

# 'Gerda' casting starts Monday

by Kate Nolan • November 21, 2008  
*The Arizona Republic*

SCOTTSDALE - Producers of a new play about Scottsdale author and Holocaust survivor Gerda Weissmann Klein will hold a non-Equity casting call Monday at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts.

*Gerda's Lieutenant* is based on the lives and love letters of Klein and her late husband Kurt, who rescued her from a Nazi work camp after six years of slave labor and starvation. Their romance lasted almost six decades.



Gerda Weissmann Klein, of Scottsdale, in a 2006 file photo. (Pat Shannahan / *The Arizona Republic*)

Klein first came to national renown with the 1957 publication of *All But My Life*, her memoir of life as a teenager after Germans invaded her Polish town, enslaved her and murdered her family.

The author and subject of an Academy Award-winning documentary said she is happy with the play. "They didn't change anything, but it's too painful for me to know too much about it," said Klein, now 84.

Written by Ellen Gordon Reeves and Bennett Singer, the play will be workshopped at the performing arts center during the first two weeks of January; three public presentations are planned at Theatre 4301 on January 14, 15 and 16.\* Director is Leigh Fondakowski (*The Laramie Project*).

Lynn Cohen ("Magda" in *Sex and the City* and "Golda Meir" in *Munich*) and her husband, Ron Cohen, will play Gerda and Kurt. Other actors will appear as the play shifts in time.

To schedule an audition appointment, review casting details at [www.scottsdaleperformingarts.org](http://www.scottsdaleperformingarts.org) and call Ally Haynes-Hamblen at 480-874-4681.



\*Corrected from the November 21, 2008 article.