

# THE WALK IN THE SNOW

## THE TRUE STORY OF LISE MEITNER

Toronto Fringe

written and performed by Jem Rolls

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PHYSICIST, PIONEER, FUGITIVE  
FORGOTTEN JEWISH HEROINE

A hugely original piece of direct no-mucking-about historical storytelling.

One of the greatest moments in scientific history.

Christmas Eve, 1938: Kungälv, Sweden.

Two Jewish refugees from the Nazis walk out into the snow.

Sat on a tree trunk, they discover the atom can be and has been split.

And the world is never the same again.

Meitner

- How did a shy Austrian, who only graduated high-school at 23, open so many doors and achieve so much?
- Pushing against age-old sexism and murderous anti-Semitism.
- First or second woman through a whole series of doors.
- A very reserved woman to be a feminist heroine.
- One of the very few physicists to refuse work on the bomb.

*“I WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH A BOMB”*

The Nazis wanted this Jewish woman out of History.

Did they succeed?

This show seeks to set the record straight.

Featuring:

Malevolent Nazis

**Including a very threatening message from the head of the SS,  
Heinrich Himmler**

Her loving nephew, also a forgotten major scientist, Otto-Robert Frisch

**A life or death escape from Nazi Germany.** With an unsung Dutch  
hero, Dirk Coster

**Hitler's invasion of Denmark, which surrendered before breakfast**

Lise Meitner is chiefly famous for NOT getting the Nobel Prize.

*“When she is perhaps best remembered for  
thirty years of scientific achievement,  
as a pioneering woman,  
and for the walk in the snow.”*

The finger of blame is usually pointed at the man who did get a Nobel for fission: her good friend and mentor Hahn.

Jem points that blame firmly at Swedish Physicist and Nobel Prize Winning bureaucrat Manne Siegbahn, and the dismal politics of Swedish science.

He points a different finger at Hahn: for her premature disappearance from science.

*Science without conscience is only ruin for the soul*  
*Rabelais, 1532*