

# Brecht Chronology

(compiled by Marc Silberman)

1898	February 10, born in Augsburg to a paper manufacturer
1904-1908	elementary school (Volksschule)
1908-1917	high school (Königlich-Bayerisches Realgymnasium)
1913	writes first texts (diaries, school journal); friendship with Paula Banholzer
1917	matriculates as medical student at Ludwig-Maximilian Universität in Munich; attends Artur Kutscher's seminars on theater
1918	military service as medical orderly in Augsburg; activity in a soldiers' council (Soldatenrat) during the November Revolution
1919	drama reviews; <i>Baal</i> , participates in Karl Valentin's political cabaret; his first son, Frank, is born to Paula Banholzer
1920	first short trip to Berlin; Brecht's mother dies
1921	second trip to Berlin, attends rehearsals of Max Reinhardt and other major directors
1922	<i>Trommeln in der Nacht</i> (Drums in the Night) opens in Munich at the Kammerspiele and later at the Deutsches Theater in Berlin; Brecht receives the prestigious Kleist prize for young dramatists; friendship with Arnolt Bronnen, marriage with Marianna Zoff
1923	<i>Im Dickicht der Städte</i> (In the Jungle of the Cities) opens at the Residenztheater in Munich; <i>Baal</i> opens in Leipzig; collaboration with Lion Feuchtwanger in Munich; his daughter Hanne is born to Marianne Zoff
1924	Brecht moves to Berlin; <i>Leben Eduards des Zweiten von England</i> (adaptation of Christopher Marlowe's <i>Edward the Second</i> , together with Lion Feuchtwanger) opens under Brecht's direction at the Kammerspiele in Munich; meets Helene Weigel, who bears his son Stefan; begins collaborative work with Elisabeth Hauptmann;
1925	friendship with the heavyweight boxer Paul Samson-Körner, the painter George Grosz, and the novelist Alfred Döblin; substantial writing for journals and newspapers (short stories, essays)
1926	<i>Mann ist Mann</i> (Man Equals Man) opens in Darmstadt
1927	<i>Hauspostille</i> (Manuel of Piety) appears; radio production of <i>Mann ist Mann</i> and Brecht's adaptation of <i>Macbeth</i> ; first collaboration with Kurt Weill on the

	<i>Mahagonny</i> song cycle (starring Lotte Lenya); cooperation with Erwin Piscator's experimental stagings; divorce from Marianne Zoff
1928	<i>Die Dreigroschenoper</i> (The Threepenny Opera) opens at the Theater am Schiffbauerdamm in Berlin, becomes the most successful play of the Weimar Republic
1929	<i>Das Badener Lehrstück vom Einverständnis</i> (The Baden Cantata of Consent) and <i>Lindbergflug</i> (later renamed <i>Ozeanflug</i> , Ocean Flight) with music by Paul Hindemith and Kurt Weill, Brecht's first two "learning plays" (Lehrstücke); meets Walter Benjamin; marriage with Helene Weigel; <i>Die heilige Johanna der Schlachthöfe</i> (Saint Joan of the Stockyards, broadcast on radio in 1932); <i>Berliner Requiem</i> (Berlin Requiem) with music by Kurt Weill broadcast
1930	<i>Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny</i> (The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny) opens at the Leipzig opera (picketed by Nazis); <i>Der Jasager und der Neinsager</i> (He Who Said Yes, He Who Said No) directed by Brecht in Berlin; daughter Barbara born by Helene Weigel; <i>Die Maßnahme</i> (The Measures Taken) opens in Berlin; "Geschichten vom Herrn Keuner" (The Keuner Stories); "Die Beule" (The Bruise), screenplay for the Threepenny Opera Film (not realized)
1931	<i>Mann ist Mann</i> (starring Peter Lorre) directed by Brecht in Berlin; Brecht and Weill sue Nero Film for breach of contract in the G.W. Pabst production of the <i>Threepenny Opera</i> film (Brecht loses, settles out of court, and Weill wins);
1932	<i>Die Mutter</i> (The Mother, adapted from Maxim Gorki's novel), directed by Brecht and Emil Burri, opens in Berlin; the film <i>Kuhle Wampe</i> (with Slatan Dudow, Ernst Ottwalt, Hanns Eisler) opens in May after a censorship scandal; <i>Die Rundköpfe und die Spitzköpfe</i> (Round Heads and Pointed Heads); friendship with Margarete Steffin
1933	Brecht flees with his family to Zurich after the burning of the Reichstag (February 27) and then settles in Denmark (Svendborg) with Weigel and the two children Stefan and Barbara; <i>Sieben Todsünden</i> (The Seven Deadly Sins) with music by Weill opens in Paris and travels to London; works on the poetry anthology "Svendborger Gedichte" (first published in Copenhagen in 1939); friendship with Ruth Berlau
1934	Brecht and Hanns Eisler in London; work on <i>Der Dreigroschenroman</i> (The Threepenny Novel)
1935	travel to Moscow where he meets Sergei Tretyakov, Sergei Eisenstein, and the Chinese actor Mei Lan-Fan; travel to New York City for the production of <i>Mother</i> ; <i>Furcht und Elend des Dritten Reiches</i> (Fear and Misery of the Third Reich)
1936	trip to New York City and London
1937	trip to Paris; <i>Die Gewehre der Frau Carrar</i> (Seqora Carrar's Rifles) opens in

	Paris under the direction of Slatan Dudow and starring Helene Weigel
1938	in Paris 8 scenes from <i>Furcht und Elend</i> are staged in German under the direction of Slatan Dudow and starring Helene Weigel; first version of <i>Leben des Galilei</i> (Life of Galileo) completed
1939	Brecht and family forced in April to move to Stockholm, Sweden, with the growing Nazi pressure on neighboring Denmark; Brecht's father dies; <i>Was kostet das Eisen?</i> (What's the Price of Iron) staged by Brecht and Ruth Berlau in Stockholm; <i>Mutter Courage und ihre Kinder</i> (Mother Courage and Her Children) completed, opens in Zurich in 1941, starring Therese Giehse
1940	Brecht and family forced to move to Finland by the advance of the Nazis, first to Helsinki and later to the country estate of the writer Hella Wuolijoki; <i>Der gute Mensch von Sezuan</i> (The Good Person of Szechwan) completed; first version of <i>Das Verhör des Lukullus</i> (The Trial of Lucullus) completed; <i>Herr Puntila und sein Knecht Matti</i> (Mr. Puntila and His Man Matti) written together with Wuolijoki; writes <i>Flüchtlingsgespräche</i> (Conversations among Exiles)
1941	Brecht, his family, Steffin, and Berlau travel via Moscow and Vladivostok to San Pedro (the port of Los Angeles); Margarete Steffin dies of tuberculosis in Moscow; Brecht meets Charles Chaplin and other Hollywood luminaries, including Fritz Lang; works on <i>Der aufhaltsame Aufstieg des Arturo Ui</i> (The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui), first staged in 1958 in Stuttgart
1942	Brecht meets other German exiles in Los Angeles (Arnold Schönberg, Theodor W. Adorno, Max Horkheimer, Thomas Mann, etc.); work on screenplays (including for the Fritz Lang production <i>Hangmen also Die</i> )
1943	trip to New York City where he meets with Erwin Piscator, Wieland Herzfeld, Ernst Bloch, George Grosz, W.H. Auden, etc.; work with Lion Feuchtwanger on <i>Die Gesichte der Simone Machard</i> (The Visions of Simone Machard) for which the film rights are sold to MGM (never produced), first staged in Frankfurt am Main in 1957; <i>Schweyk im zweiten Weltkrieg</i> (Schweyk in the Second World War) completed, first staged in German in Erfurt, 1958
1944	<i>Der kaukasische Kreidekreis</i> (The Caucasian Chalk Circle) completed, first staged in English (in Eric Bentley's translation) at Carleton College in Minnesota in 1948 and in German by Brecht himself at the Berliner Ensemble in 1954; Brecht and W. H. Auden work on an adaptation of John Webster's <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> , opens at the Barrymore Theatre in New York City in October 1946
1947	opening of <i>Life of Galileo</i> with Charles Laughton in Los Angeles (translation by Brecht and Laughton), first German staging in the Kammerspiele in Cologne, 1955; interrogation by the House Unamerican Activities Committee (HUAC) in Washington, D.C.; Brecht leaves the USA on the next day for Switzerland
1948	Brecht adapts Sophocles' <i>Antigone</i> (in Hölderlin's translation) and directs it together with Caspar Neher at the Chur Theatre, starring Helene Weigel; he is

	also involved in the production of <i>Pantaleone</i> at the Zurich Schauspielhaus; Brecht moves to East Berlin; <i>Kalendergeschichten</i> (Tales from the Calendar), Brecht's first postwar publication in Germany, appears
1949	Brecht establishes the Berliner Ensemble (housed at the Deutsches Theater) and produces <i>Mutter Courage</i> , starring Helene Weigel; <i>Tage der Commune</i> (Days of the Commune) completed for a Zurich production (never realized), first staged in Karl-Marx-Stadt (East Germany) in 1957
1950	Brecht becomes an Austrian citizen; Brecht directs the adaptation of J.M.R. Lenz's <i>Der Hofmeister</i> (The Tutor), prepared by Brecht, Ruth Berlau, Caspar Neher, Egon Monk and Benno Besson
1953	Brecht is elected President of the German PEN Center; <i>Turandot oder der Kongreß der Weißwäscher</i> (Turandot); Brecht completes the poetry cycle <i>Buckower Elegien</i> (Buckow Elegies)
1954	Berliner Ensemble moves to the Theater am Schiffbauerdamm; first international tour to Paris where the Berliner Ensemble's production of <i>Mutter Courage</i> caused a sensation and catapulted Brecht into the position of the most important European director; Suhrkamp Verlag in Frankfurt am Main (West Germany) and Aufbau Verlag (East Berlin) begin publishing the edition of Brecht's works
1955	Brecht accepts the Stalin prize in Moscow (he requests that Boris Pasternak translate his acceptance speech); Berliner Ensemble on tour in Paris for the second time, with <i>Der kaukasische Kreidekreis</i> ; Brecht falls ill
1956	rehearsals of <i>Leben des Galilei</i> under Brecht's direction and preparation of the Berliner Ensembles tour to London with that production; on August 14, Brecht dies of heart failure; on August 17, he is buried in the Dorotheenfriedhof in Berlin