

BY PHILIP BRANDES

A new framing of Anne Frank

The essentials: Her diary of two years in hiding from the Nazi occupation brought posthumous fame to the Dutch-Jewish girl who penned it. Although Anne Frank's story has been staged many times, this 2014 drama by Jessica Durlacher and Leon de Winter employs a framing device with dual timelines: Rather than simply dramatize the diary's contents, the play also explores the future life that the young Anne might have imagined for herself as an adult. Anne's wish-fulfilled persona's perspective on her ordeal contrasts with actual events.

Why this? The U.S. premiere of Nick Blaemire's new 90-minute adaptation of the 2014 play is presented by the Simon Wiesenthal Center in conjunction with the Museum of Tolerance's Anne Frank exhibition. The dreamlike staging mixes naturalistic dialog and video, with Ava Lalezarzadeh as Anne and Rob Brownstein (Interact Theatre Company co-founder) as her quietly heroic father. With anti-Semitism on the rise worldwide, this story celebrates defiance and resilience in the face of evil.

Details: A Simon Wiesenthal Center production at the Museum of Tolerance, 9786 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles. 3 and 7 p.m. Sundays, 8 p.m. Mondays, through July 22. \$40. (310) 772-2505, museumoftolerance.com



Ava Lalezarzadeh is Anne Frank, foreground, with Marnina Schon, left, Rob Brownstein and Andrea Gwynnel in "Anne, A New Play." (Michael Lamont)