



**ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH THEATRE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
JEWISH THEATRE – REFLECTING AND
SHAPING A SHIFTING WORLD
FEBRUARY 5-8**

The conference base will be at the lovely UCLA Hillel in their Dortort Arts Center. Tuesday all day will be at USC Campus and the Shoah Foundation. Please consult the schedule for locations.

Sunday February 5th Day One

9 **Continental Breakfast** at UCLA Hillel Dortort Arts Center and Check-in

10 **Welcome by David Y. Chack**, President of the Association for Jewish Theatre

10:30 – 12 **Workshops A** (CHOICES BELOW)

12:00 **Lunch**

1:00 – 2:30 **“Comedy and Drama of Ethical Values in Jewish Theatre”** Are Jewish Ethics Unique or Universal? What do we mean by Judaic ethics, values, and motifs? How do they play a part in the overall scheme of universal values? Does a play need Jewish characters to express those values? Does a playwright need to be Jewish to write these kinds of plays? Moderated by Rabbi Ed Feinstein Senior Rabbi Valley Beth Shalom, Encino, California; Jamie Pachino, playwright/TV/screenwriter; Stephanie Liss, playwright/TV writer/documentary producer; Herb Isaacs, director-producer West Coast Jewish Theatre; Ronda Spinak, artistic director Jewish Women's Theatre; Michael Halperin, playwright/TV /novelist

3-4:30 **Workshops B** (CHOICES BELOW)

WORKSHOPS (IN FORMATION)

On Being a Producer

“Staging Israeli Drama” with Michael Taub

New technologies

Community Development and Audience Engagement with Hannah Hessel

Theatre as a Learning Tool, Keren Goldberg

European Theatre and Jewish Inflections, Noemi Schlosser

Rabbi Sam and the People’s Violin with Charlie Varon

Self-production

More to come....

Dinner on Own in the Santa Monica Playhouse area

7 **Solo Performers/Set Theatre Showcase** Santa Monica Playhouse

Nosh, Coffee, Tea etc.

Monday February 6th Day Two

8:30 **Continental Breakfast** at UCLA Hillel Dortort Arts Center and check-in

9-10 **Introduction to all participants in conference** (Pecha Kucha style) quick introduction of each person in a unique way - they get 20 seconds each and can bring a prop(s) to demonstrate it

10:15–11:30 **Keynote Speaker/Q& A – Richard Montoya from Culture Clash** In keeping with the theme of shaping a shifting world, a conference highlight will be a presentation by **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_2009_1216/ 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.

12:30 **Gala Lunch and Honors**

2-3:30 **New Directions in Jewish Performance** moderator Emilie Beck, LA playwright; David Chack – President of 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 Theatre Dybbuk

6 pm–7:30 **Affinity Dinners** (Not AJT Hosted) at restaurants in the area, according to groupings of directors, producers, performers, etc... People are assigned to restaurants.

7:30 **Playwright's Forum at UCLA Hillel Dortort Arts Center**

10 **Jeannine Frank presents LATE NIGHT SHOW** Sunday, Monday and/or Tuesday Comedy/Cabaret Showcases www.frankentertainment.com

Tuesday February 7th USC DAY

“Witness & Responsibility” Day at USC

Sponsorships: *Casden Institute, Hillel at USC, USC Libraries, USC Shoah Foundation, Levan Institute, Hebrew Union College, USC Religious Life, Michael Quick - the College. More sponsorships to come.*

9:00 Bus leaves from UCLA Hillel – Be Prompt (Breakfast on own)

10:00 Welcome at USC Coffee & Tea available

10:10 **Performance: *Next Year in Jerusalem***

10:30 **The Art of Witness - A Meditation on Testimony and Story-making:** A Conversation with Stephen Smith, Executive Director of the USC Shoah Foundation **Doheny Library - Room 240**

11:30 Coffee break

11:45 **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.

Doheny Library - Room 240

1:30 Lunch provided

2:00 **Producers Panel:** Engaging, Including and Challenging our Communities, and the Bottom Line; Artistic directors and producers of Jewish-identified culture who are pushing the envelope, presenting new and unexpected work, and finding themselves critically and fiscally stronger than ever. Panelists: artistic director-producer Richard Stein, currently Executive Director at Arts Orange County; Beth Hogan/Ron Sossey, artistic directors, the Odyssey Theatre, Los Angeles Proposed facilitator: Selma Holo, Director, Fisher Art Museum, USC.

Doheny Library - Room 240

3:30 Coffee Break

3:45 - 5:30 BREAKOUTS

Tape rots: Preservation to the Bit: Insuring preservation of one of the largest testimony archives in perpetuity. A visit to the Information Technology Services, where the Visual History Archive is housed.

Shoah offices, ITS

Introduction to Visual History Archive: How to access and use the Shoah tapes.

Shoah offices, Leavy Library

Guided visits to the Leo Feuchtwanger Memorial Library and the Holocaust & Genocide Research Collection.

Doheny Library

Practicum with USC School of Theatre faculty member and TO practitioner Mady Schuztman who works with local and international communities, harvesting and telling their own stories. **Doheny Library-Room 240**

Archiving Holocaust-related Theatre Introducing two new and distinct archives, one web-based with Moti Sandak/Israel and the other focused on commission and production with Arnold Mittelman/Miami, FL.

Intellectual Commons, Doheny Library

6:00 Evening event at Hillel, Cocktails, Songs from the Israeli and Yiddish theatre Banquet

7:30 Karaoke and/or open mike

9:00 Bus returns to Westwood

Jeannine Frank Presents: Sunday, Monday and/or Tuesday from 10pm or 10:30pm Comedy/Cabaret Showcases
www.frankentertainment.com

Wednesday February 8th Final Conference Day at UCLA Hillel

9–11 **Continental Breakfast, Elections by General Membership and AJT Business**

11–12:30 **"The Shifting Role of Jews in Theatre, Television and Film"** – Panel In Formation

12:30 **Box lunches**

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