
THE ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH THEATRE'S

**DIRECTORY OF PLAYS
OF JEWISH INTEREST
FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES**

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Publishers:

Anchorage Press, P.O. Box 2901, Louisville, KY 40201, 502-583-2288,
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Playwrights Union of Canada, 54 Wolesley Street, Second Floor, Toronto, Ontario,
 Canada M5T1A5, or info@puc.ca

See also:

Association for Jewish Theatre, <http://www.afjt.com>

USA Plays for Kids, <http://usaplays4kids.drury.edu>

Playwrights, publishers, and interested others, please note:

Annual updates of this publication are planned.

Comments, suggestions, additions, and corrections should be sent to

Sandy Asher, sandyasher@gmail.com

PLAYS AND PLAYWRIGHTS

SHARI ARONSON, 612-724-1435, shari@zpuppets.org

HERSHEL & THE HANUKKAH GOBLINS, based on the book by Eric Kimmel, 1 act, 10 m or w, doublecasting possible. This playfully interactive family comedy brings to life the story of Hershel of Ostropol. Hershel arrives in Chelmsbergville on Hanukkah, weary from travel and eagerly anticipating latkes and bright lights. However, the Townspeople insist that goblins have been preventing their Hanukkah for years. Hershel agrees to spend eight nights in the old synagogue to try to defeat the goblins and uses his wits to shine light into the dark heart of fear. Area staging. **Contact:** Playwright.

SANDRA FENICHEL ASHER, 717-824-4348, sandyasher@gmail.com, <http://usaplays4kids.drury.edu/playwrights/asher>

TO LIFE! GROWING UP JEWISH IN AMERICA, 1 act, a very flexible cast of 1m, 1w, and 12 (can be more or fewer) teenagers, all playing a variety of roles, area staging, minimal props, traditional music. Commissioned by the Omaha Theater Company's Youth Theater program, this kaleidoscopic script -- drawn from interviews, stories, and poems gathered in a series of multigenerational workshops held in Pennsylvania, Missouri, New York, and Nebraska -- celebrates more than three hundred years of growing up Jewish in America. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

TODAY I AM: FIVE SHORT PLAYS ABOUT GROWING UP JEWISH (May be performed individually, or in any combination) **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

One Foot after Another, adapted from a story by Lois Ruby. 2w, 1m, 1 boy, minimal set. Barry is 13 years old and will become a bar mitzvah and graduate college on the same day. Alma is 82, a college freshman, and hasn't been inside a synagogue since the early '30s.. They're out of step with everyone, but not with one another.

David's Star, adapted from a story by Jacqueline Dembar Greene. 2m, 2w, one set. A Sephardic Jew who prefers to keep her heritage to herself, Cara has to take a stand when her boss's anti-Semitism threatens her friend Sam.

The Heart of Buchanan, adapted from a story by the playwright. 1w, 4 girls 8 – 13. Sarah's military family moves often, but never before to a town as small as Buchanan. Sarah makes friends by singing in the choir and takes the Christmas program lightly – until she realizes its effect on her little sister.

Wrestling with Angels, adapted from a story by Carol Matas. 1w, 2 teen boys, 2 teen girls, one set. Jaci doubts her religion and feels pressured to keep up with her friends, who have decided on a boyfriend for her and a body-piercing to celebrate her birthday. But a dream interpreted by an Orthodox classmate gives her a new perspective on herself and on Judaism.

Frank and Stein, adapted from a story by Eve B. Feldman. 1m, 1w, 1 teen boy, 1 younger girl, one set. Ben Stein receives a diary as a Bar Mitzvah present and records the agony and ecstasy of the hours leading up to and beyond his big day.

THE WISE MEN OF CHELM 4m, 2w (may be expanded), minimal set, about 50 minutes. Weaving together several favorite tales from Jewish folklore of the eternally good-natured but misguided citizens of Chelm, this script sparkles with opportunities for traditional folk dance and humor. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

FLORA B. ATKIN, 301-656-1492, matkin1@comcast.net

DIG 'N TEL, 1 act, 4w, 3 or 4m, double-cast minor roles. Stimulated by the discoveries they find at a dig site near Jerusalem, a group of archaeologists bring alive stories from Jewish folk literature: a Moroccan 17th century folk tale, a Solomon legend, a mythical 19th century farce, and a Talmudic fable set in Israel. Best Original Play in Maryland One-Act Play Festival. Produced for Israel's 50th anniversary. **Contact:** New Plays, Inc.

GROWING OUT OF KNICKERS: a 20-30 minute play, 2 performers (1 male actor, 1 musician/sound effects/commentator). An enthusiastic 15 year old male one hundred years ago experiences and tells about life on the streets, in the home, and in a synagogue in Washington, D.C. Can be performed in individual classrooms. **Contact:** Playwright

TALES FROM THE REBBE'S TABLE: A Musicale (music by Shirley Udelson), 1 act, 4m, 3w, one set, a small shtetl, with three families' homes nestled around a synagogue. Each family's problems in the Eastern European shtetl are solved by the Rebbe's wisdom and wit, through tales of a tailor, a goat, and a wedding. Produced by Adventure Theatre for its 50th anniversary. **Contact:** New Plays, Inc.

TWENTY-EIGHT STEPS BELOW, an exciting and timely story from Kibbutzim Hill, 1 act, 3m, 3w who double in minor roles, two sets. A group of Jewish immigrants reluctantly take on a

clandestine, harrowing, dangerous job in Palestine during the British mandate (1944-48), under the pretense of being a kibbutz making bread, doing laundry, and growing oranges. Both fact and fiction. **Contact:** Playwright. Also, **LET'S GO TO THE SEA:** An adaptation of "Twenty-eight Steps Below" for younger elementary school children. **Contact:** Playwright.

SHOORIK AND POUFCHIK A puppet show commissioned by the JCCGW, 4 puppeteer/players, 2m, 2w. A Jewish Russian immigrant boy and his dog face bewildering surprises when they arrive in the U.S. **Contact:** Playwright.

RIC AVERILL, <http://usaplays4kids.drury.edu/playwrights/averill>

T-MONEY AND WOLF – co-authored with KEVIN WILLMOT, 1 act, 20+ actors, multiracial, unit set. What could a Nazi War Criminal and a young gang member from New Jersey have in common? From a Newark jail cell their stories unfold, and the similarities of their lives and choices become painfully apparent. By seeing the decisions made by each of these prisoners, actors and audiences are challenged to reconsider their own choices, and the finality of some consequences. This play was developed at the Kennedy Center's New Visions/New Voices symposium. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

SHIRLEY R. BARASCH, 412-276-1021, sbaraschstudio@aol.com

A BUTTON FOR MY YARMULKE, 6m, 6f, 3-6 either, flexible doublecasting possible, 45-50 minutes, area staging, uses known Hebrew songs with optional instruments/dancing. David searches for a button to cover the hole on top of his great-great-grandfather's yarmulke. His mother insists he wear it for his graduation from the Jewish Institute! He makes a journey that entertains, teaches, and touches the heart as he finds his own understanding of tradition in Jewish life. **Contact:** Playwright.

CHERIE BENNETT

ANNE FRANK AND ME 4m, 6w, simple set, available in full length and 70 minute versions. Modern teen Holocaust denier Nicole Burns doubts the truth and cares even less, but ultimately comes face-to-face with the hell of the Holocaust, and—in an extraordinary sequence—meets Anne Frank on a cattle car to Auschwitz. Nicole's teen world of MTV, hip-hop dancing, unfinished homework assignments, and young love are all transported with her to Nazi-occupied Paris, 1942-44, and then are brought forward again to the light and hope of the present. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

MIRI BEN-SHALOM, mirib@earthlink.net

I CAN CRY! Based on the memoir of Ester (Erna) Hershberg (Holtzberg). 2w, 1m. Multimedia, with documentary footage. There is a video screen at the back of the stage. The audio/visual media is on a DVD and Mini CD and computer program Power Point. On May 7, 1945, her 20th birthday, American troops gave Ester a wonderful gift... Freedom. In this inspiring true story, 70-year-old Ester relives her journey of survival during the Holocaust via her younger self. Together they experience the six years of horror, strength and hope. **Contact:** Playwright.

JULIANNE BERNSTEIN

ALEPH BET BOP! A Family Musical (Lyrics by Malka Goodman, music by E.A. Alexander) 60 minutes, 6 adults or 10-30 student actors, unit set, CD of musical accompaniment available. As Mina struggles to read her Haftorah, letters come to life and guide her through a fantastical journey. Letters speak, sing, and dance while others are played out by children from the audience. **ALEPH BET BOP!** covers the musical map of today, with blues, soft-show, rap and rock and roll. **Contact:** Deborah Baer Mozes, Artistic Director of Theatre Ariel, (215) 735-9481.

MARTIN BLANK, 301-897-8411, martinblank@verizon.net

CROSSING ISRAEL, 2w, 2m, (with flexible casting; 15 including many children), minimal set. The play begins with the birth of Zionism, and takes the audience on a journey from the Negev, to Jerusalem, to Tel Aviv, coming alive through audience interaction with historical figures, as well as people one would encounter in modern day Israel, even a Bedouin boy in an isolated village. The goal of the play is to give young Jewish and family audiences a sometimes comic, sometimes sad, but mostly hopeful sense of Israel, how it got where it is, and how its future includes each of us. **Contact:** Playwright.

HINDI BROOKS, 310-450-2751; brookshindi@yahoo.com

CAPTAIN NOAH Music by Charles Feldman, Lyrics by Feldman and Brooks. 2 acts. 1 1/4 hours. 6m, 6w, 11 m or w, optional children from the audience. The story of Noah's Ark from the viewpoint of the animals, who believe that only they were meant to be saved, but needed a captain and a crew. **Contact:** I.E. Clark. Also listed in the Pioneer catalogue.

THE MAGIC SLINGSHOT Music by Charles Feldman. Lyrics by Feldman and Brooks. 2 acts, 1 ¼ hours, 6m, 4w, 2 m or w, several extras and dancers. The story of David and Goliath. David is given a magic slingshot, but it doesn't work and he has to use his own resources. Goliath is huge, comical, and fully managed by his trainer – his tiny, feisty mother. **Contact:** Playwright.

RING AROUND THE KING 1 act. 45 minutes. 4m, 2w, 1 m or w, plus several of either gender to play multiple parts. Several of the King Solomon stories are woven into this play. The main storyline: Solomon loses his Ring of Majesty to the evil Asmodias and while roaming the countryside for help discovers his humility. **Contact:** Playwright.

ROBERT CAISLEY

LETTERS TO AN ALIEN 1 act, 2 – 6m, 1 – 2 w, simple set. Hannah feels like an alien at school. She hates her looks and her name, and she definitely feels uncomfortable being Jewish. To top it off, her parents have “sentenced” her to spending time with her grandfather, Pops, in hope that she'll learn more about her heritage. But Hannah has no interest in Jewish history, and Pops is reluctant to talk about his past. Aliens arrive on earth to investigate the sounds of Hannah's Gameboy, uncover Pops' secret, and take Hannah back to Poland in 1943. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

FRUMI COHEN <http://www.frumicohen.com>; frumi@frumicohen.com

FRANKENTEEN (musical, flexible cast, simple sets) The kids of Westwichee have lost the Science Fair for 16 straight years to a conniving neighboring junior high, and Solomon Finklestein can't seem to remember his bar mitzvah portion. Then Solomon and his best friend Alexander use Uncle Mordechai's scientific journal to create the greatest experiment of all time -- a teenage girl with green skin and huge feet. But when she springs from the cauldron, Solomon disappears. **Contact:** Playwright.

THE POWER OF ONE (musical, flexible cast from 8 to 23+, 3 sets) David Goodman and his parents are one of the few Jewish families in Branchwood, PA. When a rock is thrown through their window during Hanukah, breaking their menorah, David struggles with how to react. David's friend Caroline unsuccessfully attempts to unite her complacent neighbors, asking them to hang menorah posters in their windows for solidarity. When Caroline's window is shattered, the citizens of Branchwood are forced to re-evaluate their priorities. **Contact:** Playwright.

PAUL D'ANDREA

NATHAN THE WISE (after G.E. Lessing, based on the translation by Gisela D'Andrea and Paul D'Andrea). 6m., 3w. Doubling and expansion possible. Unit set; 1 and 2-hour versions available. In Jerusalem in 1192, the fragile peace between Muslim, Christian, and Jew is broken by a fiery young Templar, who also rescues Nathan's daughter Recha from a fire. The two young people, Jew and Christian, are drawn to each other in love and come up with an imaginative resolution to the issue of which is the one true faith, during the trial at which Nathan must defend his life. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

LINDA DAUGHERTY, www.lindadaugherty.com, lmdaugherty@earthlink.net

COME INTO THE LIGHT: A Hanukkah Musical (music and lyrics by Andi Gordon) 3w, 3m, 3 teenaged boys, 6 ensemble children. A modern day family is in conflict when, on the first night of Hanukkah, the teenage son is given a small menorah by his grandmother. In this celebration of the holiday of Hanukkah and the rich traditions of Judaism, the menorah is a catalyst for a journey back and forth in time in which the family finds meaning in their lives and their future together. **Contact:** Playwright.

SCOTT H. DAVIS, 919-676-7881, scott.h.davis@att.net

The following one-act plays are based on the short stories of the late 19th Century Yiddish writer I.L. Peretz. They may be assembled together into a full-length program. **Contact:** Playwright.

BONTSHE SHVAYG (Bontshe the Silent) 8m, 6w, gender flexible, doubling possible (and encouraged), minimal set. Throughout his hard and painful life on earth, Bontshe Shvayg is silent; his

existence insignificant. But when he dies, the Heavenly Shofar trumpets his arrival in Paradise. Offered anything his heart desires for his quiet and saintly behavior on earth, Bontshe Shvayg's humble request dismays his Defending Angel and stuns the Heavenly Court of Paradise.

WHAT IS A SOUL? 6m, 3w, doubling possible, minimal set. Three teachers--a stern, by the book Talmud teacher, a mystical Chassidic Rebbe, and a "free-thinking" Yiddish writing tutor--compete for the heart, mind and soul of a young Jewish orphan boy.

IF NOT STILL HIGHER 7m, 4w, extras, gender flexible, doubling possible (and encouraged), minimal set. A Litvak, a skeptical Jew from Lithuania, is determined to find out where the Rebbe of Nemirov really goes when he disappears each year between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. What the Litvak finds out about *tzedakah*--good deeds--changes his life forever.

EMPTY HANDED Based on the short story "At the Head of the Dying Man" 3w, 2m or w, minimal set. When the White Angel arrives to escort Rivke Baileh's soul to Heaven, she is surprised to find the Dark Angel from "the other place" already waiting beside the dying woman's bed. Rivke Baileh's choice of which Angel to accompany will surprise and challenge the thinking of your audience.

AMY DOMINY, 480-753-5510 • adominy@cox.net

THE DREAMCATCHER 1 act (approx. 50 minutes), 2w, 1m, unit set. Since the car accident with her dad, Maddy has bad dreams. Maddy has a plan to stop the dreams; she will make a dreamcatcher. If only it were that simple! When "Catch" appears, it becomes apparent that he can't catch her dream alone. Maddy wants to help -- but to do that she'll have to face her fears. In the process Maddy discovers that love lives on and memory is truly a blessing. **Contact:** Playwright.

SUSAN DWORKIN, 201-816-0926, susiesworks@aol.com

SOLOMON'S CHILDREN: A Bar-Bat Mitzvah Cantata (Music - Mozart, "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik") One act, up to 20 children, one set. The children perform tales from the life of Solomon, centering on how he built the Temple with the help of lions, bees, eagles, Hiram of Tyre, the hoopoe bird, the Great Shamir, Lieutenant Benaiah and the queen of Sheba. **Contact:** Playwright.

EDWARD EINHORN, utc61@aol.com

GOLEM STORIES, 4-5 m, 3w, 1 interior set. A retelling of the legend of a clay man in 16th century Prague. Rabbi Loew creates a Golem to defend the Jews, but this Golem seems more interested in listening to the Rebbetsin's stories and falling in love with the Rabbi's daughter. Is he the reincarnated spirit of her murdered lover? Or does his childlike façade hide the face of a demon? "Original, provocative, and, above all, humorous." *New Jersey Jewish News*. **Contact:** Playwright.

PLAYING DREIDEL WITH JUDAH MACCABEE, 1m, 1 boy; 60 minutes. A modern-day boy encounters Judah Maccabee in an abandoned room of his temple, for eight consecutive nights. The future is not what Judah Maccabee expects, and he is not who the boy expects. Can Judah understand why latkes and dreidels are meaningful, when his world is full of battles and animal sacrifice? The play examines ancient and modern perspectives on war and religion, and is a celebration of perseverance. It is filled with music and humor that transcends difficult circumstances. **Contact:** Playwright.

DAVID ELIET

The following two one-acts are published in one volume and can be performed together or separately. One unit set, suitable for both plays. **Contact:** Baker's Plays.

MAGDA AND JOSEF, 1 act, 6m, 5w, can be done with 6 actors. Based on a true story, this play is about a young Slovak woman who risks her life to save that of a Jewish man. It addresses the question, "What could I have done? I was just an ordinary person."

THE SPIRIT OF LIFE, up to 40 roles, 20m, 20w. Can be performed by as few as 8 actors. Based on Yaffa Eliach's book, *HASIDIC TALES OF THE HOLOCAUST*, this play tells the story of the Holocaust by combining historical facts with the stories of individuals who faced the unimaginable and who were sustained by their faith.

SANDRA ESKIN, 301-229-5575; sandra.eskin@comcast.net. **Contact** Playwright for the following:

MOLLY'S PILGRIM One Act, 2w and 3 girls/teenagers. Running time of 45 minutes. Musical adaptation of the beloved book at Barbara Cohen. When Molly's teacher assigns the class a project

for Thanksgiving, everyone learns a valuable lesson about tolerance of others and pride in your own heritage.

The following plays have casts of varying sizes and can be performed by high-school aged students for young, elementary-aged students.

HANUKKAH AND ALL THAT SPICE Imagine that an archeologist uncovered a scroll that had an alternate version of the Hanukkah story, featuring the Maccabee sisters.

AN APPLE, AN ARK AND LOTS OF BARK: A Tree's Eye View of the Bible A Tu B'Shvat play that presents Biblical stories from a tree's perspective.

FOUR OR MORE QUESTIONS A Passover play that asks which of the Four Questions from the seder is most important.

INDIANA COHEN AND THE LOST TABLETS OF MOSES We follow the trail of the intrepid Jewish adventurer as he tries to find the first set of tablets that Moses brought down from Mount Sinai.

THE VIZARD OF OYZ Dorrie, bored by Hebrew School, takes a trip to the land of Oyz, where she learns the importance of learning her aleph-bet and being Jewish. This play features Yiddish words and expressions.

ONCE UPON A MATZAH BALL A kosher fairy tale that teaches the difference between good and bad --- and milk and meat.

SURVIVOR: THE WILDERNESS A play that tells us exactly what life was like for the Israelites when they wandered in the desert for forty years after leaving Egypt.

HANUKKAH MONEY Adaptation of a Sholom Aleichem story in which two brothers receive lots of Hanukkah gelt but also get a lesson on the importance of tzedakah.

NO MORE KAPORES! A FOWL PLAY FOR YOM KIPPUR Adaptation of a Sholom Aleichem story in which the poultry refuse to participate in a traditional Yom Kippur ritual.

VICTOR EYDUS 408-674-7140, victor@theStoryOfEsther.org

THE STORY OF ESTHER, musical, 2 acts, 3f singing, 3f non-singing; 5m singing, 2 m non-singing, 4+ extras, if desired. In the 1970s in Russia, a group of amateur actors recreate the biblical Book of Esther. Soviet authorities, seeing the play as political provocation, do everything possible to prevent the performance. As the ancient story unfolds, the main character, like her Persian twin, discovers her Jewish identity and the link to her people. Life in Leningrad turns out to be far more cruel than in fairytale Shushan. **Contact:** playwright. Synopsis and text of the play at www.theStoryOfEsther.org

ILANA EYDUS & VICTOR EYDUS, 408-377-5785, ilana@SoloOnSax.org

SOLO ON SAX (music by Victor Eydus). Rock Ballet in 2 acts; 4 girls, 2 boys, extra dancers unlimited. A little girl named Paula is sick and tired of going to school and doing her chores. She wants to retire and have a life of fun and parties. She comes up with a plan to invest the money she gets as Bat-Mitzvah presents into a California start-up, make a million, buy a condo at the beach, and retire. For children of Bar-Mitzvah age. **Contact:** playwright. See details and libretto at www.SoloOnSax.org

NORMAN J. FEDDER 561-499-5942, fedder@ksu.edu

INBAR - a dramatization of the novel from **THE NILE TO THE JORDAN** by Ada Aharoni. 6 w, 6 m - actors play multiple roles - area staging. A young woman tries to find meaning and hope in her life as she suffers the expulsion of her 2,500 year old Jewish community from Egypt following the creation of the state of Israel. **Contact:** Playwright.

DEBORAH LYNN FROCKT

THE BOOK OF RUTH 3m, 3w, unit set, 90 minutes. Celebrating faith and community, family and unity, this is a poignant tale of love between generations. Separated from the rest of their family, Hannah and her granddaughter, Ruth, sit imprisoned in a Nazi internment camp, struggling each day to preserve their humanity, their culture, and each other. Winner of the prestigious AT&T On Stage award. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

NANCY GALL-CLAYTON (502) 636-5836, nancygallclayton@earthlink.net

DISCOVERY One act, about 35 minutes, 3w, one simple set. Christine, who has always "felt" Jewish, breaks into the adoption agency which handled her adoption along with her best friend. The agency

director finds them when she returns to search for a valuable earring she lost. Everyone makes discoveries — though not the ones they planned on. **Contact:** Playwright.

LOUISE GARCIA, 00 44 1209 217672, lg@truroschoo.com, <http://www.themischling.com>

THE MISCHLING, full-length musical, flexible cast of 50 - 70 plus (min. 17m, 23f plus 10 dancers). Songs on CD / Sibelius / score. First performed at the Burrell Theatre, Truro, UK, June 2007. Mariana's journey from a Convent schoolgirl in Nazi Germany to the accidental discovery of her Jewish roots, betrayal and her flight to Britain on the Kindertransport. She re-builds her life in Britain during the time of Dunkirk, internment and the Blitz and falls in love with fellow Kindertransport refugee Daniel, leading her ultimately to the newly-formed state of Israel. **Contact:** Playwright

NED GINSBURG AND DAVID SCHECHTER, 212-714-2951, ned@nyct.net, 212-627-8645.

WELCOME TO THE TALMUD (A Musical Tale!) Two-act, some sets, 8m, 3w, 3 kids. Thirteen-year-old Rachel has a dilemma: How can she write a speech for her bat mitzvah when what she has been assigned doesn't seem to have any relevance to her own life? Rachel summons ancient figures to help her: Rashi, a medieval scholar, and Shlomo, his scribe. They lead her back to Akiba and Rakhel, the fabled second century couple from the Talmud. In observing their story, modern Rachel reconnects with her Judaism while learning about tolerance, commitment and love. **Contact:** Playwright/composer.

VICKY GLIKIN vickyglikin@yahoo.com

THE STAR SPANGLED ADVENTURE (45 minutes) 9f, 3m, 5m/f, extras/double-casting possible. Musical play using traditional Jewish songs. Early 1900s. A family is forced to depart Eastern Europe due to a pogrom. Leaving Grandma behind, Mother, Father, and 3 children make their way to America. Through hard work and good fortune, the family discovers that America is truly a land of opportunity. The play culminates in a wedding celebration and closes with a bit highlighting Jews' contributions to the US since 1654. **Contact:** Playwright.

IAN GOWER, 01442890229, <http://www.noahthemusical.co.uk>

NOAH THE MUSICAL Music and lyrics by Ian Gower and Rob Alderton. In this new adaptation, Noah tries to warn the evil and stubborn council of Baasha that the wicked ways of man must stop. A day of reckoning is forecast, but the council fail to take any action. Noah and his family are told by God's messenger, Stella (story teller) to construct the great Ark and fill it with two from every species. Chaos and hysteria ensue as Noah and his family attempt to board the menagerie. Finally the floating zoo embarks on its epic voyage – a journey of comedy, tragedy, suffering and hope. **Contact:** Playwright.

JAMIE GREENBLATT, 510-486-1742, jamiieg@sonic.net

DONKEY FACE, 1 act, 3m, 3f, unit set. "Donkey Face" utilizes puppetry, music and circus arts to tell its story of hope and courage set in Jewish Morocco in the 1800s where genies, magic, and walled cities are part of the landscape. This play is suitable for a family audience. **Contact:** Playwright.

CLAUDIA HAAS, Mattkirs@msn.com, <http://theatreink.tripod.com>

THE TAILOR 1 act, 45 minutes. 3m, 5f. Simple staging and design requirements. An adaptation of the Yiddish folktale of a thrifty tailor and his fine, new overcoat. Woven together are the threads of a tailor's life that mirrors the life of his overcoat. 2nd Prize Marilyn Hall Beverly Hills Children's Play Writing Contest 2002. **Contact:** I.E. Clark.

BEATRIZ HAL

MIRACLES AND TRAGEDIES, translated from Hebrew, 1 act, 1 set, 2m (13 and 70) 1w (35). The play recounts two journeys simultaneously. The first, the inner world of Amos, an Israeli boy on the brink of Bar Mitzvah, full of confusion and hostility. The second is the journey of his grandfather, also nearing Bar Mitzvah, during the time of the Holocaust, seeking refuge and striving to survive. The story of the grandfather and his love for his grandson comforts Amos and helps him to mature. **Contact:** Nephesh Theatre, P.O. Box 6195, Tel Aviv, 61061, 972-3-6044016, nephesh@inter.net.il

NIKKI HARMON

AN IMPLAUSIBLE CLAUS 1 act, 1m, 1 girl, 1 set. The Ho Ho Hotline is being answered by residents at a retirement home so that children can talk to Santa or Mrs. Claus. Jencie, with her home computer, hacks into the phone company's data banks to find the address and comes in search of Santa. What she finds is "Santa Lefkowitz." "I don't believe you," she says, "Santa's not Jewish." "Who else would work on Christmas?" Lefkowitz retorts. Imagination and a unique humor bridge the gap between them. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

JEFFREY HATCHER

KORCZAK'S CHILDREN 13f, 15m, (20-28 actors possible), 100-120 minutes. During the Nazi occupation of Poland, Dr. Janusz Korczak tries to keep the 400 Jewish boys and girls of his Warsaw orphanage alive and hopeful in the face of deprivation and terror. Against the rules of the ghetto, he permits his orphans to stage a magical play to teach them about the one adult subject he has not yet broached with: death. As the play is rehearsed, Korczak must decide who can be saved and who must go on the final journey together. **Contact:** Playscripts, Inc.

KIM HINES

HOME ON THE MORNIN' TRAIN 6m, 7w, area staging. Drama with songs. In Germany, 1939, Jewish children being led to Denmark by teenager Karl read about black children in Talledega, Alabama, 1839, who were led to freedom in Canada by a teenaged runaway slave named Brave Mary. Trials and tribulations beset both groups of children as they make their way to safety through different versions of the Underground Railroad. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

WILLY HOLTZMAN

HEARTS 4m., 1w. (Multiple roles played by an ensemble of actors.) 70 minutes, area staging. Donald is an 18-year-old Jewish street kid when he graduates high school in June of 1944. Six months later he's fighting for his life in the Battle of the Bulge as a forward observer for the 71st Infantry. *Hearts* moves back and forth between the closing days of combat and Donald's postwar pursuit of the American Dream. Rather than surrender to the trauma of the past, he finds the courage to search through memory to liberation day at Buchenwald and the tragic secret that has nearly devoured him. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

RAND HOPKINS

THE TOP TEN (music by Phillip E. Allen) A musical countdown of the Ten Commandments, THE TOP TEN includes a disc jockey, lively songs, and, of course, the Ten Commandments. Written for children of all ages. **Contact:** Kim Goodfriend, Marcus JCC of Atlanta, 770-395-2614.

SUSAN HOROWITZ (212)732-0487, drsue@drsue.com

HEARTS OF FIRE Fast-paced, family comedy inspired by Chanuka story. Deborah, a teenage street vendor with a pet bear, disguises herself as a boy to join the Maccabee army. She falls in love with Ben, Judah's nephew, who's engaged to Bathsheba, who loves Achilles, a soldier who serves the mad General Apollonios, who wants to sacrifice Bathsheba (Judah's ward) in the Temple! Unit set. 3w, 4m + anyone who can play a bear! **Contact:** Playwright.

JOHN JAKES

DARK OF THE SUN The time is now, the place, the world. A young Arab guerrilla is captured on the Israeli-Syrian border. Hannah and Esther refuse to sympathize. Miriam pleads that trust and forgiveness must start somewhere if the killing and the horror are to end. (Included with another one-act about conflict in Ireland, under the umbrella title VIOLENCE.) **Contact:** Baker's Plays.

ERNEST JOSELOVITZ and HARRY MICHAEL BAGDASIAN

CAPTURE THE MOON 1 act, 4m, 2w, unit set. (A second version is also available for 13-24 actors.) The citizens of Chelm attempt to solve a streetlighting problem by capturing the moon and harnessing moonlight. The failure of their first attempt (to capture and store the moon in a barrel of water) forces them to seek the help of the neighboring Christian village, to climb their church steeple (almost) up to the moon. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

GABRIELLE KAPLAN-MAYER

THE MAGIC TANACH A book of 24 plays, elementary through high school, that explore folk tales, Bible stories and Jewish values.

EXTRAORDINARY JEWS: STAGING THEIR LIVES A collection of eight biographical plays for teenage audiences. Subjects include Hannah Senesh, Bella Abzug, Ida Kaminska, Emma Goldman, Leonard Bernstein, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Aaron Lansky, and Yitzhak Rabin.

Contact for both books: A.R.E. Publishing, Inc. (<http://www.arepublish.com>)

KATHLEEN KARDON, kathkard@satx.rr.com or 210-481-3913

IN GOD'S HANDS Kathleen Kardon (script and lyrics) and Linda Kaufman (lyrics and music) of the Beth-El Players. *In God's Hands*, a musical based on Rabbi Lawrence Kushner's and Gary Schmidt's book by the same name, is the story of a rich man and a poor man who are brought together in an unusual way with the help of their faith and a mischievous angel. **Contact:** playwright.

STEVE KARP

FRATERNITY, 5m., 1w., 80 minutes, unit set. It's 1961 on the campus of a New England university. Sam Katz, a freshman, aspiring football player, and a Jew is being rushed by Delta Phi Delta, one of the oldest national fraternities in the country (with its origin in the Deep South). Sam is told by the fraternity's president that the brotherhood wants to challenge the fraternity's anti-Semitic traditions and needs Sam's commitment to pledge in order to set the challenge in motion. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

LINDA KAUFMAN AND CARLA SILEN, 210-493-3910, lesterella@aol.com

Contact: Playwrights, for all of the following:

THE CHANUKAH GUEST Book and lyrics by Carla Silen. Music by Linda Kaufman. One act, area staging, 5m, 12w, 5m/w (chorus), character condensing possible. Nearsighted Bubbe Brayna has made a Chanukah feast to share with the village rabbi. When a grumpy bear freshly wakened from hibernation shows up instead, she mistakes him for the rabbi and cheerfully shares her table with the beast. A charming story of mistaken identity and fellowship. From the book by Eric Kimmel.

ESTHERELLA, musical, 2 acts. Amusing but challenging story of a Jewish girl trying to pass as a Persian queen, only to find that she must risk her life and love to save that which she is trying to hide.

HERSHEL AND THE HANUKKAH GOBLINS Book and lyrics by Carla Silen. Music by Linda Kaufman One act. Area staging. 9m, 7w, 5-10m/w (chorus). Doubling or trebling possible. Hershel of Ostropol is called upon to drive a gang of Hanukkah-hating goblins from their haunt in a nearby village's shul. With patience, boldness, and wit, he dismisses goblin after goblin until he comes face-to-face with the King of the Goblins himself. With the fate of the village's holiday hanging in the balance, Hershel must marshal all his cleverness in order to emerge the victor. From the book by Eric Kimmel.

OF GOOD COURAGE, 1 act. A combination of several Hasidic folk tales, the play presents the familiar story of the miser redeemed while examining the concepts of Teshuvah and forgiveness.

THE LATKE REVUE, Skits and Lyrics by Carla Silen. Music by Linda Kaufman. One act. Area staging. 1m, 4w, 5m/w (chorus). Doubling possible. The lighter side of Chanukah is explored with the help of a Jewish cowboy, the Marx brothers, and spirited tunes (traditional and otherwise). Audience participation with the songs is highly encouraged.

THE LATKE ROCK Book and lyrics by Carla Silen. Music by Linda Kaufman One act. Area staging. 5m, 12w, 5m/w (chorus). Character condensing possible. It's Chanukah in Ostropol, but Hershel's family has no latkes and the neighbors are unfriendly. With promises of a happy Chanukah, Hershel produces a magical latke rock said to have meal-producing powers. The curious neighbors investigate this claim, but the rock needs potatoes, eggs, and oil to aid its potency (all of which is eagerly provided). Food and fellowship result in a happy holiday from all. From the traditional folktale "Stone Soup."

THE MAGIC MENORAH Book, lyrics, and music by Linda Kaufman. Additional Material by Brian Billings, Michael Hardy, Kathi Kardon, Rachele Neuman, and Diana Samuels. 5m, 3w, 5-10m/w (chorus), doubling possible. One act. Area staging. Stanley hates Chanukah. Between the tumult of his family and the extra chores he has to do, there's never any time for fun. When Stanley and his sister, Emily, free a genie from a magical menorah and are treated to a series of lighthearted adventures, Stanley realizes the true meaning of Chanukah – the connection shared between family and friends. From the book by Jane Breskin Zalben.

1001 CHICKENS Book and Lyrics by Carla Silen. Music by Linda Kaufman. Two acts. Unit set. 13m, 16w, 5m/w (chorus). Doubling possible. Blossom of Chelm is constantly dreaming of fairy tale romances and yearning for adventure. When she's sent to care for the world-famous Sages Three, she hopes to realize her secret ambitions, but the bumbling know-alls quickly sour her anticipations. When the King of Chelm seeks the sages' counsel to save his son from a ludicrous death sentence, Blossom seizes the opportunity to claim her desired destiny. From the book by Seymour Rossel.

OUT OF UR Book and Lyrics by Carla Silen Music by Linda Kaufman. Two acts. Unit set. 5m, 5w, 10-15m/w (chorus). Doubling possible. The city of Ur in Mesopotamia is a thriving metropolis. Life is sweet for everyone but Abram, the son of a prosperous idol-maker, who feels drawn to question Sumerian polytheism. After defying social custom with tragicomic results, Abram, trusting in the mercy of a single, benevolent God, leads his family out of Ur and into the early annals of Jewish history.

THE PIRATE PRINCESS Book and Lyrics by Carla Silen. Music by Linda Kaufman. Two acts. Unit set. 11m, 14w, 5-10m/w (chorus). Doubling possible. Thanks to a mystical prediction, Princess Louise is slated to marry a foreign prince rather than her chosen betrothed. Rebellious, she takes her nanny and sails away in search of her freedom. With a long line of secondary suitors and a bevy of bloodthirsty pirates waiting in the wings, Louise must brave perils aplenty before she finds the port of her choice. From Howard Schwartz's Elijah's Violin.

PSALMS ALIVE!, skit. A musical presentation based on the Psalms and the story of David.

SEDER SONGS, skit. Musical program designed for presentation by elementary grades.

YOUSEF'S PARTNER Book and lyrics by Carla Silen. Music by Linda Kaufman. Two acts. Area staging. 5m, 5w, 5m/w (chorus). Doubling possible. Unhappy with their wives and their lives, Yousef and the demon Asmodeus unite forces to build themselves a rich and non-henpecked existence. Using a shady scheme in which the demon possesses humans for Yousef to "cure," the two become wealthy and contented . . . until Yousef decides to cheat his partner. From Howard Schwartz's Elijah's Violin.

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING MATZOH, skit. Everything's ready for the Seder, but what has happened to the matzoh?

HANK KIMMEL, 404/634-8334, hankkimmel@mindspring.com

KING DAVID AND THE GIANT 60-75 minutes, flexible cast of 8, simple set suggestive of a forest, castle, and cave. David, the King of Israel 3,000, encounters Goliath's angry brother who seeks revenge against the aging, overconfident king in a play based on a fairy tale of the same name. Simple set suggestive of a forest, castle and cave. Play may be done through puppets and puppetry.

Contact: Playwright.

MATZA FOR THE RICH (Based on the Avraham Reisen short story with the same name. Permission granted.) 6 actors, simple set suggesting a bakery. It is three weeks before Passover, and the poor workers of a Russian bakery are cautiously hopeful for a big tip when the richest lady in town places an order. **Contact:** Playwright.

THE FATHER-SON CAMPOUT 15 minutes; 2m, offstage voice, bare stage suggestive of the desert. Based on the Akedah (binding) story in the Book of Genesis (22:1-24) where G-d asks Abraham to sacrifice his son Issaac. The Bible offers few details about what actually transpired on the way to Mt. Moriah, and this play is an attempt to humanize this event. **Contact:** Playwright.

MALICE AT THE PALACE: The True Story Of Purim One hour, ensemble of six actors can play 14 roles, although minor roles can be performed with additional actors, area staging. A dramatic interpretation of the Book of Esther. While most Jews knew the essence of the Purim story, details about the actual story – the intrigue, ruthlessness and deliverance – are often taken for granted or unknown. Featuring a strong woman (Esther), the play may be geared toward youth and adult, Jewish and non-Jewish audiences. Though an historical drama, there should be a fanciful tone. **Contact:** Playwright.

WINNERS NEVER QUIT 10 minutes, 2 actors, simple staging. After seeing his son strike out four times, a father with his own checkered athletic career tries to convince his eight-year-old son to stick with baseball – and his words have an inspiring effect but not in the way he intended. **Contact:** Playwright.

LOIS KIPNIS

THINGS CAN ALWAYS BE WORSE! 1 act, 30+ roles for a minimum of 8 actors, bare stage. Based on a Rumanian folktale. One chaotic Chanukah eve, Papa teaches his family a lesson by retelling a

story his father always told him about Mendel, his large, argumentative family, and the rabbi who suggests they try bringing chickens, a cow, and a goat into their crowded hut. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

BERNARD KOPS

DREAMS OF ANNE FRANK Music by David Burman. 4m, 4w. "Celebrates Anne Frank's vitality, while at the same time reminding us of the evils . . . that led to her death and that of millions like her." *What's On*. Winner of the *Time Out* award for best children's production during its London premiere. **Contact:** Samuel French, Inc.

BARRY KORNHAUSER bkornhauser@thefulton.org

WORLDS APART (formerly **ANOTHER COLUMBUS**) (I/B), 1 act, 2 m, 1 f, 1 m or f; minimal set; masks. In 1493, Columbus's son Diego is serving as a page in the Royal Court of Spain. He presents a crude theatrical recounting his own adventure: Escaping the monastery where his father had "abandoned" him, Diego attempts to stow away on the Santa Maria. Instead, he inadvertently boards a Jewish exile ship where his story becomes entwined with that of a young Jewish girl. And so begins an unanticipated journey of discovery. **Contact:** playwright.

STOP AND SMELL THE ROSENS; short 1 act; 1 m, 1 f, 2 m or f; minimal set. Rosen is living the typically frenetic life of a modern American teenager, at least until his long-neglected soul decides she's had enough and walks out on him. This sparks some *soul-searching* about his priorities, giving Rosen a new-found appreciation of what "remembering the Sabbath and keeping it holy" really means. **Contact:** playwright.

V. GLASGOW KOSTE

THE TOLSTOY STORY PLAY 1 act, age/gender flexible company of 5 – 20+, area staging. Inspired by Tolstoy's tellings of Russian folktales, this story theatre play celebrates the glory of story as a human survival tool and art. Its theme is that each person's real life is in itself a complex story, to some degree authored, acted, and directed by its protagonist. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

ELIAM KRAIEM

SIXTEEN WOUNDED 2 f. 3 m. The action revolves around the fateful colliding of two seemingly disparate lives - a lonely, emotionally remote Jewish baker, and a passionate, young Palestinian far from home. A friendship evolves as the two struggle with their personal identities and their loyalties - to their past, their beliefs, and, finally, to each other. But can this relationship stave off the inevitable? **Contact:** Samuel French.

JOANNA HALPERT KRAUS, 925-939-3658, <http://usaplays4kids.drury.edu/playwrights/kraus>

ANGEL IN THE NIGHT 2 acts, 4m, 4w, 1 girl, with doubling; area staging. Based on the true story of a Polish Catholic teen. In the present, survivors meet to honor her. In the past, 1942, a Jewish family begs for help. At great peril to herself, Marysia hides and protects them for two years. When Nazis arrest, starve, and beat her, she will not betray the fugitives. As the Russians advance, a Polish guard helps her escape. Commissioned by the Honor of Humanity Project, under the direction of National Louis University, in affiliation with the Avenue of the Righteous. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

REMEMBER MY NAME 2 acts, 5m, 5w, area staging. A young girl's survival in wartime France and the courage of those who protect her from the Nazi Holocaust. Apart from her parents, her heritage and her name, the young girl matures from a sheltered child to a determined adolescent who fights for her country -- and her life. Nearly caught by Nazis, she's befriended by a village priest, a war widow and members of the Maquis (Underground Resistance). Inspired by historical accounts of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon. **Contact:** Samuel French.

MARCIA JEAN KURTZ, 212-242-1761, marciajean@mac.com

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS, 1 act (75 minutes), 4m, 4w (double-casting very possible); 1 set, area staging or unit set. An actress researching the role of Leah in the *THE DYBBUK*, falls in love with a Lubavitch young man and he with her. Caught between the secular and religious worlds, their relationship, (the play within the play), parallels that of the lovers in *THE DYBBUK*, with a much happier ending. **Contact:** Playwright.

DOUGLAS W. LARCHE

NUMBER THE STARS (available as straight play and musical) 7m, 7w, extras as desired; area staging. Based on the award-winning book by Lois Lowry. During the German occupation of Denmark, young Annemarie and Kirsti Johansen face soldiers, interrogations, fierce dogs, personal danger, the loss of loved ones and their own fears as they try to help their friend Ellen Rosen escape across the ocean to Sweden and safely. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

SHIRLEY LAURO

THE CONTEST, 6 f. 3 m. Int. A shy adolescent, Bevvie Sue, is caught in the web of her hilarious but powerful mother's fantasies of gaining fame and fortune through contest entries, her beloved immigrant father's broken dreams and ambitions, and her rich judgmental relatives. Set in a small midwestern city in the middle of World War II, the story sweeps through a year in this American Jewish family's life, as Bevvie Sue struggles to disentangle herself and emerge as her own person: a young woman, eager for life, on her way to finding her own place in the sun. **Contact:** Samuel French.

ART LEVINE, (850) 455-1863 justonegal@hotmail.com

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS: a tale of Hanukah One Act, musical, 5m, 4w; 10 children. Doublecasting. 1 set. Typical teenagers inherit an abandoned downtown synagogue. Inside the angel Sandalfon waits for a minyan of prayers to escort to heaven. Their ancestor's hopes inspire the kids to rededicate the shul and provides Sandalfon ten prayers to escort. **Contact:** Playwright.

SUSAN LIEBERMAN, (847) 251-1030, susan@BuildingGroup.com

PRAIRIE LIGHTS Book by Susan Lieberman, Lyrics by David Rush, Music by Rosalie Gerut. 2 acts, 4m, 4w; 5 teen (or younger) boys, 5 teen (or younger) girls --youth roles flexible on age, gender & number. PRAIRIE LIGHTS follows the journey of a Jewish brother and sister who are sent on an Orphan Train with other homeless youngsters to Nebraska in December 1905. As Wellspring prepares for Christmas, Rose and Benjamin are adopted by the Birnbaums, a childless Jewish couple who keep their menorah -- and their faith -- hidden from the rest of the tiny town. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing

LESLIE MARKO and LAERCIO SPATZ, lesliem@uol.com.br, 55-11-39633527; 55-11-91947188

SHABBAT, A JOURNEY (in Portuguese, Spanish, and English) 2 m or f, college aged. Two 10 year old children, one of them Jewish, the other Catholic, decide to play Shabbat. The young audience helps them, giving ideas or remembering parts of Shabbat. The play works with actors and puppets of different sizes representing the children's parents, grandparents, and friends at the building playground. Through the game of playing Shabbat they go into the journey of understanding and living the day as an opportunity to join and develop their different identities. **Contact:** Playwright.

RALEIGH MARCELL

AND ALSO MUCH CATTLE 1 act, 11 roles with any combination of m/f in the chorus, unit set. A clever adaptation of the Book of Jonah. "Camel-trader, potter, jack-of-all-trades yet expert in none," Jonah is called to save a people for whom he has nothing but hatred. After attempting to elude his calling, Jonah reluctantly does God's bidding. His transformation from potter to prophet is successful; he saves people. But does he save himself? A parable of tolerance. **Contact:** Encore Performance Publishing.

JEFF MESHEL

THE THIRD THIRD, translated from Hebrew, 1 act, 1 set, 3w (16, 36, 72) Sensitive portrays the process of the relationship of a 16 year old girl who volunteers to work with an elderly but lively woman. We also simultaneously see the effect this relationship has on the girl's life at home, being raised only by her mother. In the simple acts of giving, great power and hope is received by all involved - 3 generations of women. The play is enjoying its 13th season in Israel! **Contact:** Nephesh Theatre, P.O. Box 6195, Tel Aviv, 61061, 972-3-6044016, nephesh@inter.net.il

NEVILLE MUR, nevillemur@att.net

BAR MITZVAH BLUES Short 1-act, 2m, 1w, 1boy, bare stage/table & chairs. Also available as a 5 character, 2 act as **BROOKLYN BAGATELLE**. May of 1948, after Israel was recognized as a free independent state, should be the best of times for Jews all over the world. Unfortunately it's the worst of times for the Jacob Mann family in their Brooklyn apartment, as Jacob's youngest son, Nathan, has been expelled from Hebrew School by the Rabbi for making blasphemous remarks in class. Who will teach this 12-year old, who has his own ideas of Judaism and interpreting the Old Testament? **Contact:** playwright.

SHELDON OBERMAN, soberman@mts.net

THE ALWAYS PRAYER SHAWL Based on the playwright's book. 60 minutes, area staging, 20 speaking parts + extras, if desired, can be played by 4m, 1w. Adam, an old man, tells his life story to convince his grandson to value tradition, so he will accept a bar mitzvah. As a boy, Adam must leave troubled Russia for America with his parents. His grandfather, staying behind, gives him a single precious possession, a prayer shawl, which helps Adam face the challenges of change as it represents the shelter of his grandfather's heritage of folktales, songs, spirituality, and wisdom. **Contact:** Playwright.

KIRA BOLENSKY

HIDING IN THE OPEN Two Jewish teenage sisters survive the Holocaust by assuming false Catholic identities. In 1942, three years after the Germans invade Poland, Sabina and her sister escape the ghetto just hours before being shipped to the concentration camp. Moving from place to place to avoid being recognized, the sisters find themselves working as maids at a hotel favored by the Gestapo. Based on the memoirs of Sabina Zimering. **Contact:** Ron Pelusco, Artistic Director, The Great American History Theatre, rpeluso@historytheatre.com.

MARK OGLE

THE DIVIDING TREE 2 acts, 2m, 2w, 1 teen girl, 1 teen boy, 1 girl, one interior/exterior set. A unique and relevant holiday drama that tells the story of a newly formed, mixed-religion family and the sometimes humorous, sometimes tense conflicts that arise during the Christmas/Chanukah season. **Contact:** Encore Performance Publishing.

TOM QUINN

NO EASY ROAD TO FREEDOM 1 act, 2m, 2f, found space with props. The struggles for acceptance of a wide range of minority groups throughout American history -- African-American, Asian, Italian, Latino, Jewish, and Native American -- illustrated through poetry, drama, and song. **Contact:** Encore Performance Publishing.

ARNOLD RABIN

THE MAN-CHILD 6m., 4f. (1m. non-speaking). The road to manhood is not often easy. But it certainly can be funny. In this touching account of the days preceding young Allen's Bar Mitzvah, everything that can go wrong, seems to. The nervous boy's new suit is late and a lie turns the boy against his mother. The narrator, wise old Mrs. Wishnefsky, the boy's grandmother, guides us through the story of a young boy who learns to conquer adversity in order to become a man. **Contact:** Baker's Plays.

CELESTE RASPANTI

I NEVER SAW ANOTHER BUTTERFLY (available as full-length and one-act) 4m, 7w, 4 children, extras; area staging. Over 15,000 Jewish children passed through Terezin, and only about 100 were alive at the end of WW II. One of the survivors, Raja, tells their story and her own, of teaching when there was nothing left to teach with, and hoping when all hope was gone. Based on original poetry and artwork. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

AVIVA RAVEL, avivaravel@aol.com

Contact: Playwrights Union of Canada for the first four of the following:

LEGENDS OF KING SOLOMON 1 act, 2m, 2f (with doublecasting) 1 set, for ages 6-12. The fabulous legends surrounding King Solomon are dramatized for the stage. We meet remarkable characters

such as the Queen of Sheba, the King's Chief Chamberlain, diverse animals, insects, birds, inhabitants of the ancient kingdom of Israel, and King Solomon himself.

ONE POTATO, TWO POTATO 1 act, 2m, 2f (with doublecasting), 1 set. The audience is invited into the world of spunky children growing up during the Depression. Despite economic hardships, these children of Jewish immigrants play creative games, engage in adventures, and form meaningful relationships. Originally set in Montreal; can be set in any large North American city.

THE SHOLOM ALEICHEM SHOW 1 act, 2m, 2f (with doublecasting), 1 set. Eight stories by Sholom Aleichem are dramatized for family entertainment. Stories include On Account of a Hat; The Pocketknife; Mayer-Shnayer and Shnayer-Mayer; My brother Eli's Drink.

THE MAGIC TRANSISTOR 1 act, 9 actors – 6m, 3f (interchangeable) and extras. The Purim saga is re-enacted when two Martian children, Mabel and Label, arrive in ancient Persia with the aid of a magic transistor. The children's comments on what is transpiring and their interference makes this play an original and comedic interpretation of the classical Purim tale.

A PERETZ CARNIVAL 1 act, 2m, 2f (with doubling), 1 set. Eight stories by I. L. Peretz are dramatized for the stage. The plays capture the philosophy and imagination of this master story teller. Plays include Bontche the Silent; If Not Higher. **Contact:** Playwright,

MIRIAM'S WELL Music by Tim Rideout. Lyrics by Aviva Ravel. In 12 scenes exploring the role of Miriam in the Exodus, the play dramatizes Biblical scenes such as Moses in the Bulrushes, Slavery, The Ten Plagues, Crossing to Freedom, Life in the Desert, The Golden Calf, and more. In the original production, one actor played Miriam, the other performed the roles of Story Teller, Princes Batya, Yocheved, Tsipora, and various Israelites. The set consisted of a tent. Suitable for ages 5 - 13. **Contact:** Playwrights Guild of Canada, orders@playwrightsguild.ca.

MONICA RAYMOND

HIJAB Fifteen minutes, 2f. Jewish teenager Jennifer has decided to wear a hijab, a Muslim women's head scarf, to high school, to the horror of Deidre, her single, ex-hippie mother. The play traces the twists and turns, and ultimately the surprising reversal, of their encounter. Set in the contemporary United States. Prior performances at Playwrights Platform, Vital Theatre (NYC), Boston Playwrights Theater. **Contact:** mersouri@hotmail.com.

HANOCH REIM (with Yoav Barlev) hanock-r@smile.net.il

GOING HOME (also in collaboration with Sharon Bajer and Kayla Gordon; music by Avner Kenner) 1 act, minimal set, 1m, 1f. A young boy from Israel who has lived most of his life in Canada finds out that his family is "going home". Upset, he and his sweetheart create an imaginary journey to Israel, on which they discover a lot about each other and a lot about the differences between living in Canada and living in Israel. In the end they realize they are the same (but different) and learn how hold on to old friends. **Contact:** playwright or Kayla Gordon, k-gordon@shaw.ca.

DOLLY REISMAN, dreis1661@rogers.com

NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH One act (can be played with intermission), 5w, 4m (flexible). Marissa, estranged from her Judaism, moves from a large urban center to a small rural community. On the train, and later, she reads about the anguish her grandmother experienced in Nazi Germany. Out of place in her new community, Marissa befriends Martin, a student whose favorite teacher, Mr. T., teaches that the Holocaust never happened. Confronting Mr. T., Marissa realizes that being Jewish is important and that the truth must be told. **Contact:** Playwright.

REBECCA RITCHIE, 716/689-0868, rtritchie@verizon.net

RACHEL CALOF 2 f, 1m, unit set. Based on the Indiana University Press publication *RACHEL CALOF'S STORY* by Rachel Calof and edited by J. Sanford Rikoon. *RACHEL CALOF* is the true story of an 18-year-old Jewish mail-order bride who carves a homestead from the rich soil of the North Dakota plains in 1894. **Contact:** Playwright.

THE PHOENIX CANTATA (with VIOLET FABIAN) 6f, 8m (roles can be doubled), unit set with various acting areas. Based on the life of Violet Fabian, a teenaged Holocaust survivor from Transylvania, who, after Liberation from Bergen-Belsen, had to choose between two men -- a Catholic

physician and a Jewish Holocaust survivor -- and the two definitions of "home" they represented. Perfect for high school/college theatre departments. **Contact:** Playwright.

LOIS ROISMAN, Lois.Roisman@Valley.net

CHANUKAH RAPPING Music by David Shneyer, 1w, 3m, minimal set. The audience joins in the fun when three siblings set out to recover the town's stolen Chanukah candles before the first night of the holiday and learn from the Maccabees that "a little bit of courage can go a long, long way," as they choose to settle the matter by peaceful means rather than by violence. **Contact:** Playwright.

SANDBERG, R.N., rsand@Princeton.EDU www.rnsandberg.com

CONVIVENCIA 4-10 m, 2-4 f, area staging, 60-80 minutes. The lives of three young people (one Muslim, one Jewish, one Christian) are turned upside down as Ferdinand and Isabella's army reconquers Granada from the Muslims. Music, dance, and poetry heighten the forceful dramatic struggle as the three try to survive war and persecution and find a way to live together. Timely and compassionate. **Contact:** Playwright. Also available in Roger Ellis (Ed.), International Plays for Young Audiences, Meriwether Publishing.

JAMES SCHAAP

THINGS WE COULDN'T SAY 90 minutes, 4m, 3f, unit set or found space. The true story of World War II Resistance workers Berendina (Diet) Eman and Hein Sietsma, related by the adult characters and Young Diet. **Contact:** Encore Performance Publishing.

DAVID SCHECHTER

A TALMUD TALE: A MUSICAL (Music and additional lyrics by Ned Ginsburg) In 2-act and 1-act versions, 10 men, 3 women, 2 girls, 1 boy, chorus/extras as desired. Running time: 1-act: 75 minutes; 2-act: 2 hours. Flexible set. A 13 year-old girl, facing her bat mitzvah, finds help from Rashi in the ancient love story of Rabbi Akiba and his wife Rakhel. "A Talmud Tale" can show performers and audiences alike how much fun Talmud study can be. **Contact:** Maqom, Inc., <http://www.maqom.com>, maqom@compassnet.com, 713-723-2918.

STEVEN SCHUTZMAN (410) 254-7870, stevenschutzman@juno.com

CHELM GOES TO WAR (A Fools of Chelm play based on a traditional tale). One Act, 20 minutes, flexible cast (must have 8 M or F, 3F), minimal set. In order the end Chelm's poverty, the town council votes to make war on Gorshkov, an equally small and poor village. Things go hilariously wrong when switched road signs lead the frying pan wielding Chelmitite warriors back to Chelm and they believe have entered a mirror world. **Contact:** Playwright.

A DEAD MAN TALKS (A Fools of Chelm play based on a traditional tale). One act, 25 minutes, flexible cast (must have 7 M or F, 2M), minimal set. Out in the forest to gather logs for their new synagogue, a group of Chelmites, meet two strangers who agree to teach them how to log. When Avrom, a young Chelmitite, is injured in a fall from a tree, he argues that he is dead until proven otherwise. **Contact:** Playwright.

NO CHHHH-ANUKAH IN CHHHH-ELM (a Fools of Chelm play based on a traditional tale). One Act, 50 minutes, flexible cast (must have 7M or F), minimal set. As a destitute Chanukah approaches, the starving Fools of Chelm decide to capture the moon and charge admission to see it in order to have a festive Chanukah celebration. **Contact:** Playwright.

ROBIN SEIDMAN, 404-543-8694, seidman@mindspring.com

PAINT! 2m, 3w, 45 minutes. A finalist in the Actors' Playhouse's national children's musical competition, *Paint!* is the story of young painter Marc Chagall's quest to be an artist, despite his Russian village's wishes. In this colorful, comedic tale, complete with a singing fish puppet and tap dancing cow, Marc journeys to seek permission to pursue his art. **Contact:** Playwright.

BUFFY SEDLACHEK

HANUKKAH LIGHTS IN THE BIG SKY When a young boy puts a menorah in the window of his family's home in Billings, Montana, a brick is thrown at it. A remarkable story of a community

coming together to fight hate with extraordinary demonstrations of love that blend the traditions of Hanukkah and Christmas and transform the city from darkness to light. Based on true events.

Contact: The Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company, 651-647-4315 or info@mnjewishtheatre.org

JANECE SHAFFER

HULA-HOOPIN' HANNAH AND HER HANUKAH ADVENTURE, 2 W, 1 M, 2 Girls, 2 Boys. It's the first night of Hanukkah, and Hannah's best friend Ramona has invited Jessica, not Hannah, to spend the night, leaving Hannah with her grandmother and "Martin the Martian," the world's nerdiest fourth grader. How will Hannah endure her tragic fate? Join this exuberant ten-year-old as she gets taken on an unexpected adventure and learns the true value of family, friends and tradition. **Contact:** Jewish Theatre of the South: jts@atlantajcc.org.

EMIL SHER, 416.429.7511, emil@emilsher.com, www.emilsher.com

HANA'S SUITCASE, adapted from the book by Karen Levine, 2 acts, a minimum cast of 4f, 4w (ideally 5w), including three Japanese roles. Commissioned by the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People, *Hana's Suitcase* chronicles the true story of Fumiko Ishioka, a Japanese curator at a Holocaust center who receives a suitcase from the Auschwitz Museum for an exhibition to educate children. The name on the suitcase — Hana Brady — sparks the children's curiosity, and a tireless quest that leads Fumiko to Hana's surviving brother in Canada. **Contact:** Playwright.

JUDITH LUCK SHER, 952-927-4358, judyleeluck@comcast.net, and **THOMAS W. OLSEN**

ADVENTURES OF MOTTEL 2 acts, 5m, 4w, 2b, 2g (doubling of adults), unit set. Based on the unfinished novel by Sholom Aleichem and the playwright's (JLS) family history. A 9-year-old boy endures the hardships and persecution of Czarist Russia and escapes to the hope and freedom of America. Part of two seasons, this was the first Jewish themed play ever produced at the world-renowned 750-seat Minneapolis Children's Theatre Company. **Contact:** Judith Luck Sher, playwright.

EILEEN BLUESTONE SHERMAN, kcne@juno.com. **Contact:** Playwright, for the following musicals:

THE ODD POTATO, based on the picture book. Rachel wants to celebrate the holiday the way the family did before her mother's death, but she can't find her mother's precious menorah. Her father, still grieving, wants nothing to do with the celebration, but then Rachel remembers a story her mother told her every year and knows exactly what to do. Two scripts: one for 4 actors; one for large cast.

THE SABBATH PEDDLER, large cast. The villagers are all in a tizzy because a mysterious peddler has arrived with a challenge that could make any one of them a rich man. But ten-year-old Froma Cohen has more important things on her mind. An original Jewish folktale with a feminist twist.

INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, based on the YA novel. An adventure story about 14-year-old Elias Cherry, who arrives in Kansas City in 1907 via the historical Galveston Movement. Having escaped the pogroms of his native Russia, it is now his responsibility to earn enough money so he can send for his family, who are still in harm's way.

THE VIOLIN PLAYERS, 18+ actors, based on the YA novel. Melissa Jensen, a savvy New Yorker, finds herself in a small midwestern town, but very popular at her new high school. Of course, no one suspects the blond-haired beauty is Jewish. She's happy to keep silent, but that silence will prove more damaging than she ever imagined.

THE HAPPIEST DAY IN HEAVEN A well-intentioned but clumsy rookie angel seems to do everything wrong as she follows the life of Abraham. Commissioned for The Jewish Museum's Shofar Festival, for a company of 4 actors, but could also work with a large cast.

BUT YOU'RE NOT SANDY KOUFAX 18+ actors. Gina Silverman, all-girl Huntington High's ace pitcher, is praying her talents out on the field will secure her an athletic scholarship to college. Then she learns the exhibition game is scheduled for the afternoon of Yom Kippur. When she takes action to reschedule the game, things only get worse.

JAMES SHERMAN

FROM DOOR TO DOOR 3f, Unit set Mary Goodman, a woman of the "greatest generation" is mourning the loss of her husband. Her daughter, Deborah, is encouraging her to end her period of mourning and move on with a new independence. In a series of scenes between Mary, Deborah, and Mary's mother, Bessie, Mary reflects back on her life as a daughter, wife and mother. As Mary's life progresses

from childhood to matrimony to motherhood, we see how each successive generation of women lives up to the expectations of the past and makes brave new choices about the future. **Contact:** Samuel French.

SHARYN SHIPLEY 425-391-1189, sashipley@comcast.net

THE DYBBUK OF B'NAI TORAH Two acts, flexible cast, minimum 8 (must have 2F 2M), 1 set. Romeo and Juliet meet Kabbalah. A traditional Jewish story of unfulfilled love, broken promises and the supernatural -told with humor, love and heroism. Channon and Leah are in love, but when her father betrothes her to the son of a wealthy family, Channon dies. He returns as a Dybbuk. The Rabbi, with the help of the community, rids Leah of the Dybbuk. This adaptation is a family oriented script, designed for amateur players. **Contact:** playwright.

PETE WOLF SMITH, (917)549-8845/(212)744-6636, petewolfsmith@earthlink.net

THE STORY OF NUMBER 42, 1 act, 3m, 2w, also NARRATOR and MESSENGER, m or w. The Purim story re-told at a level that speaks to very young kids, and makes their parents and older brothers and sisters laugh, too. Area staging, minimal props, music optional. Originally performed at Congregation Or Zaruah, New York, NY. **Contact:** Playwright.

CHARMAINE SPENCER, 708-807-3006, spencerplays@att.net

FIREFLIES One act, 3w, 3m, unit set. Artist Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and students at Terezin Concentration Camp are forced to present the opera "Brundibar" for Red Cross inspectors. Young Leo tries to reveal the truth of their conditions, but fails. Later he returns from Auschwitz, uncovers the children's artwork and realizes the truth can now be told. **Contact:** Playwright.

DONNA SPECTOR (845) 986-7718, dspector@warwick.net

GOLDEN LADDER (How to be Really Jewish) In this semi-autobiographical comedy/drama CATHERINE, in her early 30's, recalls her confusing childhood and adolescence stemming from her mother's denial that her father is Jewish and her father's struggle to give up his spiritual heritage to please his wife. CATHERINE finally claims her father's heritage and becomes "really Jewish." **Contact:** Carolyn French, agent: cfrench@fifioscard.com

JENNIE STANILOFF-REDLING (book/lyrics), **DEE ANN MACOMSON** (music/lyrics)

THE HARVEST Two acts, 23 roles – 9w, 14m, doublecast by 12 actors, unit set. A Russian girl whose family are Soviet Party members and have abandoned any identification with their Jewish culture, disguises her identity when the German Army invades Minsk. With dreams of becoming a film star, she refuses to see herself as a Jew until her life is at stake. Based on the life of Masha Bruskina, a photograph whose execution is displayed in the Minsk War Museum. **Contact:** Jennie Redling c/o Bret-Adams, Ltd., (212) 765-5630.

R. REX STEPHENSON

DANIEL! Book and lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson, music and lyrics by C. Michael Perry. 9m. 5f, + ensemble and children, unit set. The story of the faithfulness of Daniel and his "brothers", this is a comedy at heart, but filled with faith, hope, and inspiration. We see the change of heart as a King unburdens himself to God, we witness the writing on the wall, we visit the Fiery Furnace, and the Den of Lions -- with the cutest little lions ever. **Contact:** Encore Performance Publishing.

PAT STERNBERG, patsternbg@AOL.com

'TIS THE SEASON: A Celebration of Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa, music and lyrics by Scott Laughead. (5 F & 5 M) Begins in department store storage area with manikins for each of the holidays are stored. The window decorator shows her young assistant, Mike, where everything is, but he thinks the only purpose of holidays is for commercial gain. Leaving the room, Mike trips and falls. The manikins come to life and teach Mike the real meaning of each holiday. He discovers there's more to each one than he ever knew. **Contact:** New Plays, Inc.

JAMES STILL

AND THEN THEY CAME FOR ME: REMEMBERING THE WORLD OF ANNE

FRANK 1 act, 4w, 5m (doubling possible), unit set. A multimedia play (video is part of leasing) that weaves videotaped interviews of Holocaust survivors with live actors recreating scenes from their lives during WWII. Ed Silverberg was Anne Frank's first boyfriend and escaped the Nazis by hiding in Belgium for 26 months. Eva Geiringer Schloss lived in the same building and went into hiding on the same day as Anne Frank. After the war, her mother married Otto Frank, Anne's father. **Contact:** Dramatic Publishing.

ELIZABETH SWADOS, Book, Music and Lyrics

JEWISH GIRLZ 10-12 f. (8-10 teens, 2 adults). Int. During a weekend retreat sponsored by two female rabbis, the atmosphere in the country log cabin evolves from shyness and contempt into a tell-all session among adolescent Jewish girls from all types of families and backgrounds. Stories and songs transcend stereotypes to find individuality, heart and humor and to touch on sensitive issues such as pressure, self-esteem, the fast pace of this decade and what it means to be a girl. **Contact:** Samuel French.

EDITH TARBESCU tarbescu@comcast.net, www.home.earthlink.net/~tarbescu

ANNUSHKA'S VOYAGE: 1 act, 3w/2m, doubling, 1 set. Adapted from playwright's picture book. Anya and Tanya live with their father and grandparents on a farm in Russia. When their father announces he is going to America in search of a better life for his family, he promises to send for them. After a year, the girls' father sends them steamship tickets to join him. After a harrowing journey, the girls finally arrive at Ellis Island. But their father isn't there to meet them. Will they finally be reunited? Workshopped at The Little Theatre, Albuquerque, N.M. **Contact:** Playwright.

IRENE KIRSTEIN WATTS

GOODBYE MARIANNE A cast of 7, may be played by 2w, 1m, flexible set. Winner of the Jessie Award of Canada and based on the playwright's experiences as a child in Nazi Germany. When schools are closed to Jewish students and Marianne's father must hide from the Gestapo, Marianne makes an unexpected friend, Ernest, a member of the Hitler Youth. There is a bitter quarrel, but also a bond stronger than outside pressures. Before Marianne escapes by Kindertransporte, she knows that there is hope for the future and not all people are the same. **Contact:** Anchorage Press.

WILLENS, MICHELE

DEAR MAUDIE 15f, 6m (11-21 actors possible) 55-60 minutes. At age 9, nicki and Maudie become instant best friends, vowing to keep writing notes and emails until they turn 13 (or one of us gets a pimple. But cliques and the pressures of becoming a teen threaten to break them up at this vulnerable time in their lives. Hilarious and heartbreaking, the play examines challenges of growing up and keeping friends. **Contact:** Playscripts, inc.

JENNA ZARK, 651-642-9456, thezark@bitstream.net

THE MAGIC DREIDELS One act, based on the book by Eric Kimmel. Unit set with three playing areas. Jakob is given three magic dreidels by a goblin that lives in the village well. Though his neighbor, Fruma Sarah, steals the dreidels, the goblin helps Jakob regain possession of them. Through this experience, Jakob brings three lonely people together, and finds the true meaning of Hanukkah. **Contact:** Playwright or Tonda Marton, The Marton Agency, Inc., 212-255-1908.