –
rectangles really everywhere!

Circles here and circles there –
circles really everywhere

Triangles in yellow, blue and red.
Squares in green, purple and grey,
rectangles in orange, pink and brown.
Come on guys - let's build a colourful town!

Triangles for roofs,
squares for stools.
Rectangles for schools,
circles for windows and wheels -
now turn it head over heels!

Shapes up and shapes down,
shapes dancing all around
Shapes up and shapes down,
shapes dancing all around.

Triangles in yellow, blue and red.
and then one in black.
Triangles up and triangles down,
triangles dancing all around.

Rectangles in orange, pink and brown
rectangles up and rectangles down,
rectangles dancing all around

Squares in green, purple and grey,
squares everywhere and every day.
Squares up and squares down,
squares dancing all around.

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All colours of circles are twirling round.
All colours of circles are to be found.
Circles up and circles down,
circles are dancing all around!

Let`s build a clourfdul town!

Applause

Feiniger:

That was a cheerful variety, an amusing show
But in a way you are right –
I don`t want to create reality
I need scope for imagination
and the freedom of combination.

It`s not really cubism -I want to evoke a sheer atmosphere
and I don`t care
about depicting nature
Most important are the light conditions.
You get insights into natural cognitions

Look at the sea by night
Look at the sea by day
Look at the sea during sunset
Look at the sea during rain
The colours are never the same!

The different light makes the pictures three dimensional
and gives the painting depth.
It produces a deep undefinability
as you can see!

Boy: Excuse me, but this is beyond me
I see the sea as the sea!

But look at the horizon –
Here comes a ship with a cargo of tea!

Children: Song 11

A ship comes from China with a cargo of tea
and plenty of porcelain for you and for me!

A ship comes from Norway with a cargo of fish.
We love it for lunch as a delicious dish.

A ship comes from Scotland with a cargo of meat.
We want it for dinner – I love it indeed!

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A ship comes from Ireland with a cargo of gin.
That's for his friends and also for him!

Song:

Wherever he lingers –
there's a pencil in his fingers.
Wherever he lingers –
a pencil in his fingers.

Feininger:

You are right!

Song:

Wherever I linger –
I've a pencil in my fingers.
Wherever I linger –
a pencil in my fingers
to fix the impression –
it's passion and obsession!

Children:

It itches in his fingers
wherever he lingers.
He only can obey.
That is just his way!

Feininger:

I sharpen my senses
for colour, shapes and light
I scribble, doodle and sketch
till late in the night!

Feininger.

Now I've scribbled and I've been drawing enough
I'm filled with new ideas and stuff
And I'll go back to Berlin
I'm longing for my family
as you can see!

Scene 8

Children – Developing Toys

Feininger:

Hello darling, I'm back!
I've lots of ideas and sketches in my bag!
And now I'm hungry!

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Julia: Oh honey I have only black bread and cocoa!

Feininger: My sweet, you know my expectations are low!
but I need butter!

Julia: Don't mutter – we don't have butter
We don't have enough to eat!
I know, you love to eat meat.
Even the boys are pretty weak –
what a terrible time, indeed, indeed!

Song: 12 We don't have money – our income is low
Oh darling I know – we'll go with the flow
Nobody has money.
It's just endless woe. It's just endless woe!
Spoken The First World War is in a go!

Spoken:

But we both should stop smoking –
and no, I'm not joking!

Feininger: There are no canvases or colours or paint-
that's my complaint!
But Julia I met Schmidt-Rottloff -
he's famous for his woodcuts
so I'll keep my trap shut and try that as well-
so we'll have something to sell!

Song: Lyonel/ Julia

We don't have money – our income is low.
Oh darling I know – we'll go with the flow.
Nobody has money
It's just endless woe. It's just endless woe!
Spoken The First World War's to blame, you know!

Feininger: chant:

I don't know what to do! *props his head on both hands and ruffles his hair*
I don't know what to do!
I don't have a clue –
I don't know what to do!

Please leave me in peace! Leave me in peace!
It drives me to despair
It is not fair!
It is not fair!

Julia: I'd like to remind you

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We have three sons and they want to play with you!
Give them something to do!

Feininger:

Oh yes, I'm a fan of all of them
they are our treasure
and they give lots of pleasure.
To play with them means inspiration
and develops cognition.

Song 13

I'm often so far away
and I miss them every day.
I'm consumed with longing-
but doing nothing is definitely not my thing!
I long for them dearly
It must be said clearly!

But to do nothing
that's also not my thing!

The three boys burst into the room

Lawrence:

Dad, you are always away
But we want to play!
Dad you are always away –
We want you to stay!
Dad, Dad we don't have toys
Please play with us – you have no choice!

Feininger:

Hey, don't make such a fuss:
I've got an idea – help me to create a toy train.
I love trains!
Use your brains!

3 boys:

Great I idea! What shall we do?
Give us a clue!

Feininger:

What do you mean –what do we need?

Andrew:

We need triangles, rectangles, circles and squares –
that's what we need!

Feininger: indeed, indeed!

But first we need carving knives and wood!

Boys: That sounds good!

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Lux: I'll carve the engine!

Lawrence:

And I the wagons!

Andrew:

I'll carve the coal truck!

Boys: We need poles for the train rails
and wheels and some more details!

Song: 14

The wheels turn around,
the engine whistles
passing fields with corn and thistles

Sometimes slow and sometimes fast
Villages and forest the trains fly past.
We didn't build an express train –
but it chuffs with might and main,
our special train!

spoken

It's an old fashioned one – and we had a lot of fun!

Feininger:

Let's create round the train a whole city
I expect it will be pretty!
With a gate, some houses, bridges and a lane -
nothing is in vain!
Come on boys, let's build a town!
Come on and don't frown!

Lawrence:

Now we need a town house and a church!
Put your backs into it
that keeps us fit!

Lux: Finally we have to paint the result -
it's a reason to exult!
You'll see it is fun!
By next week our work is done!

Feininger.

Oh boys I became a child myself!

Song: 15

Piff – paff - puff – the train comes along
piff – paff - puff – let's sing a song!
Passing houses, passing the school-

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our train is really cool!
Piff-paff-puff!

Piff – paff - puff – the train comes along,
piff – paff - puff – let`s sing a song!
Passing parks and passing bridges,
passing lakes and passing ditches
piff – paff - puff

piff – paff - puff – the train comes along,
piff – paff - puff – let`s sing a song!
Passing the church and passing a gate –
our train is really great!
piff – paff - puff – the train comes along.

Feininger:

The idea to create toys
gives me the chance and choice
to earn some money.
It sounds funny -
but with the trains we can earn some money!

I`ve got a contract from a toy manufacturer.
On completion of that order
we could keep our mouth above water

I created 100 different railway trains
which have been sold overseas
and to many, many countries!

Scene 9

First World War

Feininger:

This war is sheer hell
neither my paintings nor my etchings sell

Hedda: Mr. Here is your tea!

Feiniger: Thank you Hedda!

You are our house spirit,
you keep our household fit!
You and Anni, you take care of our kids!
This damn war - what a misery!
Blood and thunder every day!
There is nothing more to say!
I`m almost paralysed,

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I can't work anymore –
my soul is sore!

Hedda: I know –it's hitting you hard
Anni's brother was killed at the front!
This sad loss we have to confront.

Nothing possible to respond!

Lawrence bursting in

Lawrence:

Anni's brother? Anni is my nanny!
Her brother died?

Hedda:

Yes, my dear, you understood that right!

Lawrence: Maybe it was just a guess!

Hedda: Oh no.It's reality! So much madness!

Feiniger: Even Franz Marc and August Macke fell at the front-
No hope beyond! No hope beyond!

Hedda: I know, I see –
everywhere a single catastrophe!

Feininger:

I met Marc last year, 1913, in the art gallery
He organized an exhibition for me!

The war claims many victims – what a sin!
Kandinsky and Jawlensky escaped to Switzerland.
Time and tide wait for no man!

Julia: Oh darling, look for some distraction.
You act as if you were paralysed.
Play piano or organ like every day-
that will be good for you! Okay?
You are only alive in a world of imagination –
to reality you've lost all relation

Julia swaying a letter in her hand

Julia: Honey; you got a letter from Walter Gropius!

Feininger: Oh, that might be something quite serious
Please read aloud! What did he write?

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In any case – I'll express my delight!

Julia: He's offered you a job at Bauhaus!

Feininger: Is that a fact?
It's an alluring prospect!

So let's move to Weimar-
It's a stone's throw – it's not so far!
It's a familiar place for us
No need to discuss!

And Julia, you can study at Bauhaus there
no need to go anywhere!

Julia: So let's promise! – we'll see what the future will bring!
Let's pack our belongings and not forget anything.

Scene 10 1919 Gropius – Bauhaus Events

Gropius to Feininger:
What a great honor for us to welcome you at Bauhaus.
The name „Feininger“ is well known everywhere
So accept the dare
and see it as your mission to take on a position

Feininger: So give me a clue - what can I do for you?

Gropius: You get the first faculty appointment
as a master artist in charge of the printmaking workshop.

Feininger: Oh Mister stop!

Gropius: No way!
You'll get your first own art atelier!

Feiniger. I'm deeply touched – what an honor to me
I'll do what I can – we will see!

Gropius:
You are a famous artist - your last exhibition
at „Sturm-Gallery in 1917
was an overwhelming success. as we have seen.
and you produced in 1918
more than 117 woodcuts - how amazing!

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

Feininger:

But to find a flat is a difficult task!
Military is still present everywhere, wherever I ask.

Gropius: Things will turn out alright
But it will not happen overnight!

Feininger: I hope you are right!

Saloon in Feiningers new home

Feininger:

Oh Julia, finally I`ve found a new home –
Now I`m no longer alone
and we are together as family.
No one can split us – you will see!
Welcoming guests

Julia: Welcome Walter Gropius and Wasily Kandinsky, welcome George Mucbe and Paul Klee,
welcome Oscar Schlemmer
this event brings some glamour
to our humble estate –
we`ll have a new start after this date!

Feininger: What a pleasure for us to have you here.
Time to discuss the new situation in Weimar, oh dear!

Gropius: The end of the war is like a beginning

Itten: **So let the futures wheel spinning!**

Kandinsky: New hope for architects, musician and fine artists!

Klee: Even for cubists and dadaists!

Mucbe: We can be the hardest and even the smartest!

Schlemmer: we are the cream of the nation
We stick together – what a sensation!

Feininger:

But we - Julia and me- we drink only Adam`s ale –
We want to stay hearty and hale! Okay?

Song: 16

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

Let`s raise our glasses!
for as long as we shall live
We all stand for what Bauhaus is for
No less and no more!

Kandinsky:

We`re gonna give all we`ve got to give!
Important is that we feel that we live!
All we need is a life to live!

All:

All we need is a life to live!

Let`s raise our glasses!
for as long as we shall live
We all stand for what Bauhaus is for
No less and no more!

Schlemmer:

Nobody should tell us how to live
Cause the artist knows:
He gives what he can give!

All:

He gives what he can give!

Let`s raise our glasses!
for as long as we shall live
We all stand for what Bauhaus is for
No less and no more!

Feininger:

The daily chore is: take and give
Sometimes we are not glad to live.
So only the art makes us live

All:

So only the art makes us live

Let`s raise our glasses!
for as long as we shall live
We all stand for what Bauhaus is for
No less and no more!

Klee / Muche/Gropius:

We express our soul and give
We don`t have something to forgive!

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

We don't have something to forgive!

All:

We don't have something to forgive!

Let's raise our glasses

Let's be good friends

spoken

And now let's discuss the new BH trends!

Gropius:

We all are friends

of the new Bauhaus trends!

Inspiration and spontaneity

Is our main character – as you can see!

The combination of art and technique –

that's unique!

Itten: The combination of shapes and colour

and their effect on body, mind and soul

plays a prominent role!

Kandinsky:

Industrial design

gives us a new sense of time.

Gropius

But we have to reduce the number of women!

The only thing they can do

Is weaving, pottery and photography –

that's the best thing for them – as you can see!

Klee: *laughing*

Where there's wool – there is a wife.

Each wife can weave –

otherwise they have to leave!

Feininger:

You've indeed put your finger in an open sore.

I think my wife can do much more!

For example, she developed lots of puppets for the stage!

Women or men – is not the question of our age!

Schlemmer:

I'm in a conflict too

I have to contradict you.

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

I need from hence
women for my character dance.
What I want to say:
I need women for my triadic ballet!

All:
Okay, okay –
that`s an acceptable way!

Scene 11

Triadic Ballet

Schlemmer:
I`ve choreographed geometry
Pretty funny – as you will see!

Julia: But what is the aim of that game?

Schlemmer:
The aim of the game is a synthesis of art.
You will be a part
of space- we all are men in space –
today and in former days.
We have to create a whole
brand new unity of intellect, body and soul.

The individual characters are equipped with masks,
abstract props and padded suits -
it stimulates our senses and influences our mood.
The important trend
is: everything is in movement.

Dancers/ Kids:
So let`s perform a space dance
with poles, gestures and hoops

Dancing Mater:
So don`t be a nincompoop -
take a hoop, take a hoop!
Twirl them around,
roll them on the ground.
Make a hula-hula, make a hula-hop
and then stop, stop, stop!

Song:17

Dancing master:
Then perform a pole dance

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

for your fans, for your fans!
Raise them up and knock the ground,

Kids:

Raise them up and knock the ground,
Raise them up and knock the ground,

DM.

and then twirl around!

Kids:

and then twirl around!

DM:

Colors will communicate different moods
In pink, yellow and black.
They represent different characters -
look and check!

There bodies work like a mechanism -
so look and listen:

Dancing master:

The yellow ones come out-

The yellow ones come out-

Kids:

We are jovial, cheerful and burlesque –
We are jovial, cheerful and burlesque –
We are wearing masks!
We are wearing masks –cheerful and burlesk,
cheerful and burlesk!

The pink ones come out! –

The pink ones come out! –

Kids:

We are festive and solemn –
We are festive and solemn –
avoiding bedlam!
avoiding bedlam-
festive and solemn

Dancing master:

They are striding round
with abstract props,
moving like robots!

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

The black ones come out!

The black ones come out!

Kids:

We stand for fantasy and mysticism-

We stand for fantasy and mysticism-

moving like machines in a different rhythm!

in a different rhythm!

Dancing master:

Now dance all together

for everyone`s pleasure!

For everyone`s pleasure!

DM/Kids:

Let`s dance all together

for everyone`s pleasure!

For everyone`s pleasure!

DM:

Move like robots! Move like robot

Now stop, now stop!

Move like robots! Move like robot

Now stop, now stop!

Move like a hahahaharlequin,

a hahahaharlequin

Kids:

Move like a hahahaharlequin,

a hahahaharlequin

DM:

and then like a queen!

and then like a queen!

Kids:

and then like a queen!

and then like a queen!

DM:

Now let`s see the nincompoops

With their hoops, with their hoops!

Twirl them around, Twirl them around,

and knock them on the ground!

and knock them on the ground!

Now dance all together

for everyone`s pleasure!

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

For everyone`s pleasure!

DM/Kids:

Now dance all together
for everyone`s pleasure!
For everyone`s pleasure!

Scene 12 Feininger between Music and Fine Art

Feininger: Oh Julia, I definitely love music but not this kind–
It dulls my mind!
That`s no good to me!
I can`t go with the flow – I like to play organ or piano!

Julia: I know, I know!
Not a single day has passed that you`ve not played piano.
I know, I know!

Feininger: I need music to live-
without music I`m a nobody!
When I play piano then I feel free!

Song:

Im thirsting for music, I`m thirsting for sound –
both: painting and music – that`s what count!
I love to play Bach`s WC
after my daily afternoon tea!
When I`m wrestling with me
to find the right colour, to find the right light –
I withdraw into music – to get into my stride!

Julia: Yes, I see! But it doesn`t make sense to me
that you waste your time composing,
that makes my soul frozing!
That`s really not your mission.
I curse that day when Broemmer gave you this organ composition.
on your 50 birthday – that led you astray!
Since then you compose fugues one by one-
no paintings are done!

Feininger:

Hereby I solemnly promise that I`ll change for the better!
You know, I need music for my life – that matters!
So cease your unhelpful chatter!

Lawrence:

But Mom, the symmetry of the fugues

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

are almost the same as the symmetry of his paintings –
please try to grasp their meanings!
Oh Mom, he is just as good at painting as he is at composing!

Feininger: The occupation with the fugue
is an important milestone for my artistic qualification.

Lawrence: Oh, yes Dad
the principles of the fugue like inversion, mirroring, counterpoint
and linear thinking can be found in your paintings
Your paintings follow the structure of fugues
You've gained a new quality- as we all can see!

Julia:
But his artistic creativity is compromised by composing!
I can't join in this hymn!

Scene 13 Deep/ Problems with BH Weimar

Lux:
But Mom, for all our pleasure
We discovered a treasure!

Julia:
What do you mean?

Lux:
Oh Mom, I mean the fishing village Deep
at the Baltic Sea, a fascinating landscape
at Pomerania Bay –Berlin is not so far away!

What shall I say! What a discovery!
Just a right place for our recovery!

Feininger:
What a healing effect by the sea –
thoughts and ideas come flowing to me!
I can inhale air, sun and salt
By breathing deeply
Creativity comes automatically!
For hours I can sit in the dunes with a binocular-
Soaking up the atmosphere!
And putting down the impression in painting-
almost on the verge of fainting!

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

Lux:

Fourteen summers we spend here
enjoying the nature and the atmosphere!

Feininger:

But back to Weimar – what frustration
No chance to escape the situation!
So I use every occasion
to go to the cinema and forget the bad situation
of that damned inflation.
Please check
We have to pay more than 100 mark for each egg!

Julia: Song 19

No income – no fun!
The National socialism is gaining ground.
The Brown Danger all around!
The Brown Danger all around!

Feininger:

Let's send our kids away –
Weimar is too dangerous these days
The situation is bitter when a bullshitter
as Adolf Hitler gains power.
It's like a cold shower!

Julia:

It doesn't make sense to stay in Weimar!
We have to follow the BH to Dessau.
We must bow!
It doesn't make sense to whitewash the facts

Song 20

The National socialism is gaining ground.
The Brown Danger all around!
The Brown Danger all around!
Goddam pigs and Goddam blighters
making diabolical noise.
We don't have any choice!
We don't have any choice!

Gropius:

Dessau offers a new hope –
This could be a way to cope!
A new apprenticeship – but no teaching obligations!

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

Feininger/ Julia:

What a sensation!
We will miss Weimar with valleys and hills
but we'll swallow those bitter pills!

Lux:

New houses – all friends are around.
And I'm the youngest student that Bauhaus has ever seen
at only sixteen! Great!!

We'll share our home with Maholy-Nagy
Schlemmer, Kandinsky, Muche and Klee –
that's really okay!!
Let's live in a new way!

Scene 14

Dessau

Feininger:

Oh Julia, oh Lux, the first enthusiasm ended with discontent
I know – it doesn't make sense to sit on my hand
but restlessness, uneasiness anxiety
grab me!
I've got a lack of concentration
and a lack of creation.

Lux:

The only bright spot in our life
is the acquaintance with Hermann Klumpp, law graduate and artlover.
It was a real find for him to discover
your ability.

Feininger.

Oh yes, He became a good friend for me!

Oh goodness! Look outside!
Such a crowd of people are in our garden!
We really need a warden!
They gawp at our houses!

Lux:

No manners or discretion as such -
it's really too much!
We have to get rid of them!
Wow, wow –
they look through the windows now!

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

I try to shoo them away.

shooing

Shoo-shoo! Shoo shoo!

Get out of here! Go away!

Don't disturb us – It's not okay!

Group1

Look! That's Gropius' house!

Group2:

And here live Muche and Schlemmer!

Group3:

And here Kandinsky and Klee!

Group 4:

Look! That's Moholy-Nagy and Feininger's dwelling place.

Let's case the place!

All:

We are face to face with the famous artists:

dadaists, painters, cubists!

We really are the smartests!

Song:21

Look- look! Look – look! How awesome is that?

How awesome is that?

Walls painted in black and red!

Walls painted in black and red!

Look! That is cool-

Look! That is cool-

What a strange style for a stool!

What a strange style for a stool!

And look what crazy tableware!

And even that armchair!

How cool! How cool! Wow!

Lux:

shooing

Shoo-shoo! Shoo shoo!

Get out of here!

Shoo-shoo! Shoo shoo!

Get out of here!

Go away, go away!

Don't disturb us – It's not okay!

Don't disturb us – It's not okay!

Shoo –shoo! Shoo –shoo!

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

Feininger:

That's the end of private atmosphere-
I can't bear to stay here!
I can't paint, I can't sleep
They give me the creeps!

Crowd:

Next weekend we'll be here again
your pleas are in vain!

Feininger receiving a letter

Feininger:

Oh Julia, I've got a letter from Alois Schardt

Julia:

You mean from your friend, the director of the Moritzburg Gallery in Halle?

Feininger:

Yes, I did!
He's asked me to work in Halle as an artist of residence.
What a chance!
I shall make paintings of the town!

Julia:

So go! It will inspire your creative power
and give you new energy – you will see!
You can free yourself from the confinement here, my dear!

Feininger:

Oh yes, what a stroke of luck!
What a lucky coincidence!
I'll take this chance! I'll take this chance!

Scene 15

Halle 1929 - 1931

Schardt:

What an honor to see you again!
You know, Feininger, I'm your fan!
You can stay in the Moritzburg, in the tower atelier
from today.

You could paint a city view –
would that be okay for you?

Feininger:

I will start immediately –

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

I'm curious as you can see.

Writing a letter

Oh Julia, the tower is just beautiful,
really cool
Here I can paint so well!
When the light comes from North and East
it's a feast - indeed!
Where I live there is a wonderful light –
sun, clouds and rain affecting the sight.

Schardt:

I know, the view over rooftops and towers is fascinating,
-this city is captivating!

Feininger;

I think I will not paint only one!
Several pictures will be done!
Tomorrow I will stroll through the lanes,
I feel blood pulsing in my veins!

Strolling around

Mayor:

Hello Feininger, I'm the Lord-Mayor, Richard Robert Rive-
I'm very proud to welcome you.
Your presence became due!
Are you content with what you see?

Feininger:

Astonishing for everybody what I can see
– not only for me!

Everything is amazing – medieval and individual!
Cobblestones, wells, chiming bells,
picturesque corners and edges,
flowers on window ledges!
Houses and streets askew, hooked and crooked
Window panes are reflecting the sun –
also fascinating when the sun is gone!

Mayor:

I see, Feininger, it's a good place for you.
We'll meet up with Schardt in the tower tomorrow
to discuss your plans and sorrows!

Both

Bye-bye!

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

Children:

Who is that guy with the camera?
Do we know him?

I overheard. I believe his name is Fine finger!
Fine finger, Fine finger?

2nd child

You are a slow thinker!
So have a look -
he strolls around with camera and sketch book!

Fine finger, Fine finger?
Who are you?
Fine finger, Fine finger?
Who are you?
Give us a clue! Who are you?

Song:

Wherever he lingers –
there's a pencil in his fingers.
Wherever he lingers –
a pencil in his fingers

Feininger:

You are right!

Song:

Wherever I linger –
I've a pencil in my fingers.
wherever I linger –
a pencil in my fingers
to fix the impression –
it's passion and obsession!

Children:

It itches in his fingers
wherever he lingers.
He only can obey.
That is just his way!

Feininger:

I sharpen my senses
for colour, shapes and light
I scribble, doodle and sketch
till late in the night!

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

Children:

Bye-bye Fine finger
We know you do it well.
We hope all your paintings are easy to sell!
We hope all your paintings are easy to sell!

Feininger, Schardt, Rive:

In the tower studio

Schardt, Rive:

Oh Feininger, you did a very good job!
What an impressive series of 11 paintings
and lots of sketches are showing your mastership
we think it's worth a sip,
a sip of good wine that would be fine!

Feininger:

After months of rigidity I lived a life of seclusion
Cloistered in the tower with the view over the city –
unique and pretty.

Market church, Red tower, Trödel, Bölbergasse, Dom and Spittel
I could paint only a little!

Scene 16 Dessau- Berlin – Return to America

Feininger:

Oh darling, Halle was like a refuge for me
There I worked carefree!
We should move to Halle, it's so pretty!

Song22 Julia:

But Nazis are everywhere, in each city,
Nazis have gained power in Germany
in Dessau, in Berlin and even at the sea!
We are baffled, we are at a loss –
with this polotical dross!!

Nazis:

Catch the rhythm!
Catch the rhythm 1-2-3!
Move by command 1-2-3
March in step!

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

Klumpp storming in

Klumpp:

Did you hear! The Bauhaus is closed!

In despair

Who could rouse up the crowd,
who could push the Nazis down –
that gang of villains, that gang of crooks, that gang in brown!

Feininger/ Julia:

Where shall we go?
What shall we do?
We don't have a clue!
Danger lurks everywhere!

Feininger:

Little by little I've become a stranger in this land –
we will be banned.
Oh dear, you are Jewish –
the only thing I wish is to escape the danger
no longer to be treated as a stranger.

Song 23 Klumpp:

You must bring yourself in safety,
out of harm's way - starting today!

Film clip/ marching Nazis / tearing up his paintings

Nazis:

Catch the rhythm!
Catch the rhythm 1-2-3!
Move by command 1-2-3
March in step!

Nazis:

Feininger shall be deemed to be our enemy!
We declare this trash as degenerate art!
Not worth a fart! Not worth a fart!
Corrupt to the heart! -tear them apart!
Down with that trash
Let's smash it to bash

Klumpp:

I will keep your paintings safe!
I will hide them – I promise –
with kind, loving calmness!
I'll take care of this treasure.
For me, it will be a pleasure!

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

Feininger:

Germany is forlorn – Let`s go back to America where I was born!

Feiningers on board

Song 24

Two dollars in my pocket -
a bag in my hand –
That`s the way I leave this land.
Everything that`s important to me
I have to leave behind.
I have to set my mind at rest
knowing it is for the best.
Good friends, my paintings have to stay here!
What a loss for us, oh dear!

To Klumpp

I leave them in your hand –
Knowing you are a very good friend!
400 of my works are confiscated!
our path is fated!

Klump:

But I`m sure I`ll keep them safe
Non the less we`ve the situation to face

Julia:

But you will see – not for eternity!
Your artistic agility
demonstrated your great ability,
with your mastership in different styles
you are superior by miles!

Chilren:

Bye-bye Feininger, we are your fan!
Now you are a famous man.
We will always remember you!
From our point of view
you are one of the best
and we hope you won`t rest!

Because we know:

Song:

Wherever he lingers –
a pencil in his fingers.
Wherever he lingers –
a pencil in his fingers

Lyonel Feininger – a Famous Fine Artist
Musical written by Eva-Maria Schön

Feininger:

Oh, you are right!

Wherever I linger –
I`ve a pencil in my fingers.
Wherever I linger –
a pencil in my fingers
to fix the impression –
it`s passion and obsession!

Children:

It itches in his fingers
wherever he lingers
He only can obey.
That is just his way!

Wherever he lingers –
a pencil in his fingers
Wherever he lingers –
a pencil in his fingers!

Feininger,

Before our life is over and gone
To leave is a good decision in a long run.

Song 25 Feininger /Julia

We should do what we have to do
And we have to say Bye-bye to you!
We should do what we have to do
And we have to say Bye-bye to you!

Children/ Klump:

You`ve enriched our life!
Here your art could thrive,
here you wedded your wife.

Song 26

No question, no discuss – you became one of us, you became one of us.
You`ve given us sooo much, please keep with us in touch!

Bye –bye! Bye –bye!
You`ll go over the ocean – far away
But we`ll are with you every day!
Bye –bye!

End