



ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH THEATRE CONFERENCE  
**JEWISH THEATRE -- REFLECTING AND SHAPING IN A  
SHIFTING WORLD**

**CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS February 5-8** (Subject to Change)

The conference begins on Sunday, February 5 at UCLA Hillel's Dortort Arts Center in Westwood at 10 AM and ends on Wednesday, February 8 at 1 PM (Full schedule will be on [ajft.com](http://ajft.com) website soon)

**Keynote Speaker Richard Montoya**, of renowned LA's Culture Clash -- one of the leading proponents of "performance collage", mostly Chicano/Latino based, but also has incorporated crypto-Jewish-roots elements. Montoya comments: "My justification for the piece is that this history is worth an investigation and a journey," he said. "I'd like to try to answer some questions so my children will know that their great-great-grandfather might be from Damascus but your great-great-grandmother may have lit Shabbat candles on Friday night. That takes the issue off the newspaper headlines and the lefty blogosphere so that I can take a beat and a moment and explore this question of my family. It just surprises me that so many people don't want me to do that."

[http://www.jewishjournal.com/theater/article/digging\\_for\\_jewish\\_roots\\_in\\_palestine\\_new\\_mexico\\_20091216/](http://www.jewishjournal.com/theater/article/digging_for_jewish_roots_in_palestine_new_mexico_20091216/)

For the last fifteen years, Culture Clash has been focusing on site-specific theater, weaving personal narratives culled from interviews into an ongoing dramatic tapestry. Theatre companies in Miami, San Diego, New York, Houston, Boston and San Francisco, among others, have commissioned Culture Clash to create performance pieces specifically for their cities. Their work has been produced by the nation's leading theaters including the Mark Taper Forum, Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, La Jolla Playhouse, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, The Huntington, The Alley Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Seattle Repertory, The Goodman Theatre, among others. Culture Clash is the recipient of numerous awards, commissions and grants, including a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Latino Spirit Award, the Los Angeles Hispanic Media Award, the Nosotros Golden Eagle Award for Outstanding Theater Group, The Liberty Hill Foundation award and dozens of city and state proclamations commendations. Their videos, short films and art exhibits have been shown at The Smithsonian; The Whitney Museum of American Art; Sundance Film Festival; The San Juan, Puerto Rico Film and Video Festival; The Art Institute of Boston, Palm Springs Film Festival and The Los Angeles Film Festival, among others.

**New Directions Panel in Jewish Theatres** moderator Emilie Beck, LA playwright; David Chack – President of the AJT and Artistic Director of ShPIeL-Performing Identity in Chicago; Tali Tadmor – Six Points Fellow; Wendy Graf – Los Angeles Playwright; Aaron Henne – Los Angeles playwright and director of theatredybbuk

**Solo Performances** by member performers through submissions. CLOSED FOR SUBMISSIONS

**Playwright's Forum** of new plays with member playwrights through submissions. CLOSED FOR SUBMISSIONS

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

**Day (Tue, Feb 7) at USC Campus at the Shoah Foundation** We'll meet Shoah's Executive Director Stephen Smith, who will share his thoughts on "The Art of Witness" and talk with him about testimony, theatre and story-making. Other offerings include a panel on "Metabolizing Testimony and Artistic Expression," with artists who engage with first-person testimony and historical artifact as raw material for their work. Panelists will include comedienne Betsy Salkind, Cornerstone Theatre's Peter Howard, painter Ruth Weisberg; Moderated by writer-performer Stacie Chaiken. Moti Sandak from All About Jewish Theatre, an online internet center based in Israel, will introduce his new Holocaust Theatre Online Collection; Arnold Mittelman will present his Holocaust Theatre Archive. USC School of Theatre faculty Mady Schutztman, who works with local and international communities harvesting and telling their own stories, will facilitate a practicum where we'll make some powerful theatre about whatever's in the room. The day will end with dinner at USC Hillel and performances of Israeli and Yiddish theatre music.

### **“Comedy and Drama of Ethical Values in Jewish Theatre: Are Jewish Ethcis Unique or Universal?”**

Panel Moderator: Rabbi Ed Feinstein author of *Tough Questions Jews Ask – A Young Adult's Guide to Building a Jewish Life*, (Jewish Lights, 2003), was chosen for the American Library Association's Top Ten Books on Religion for Young Readers and a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. *Jews and Judaism in the Twenty-First Century: Human Responsibility, the Presence of God and the Future of the Covenant* (Jewish Lights, 2007) *Capturing the Moon* (Behrman House, 2008) retells the best of classic and modern Jewish folktales.

Panelists to date: Jamie Pachino, playwright, television writer, Stephanie Liss, playwright, television writer, Michael Halperin, playwright, TV, novelist.

### **Panel on The Cross-Over Between Hollywood, Theatre, and Film** (in formation)

**Workshops** (in formation) on various topics and techniques: On Being a Producer; “Staging Israeli Drama”; New technologies; Community Development and Audience Engagement; Theatre as Learning Tool; European Jewish Inflections; Theatre Movement and Composition, etc.

**Affinity Meetings** with producers, directors, actors, playwrights

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### ***Performances “On the Fringe” of the Conference***

**Jeannine Frank Presents:** Sunday, Monday and/or Tuesday from 10pm or 10:30pm  
Comedy/Cabaret Showcases [www.frankentertainment.com](http://www.frankentertainment.com)

**The West Coast Jewish Theatre** opens "The New Jerusalem", David Ive's play about Spinoza. Conference attendees get a free preview performance on Wednesday, February 8

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## FEES

### CONFERENCE FEES (U.S. Dollars)

**3.5-DAY FEE \$325 Early Bird AJT Member**

**\$375 After January 2, 2012**

**\$425 Early Bird Non-Member;      \$475 After January 2, 2012**

**\$100 Student – Conf Registration fee and annual membership**

**\$150 One Day attendance**

*If you have not yet paid your AJT membership dues, please include your dues payment with your response to this mailing and if you join now your AJT Membership Dues will cover you through December of 2012. Indicate your membership category below.*

*If you have any questions about the status of your membership/dues, please contact Elayne LeTraunik, Coordinator at [virtualelayne@gmail.com](mailto:virtualelayne@gmail.com)*

\_\_\_\_ \$165 Large Theatres (over \$100,000 budget)    \$135 Mid-Size Theatres (over \$50,000 budget)    \_\_\_\_ \$90 Small Theatres (up to \$50,000 budget)    \_\_\_\_ \$90 Individual Members    \_\_\_\_ \$75 Student Membership

**If paying by check**, please make all checks payable to **Association for Jewish Theatre** and mail with this form to: **Elayne LeTraunik, Coordinator Association for Jewish Theatre 2728 N. Hampden Court, #1605 Chicago, IL 60614**

**TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD** Go to the website of the Association for Jewish Theatre [www.afjt.com](http://www.afjt.com) and click on the BUY NOW button. That will take you to a credit card page to make your payment and then will take you back to the AJT web page. Then either US Postal mail us your Registration Form or send it by email to [virtualelayne@gmail.com](mailto:virtualelayne@gmail.com)

For more information, contact Elayne LeTraunik, AJT Coordinator, at [virtualelayne@gmail.com](mailto:virtualelayne@gmail.com)