



I was born in London in 1947 as the son of German and Czech Jewish refugees and grew up as an absolutely 'British' boy, without any knowledge of our German-Jewish background and without knowing that a large number of the family had been murdered by the Nazis: an absolutely non-topic with my parents.

When my parents returned to West Germany in 1961, I had no choice but to follow. I spent the first years in Germany in a self-defined isolation, i.e. only mixing with English speaking foreigners, as the

post-war years in Britain had made me - like the rest of my generation - absolutely anti-German.

Having completed schooling in 1965 I began studying Economics at Cologne University. On June 2nd 1967, during a demonstration against the state visit of the Shah of Persia to West Berlin, a young student was killed by a police bullet. The student movement began, and changed the course of my life and my further development:

- It opened my eyes to German reality and made me realise that young Germans were a lot different than my preconceived notion.
- I was impressed by the way the students queried their parents' behaviour during the Third Reich.
- I was not only an active member of the students' movement, the events also led me to begin to accept my other identities: German and Jewish.

German, because having lived in Germany for 6 decisive years during puberty, I had been formed by the country, like it or not, and Jewish as a result of recognising the family's history. The Six-Day-War in 1967, also forced me to define my position towards Israel. Yet it took from 1967 through till 1991, when I joined the Berlin Jewish Community, to find my way back to my Jewish roots and to accept my Jewish identity.

With the end of the Iron Curtain in 1990, I was able to find family documents in eastern Europe that helped me uncover the family history back to Galicia and Moravia in the 18th centuries and through this I became strongly involved in giving talks and organising seminars on the history of anti-Semitism, the basics of Jewish religion and present day Jewish life in Germany for non-Jewish audiences.

My professional work began when I graduated and moved from Cologne to West Berlin in 1970 to take up work as a junior lecturer in Economics at the Free University of West Berlin. I also lectured at the Berlin School of Economics. This was followed by lecture work for the West Berlin City Government until German reunification in 1990. I was personnel manager at the German daily newspaper *Tageszeitung - taz* from 1986 to 1988 and also contributed articles. Till today my main profession is lecturing and drafting and conducting seminars in English and German for diverse adult education institutions in Berlin.

My artistic work began back in 1995 when I entered the competition for a National Holocaust Memorial in Berlin. In 1998 I converted a bus-stop shelter on Kurfürstenstraße in Berlin-Schöneberg into a permanent reminder of the site of Adolf Eichmann's 'Jewish Department' (Judenreferat). This was followed by three further Holocaust related memorials. In 1998 I joined *Meshulash* a group of Jewish artists and have been contributing to all the group's exhibitions since then. In 2004 I was a finalist in the *International Jewish Artist of the Year Award* with '**The Silent Concierge**' (can be viewed on this website) and received a commendation from the same competition in 2007 for '**The German Gate to Paradise**' (can also be viewed on this website).

I'm still not religious in the context of religious rituals or the question, whether or not the Messiah has arrived. But living in the country where 15 members of my family had been murdered, made me feel a personal commitment towards them, to actively work against anti-Semitism by furthering knowledge about Jewish history, Jewish religion and the day-to-day life of Jews in Germany today. I am at present a member of the cultural committee of the Berlin Jewish Community. Further information about my Jewish approach can be found in an interview I gave GOLEM Magazine (can be found on this website).

Berlin has become my home but not my *Heimat*. I feel that I have **four identities**:

- I'm basically very **British** owing to my upbringing in London.
- I'm also **German** in my intellectual approach to things.
- I'm very **Jewish** in a cultural and emotional context and
- I'm utterly **European** out of conviction.

Personal Details

1947: Born in London as a son of Berlin and Czech Jewish refugees

1960: Move from London to Cologne, West Germany

1970: Move from Cologne to (West-) Berlin

1988 My son Elis is born

1991: Membership of the Jewish Community of Berlin

1995: Marriage

1996 My son David is born

2000 My daughter Lilly is born

Art Work (Most of my art work can be viewed on this website)

1995: Entry to the competition for a National Holocaust Memorial in 1995

1998: Just Stop! - Bus shelter project outside Adolf Eichmann's 'Judenreferat' on *Kurfürstenstraße* in Berlin-Schöneberg

2004 Remembering Varian Fry - Bus shelter project at *Potsdamer Platz* in Berlin-Mitte

2005 The SS Head Office for Economic & Administrative Affairs - An advertising board outside the original building on *Unter den Eichen 126-135* in Berlin-Steglitz

2007 Action T4 and the Holocaust - Bus shelter project on *Tiergarten Strasse* right in front of Berlin's Philharmonic Hall

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