

COMPANY OF TEN **75th** SEASON

# TAKING SIDES

by RONALD HARWOOD

**Furtwängler :  
Nazi collaborator?**

22 – 30 January 2010

Studio

**abbey theatre**



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# TAKING SIDES

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Wilhelm Furtwängler, arguably the greatest conductor of his generation, was at the height of his powers in 1933, when the Nazis gained control of Germany. Many musicians left the country; Furtwängler, remained and continued to make great music throughout the period of the Third Reich.

When the war ended, Furtwängler was accused of being a Nazi sympathiser, and came before a Denazification Tribunal in 1946. Although he was pronounced 'clean', many felt that the findings of the tribunal were based on the fact of insufficient evidence and doubts about Furtwängler's innocence have remained in the minds of many of his accusers, even to this day.

In *Taking Sides* Furtwängler faces preliminary interrogation by an American major, who has little or no cultural sympathy or understanding, and is intent on nailing the man he dismissively refers to as 'the bandleader'. The exchanges between the two are compelling as they argue the complex question of whether art can truly claim to be above politics, especially the brutal politics of the Third Reich.

**Seat prices from £7.00 to £10.00**

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## HOW TO BOOK

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