



Jews/Theater/Performance in an Intercultural World

February 22-24, 2009

Co-convended by Edna Nahshon (Jewish Theological Seminary, New York), Jeanette R. Malkin (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) and Peter W. Marx (University of Mainz, Germany)



The conference is supported by The Jewish Theological Seminary and the Office of Cultural Affairs, Consulate General of Israel in New York

Conference Program

For information and registration, please email hebrew@jtsa.edu or call 212.678.8972

Sunday, February 22

9:30-10:30 **Registration**

10:30-11:00 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

11:00-12:30 **The Bible as Theater**
Shimon Levy (Tel Aviv University)

The Bible as theater - a musical experience
James Reynolds (Musician, Composer)

12:30-1:30 **Lunch break** (a list of dining facilities in the area will be provided)

1:30-3:30 **Session 1: The Yiddish Stage**

Chair: David Roskies (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Neil Levin, Jewish Theological Seminary
Yiddish Musical as Agent of Americanization

Debra Caplan, Harvard University
A Tongue in Exile: Insiders and Outsiders on the Polylingual Yiddish Stage

Donny Inbar, Israel Center of the Jewish Community Federation, San Francisco
Enter the Yiddisher Jester, Exit the Philosopher: Der Yiddisher Daniel Deronda, Abraham Goldfaden's Last Play

Rachel Rojanski, Haifa University
Yiddish Theater in Israel: A Jewish Theater in a Hebrew State 1948-1952

4:00-5:30 **Session 2: Theater of Jewish Communities from Muslim Countries**

Chair: Carol Martin (New York University)

Brigitte Sion, New York University
Between Zion and France: Theatrical Performances of the Judeo-Spanish Youth Circle in Cairo (1920-1933)

Yosef Tobi, Haifa University
Jews in the North African Theater in the First Half of the 20th Century

Sarit Cofman-Simhon, Kibbutzim College of Education
From Community Theater of Protest (in Hebrew), to Professional Light Comedies (in Maghrebi): a Shift in Diasporic Culture in Israel

6:00-8:00 **Welcome Dinner by invitation only**

8:00-9:30 **Rebecca Fletcher: *A Little Yearning***
Songs of Jewish cabaret artists - Berlin, Warsaw, Paris, Tel Aviv

Monday, February 23

10:00-12:00 **Session 3a: A panel on Jews, Jewishness, and the American Musical Theater**

Henry Bial, University of Kansas

Barbara Grossman, Tufts University

Rebecca Rugg, Yale University

Stacy Wolf, Princeton University

Session 3b: The Merchant of Venice and Holocaust Memories

Chair: Shira Epstein (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Gad Kaynar, Tel-Aviv University

Everyone Gets His Due Shylock: Hanan Snir's Merchant of Venice in Buchenwald

Melia Bensussen, Emerson College

Circumcision Anxiety and The Merchant of Venice: The Traveling Pound of Flesh and Shylock's Bond

Janet Burstein, Drew University

"...those are pearls that were his eyes": Judd Ne'eman's Zitra

12:00-1:30 **Lunch break**

1:30-3:00 **Session 4a: Jews and the German Stage**

Chair: Peter Marx (University of Mainz)

Michael Bachmann, University of Mainz

Monologues of Otherness. Fritz Kortner and the Rewriting of German-Jewish History in Hans Jürgen Syberberg's Theater Films

David U. Garfinkle, University of Washington

Judaica Hysterica: A Study of Creative Literary Hysteria in Expressionist Dramas of WWI

Jeanette R. Malkin, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Jewish "Body Language" and the Pre-1933 Expressionist Stage

Session 4b: Jewish Refuseniks, Comics, and Idealists

Chair: Burton Visotzky (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Robert Brophy, Independent Scholar and Playwright

Jewish Symbols of Anti-Totalitarian Drama: Writers-Refuseniks in 80's Drama

Morton Merowitz, Independent Scholar

The Artistry of Jewish Comedy

Michael Posnick, Manhattanville College

Jewish Theater: Spiritual Dimensions

3:30-5:30 **Session 5a: From the Field**

Chair: Marion Dienstag (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Motti Lerner, Israeli Playwright, Kibbutzim College of Education

The Politics of Jewish Theater

David Chack, Northwestern University

Theory and Practical Application for Jewish Intercultural Theatrical and Performance Development

Andy Horwitz, The Foundation for Jewish Culture

Beyond Modern Drama: Envisioning Contemporary Jewish Performance and Theater

Ari Roth, Artistic Director, Theatre J, Washington DC

The role of the non-Jewish actor/author on the Jewish Stage

Session 5b: Experimental Theater

Chair: Vivian Mann (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Ilana Abramovitch, City University of New York

The Living Theater and the Jewish Question

Shana Komitee, Harvard University

The Spirit Moves: Religious Humanism in Action in Joseph Chaikin's Performance Work

Shelley Salamensky, UCLA

Imag(in)ing "Home" & "Homeland": From Theodor Herzl & Max Nordau to Guy Ben-Ner & Sigalit Landau

Carol Zemel, York University, Toronto

Hadassah and Halakha: The Interventions of Queer Jewish Performance Art

Carol Martin, New York University

Only the Translator Survives

5:30-7:00 **Dinner break**

7:00-9:30 **A Presentation and Screening of *The Dybbuk: Between Two Worlds***
by S. Anski
An Israeli Production Using Traditional Japanese Theatre Aesthetics
(in Hebrew with English subtitles)
Zvika Serper, Tel Aviv University, Director

Tuesday, February 24

10:00-12:00 **Session 6a: Early Israeli Theater**

Chair: Alan Mintz (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Dorit Yerushalmi, University of Haifa

Ethnicity, Intimacy and Popular Culture: The Cabaret Women in Tel Aviv (1944-1947)

Paola Bertolone, University of Siena

Habima in Italy in 1929 and Paolo Milano's Preparatory Work

Leah Gilula, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

A Melting Pot of European Immigrants with a Sprinkle of Sabras: The Case of The Cameri Theater (1945-1953)

Session 6b: In the American Mainstream

Chair: Janet Burstein (Drew University)

Ellen Schiff, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

"They find you, those sons of Moses": Collective Memory and the Disaffected Jew

Andrea Most, University of Toronto

Theatrical Liberalism: Jews, Theatricality and Modernity

Stuart Hecht, Boston College

"Impossible things are happening every day": Acculturation and the Cinderella Musical

William Grange, University of Nebraska

Marlon Brando and the Stella Adler Mishpocheh of the 1940s

12:00-1:30 **Lunch break**

1:30-3:30 **Session 7a: Jews on East European Stages**

Chair: Carol Zemel (York University)

Laurence Senelick, Tufts University

Jews in Fashion at the Moscow Art Theater

Alisa Solomon, Columbia University

Fiddler on the Roof in Poland

Iveta Leitane, University of Latvia

The Jewish Theater and teaterpessimismen in M. Yoffe

Session 7b: Theater and the Shoah

Chair: Ellen Schiff (Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts)

Seth Wolitz, University of Texas at Austin

Holocaust Memory in the French-Jewish Theater of Jean-Claude Grumberg

Olga Levitan, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Holocaust Themes in the Israeli Fringe Theater

Lisa Peschel, University of Minnesota

New Theatrical Texts from the Theresienstadt Ghetto

Zlata Zaretsky, International School for Holocaust Studies, Yad Va-Shem
Sami Feder: The Producer of Theater "Kazet"

4:00-5:30 **Session 8a: Representation of Jews on the German Stage**

Chair: Marion Kaplan (New York University)

Hans-Peter Bayerdoerfer, University of Munich
Restaging the Jewess: La Juive on the Contemporary German Stage

Nina Warnke, Vanderbilt University
The Taming of a Belle Juive: Deborah Before Gentile and Jewish Audiences

Matthias Naumann, Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main
Conceptions, Connotations, and/or Actions. The Conduct of Jewish Characters in Heinar Kipphardt's Plays

Session 8b: Hebrew Drama

Chair: Andrea Most (University of Toronto)

Glenda Abramson, University of Oxford
"The Fourth Covenant": Hebrew Plays of the Yishuv

Nurit Yaari, Tel Aviv University
Jewish Prayers in Hanoch Levin's Theatrical Oeuvre

Orly Wasserzug Ravid, Kibbutzim College of Education
Guy Biran's Eternal Love As a Religious "Language Game"

5:30-7:00 **Dinner break**

7:00-9:30 *Three Tales*

A Theater Performance by the Ruth Kanner Theater Group, Israel