



2022

ANNUAL PROGRAMMING REPORT



ANNUAL PROGRAMMING REPORT 2022



In 2017 The University of Miami Leonard and Sue Miller Center and George Feldenkreis Judaic Studies Programs joined forces with Yiddishkayt Initiative (YI Love Jewish), founded by retired Columbia University professor Miriam Hoffman and her son, renowned actor Avi Hoffman, to collaborate on the development and promotion of Jewish culture in general and the Yiddish culture and language and their academic study. As in previous years, YI has been incredibly active in 2022 with many post-COVID LIVE events, as well as an abundance of YI activities conducted virtually. Consequently, the reach of YI has continued to expand globally. YI programs and festivals have cumulatively now reached over one MILLION Yiddishkayt lovers from all corners of the world.

A wide range of live and virtual performances, concerts, readings and interviews featuring major award-winning American and International entertainers.

January 2022

- **January 10th:** YI began the year with multiple play readings of *'The Gospel According to Jerry'* and our interview with playwright Richard Krevolin. Recorded live at the Mandel JCC in Palm Beach Gardens.
- **January 17th:** *'The Gospel According to Jerry'* was offered virtually on all our social media and platforms.
- **January 29th:** *"YI Remembers..."* In commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day - A play reading of *'The Last One'* by Eleanor Reissa, a Tony award-nominated director, playwright and actor followed by a panel discussion - *'After The Last Survivor'* - a conversation with panelists Dr. Yael Danieli, Steven A. Ludsin, Eleanor Reissa, Stacey Saiontz, and Lea Wolinetz.

About the panelists:

Dr. Yael Danieli, a clinical psychologist, victimologist, pioneer traumatologist: Most recently founded the International Center for the Study, Treatment and Prevention of Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma: www.icmglt.org. As Director of the Group Project for Holocaust Survivors and their Children, she has conducted extensive psychotherapeutic work with survivors and offspring on individual, family, group and community bases; studied in depth post-war responses and attitudes toward them, and the impact these and the Holocaust had on their lives. Published, awarded worldwide, on life-long and multigenerational post-trauma adaptation, optimal care and training, and on reparative justice. The Danieli Inventory for Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma allows scientifically valid assessment and comparative international study. Emerita Distinguished Professor of International Psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, built the first PhD program in international psychology.



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Steven A. Ludsin served as a charter member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, a presidential appointment, and was a member of the original President's Commission on the Holocaust during the Carter Administration which created the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. He was the only child of a survivor on both original presidential panels. He also served as a member of the New York Holocaust Memorial Commission which created the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City. He is founder of the Remembrance of the Holocaust Foundation.

Stacey Saiontz is a lawyer whose grandparents survived the Holocaust. Their stories of survival have profoundly influenced her outlook and inspired her commitment to sharing all stories and lessons of the Holocaust with future generations.

Lea Sigiel Wolinetz was born to Holocaust Survivors from Poland. She started her professional career as a Public School teacher and administrator in the New York City Public School system. Coming from her education background, she'd go on to help create Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation. To honor the millions of children lost during World War 2, in 1994 she created The Golden Bridge of Friendship. The non-profit was designed to match orphans from Eastern Europe with adoptive parents. The model she developed is now used across the globe. Mrs. Wolinetz has served as Coordinator for the Jews of Czestochowa Exhibit and Outreach Manager for the Polin Museum in Warsaw. She currently acts as the Executive Director of the Worldwide Czestochowa Jews and their Descendants, and the Secretary of Czenstochowa Relief Society.

Eleanor Reissa is Brooklyn born and bred; a victim/beneficiary of the public school system from K through college (cum laude). In spite of that (or because of it) she has had a life beyond her own imagination. She became a Tony nominated director, a Broadway actress, a prize-winning playwright, an artistic director of the world's oldest Yiddish theater company, a soon-to-be published author, a singer in every major venue around the world and in New York, including Carnegie Hall, Town Hall, and smaller venues like Joe's Pub and Michael Feinstein's 54 Below. Simply, she became a story-teller in English and Yiddish and is the daughter of her parents who lived through the Holocaust.

This was followed by a rebroadcast of the concert: 'MIR GEYEN NISHT TSURIK - NO TURNING BACK' TONY-nominated actor-writer-director, international Yiddish star Eleanor Reissa joins with GRAMMY-winning trumpeter composer Frank London of the Klezmatics to present Mir Geyen Nisht Tsurik - No Turning Back. This special concert of Yiddish songs of liberation and struggle was created especially for the 2020 YI LOVE YIDDISHFEST as part of its focus on Liberation Commemoration. Mir Geyen Nisht Tsurik follows their collaboration of (mostly) love songs, Vilde Mekhaye - Wild Ecstasy. Reissa and London are again accompanied by Ilya Shneyveys, Brandon Seabrook and Deep Singh. The day concluded with an in depth interview with Eleanor Reissa.



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February 2022

- **February 8th:** *A Virtual Interview Shmoozing with Mostly Kosher:* The groundbreaking California band MOSTLY KOSHER is a musical feast that explodes into a global food- fight of Jazz, Latin, Rock, and Folk. In response to the poetry and folk music of Judaic roots, their original voice resounds with themes of social justice, human dignity and mutual understanding. Led by frontman Leeav Sofer, one of Jewish Journal's "30 under 30" most accomplished professionals in the Los Angeles Jewish diaspora, Mostly Kosher is comprised of some of the highest regarded Los Angeles musicians: violinist Janice Mautner Markham, drummer Eric Hagstrom, bassist Adam Levy, accordionist Gee Rabe, trombonist Taylor Covey and Aníbal Seminario on clarinet and sax.
- **February 15th:** *A LIVE play reading at the Galbut Family Miami Beach JCC/Simkins Family Campus The Lincoln Continental* By Kathy Kafer. The story of a father, a daughter and the car that drives their relationship over three decades. Recorded live at the Galbut Family Miami Beach JCC/Simkins Family Campus:
- **February 22nd:** *A VIRTUAL Play Reading 'The Lincoln Continental'* By Kathy Kafer: Presented virtually.
- **February 24th:** YI offers a FREE 1 hour virtual class of Yiddish Fun01 - A free sample of the 6-class Yiddish online course utilizing the curricula and materials developed by Columbia University Professor Miriam Hoffman and under the guidance and direction of her son, renowned actor and course professor Avi Hoffman, connecting the academic roots of the Yiddish language with its incredible contributions to mainstream modern culture.
- **February 28th:** A LIVE/VIRTUAL Event A special broadcast performance of "Garden of Alla: The Alla Nazimova Story" starring NY actress Romy Nordlinger. Recorded LIVE in NYC's Theater555 to honor Women's History Month. This critically acclaimed multimedia solo show tells the story of one of the most daring and celebrated Jewish artists of the 20th century, and probably the most famous star you've never heard of – Alla Nazimova – LGBTQ+ trailblazer, silver screen and Broadway legend, and one of the first female directors and producers in Hollywood. As an immigrant who fled Tsarist Russia and began her career in the Lower East Side with "The Chosen Ones" in Yiddish, Nazimova's fame rose to meteoric heights. One of the most prolific and brightest stars on Broadway and the silver screen – her story has been all but erased from the history books. "Romy Nordlinger is brilliant in the role of Alla Nazimova. This is a show that will touch the hearts and minds of viewers and should have a long life in the theatre. An outstanding production!" – Marina Kennedy / Broadway World





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March 2022

- **March 2nd, 7pm:** *A Virtual Play Reading BULLS & BEARS: The Adventures of Menachem Mendl* By Miriam Hoffman -Starring Allen Rickman, Irene Adjan and Avi Hoffman. A reading of a play based on the writings of Sholem Aleichem (1859-1916), who gave the world Tevye the Dairyman and Fiddler on the Roof. The play written by Yiddish cultural scholar Miriam Hoffman introduces us to the Adventures of Menachem Mendl, the original 'Luftmensch' (Air-Person). With a series of letters to his suffering wife Sheyna Sheyndl and visits from assorted shtetl characters, including the aforementioned Tevye, Bulls and Bears follows the escapades of our 'nebbish' hero Menachem Mendl as he discovers the stock market in Yehupetz.
- **March 2nd, 9pm:** *A Virtual Film Screening Award Winning Film- Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem* AWARD WINNER — Warsaw Jewish Motifs Festival 2016, Poland, Ger Mandolin Orchestra Award. Portraits of two beloved icons—Sholom Aleichem and Theodore Bikel—are woven together in this enchanting new documentary starring Alan Alda. The two men have much in common: wit, wisdom and talent, all shot through with deep humanity and Yiddishkeit. This award-winning film, "Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem," combines Bikel's charismatic storytelling and masterful performances with a broader exploration of Aleichem's remarkable life and work. Featuring Fyvush Finkel, Gilbert Gottfried, Dr. Ruth Westheimer, Allen Lewis Rickman, Sheldon Harnick & Bel Kaufman.
- **March 8th:** A Virtual Lecture "Women of Valor" Elevating Jewish Women's Voices. A LIVE Zoom with Lily Dropkin Jewish Outreach and Program Director at the Wayne YMCA in NJ. Join Lily Dropkin to learn about one of her passions - to explore Feminism throughout the Jewish culture. From biblical figures that are now feminist icons to modern Jewish women's struggle to bring equality into their religious spaces, we will discuss the intersection of Judaism and women's equality, rights, and the early feminist movement.
- **March 15:** A Virtual Interview Shmoozing with Avi Featuring Nora Armani/SR - Socially Relevant Film Festival, New York - About Nora Armani Actor/Filmmaker, Educator, Founding Artistic Director of SRFF. Nora Armani is an award-winning actor/filmmaker with International stage and screen credits and performs in many languages. Recent stage credits Off-Broadway in New York include "Terrorism" at the LenFest Center for the Arts directed by Velanu Dibba, Piradello's "Six Characters in Search of an Author" directed by Patrick Mulryan and most recently "Back on the Couch" with Nora Armani her self-penned one-woman play on Theatre Row. TV roles include "Black List: Redemption" (NBC), Casualty (BBC), Golden Boy. Her films have screened at the Cannes, Rotterdam, Paris, London, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Denver, Oregon, Kerala, Monaco, Shanghai, Yerevan and New York film festivals, winning awards. Nora Armani is the Founding Artistic Director of SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York since January 2013. Full bio and filmography on website or on IMDb.



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- **March 16-18: YI Love PurimFest**

- *Eat in Good Health: PurimFest '22 -Eat In Good Health!* A Cooking Show in Yiddish with English subtitles with Rukhl Schaechter and Eve Jochnowitz
- *Shmooze and Booze With Jews: A Virtual Kosher Wine Tasting* - A LIVE virtual kosher wine tasting. Audiences sipped and savored especially curated kosher wines LIVE with host Avi and experts Ernie and Irit from the Napa Valley winery.
- *Virtual PurimShpiel Concert with the Chorney-Ghergus Duo*: LIVE from Moldova Efim Chorny and Susan Ghergus headline the Chorny-Ghergus Duo, one of the most renowned groups in Yiddish music in Europe and beyond. They are laureates of the prestigious Moscow International Solomon Mikhoels' Art Festival (1st Prize). They have been teaching faculty in many festivals of Yiddish music.
- *Shmoozing with Avi Featuring DJ Raphi* -Originally from South Africa, resident of Jerusalem, Raphi Nathan is now a well-known international DJ, choreographer, and dancer and has performed on the biggest stages in Israel with famous singers such as Yishai Ribo, Avraham Fried, and more. He is well known for his viral social media videos "Dancing with strangers" with the Mayor of Jerusalem Moshe Lion, and his growing Youtube channel, where he offers dance tutorials to various songs with over 35 million views and 100K subscribers.
- *Purim is a Time for Fun - "Purim iz a Shpiel Aza"*- A Virtual Musical Play Reading In 1968, author Miriam Hoffman, illustrator Tsirl (Cecelia) Waletzky and composer Malka Gottlieb, iconic figures of Yiddish culture in The Bronx, New York City, got together to publish a children's musical called: Purim iz a Shpiel Aza (Purim is a Time For Fun) which retold the heroic story of Queen Esther in a beautiful, fun and musical way for Yiddish speaking Jewish children to read, celebrate and perform. In this new contemporary English translation, YI Love Jewish has preserved the original magic of this beautiful children's book. Both the English and Yiddish (with transliteration) live side by side in this new publication, reinvigorating the powerful and humorous words and the beautiful melodies of Malka Gottlieb to come together in a new program for Jewish children in the 21st century, for generations to come.
- *Shmoozing with Avi- Who Is Queen Mamata?* with Robert Skloot - Playing Purim in So. India. Robert Skloot is professor emeritus of Theatre and Drama at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he worked as a teacher, stage director and administrator. He has served as a Fulbright lecturer in Israel, Austria, Chile and the Netherlands. Bob is the author and editor of many books and essays about the theatre of the Holocaust and genocide. His play, *If the Whole Body Dies: Raphael Lemkin and the Treaty Against Genocide* (2006), has been read around the U.S. and internationally. Today he will talk to you about the Purim play called *The Magic Bottu* that he wrote and directed in 2010 while a volunteer in Vijayawada, India, for the American Jewish World Service.



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- **March 20th:** *A Virtual Interview Shmoozing with Avi featuring Moshe Waldoks* “I’m a real advocate for joy,” says Rabbi Moshe Waldoks – and TBZ’s joyful congregants agree. The child of Holocaust survivors, raised with a sense of memory and hope, Reb Moshe was educated in a Yiddish-language yeshiva in New York City. After completing an undergraduate degree focusing on the history of Jewish thought at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, he earned a doctorate in Jewish intellectual history at Brandeis University, landing him in Boston. After 12 years as a vagabond teacher, storyteller and comedian; after having co-edited, with William Novak, *The Big Book of Jewish Humor*; and after having produced 200 episodes of *Aleph*, the first Jewish cable television series in the Boston pre-internet era, Reb Moshe came to TBZ in 1998. From the outset he experimented with music and created new styles of worship, revitalize the community by implementing a tone of serious irreverence. “I don’t think that the words ‘human’ and ‘humor’ are related etymologically, but without humor we are less human,” he says.
- **March 22nd:** *A LIVE and Virtual Benefit Concert Ukraine Now! A Benefit for Solidarity* - Sponsored by Alvin and Emmelle Segal and presented by The Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County and Y I Love Jewish in association with Michael Isaacson Productions. As war tears through the lives of the Ukrainian people, three organizations have teamed up with local talent as well as national and international stars to present “Ukraine Now! A South Florida Benefit for Solidarity”. Producer Michael Isaacson joins co-hosts Avi Hoffman and Maestro Aaron Kula in welcoming a list of LIVE performers, many local South Florida celebrities, including acclaimed comedian Sarge, The Klezmer Company Jazz Orchestra, Latvian born international singer Aelita, the Robert Sharon Chorale, Cantor Stephen Texon and many more! The concert included video messages of hope from YidLife Crisis, global Jewish hip-hop sensation Kosha Dillz, Mike Burstyn, Tovah Feldshuh and testimonials from our friends in Ukraine, Moldova and the EU.

April 2023

- **April 5th:** *A Virtual Interview Shmoozing with Avi featuring Jud Newborn* Founding Historian & Co-creator of NY’s Museum of Jewish Heritage. As founding historian & a co-creator of NY’s Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, Dr. Newborn would have already accomplished more than many of us can hope to achieve in a lifetime. The Museum is committed to the crucial mission of educating diverse visitors about Jewish life before, during and after the Holocaust, mobilizing memory to teach the dangers of intolerance, and challenging visitors—including more than 50,000 school children a year—to let the painful lessons of the past guide them to envision a world worthy of their futures. Not surprisingly, Jud Newborn (PhD with Distinction, University of Chicago) is an expert on anti-Semitism, extremism, & the fight for human rights worldwide, in addition to being an author, Emmy Award winning film curator, and dramatic multi-media lecture artist.



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- **April 6th:** *A Virtual Lecture by Avi Hoffman - Yiddish Theatre: The Roots of Paula Vogel’s Indecent.*
- **April 12th:** *A Virtual Lecture by Avi Hoffman - A Breed Apart: Reflections of a Young Refugee by Miriam Hoffman*
From Siberia to Columbia University, this epic tale of war and survival is seen through the eyes of a young Miriam and her father. This highly personal and historic book brings to light the often ignored five-year history of the D.P. (Displaced Persons) Refugee Camps in Europe from 1946-1951, the struggles of post-war anti-Semitism and Professor Hoffman’s coming of age in America.



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- **April 14th:** A Virtual Lecture with hosts Arona Roshal and Hadar Pe'er Pesach: *Passover Traditions From Around the World - About Arona Fay Roshal: Growing up in Chicago, IL, Arona Fay Roshal's parents encouraged her to use her writing talents. By experimenting with poetry forms and word usage, she uncovered her ability to write humorous poems. Often written from a child's perspective, Arona's poetry tends to be playful and funny. Sometimes her poems are enriched with Hebrew words or Yiddish phrases. She has even written poems in Hebrew. Her haiku poems have been published in Haiku Journal. She wrote her thesis, Using Creative Dramatics to Improve Problem-Solving Behavior, to fulfill the requirements for her masters degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a co-author of the catalog, Tools, Equipment & Machinery Adapted for the Vocational Education & Employment of Handicapped People.*
- **April 19th:** *A Virtual Interview Shmoozing with Avi Featuring Six13 - Six13 is a groundbreaking, six-man a cappella vocal band that is bringing an unprecedented style and energy to Jewish music, with nothing but the power of the human voice. Juxtaposing the traditional and the contemporary, Six13 is anchored by a strong Jewish identity, fueled by soulful harmonies, intricate arrangements and their signature dynamic, full-band-like sound, and driven by a mission to connect Jews around the world with their heritage through music. The band is uniquely comprised of members from varied Jewish denominations and upbringings, creating an entertainment experience that has been universally acclaimed across the globe by Jewish organizations and individuals from equally varied backgrounds and generations. The New York City-based group is an international phenomenon both online, where their videos have been viewed over 18 million times, and in traditional media, having been featured in national television and press like The Today Show, The View, CBS, CNN, Huffington Post, Time Magazine and more. They performed at the White House for a private audience of President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. They've played the White House, the Chabad Telethon, Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center, and multiple times traversed New York's Fifth Avenue in the Salute to Israel Parade, headlined the North American Jewish Choral Festival, and sang for major league sporting events at Shea Stadium, Citi Field, Madison Square Garden and Dolphin Stadium.*
- **April 21st:** *A Virtual Panel Discussion -Passover: An Interfaith Perspective - A panel discussion on the historic and interfaith aspects of the iconic Jewish Holiday with musical performances from around the world. Moderated by: Avi Hoffman/ Panelists: Professor Mark Luttio (Lynn University), Ted Brownstein (Abrahamic Reunion), Dr. Debbie Almontaser (Bridging Cultures Group) With musical performances by: Frank London (Grammy Award Winning Jazz Musician), Daniel Kahn (Germany), Cantor Shira Ginsburg (USA)*



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- **April 26th** *Rebroadcast Ukraine Now! A Benefit for Solidarity*
- **April 27-28th** - *YI Remembers... Yom Hashoah*
- **April 27th**
 - 7pm: *An Interview with John and Amy Israel Pregulman - Founders of Kavod* - John Pregulman is the President and Co-Founder of KAVOD, a Denver-based organization supporting Holocaust survivors in need, which he founded with his wife, Amy. The Holocaust Legacy Photography Project, for which he has met and taken over 1224 photos of Holocaust Survivors across the world, led Amy and John to creating KAVOD. As a former professional photographer in New York City in the 1980's, John found his passion for taking photographs of survivors and has been doing so since 2012. After his time in New York, he returned to Chattanooga to join the family steel business, Siskin Steel and Supply Company. The company was sold in 1996, and John was named President/COO until leaving the company in 2005. He is currently the managing partner of Robmer Partners, a real estate company, serves his family by heading the family office as the Chief Investment Officer, as well as a Consultant for Steel Companies across North America. John is the President of the KAVOD board. Amy Israel Pregulman serves as the Executive Director and Co-Founder of KAVOD. Amy runs all aspects of KAVOD and spearheads The KAVOD SHEF Initiative. Prior to KAVOD, Amy was the Director of Cultural Arts at the Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC) where she developed the Cultural Arts Department. Under her leadership, she developed and implemented the Jewish Literary and Cultural Arts Festival; the International Jewish Film Festival; the first Health and Wellness Expo; and established and branded the patrons of the Arts Program. Amy completed her Masters in Strategic Planning and Leadership with a certificate in Nonprofit Management at the University of Memphis in 2017.
 - 8pm: *BOXED - A Virtual Film Screening* - Traumatized in a boxcar en route to a Nazi concentration camp, a husband and wife dance team find their bond of love strengthened. Produced by Shemesh Films, directed by Alyn Darnay and starring Laurel Levey and Avi Hoffman, this short film has received high acclaim and multiple awards from over a dozen national and international film festivals.
 - 8:30pm: *An Interview with the film makers* - Post-screening discussion with the creators of this award winning film.
- **April 28th** 11am: *A Virtual Interview with filmmaker Richard Krevolin* - Richard Krevolin discusses his film "Making Light in Terezin". Richard Krevolin is an award-winning screenwriter, author, playwright, and professor. A graduate of Yale University, Richard went on to earn a masters degree in screenwriting at UCLA's School of Cinema-Television, and a master's degree in playwriting and fiction from USC. He wrote, directed and produced the PBS documentary, Making Light in Terezin. He was also one of the writers of the documentary, Fiddler on the Roof: 30 Years of Tradition, which opened Off-Broadway at Theater Four in New York City in 1997 and is still touring the country. He also received a Valley Theatre League nomination for best director and best play for his one-man musical, RebbeSoul-O.



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- 7pm: *A Virtual Lecture Terezin: The Model Camp* by Robert Watson -The Terezin Internment Camp was originally a holiday resort reserved for Czech Republic nobility, which was transformed by the Nazis and their collaborators into the notorious concentration camp during World War II. A distinguished scholar and author, Robert Watson discusses and presents the truth behind the Nazi propaganda 'Model Camp'.
- 8pm: *A Virtual Interview with Carrie Robbins*, creator of "For the Lost Children of Paris." Since Carrie Robbins is known for the strength & skill of her character drawing, this might have been the thing which presaged her interest in character writing. No one's sure. But between '07 and '10, she began to put down the charcoal and sit down at the computer. Encouraged by her old friend the lovely actress Cynthia Harris, she turned out various short pieces which were read by actors from Cynthia's group TACT (The Actors Company Theatre). In 2014, Robbins produced her 1st full writing effort, 2 related 1-acts *Sawbones* & *The Diamond Eater*, about 2 wars, 100 years apart (Civil & WW2). It was directed by Tazewell Thompson & featured a plaintive score featuring haunting melodies played on the saw. These appeared at HERE/NYC and received 6 nominations from NY's Innovative Theatre Awards-the most noms given out that year. BROADWAY SHOWS, *White Christmas* (Kerry O'Malley; Brian D'arcy James), *Class Act* (Sarah Ramirez; Lonnie Price, Danny Burstein), *Grease* (Travolta), *Agnes of God* (Page/Plummer), *Isaac Bashevis Singer's Yentl* (Feldshuh), *Sweet Bird...* (Bacall), *Happy End* (Streep), *Cyrano* (Langella), Lincoln Center's *Vivian Beaumont: Time of Your Life*, *Isaac Babel's Sunset*, Miller's adaptation of Ibsen's *Enemy of the People*, Brecht's *Good Woman of Setzuan* (w. Colleen Dewhurst), Arthur Miller's *Crucible*, Sean Casey's *Plow and the Stars* (w. Jack MacGowran), Edward Bond's *Narrow Road to the Deep North*. AWARDS: Irene Sharaff/TDF's "2012-LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT" in Costume Design, Several Antoinette Perry ('Tony') Noms, 5 Drama Desk Awards & some Noms., Maharam Award & Noms, 3 USITT/Prague International Awards, Henry Hughes, LA Drama-Logue Critics' Award, Audelco, others.

May 2023

- **May 3rd:** *A Virtual Lecture by Avi Hoffman Curious Rabbinic Tales: The Shortest Tall Stories* by Miriam Hoffman - Columbia University Professor Miriam Hoffman's son, Avi Hoffman, shares tales and legends from her popular book, "Curious Rabbinic Tales: The Shortest Tall Stories." These tales talk about miracles, heroism and cowardice, but above all, the poor folk and the wealthy. In short, anything we wouldn't say openly, we would disguise in a parable or a folktale.

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- **May 13th:** *A LIVE Virtual Performance followed by a post-show panel discussion about LGBTQ+ Jewish life. The Garden of Alla: The Alla Nazimova Story by Romy Nordlinger.* A special performance of "Garden of Alla: The Alla Nazimova Story" recorded live on February 28, 2022 at Theater 555 in NYC. This critically acclaimed multimedia solo show tells the story of one of the most daring and celebrated Jewish artists of the 20th century, and probably the most famous star you've never heard of – Alla Nazimova – LGBTQ+ trailblazer, silver screen and Broadway legend, and one of the first female directors and producers in Hollywood. As an immigrant who fled Tsarist Russia and began her career in the Lower East Side with "The Chosen Ones" in Yiddish, Nazimova's fame rose to meteoric heights. One of the most prolific and brightest stars on Broadway and the silver screen – her story has been all but erased from the history books. "Romy Nordlinger is brilliant in the role of Alla Nazimova. This is a show that will touch the hearts and minds of viewers and should have a long life in the theatre. An outstanding production!" – Marina Kennedy / Broadway World
- **May 17th:** *A Virtual Interview the author of "My Name Is Staszek Surdel" - Joel Poremba* is a business attorney with twenty-three years of litigation experience in both state and federal courts. He represents small and medium-sized companies in complex business disputes and handles insurance defense matters. Prior to this, Joel litigated against billion dollar insurance companies over breached disability policies. He is a graduate of Western State University, College of Law and the University of California, San Diego with a degree in political science.

He is the son of Holocaust survivor, Nathan Poremba. Stunned after hearing his father give his testimony to the Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive in 1998, it subsequently took 21 years and an inspiring trip to Israel for Joel to finally watch his father's video testimony. Determined, Joel subsequently sat down and further interviewed his father about the details of his Holocaust survival. Joel lives in Laguna Niguel, California in Orange County.

Joel Poremba is an author with a passion for helping his father tell his story of resistance. Making good on his bar mitzvah speech to one day tell his father's story, "My Name Is Staszek Surdel" explores Nathan Poremba's life and survival in Poland before, during and after the war.

- **May 24th:** *A Live Event Gourmet kosher food* with complementary kosher wines were shared at this exclusive event at Gallery 22 in Boca Raton. The gallery was open for exhibit, and there was live music and a lecture on kosher food.



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- **May 31st:** *A Virtual Interview Shmoozing with Avi Featuring Sam Simon* -Author of "The Actual Dance: Love's Ultimate Journey Through Breast Cancer" Sam Simon describes his work with The Actual Dance as his "fourth age." He comes to it after a career as a prominent member of America's consumer movement. Trained as a lawyer, he started his career as one of the original members of Ralph Nader's first legal advocacy group in Washington, DC in 1970. Early in his career his leadership was recognized through a profile in the New York Times. Since then, Sam became a regular in the national news, appearing on programs such as Face the Nation, The Today Show, Good Morning America, CBS Morning News, The Nightly News, Phil Donahue Show and the Oprah Winfrey Show. Sam wrote the play "The Actual Dance" in 2013 and since then it has been performed over 100 times. Both the book and the play are autobiographical.

June 2023

- **June 1st:** *Boycott: A Virtual Presentation & Discussion with Jeff Mustard* - The Kosher Meat Boycott (May 10-June 4, 1902) In 1902, the women of New York City's Lower East Side banded together to create the first-ever all-female led Boycott to protest a dramatic increase in the price of beef by the nation's most powerful monopoly. Before Thelma and Louise, before Norma Rae, before Karen Silkwood, and before Erin Brockovich, there was "Fanny and Sarah," the Jewish Immigrant women of grit, spirit, and determination who initiated what has come to be known as the 1902 Kosher Meat Boycott. At a time when women did not even have the right to vote, living lives under the firm thumb of patriarchy, these indefatigable women, of common stock, leading typical lives of toil at the turn of the century at nearly the zenith of the industrial revolution, would not yield, bow, or cave to men representing the largest and most powerful monopoly of the time – the Big Six Cattle Barons, a cabal that controlled the country's entire meat industry.
- **June 2nd:** *A Virtual Lecture by Avi Hoffman -Legends of the AlephBet: The Origins of the Alphabet* - At Columbia University, Professor Miriam Hoffman spent decades researching the folklore and legends of the ancient Hebrew alphabet. Utilizing the original 1919 artistic serigraphs of master artist Ben-Tsiyon Zuckerman as well as the colorful Alefbet of master artist Michael Muchnik, each letter is also examined through its history and the literary and artistic depictions that surround it.
- **June 7th:** *A Virtual Interview Shmoozing with Avi Featuring Bill Tingling/Founder & CEO at "Tour for Tolerance"* -Bill Tingling is a remarkable altruist whose visionary leadership has been transforming society since his founding of School News Nationwide (SNN) in 1993. Determined to improve the lives of at-risk children and cautious about the power of technology to impact education, Bill implemented his concept of student-produced newspapers, magazines, and television broadcasts more than a decade before the practice became common. Bill's results teaching his singular blend of inter-disciplinary studies and ethical living principles were so successful it enabled SNN to field a cadre of teachers who've successfully served thousands of students.



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- **June 8th:** *A Film Screening followed by Interview with the Filmmaker Kaddish - A Short Film* by Razid Season In 1943, a young Ashkenazi Jew named Akiva risked a journey through Miechów in Poland in order to fulfill his obligation of honoring his deceased mother on the anniversary of her death. He gets arrested by the Nazis and finds his elderly Rabbi in Nazi's custody. The rabbi, who has lost his entire family in the Holocaust, is hoping to escape Poland for the Promised Land. Together they try to escape from the Nazis. Accompanied by the Rabbi, Akiva tries to visit his mother's grave and perform a Jewish ritual.

Born in Abu Dhabi & raised in Dhaka, Razid Season is an independent filmmaker based in New York. He has studied MFA in Film at the City University of New York. He has received a number of awards for his films from various film festivals including Columbus Jewish Film Festival, Southern Arizona Independent Film Festival, Williamsburg International Film Festival. His latest film *Kaddish* that focuses on human spirit has received its world premiere at the 43rd Asian American International Film Festival, New York and had its New York Premiere & Red Carpet Gala at the Buffalo International Film Festival. He is interested in making films that deal with humanitarian issues, and he wants his films to be a tool to speak, represent, and fight for those minority communities whose voices are not heard in the mainstream media.

- **June 14th:** *A Virtual Interview Shmoozing with Avi Featuring Mike Burstyn* Repeat presentation of Avi Hoffman's INAUGURAL interview with acclaimed American/Israeli actor, director and entertainer Mike Burstyn. MIKE BURSTYN Mike Burstyn is an internationally acclaimed American/Israeli actor, director and entertainer. Born in New York to a famed family of actors, Mike first walked out on stage at the age of three, stole the show from his father and hasn't looked back since. He has enjoyed a unique, international career on stage, screen and television, in nightclubs and on concert stages throughout the world.
- **June 21st:** *A Virtual Film Screening YidLife Crisis: Pandemish - Created and performed by Jamie Elman & Eli Batalion.* A US Exclusive Virtual Presentation Filmed Live at the Segal Centre. *YidLife Crisis* takes its signature thought-provoking shtick from the internet to the stage - and back to the internet again! (are you following this?) - to roast and skewer the tsuris we've all experienced over the last couple of years. Performed hygienically in the fleish by Jamie Elman and Eli Batalion and recorded live in their hometown of Montreal at the Segal Centre for the Performing Arts.





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- **June 22nd:** *A Virtual Concert Joe Papp at 100* Theatre icon Joe Papp is remembered and honored at his 100th birthday commemoration VIRTUAL rebroadcast of the red-carpet Gala featuring performances and celebrity cameo appearances! “Joe Papp did more to revolutionize the world of theater than any impresario in the world,” said Avi Hoffman. Hoffman and his mother, retired author, journalist and Columbia University Professor Miriam Hoffman, became friends and colleagues of Papp in NYC in the 1980s, when they launched the Joseph Papp Yiddish Theatre. After Papp’s death, they continued a close association with Joe’s widow, Gail Merrifield-Papp, and his daughter Susan Papp-Lippman, who will both be serving as Honorary Chairs of the Centennial commemoration. Papp’s vision led him in 1957 to establish free Shakespeare in Central Park followed in 1967 by The Public Theater, creating a new, dynamic way of producing theatre in a workshop-style manner that had never been tried before. The concept involved bringing artists, writers, directors and actors together in one place to brainstorm and create the foundations for new and groundbreaking productions. The most famous Broadway shows to evolve from these workshops include “Hair,” “A Chorus Line,” and “Runaways,” among the over 700 shows that Joe Papp produced and developed. He championed the cause of multicultural casting and socially relevant topics. Papp was a social activist who also helped to develop other off-Broadway experimental theaters, worked to preserve the historic Broadway Theatre District and was considered one of the most philanthropic providers of inner city access to the arts, believing that if public libraries were free, public theatre should be free as well.

This musical gala event celebrated the life and legacy of Joseph Papp.

- **June 28th:** *A Virtual Interview Shmoozing with Avi featuring Jewish Ventriloquist Jonathan Geffner.* Jonathan Geffner is the writer, creator, executive producer and star of the multi-award-winning Trillo & Suede web series. This film noir parody featuring a Jewish ventriloquist detective and his Jewish wooden partner has won a staggering 39 awards for Best Web Series, Best Comedy and more in international film contests since its debut in January 2020. Jonathan is a real life ventriloquist who is widely known as one of the most highly skilled ventriloquists in the world. Fluent in Yiddish, he is also a Yiddish teacher and translator. He is fairly fluent in Hebrew as well, and he infuses his Trillo & Suede web series with lots of Yiddishisms and Jewish humor.

August/September 2023

- **August 7th:** *A Virtual Film Screening followed by a post-screening panel discussion Beyle: The Artist and Her Legacy* presented by The National Yiddish Book Center and YI Love Jewish Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman was a woman whose life and work bridged the old world with the new. Following in the footsteps of her activist father and folk singer mother, she dedicated her life to preserving and transmitting Yiddish language and culture. Her influence reached across continents until her death in 2013, and lives on in a new generation.



ANNUAL PROGRAMMING REPORT 2022

Born to a Yiddish-speaking family in Vienna, Holocaust survivor Beyle (pronounced "bay-luh") was raised in Czernowitz. After the Second World War, she settled in the United States, where she became a central figure of a vibrant Yiddish community based in the Bronx, New York. Along with several other neighboring families, she raised her children in Yiddish. Her home on Bainbridge Avenue became a gathering place for people who wanted to be near Beyle and her remarkable songs, experiences, and ideology. She prioritized living fully in Yiddish by anyone who wanted to do so, whether or not it was their mame-loshn (mother-tongue). One can find Beyle's influence throughout the contemporary Yiddish world.

A poet and artist, Beyle was named a National Heritage Fellow in recognition for her invaluable contributions to traditional Jewish folk art. Her creative output and devotion to the continuation of Yiddish language and culture spanned seven decades. *BEYLE: The Artist and Her Legacy* tells the story of Beyle's rich life through archival recordings along with newly recorded oral history interviews with family, friends, and colleagues – in both English and in Yiddish. In keeping with Beyle's multimedia artistic practice, we have translated her paintings and sketches into whimsical animations, and weaved her story through the tradition of oral history and into a film.

- **August 16th:** *Virtual Interviews Nu Jew Shmooze! The next generation of Jewish talent.vvShmoozing with Avi Featuring YidLife Crisis, Kosha Dillz and Lea Kalisch*
- **August 30-September 4th - YI Love YiddishFest '22** Sponsored by Dr. Bruce and Lesley Zafran of Parkland and GFour Productions, and is cosponsored by the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies/George Feldenkreis Program in Judaic Studies at the University of Miami, The Betsy South Beach, Miami Beach JCC and the Adolph, Rose Levis JCC, MNM Theatre Company, Mo's Deli, Miami New Times, Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education, Florida Atlantic University and the Yiddish Theatre Alliance with the support of Broward County Cultural Council, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners and is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.
- **August 30th:** *LIVE Play Readings of "The Gospel According To Jerry"* by Richard Krevolin & Irwin Kula Starring: Lela Elam and Avi Hoffman/Directed by: Tara Weidenfeller - erry Silver is a divorced rabbi in a Brooklyn Dodgers baseball cap searching to fill a personal void. Nia Thompson is a reserved African American gospel choir director desperate to lose weight. Their lives intersect when Nia signs up for an Overeaters' Anonymous group that Jerry is leading. A heartwarming relationship unfolds in this funny, poignant new play that takes a hard-hitting look at contemporary values, Jewish - African American relations, stereotypes, and spirituality. And in the end, Jerry and Nia discover that gospel music and classic Jewish melodies just might be the key to bridging the gap that exists between us all.
 - 2pm - Levis JCC/Phyllis & Harvey Sandler Center, Boca Raton
 - 7:30pm - Miami Beach JCC.



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- **August 31st:** *A LIVE Concert at the Levis JCC in Boca Raton -September 1st: A LIVE Concert at the Miami Beach JCC* Stars of David: Story to Song. A MUSICAL REVUE BASED ON THE BEST-SELLING BOOK BY ABIGAIL POGREBIN Presented by special arrangement with Daryl Roth

This funny and captivating musical revue features original songs by the finest composers and lyricists of the theatre and celebrates the identity of some of the most well known Jewish personalities including Marilyn & Alan Bergman (Award-winning lyricists of “The Windmills of your Mind,” “The Way We Were” and others), Andy Cohen (Bravo Executive and Host of “Watch What Happens Live”), Gloria Steinem (Author, Feminist and Activist), Kenneth Cole (Fashion Designer, Activist), Fran Drescher (Actress/Comedian, TV’s “The Nanny”), Edgar Bronfman Sr. (Former CEO of Warner Music Group), Aaron Sorkin (TV/Film Writer, “The West Wing,” The Social Network), Leonard Nimoy (Actor, “Star Trek”), Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg (Supreme Court Justice), Joan Rivers (Actress, Comedian, Host of “Fashion Police”), Tony Kushner (Playwright, “Angels in America”) and Norman Lear (TV Writer/Producer, Creator of “All in the Family,” “The Jeffersons”), among others.

Their stories have been adapted into touching, humorous and often moving songs by such celebrated, award-winning writers as Marvin Hamlisch (A Chorus Line), Marilyn & Alan Bergman (Yentl), Sheldon Harnick (Fiddler on the Roof), Duncan Sheik & Steven Sater (Spring Awakening), Jeanine Tesori (Caroline, Or Change), Richard Maltby & David Shire (Closer Than Ever), Tom Kitt (Next to Normal), Michael Friedman (Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson), Amanda Green (High Fidelity), Nathan Tysen & Chris Miller (The Burnt Part Boys), Susan Birkenhead (Jelly’s Last Jam), Gaby Alter & Itamar Moses (Nobody Loves You), Daniel Messé and others.

ABIGAIL POGREBIN, a former 60 Minutes producer for Mike Wallace, is the author of “Stars of David: Prominent Jews Talk About Being Jewish” and “One and the Same” about her life as a twin. Her bestselling Amazon Kindle Single, “Showstopper,” chronicled her teenage adventures in the original Broadway cast of Stephen Sondheim’s “Merrily We Roll Along.” She writes for numerous publications including Newsweek, New York Magazine and the Daily Beast, and is writing a column for The Forward about immersing herself in the Jewish calendar for the first time: “18 Holidays: One Wondering Jew.”

- **September 2nd:** *A LIVE Lecture Celebrating Yinglish!*
 - 3pm - Coral Springs Center for the Arts -Renowned entertainer and Jewish cultural activist Avi Hoffman presents a multi-media celebration of ‘Yinglish’ - the unique American linguistic combination of Yiddish and English. From the over 5000 Yiddish words that have officially become a part of the English language, Avi has fun with the stories and words that celebrate the idiomatic phenomenon that laid the foundation for modern mainstream culture. This lecture incorporates the writings of Avi’s mother, retired Columbia University professor, author, journalist and playwright, Miriam Hoffman.



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- **September 3rd:** *A LIVE Comedy Event YidLife Crisis in YIDLIVE at Michael-Ann Russell JCC, No. Miami Beach* - Jamie & Eli, the creators of YidLife Crisis in an evening of comedy, music and thought-provoking shtick. The boychiks from Montreal present their unique take on the modern Jewish experience in a hilarious (G-d willing) multimedia presentation, including video and live music. No need to be Jewish nor knowledge of Yiddish required. Sense of humor requested. Appropriate for ages 18* - 118 (*OK, fine, anyone over Bar/Bat Mitzvah)
- **September 4th:** 3pm - *A LIVE Musical Performance at Coral Springs Center for the Arts - Still Jewish After All These Years starring Avi Hoffman.* A nostalgic, fun-filled journey through Avi's extensive and entertaining life and works, sharing engaging songs and stories of an extraordinary life in show business. Avi Hoffman was recently awarded Congressional recognition, was invited to the Vatican to meet Pope Francis and was inducted into the Bronx Jewish Hall of Fame for his lifetime work advancing Jewish culture, Yiddishkayt and Holocaust awareness through the charity he founded the Yiddishkayt Initiative, Inc. (YILoveJewish.org). As an actor, he was nominated for a NY Drama Desk Award for his Yiddish language portrayal of Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*. He is best known for his *Too Jewish Trilogy*: Award-winning one man shows "Too Jewish," "Too Jewish, Too!" (PBS, Performer of the Year '95 - NY Press Magazine; L.A. OVATION award - Best Actor In a Musical 2001; NY Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle award nominations) and his latest show "Still Jewish After All These Years." On TV, he was featured as Sid Raskin in the Starz TV series "Magic City," as well as on Netflix's *Bloodline*, A&E's "The Glades" and on the NBC series "Law and Order." He starred in the International Award-winning short Yiddish Film: "Shehita" (Best Thriller - HollyShorts Festival) and the motion picture – "The Imported Bridegroom." He was seen in the PBS documentary "They Came For Good: A History of the Jews in the US." Avi has performed all over the world, has numerous acting and directing credits and has received multiple awards and nominations.
 - 7pm - *YidLife Crisis in YIDLIVE at Mizner Park Cultural Center.* Jamie & Eli, the creators of YidLife Crisis in an evening of comedy, music and thought-provoking shtick. The boychiks from Montreal present their unique take on the modern Jewish experience in a hilarious (G-d willing) multimedia presentation, including video and live music. No need to be Jewish nor knowledge of Yiddish required. Sense of humor requested. Appropriate for ages 18* - 118 (*OK, fine, anyone over Bar/Bat Mitzvah)

October 2023

- **October 27th and 30th:** *A Virtual Interview and Discussion. INDECENT MUSIC with and by Lisa Gutkin with Special Guests CRISTINA CROWDER, MATT DARRIAU and REBECCA TAICHMAN.* From Grammy to Tony - Lisa Gutkin performs and chats about her experiences leading up to, creating, and performing in *Indecent*. Q&A with special guest Tony Award Winning Director of *Indecent*, Rebeccah Taichman.



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November 2023

- **November 1st:** *A Virtual Lecture Yiddish Theatre: The Roots of Paula Vogel's "Indecent"- A Lecture by Avi Hoffman. The history of Yiddish Theatre and the roots of Paula Vogel's "Indecent."*
- **November 9th:** *A VIRTUAL Play Reading -Sponsored by Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach for the Miami Dade County Public School System "The Education of Herschel Grynszpan" By Yale Strom. Special Screening with Talk Back Sponsored by Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach. "The Education of Herschel Grynszpan" is a story about two passengers sharing a train from Krakow to Warsaw on November 1, 1938, just before the tragedy of Kristallnacht. As the train gets closer to its destination, we find out the truth about a klezmer musician's journey and a clandestine Jewish organization illegally smuggling Jews out of Poland into Palestine with world-shattering results.*

Yale Strom is an American violinist, composer, filmmaker, writer, photographer and playwright. Strom is a pioneer among klezmer (musical tradition of the Ashkenazi Jews of Eastern Europe) revivalists in conducting extensive field research in Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans among the Jewish and Romani communities since 1981. His work focused primarily on the use and performance of klezmer music between these two groups. Gradually, his focus increased to examining all aspects of their culture, from post-World War II to the present. He was among the first of the klezmer revivalists to identify the connection between klezmer and lautare (Roma/Gypsy musicians) and explore that connection in his scholarly and artistic works. In the more than three decades since his initial ethnographic trip, Strom has become one of the world's most productive and influential scholar-artists of klezmer culture and history.

- **November 17th:** *A Virtual Interview - Shmoozing with Avi Featuring Jerzy Liniewicz Jerzy, a Polish Jew, is an independent photographer and former Polish press photographer. He participates in the life of the Jewish community in my city Lublin, Poland. The city has a long history, and Jews occupy an important place in it. In the years 1930-1939 the magnificent Yeshiva Chachmej Lublin operated here. One of his long-term photo projects and the subject of some of his photo exhibitions are related to this place. For several years, Jerzy has been photographing what has been happening there since the building was regained by the Jewish Community. The photos presented at the exhibition come from 2008-2022; the project is still in progress. In September 2020, the Yeshiva was awarded the prestigious Medal of Merit for the City of Lublin by Dr Krzysztof Żuk, the mayor of the City of Lublin.*



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- **November 22nd:** A Virtual Interview- Shmoozing with Avi Featuring Douglas Kaplan. Having been reared in a traditional (Orthodox) Jewish home, Douglas Kaplan believes the accommodation to the tenets of his faith was simple. Like many religions, the rules comprised a well-established array of do's and don'ts. His productive years were spent in the practice of law. His wife was a law professor and all three of their children were graduate, licensed lawyers. For the most part the writings contained in his blog are an outgrowth of that opportunity and effort. They represent a series of examinations into the origin, politics, mutations and restrictions of modern-day Judaism. They include matrilineally, conversion, antisemitism, and a host of other essential considerations.

December 2023

- **December 20th-29th:** *YI Love HanukkahFest '22*
- **December 20th and 21st:** LIVE Play Readings
- **December 20th :** 2pm - Levis JCC in Boca Raton
- **December 21st :** 2pm - Miami Beach JCC

"Noble Laureate: Mr. Singer & His Demons" by Miriam Hoffman & Rena Berkowicz Borow. The Nobel prize-winning author Isaac Bashevis Singer (1903-1991), who spent the last and most productive years of his life on Miami Beach, had always been a controversial figure in the world of Yiddish/Jewish literature. This play explores the parallels between Singer's family members and some of his fictional characters while navigating the complex mindset which gave rise to Singer's creative genius.

- **December 21st and 22nd :** 7:30pm: A LIVE Concert
- **December 21st :** Levis JCC in Boca Raton
- **December 22nd:** Miami Beach JCC

"I, Batsheva, Singer" - Award-Winning Singer/Songwriter Batsheva performs in Yiddish, Ladino Hebrew and English.

BATSHEVA is a Jewish folk-singer in every sense of the word. She is a musician, award-winning songwriter and a concert artist with an extensive repertoire and knowledge of songs in Ladino, Yiddish and Hebrew. Batsheva also writes comedy in English and Yiddish. Born and raised in Toronto, Canada, Batsheva has been touring the US, Canada and world wide for many years. She has appeared in Israel for the Israel Broadcast Authority and is currently on rotation on Kan Radio. Further, she is frequently featured on Raquel Zucker's Yiddish radio and other Jewish radio shows in the USA. She is currently based in Nashville, Tennessee and is signed to both the "Yiddishkayt Initiative" and "The Institute of Southern Jewish Life". In 2019, The Center for the Performing Arts at Kent State University presented a ballet created from three of her classic, translated songs of Leonard Cohen, in Yiddish, Hebrew and Spanish/Ladino.



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- December 24th at 7pm: A LIVE Concert at Temple Torat Emet, Boynton Beach- Stars of David: Story to Song - A MUSICAL REVUE BASED ON THE BEST-SELLING BOOK BY ABIGAIL POGREBIN - Presented by special arrangement with Daryl Roth. This funny and captivating musical revue features original songs by the finest composers and lyricists of the theatre and celebrates the identity of some of the most well known Jewish personalities including Marilyn & Alan Bergman (Award-winning lyricists of “The Windmills of your Mind,” “The Way We Were” and others), Andy Cohen (Bravo Executive and Host of “Watch What Happens Live”), Gloria Steinem (Author, Feminist and Activist), Kenneth Cole (Fashion Designer, Activist), Fran Drescher (Actress/Comedian, TV’s “The Nanny”), Edgar Bronfman Sr. (Former CEO of Warner Music Group), Aaron Sorkin (TV/Film Writer, “The West Wing,” The Social Network), Leonard Nimoy (Actor, “Star Trek”), Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg (Supreme Court Justice), Joan Rivers (Actress, Comedian, Host of “Fashion Police”), Tony Kushner (Playwright, “Angels in America”) and Norman Lear (TV Writer/Producer, Creator of “All in the Family,” “The Jeffersons”), among others. Their stories have been adapted into touching, humorous and often moving songs by such celebrated, award-winning writers as Marvin Hamlisch (A Chorus Line), Marilyn & Alan Bergman (Yentl), Sheldon Harnick (Fiddler on the Roof), Duncan Sheik & Steven Sater (Spring Awakening), Jeanine Tesori (Caroline, Or Change), Richard Maltby & David Shire (Closer Than Ever), Tom Kitt (Next to Normal), Michael Friedman (Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson), Amanda Green (High Fidelity), Nathan Tysen & Chris Miller (The Burnt Part Boys), Susan Birkenhead (Jelly’s Last Jam), Gaby Alter & Itamar Moses (Nobody Loves You), Daniel Messé and others.



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ANNUAL PROGRAMMING REPORT 2022

- **December 26th:** A Virtual Concert- HANUKKAH IN JAZZ TIME. with the Klezmer Company Jazz Orchestra, Aaron Kula, Director - A concert event with vocalists Lisanne Lyons and Ja'Nia Harden. About Aaron Kula: A nationally recognized conductor, educator, composer, accordionist, and producer, Aaron Kula is a Fulbright Specialist recipient and was awarded a grant in 2018 to conduct and lecture in Israel with appearances at the U.S. Embassy, Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, the Central and Southern Arava in the Negev, and music conservatories in the Western Galilee. In May 2018 the United States Congress awarded Mr. Kula a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for his “outstanding and invaluable service to the community” in the field of music. An innovator of concert programming, he has conducted concert productions of complete Broadway musicals with full orchestra including: My Fair Lady in Concert (2019), Funny Girl in Concert (2018), Fiddler on the Roof in Concert (2017), and others. Kula also led the first Florida performances of Duke Ellington's Black, Brown, and Beige in 2011 and Bernstein's Jeremiah Symphony in 2016, both with the KCJO. Mr. Kula is artistic director of south Florida's Kultur Festival now in its 13th year, and currently in residence at the Levis Jewish Community Center in Boca Raton, Florida. As a composer, he has transformed over 150 compositions by re-imagining vintage sheet music from the music archives. Mr. Kula has produced three studio albums of what is described as “world Jazz”; Beyond The Tribes (2009), Klezmerology (2011), and JubanoJazz (2016). In 2011, Beyond the Tribes was selected by a juried committee from the Library of Congress (LOC) for inclusion in the Copyright Acquisitions Division. The LOC determined that the album represented an important cross section of American culture and would “enrich the collections.” In 2018 and 2019 Mr. Kula was invited to perform at the International Yiddish Tes Fest in Bucharest, Romania. In 2011 and 2014, Mr. Kula led KCJO on concert tours to California, Arizona, Rhode Island, and in 2015, the ensemble was invited to perform in Canada at the Ashkenaz Festival in Toronto and the Montreal Jewish Music Festival. As a conductor, Aaron Kula has led orchestras throughout the US, Europe, and Israel and served on the conducting faculty at Florida Atlantic University (1997-2020) New England Conservatory of Music in Boston (1986-2013), Boston University (1995-1996), Chautauqua Music School in New York (1990-1995). An active guest conductor, he has worked with Boston Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Erie Ballet (PA), Boston Conservatory Symphony, Santa Fe Symphony and Chorus, Boca Raton Sinfonia, and New Hampshire Ballet and in 2014, was invited to conduct the Collier (FL) All County Honors Orchestra. He has collaborated with renowned artists including Yo-Yo Ma/cello, Richard Stoltzman/clarinet, Colin Carr/cello, Denise Graves/singer, Håkan Hagegård/singer, David Leisner/guitar, and members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra among others. As music director of the New England Conservatory Youth Symphony from 1986-2003, Mr. Kula led numerous international concert tours throughout Europe and Israel and organized European tours for Harvard Radcliffe and Stanford Symphony Orchestras between 1996-1998.