

ANGELS IN THE SNOW! SCENIC BREAKDOWN

Act I: 1959-1961; West Berlin and East Berlin



Scene 1: The Riverbank

Dieter and Kurt, two university religion students, go to the forest to find Elise and Helen, who are students of Foreign Literature. The young men find a group of students who are trying to clean up the river and the forest after the pollution of the Great Patriotic War. One of them is Manfred, who was once the lover of Elise. Dieter and Manfred compete for the love of Elise, even as Kurt and Helen begin to fall in love. As they sing *The Dream*, we learn that Manfred has a violent vision for the future, Elise and Dieter one of peace.

Scene 2: The Schumann Home

Dieter visits the home of Elise and her mother and father. Her father tries to gently intimidate Dieter.

Scene 3: The Office of Walter Ulbricht, Chair of the German Democratic Republic

Young Erich Honecker proposes that East Germany build a wall to stop the emigration of its people into West Berlin. Comrade Kolchenkov, an envoy from Moscow, tells of Krushchev's displeasure. Von Stein, an ambitious politician, agrees with everybody. They sing *I Will Build a Wall*.

Scene 4: The Riverbank

All the students sing Christmas carols in German at a holiday party at the riverbank. Helen sings a song about hanging up *Teddy Bears* instead of mistletoe. When Elise holds a sprig of mistletoe over her head, Manfred kisses her, which hurts Dieter's feelings.



Scene 5: The Riverbank

Elise finds Dieter at the riverbank, where she tells him of her love for him. Although it is not the kind of love he feels, with shooting stars and waterfalls of emotion, she tells him how she will love him, in the song *Love Me Like a River*. She teaches him how to make snow angels, then tells Kurt and Helen that they are getting married!

Scene 6: The Office of Walter Ulbricht, Chair of the German Democratic Republic

Erich Honecker gives his final proposal for building the Berlin Wall to Chairman Ulbricht. After Ulbricht approves the plans and leaves the office, Honecker sits in the great man's chair, dreaming of the day when he might lead East Germany.

Scene 7: The Riverbank

Out for a run, Kurt and Helen stop to rest and sing *Rhyme and Reason* to each other. Kurt loves Helen's "sparkling, crystal blue eyes." Dieter and Elise are now married, and she is four months' pregnant. When they return to Kurt and Helen, the four talk about why Kurt and Dieter must go to East Berlin every weekend – because it is their home, and because they lead worship services with oppressed Christians there.

Scene 8: Under a streetlamp

We learn that Manfred and Elise's father are members of an underground environmental group, and that Manfred's plans are becoming more violent. Manfred is still angry that Elise chose Dieter. Herr Schumann reminds him that she will still be beside Manfred in the movement.



Scene 9: The Schumann Home

It is the wedding party of Kurt and Helen. Elise is eight months pregnant. After a rousing song of *What's Happening in Germany*, Hans and Kirsten run in to tell everyone that the East Germans put up a wall overnight, made of barbed wire and of stone- that soldiers were setting dogs after people and shooting and killing. They tell Elise and Helen that Kurt and Dieter did not get through, and were trapped on the other side of the Wall. Elise comforts Helen and tells her that Dieter promised that nothing would ever come between them, "not even a wall."

Scene 10: The Riverbank

Elise is at the riverbank, five weeks after having her baby, Katrina. Manfred shows up, and they talk about old times. She admits that she still has love for him, but that she is committed to her husband and daughter. After she leaves, Manfred says, "I still love you, Elise. Do I love you enough to let you go?"

Scene 11: The Schumann Home and Dieter's Loft in East Germany

It is Christmas Eve. Kurt and Dieter are now trapped behind the Wall, and are remembering happier times. They assure each other that it won't be long until the Wall comes down and they see their loved ones again. In *A Christmas Trilogy*, all the men sing *A Christmas Without You*, then the Women sing *Snow Skies of Christmas*. All together, they sing of how much they love and miss their loved one in *Angels Trilogy Duet*.

Intermission: An optional song, *Just Another Morning*, is provided – which may be used in its instrumental form, its vocal form, or be recorded by the Elise and Dieter of the current cast. You may or may not choose to make a video that shows the passing of the years.



Act II: 1982 21 years later; West Berlin and East Berlin

Scene 1: The Schumann Home, Dieter's Loft and Honecker's Office

Young Katrina, now 21 years old and a runner for the West German track team, runs in with letters from Dieter and Kurt. Helen has become very ill. With Kurt and Dieter in their loft, all read the letters in their minds. We learn that the men have taken in a young man named Wolf, who is also a runner. Manfred takes Elise to "work," while Katrina and Dieter, Kurt and Helen sing of loneliness and what might have been in *I Wish I Would Have Known You*. During the song, we see Ulbricht transferring power to Erich Honecker, the new leader of the German Democratic Republic

Scene 2: The Office of Erich Honecker, Chair of the GDR

Honecker tries to convince Dieter to give him a list of the members of the non-violent movement to bring down the Wall. Dieter is now a pastor and a leader of the movement, and refuses, so Honecker proclaims him "A Person in Possession of the Secrets of the People," and forbids him to leave East Germany.

Scene 3: The Riverbank

Helen, now in a wheelchair, Elise and Katrina, reminisce about the older women's experiences here. Katrina asks her mother about her relationship with the man she has come to know as "Uncle" Manfred. Helen knows she is dying. Together, they sing the song of loneliness, *Back Into My Arms*.

Scene 4: Dieter's Loft

Kurt and Wolf greet Dieter when he returns with the food he was able to find that day. They dream of "real food," but are happy with their cabbages, apples and onions. Wolf has run a personal best time of 28:24 in the 10,000 meters in his training, and Dieter decides to ask Honecker to let Wolf run, although he is not a member of the "Free German Youth."

Scene 5: The Office of Erich Honecker, Chair of the GDR

Dieter convinces Honecker to allow Wolf to run for the East German team, despite being a Jew who believes in God. He asks that Kurt be allowed to visit Helen in West Berlin, but when Honecker checks his files, he sees that Kurt is the person who “plays that damned trumpet out into the square,” and declares Kurt “A Person in Possession of the Secrets of the People.”

Scene 6: The Schumann Home, Christmas Day

Wolf has escaped from the visiting East German track team for a few hours and comes to the Schumann home. Manfred and his friends sing Christmas carols. Helen is dying, but tries to be brave and sends a message to Kurt that she will “see him on the other side.” Wolf and Katrina meet, and we discover that Wolf’s parents were shot and killed trying to tunnel under the Wall, and that Dieter and Kurt saved his life by stopping his escape and calling him their son, “Wolf.” Wolf sings *Wolf’s Song*. The fireworks of love are in the air.

Scene 7: Dieter’s Loft

Dieter and Kurt are missing their women desperately, and Kurt is ready to give up. Kurt sings *I Will Remember Eyes of Blue*, then Wolf returns from East Berlin. At first, the reunion is joyful, but soon turns dark when Kurt finds out how gravely ill Helen is. He decides to try to go to her side that very night, but Dieter and Wolf try to stop him from almost certain death. He tells Wolf that he has become his true son, and tells Dieter that he will see him “on the other side.” Moments after Kurt leaves, we hear the dogs, the sirens and the rifle shots. Kurt is dead.

Scene 8: The Riverbank

Katrina sings *Forever for You* as she grieves the loss of both her Uncle Kurt and her Aunt Helen, who died upon hearing of the death of Kurt.

Scene 9: The Office of Erich Honecker, Chair of the GDR

Dieter brings Honecker a report on a recent meeting for peace at Rostock. Honecker accuses him of treason, then gloats at Kurt’s death trying to cross his Wall. Dieter almost loses control. They sing *Angels at War*, and Honecker tells Dieter that his God is impotent.

Scene 10: The Footbridge and Dieter’s Loft

Elise reads a letter from Dieter describing the day that he was tortured for nineteen hours, but survived by thinking of her and writing her a song. Manfred arrives, and tells Elise of his plans to explode the nuclear reactor; but Elise refuses to take human life. When Manfred accuses her of being a “coward like her sniveling Dieter,” she finally finds the courage to end her long relationship with him. She has chosen her husband. In her heart, she hears Dieter singing *Soon I’m Coming*, and she sings back to him. Soon, all the lovers who have been separated by the Wall sing to each other.

Scene 11: Dieter’s Loft

Honecker goes to Dieter’s home seeking sanctuary. He has cancer, and the East Berliners want to kill him. After much soul-searching, Dieter agrees to take him in. Honecker scoffs at the Bible, but asks if God would forgive him if he asked. Dieter offers his own forgiveness to Honecker.

Scene 12: The Riverbank

The family survivors are at the riverbank, demanding that the Wall finally come down, angry enough to curse God. Manfred runs on to tell them that the Wall is being destroyed, and they rush to the Brandenburg Gate.

Scene 13: The Wall

The citizens on both sides of the Wall celebrate and tear down the Wall, passing a beloved baby across the top. Elise and Dieter climb to the top, tearing it apart as they reach each other’s arms. Katrina and Wolf find each other as well. Together with the People at the Wall, they sing, *No More Walls Again!* The Company exalts to the sky. The play ends.

