

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH THEATRE**  
**WITH SHPIEL-PERFORMING IDENTITY AND IN ASSOCIATION WITH**  
**FRANK ENTERTAINMENT**



**PRESENTS**

**AN EVENING OF JEWISH THEATRE:**  
***REFLECTING AND SHAPING A SHIFTING WORLD***

**In The Main Stage**  
**at Santa Monica Playhouse**  
**1211 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 at 7 – 9:30 PM**

*followed by*

**\*\**INSOMNIAC'S DELIGHT* –**  
***70 MINUTES OF MUSIC, MONOLOGUES, & MISCHIEF***  
***Late Night Comedy & Cabaret at 9:45 PM***

***AN EVENING OF JEWISH THEATRE – DESCRIPTIONS OF EXCERPTED SELECTIONS:***

***GIMPEL THE FOOL*** performed by Howard Ryppe - Artistic Director of Nephesh Theatre in Tel Aviv. A comic fable based on the 1955 short story by the Yiddish language Nobel Laureate, Isaac Bashevis Singer, it is "one of the late Isaac Bashevis Singer's better known short stories, Gimpel is the 'holy fool' of Jewish, Christian and Islamic tradition, the one who is true to themselves in a world of the smugly self-deluded."

***RACHEL CALOF*** by LaZebnik, Steinweiss, Fuglei, Director, Ellen S. Pressman. Performed by Kate Fuglei, based on the memoir of a Jewish picture bride - Rachel Calof. Her manuscript, written in Yiddish, was discovered by her children after her death and eventually published as *Rachel Calof: My Story*. This memoir with music is a dynamic theatrical event with great drama, heart and melody.

***THE EMANCIPATION OF THE SASSY JEWISH WOMAN*** performed by Sivan Hadari. Based on Hadari's life as a traveling Israeli gypsy trying to find her place in the world. Taking the audience through a no-holds barred journey of her experiences as a young Israeli-American woman, her childhood in a Yeshiva, teen years growing up in Israel, an abusive relationship, a nude beach on the Dead Sea, visiting Egypt, Turkey, living in Hawaii, traveling through India, China and Thailand, her Jewish mother who wants her to get married "and stop with all this acting mumbo jumbo," acting schools, auditions, living in New York, ...and finally her emancipation.

***Continue to next page***

David Y. Chack, President; Mira Hirsch, Immediate Past President; Rebecca Joy Fletcher, Vice President of Marketing; Herb Isaacs Vice President of Outreach; Lawrence Goodman, Vice President of Playwright Development; Diane Gilboa, Secretary; Susan Lodish, Treasurer; Janet Arnold; Norman Fedder; Hannah Hessel; Ralph Meranto; Deborah Baer Mozes; Leslie Marko; Eli Taylor; Ellen Schiff; Moti Sandak; Kayla Gordon

**“BETHANY/BAKOL”** the award winning one act from the acclaimed play **BEHIND THE GATES** by Wendy Graf. Starring Olivia Choate and directed by David Gautreaux. Bethany Leiberman is an angry, rebellious, disenfranchised American teenager searching for acceptance and identity. She has turned to drugs, sex, and cutting school in order to fill the hole in her soul. As a last resort, deferring to the advice of the therapist and their friends, her parents ship Bethany off to a summer program in Israel. Resentful at first, Bethany finds herself drawn into the haredi world of ultra-Orthodox Jews in Jerusalem, as it appears to fill the hole by offering the community, identity and family she has been craving so intensely...changing her name to a Hebrew name, adopting a new identity, cutting off all contact with her parents, and ultimately disappearing into the haredi community.

**TOTAL VERRUCKT!** performed by Joanna Caplan, directed by Matthew Glassman. Have you heard the old story about the German disease? The one where she wanders around the camp singing her arias in order to try to escape the gas chamber? *Total Verrückt!* tells her story with inspiration from the work of the Jewish Dutch poet Etty Hillesum, Jewish German cabaret stars Max Ehrlich, Willy Rosen and Dora Gerson. Taking its name from the 1944 production performed by inmates from Westerbork transit camp, *Total Verrückt!* translates as “completely crazy”. In this ghostly cabaret, watch as this imprisoned actress sings and dances to prove her existence. *Total Verrückt!* weaves together Jewish myth and memory ultimately showing the necessity for art as a means of survival and as an act of resistance.

**RABBI SAM** performed by Charlie Varon. *Rabbi Sam* tells the story of a man who wants to reinvent American Judaism, and the congregation that hires him. Some people love the new rabbi. Some can't stand him. And, of course some can't stand each other. Charlie plays all 12 characters, including the rabbi and eight contentious board members. Funny, moving, bursting with energy and ideas, *Rabbi Sam* asks the biggest questions about the future of American Judaism.

---

---

\*\**INSOMNIAC'S DELIGHT* –  
*70 MINUTES OF MUSIC, MONOLOGUES, & MISCHIEF*  
Late Night Comedy & Cabaret

Late-night showcases take place Sunday and Monday, February 5 & 6, and will feature nationally recognized comedians, cabaret and comedic solo theater artists – five masters of wit and comedic wisdom will take the stage for 75 minutes of magic and mischief! Different artists perform each night!

Artists over the two late-night evenings to include Emmy-Award winner Monica Piper, MAC (NY Cabaret) Award winner Ray Jessel, Roseanne writer and late night comedian Betsy Salkind, Wendy Hammers (Curb Your Enthusiasm), the hilarious solo artists Michele Slonim (Jewtopia lead) & more!

\*\*\* Sunday night's showcase at the Santa Monica Playhouse follows the Evening of Jewish Theater and will begin between 9:30 and 10pm.

\*\*\* Monday's showcase takes place in Westwood Horizons' Clubhouse at 10pm \* 947 Tiverton Ave. Late nite showcases \$10 cash at the door. Free for AJT members and performing arts presenters.

*Continue to next page*

David Y. Chack, President; Mira Hirsch, Immediate Past President; Rebecca Joy Fletcher, Vice President of Marketing; Herb Isaacs Vice President of Outreach; Lawrence Goodman, Vice President of Playwright Development; Diane Gilboa, Secretary; Susan Lodish, Treasurer; Janet Arnold; Norman Fedder; Hannah Hessel; Ralph Meranto; Deborah Baer Mozes; Leslie Marko; Eli Taylor; Ellen Schiff; Moti Sandak; Kayla Gordon

Additionally, Frank Entertainment has put together a pre-conference Saturday night variety show (7:30 – 9:30pm) in West Los Angeles open to the public (AJT members are invited as guests) taking advantage of the talent of several artists who have traveled a great distance to attend the AJT conference (Charlie Varon, Howard Rypp and Michelle Slonim) as well as local favorites: cabaret wit Ray Jessel (who has created special material for Jimmy Durante and Carol Burnett!), Ovation Award winner Vicki Juditz (frequently compared to David Sedaris and Amy Vowell!), Stephanie Satie's Coming to America and Amy Simon's She's History! The Most Dangerous Women in America... then and now! Bring your LA friends and family along for just \$20 (cash at the door). A magical evening guaranteed – and includes coffee and cookies to boot!

Contact Jeannine Frank at [Jeannine@FrankEntertainment.com](mailto:Jeannine@FrankEntertainment.com) or (310) 666-9066 for details, including parking info and AJT passes

David Y. Chack, President; Mira Hirsch, Immediate Past President; Rebecca Joy Fletcher, Vice President of Marketing; Herb Isaacs, Vice President of Outreach; Lawrence Goodman, Vice President of Playwright Development; Diane Gilboa, Secretary; Susan Lodish, Treasurer; Janet Arnold; Norman Fedder; Hannah Hessel; Ralph Meranto; Deborah Baer Mozes; Leslie Marko; Eli Taylor; Ellen Schiff; Moti Sandak; Kayla Gordon