



THE 30TH ANNUAL LIPINSKY FAMILY  
JFEST  
2023  
SAN DIEGO JEWISH ARTS FESTIVAL



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## From the Artistic Director

### *30th Annual JFEST – A New Beginning*

This year is a new beginning.

We started 2023 with many questions about JFEST. Where it would be held? How it would be staffed? Would the community support an independent JFEST? Would it even happen?

“Miracle of Miracles” here we are! 15 incredible events at 8 venues, a new partnership with Lawrence Family JCC, an amazing staff, and heartfelt support from so many artists, community organizations and generous patrons. We have so much to be thankful for!

This year is Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival’s 30th anniversary.

Thank you to JFEST managing director, Matt Graber, associate producer, Becca Myers, *Women of Valor* director, Ali Viterbi, production manager Kali Boston, and our entire staff. We especially want to thank JCC CEO Betzy Lynch, director of community partnerships Adam Nicolai, production coordinator Rachel Le Vine and JCC’s committed staff for supporting JFEST.

I first witnessed the joy audiences took in original Jewish programs at our inaugural one-day festival at the Lyceum Theatre in 1994. Thank you to San Diego REP for your vision and commitment for birthing and supporting JFEST for 29 years.

This year’s JFEST is a new start. We look forward to growing in ambition and accomplishment in the future. We’ve worked so hard to make this dream a reality, and now it’s time to share it with you. You complete the circle. I hope this year’s Festival brings you as much nachas as us.

In December, *San Diego Union Tribune* named its top 10 theatre productions of 2022, and the first two were The Old Globe’s *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank*, and CCAE Theatricals’ *Witnesses*. It was affirming to see San Diego celebrate major productions of new Jewish work. Congratulations to the Old Globe and CCAE Theatricals, and all artists and organizations creating meaningful Jewish themed programs. In this time of so much disconnection, JFEST celebrates bringing communities together.

Thank you for joining us and seeing that JFEST will carry on long into the future.

**Todd Salovey**

Festival Founding Artistic Director



## From the Managing Director

### *Jewish Art is Repairing The World*

It's been a long journey getting here. When Todd, Becca and I started putting this festival together we were daunted by the work in front of us. How would we get it all done? Where would the money come from? How would the structure be built? It seemed we had set out up Everest with very light packs.

We started the climb, one foot in front of the other, because this is important. Jewish art is important to me and to the world. I am a Jew by Choice, and without JFest I don't think I would have discovered this truth about myself; my life is so much fuller for it. I also truly believe we are doing the work of *tikkun ha'olam* (repairing the world). It saddens me that antisemitism is on the rise, as is hate against many marginalized peoples. I can think of no better way to combat that than through art. Through art we find that we all are attuned to music, we all see ourselves in the person on stage, and we all see that we share a common experience of strife, suffering, and love.

You, reading this, are repairing the world. You are as much a part of this art as anyone on stage. The time you took to get here, the money you spent on a ticket, the donation you may have given...the art cannot be done without you. Now we all will sit in the dark together and breath the same air as the people on stage. In this moment, we are one, we are making art happen, and by doing so we are standing against hate and ignorance.

I am deeply grateful to be part of this festival. I'm grateful to Todd Salovey, Doug Jacobs, Sam Woodhouse and the San Diego Rep family for starting it. I am grateful to the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center for giving us the structure we needed. I am grateful to the donors and ticket buyers who allowed us to put this all together. I am grateful to you, for being here and sharing this experience, breathing this air. I don't know if I've ever been more grateful than I am today.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. It cannot be said enough.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew E. Graber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

**Matthew E. Graber**

Festival Managing Director



## From the Associate Producer

*The Whole Megillah is  
“Unapologetically Jewish”*

In 2008, I had my first foray into professional theatre acting. *Blessing of a Broken Heart* was a new play performed in The Lipinsky Family Jewish Arts Festival, directed by Todd Salovey. During that very special process, I connected with theatre artists that have since become lifelong collaborators and friends. As a newly bat-mitzvah-ed 12 year old, I definitely thought I knew how the theatrical process should be run and, like Bottom in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, I wanted to play all the parts—and not just onstage. I was ready to single handedly act, direct, stage manage, and produce the whole thing. I even started to offer Todd my unsolicited directorial input during rehearsals to which he patiently responded: “Becca, I’ve got this one handled – I’ll bring you on as the director for the tour.” The show went on tour. So then Todd changed his refrain: “I’ve got the tour handled too – we’ll get you on board for the feature film.” I’m still waiting for that phone call.

That project lit a spark for me, igniting a love of theatre that will last my entire life, and particularly a love of new Jewish work. When Todd approached me with a suggestion that maybe I’d want to create a new festival from scratch within the JFest umbrella, I knew exactly what I wanted to focus on: workshopping and giving voice to new Jewish work. I’ve been so lucky to get to spend the last three years scouring the country for new Jewish work towards selection for our new works festival: *The Whole Megillah*. *The Whole Megillah* is a passion project for me and has been vastly different each year, with one guiding principle: we put on plays that are “unapologetically Jewish”. The national landscape of Jewish theatre is growing and evolving, and we are so lucky to be right at the forefront of making it happen. Little did I know as a twelve year old in that first production in JFest that this festival and new Jewish theatre would become such an integral part of my creative life. Every year, JFest and *The Whole Megillah* get bigger and better, with more moving parts and more people touched by the amazing projects we get the opportunity to produce. I’ve grown into an artist with JFest, and I can’t wait to see where this journey goes next.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becca Myers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Becca Myers**  
Festival Associate Producer

# Festival Sponsors



## **FOUNDING SPONSOR**

Sheila & Jeffrey Lipinsky

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honor of Ali Viterbi

## **FESTIVAL HOST**

Harvey Neiman  
Matthew Graber  
Suzanne & Brian Marcus  
Valerie Viterbi

## **FESTIVAL PATRON**

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Fanny Krasner Lebovits  
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Miles Weinberger

## **FESTIVAL SUPPORTER**

David Thomas Dixon  
Michael David Bobardt  
Nisha Zenoff  
T.J. & Karen Parry

# 14th Annual Women Of Valor

Thursday, June 1 at 7:30pm | Lawrence Family JCC

Sunday, June 11 at 1:00pm | Leichtag Commons, Encinitas

**Directed by Ali Viterbi**

**Written by Sarah Price Keating, Rebecca Myers, Leah Salovey, Todd Salovey, and Ali Viterbi**

**Ali Viterbi (Director) Statement about what the show means to her:**

I started writing *Women of Valor* when I was 15 years old. I am now 30, so this project has been with me for half my life. I couldn't be more grateful. Working on *Women of Valor* year after year has shaped who I am as an artist, as a woman, and as a Jew.

Over the past 15 years, I have had the privilege to interview and share the stories of 94 remarkable women in the San Diego Jewish community. Each of the 94 strong, committed, and passionate women have inspired me to pursue a life of Jewish service and meaning. They have given me wisdom in dark times and gratitude in joyful times; and through their example, have taught me how to overcome adversity, honor our past, and build a better future in community.

This year's women are no different. We are honored this year to share the stories of six remarkable women and pillars of the San Diego Jewish community: Sheila Lipinsky, Beth Sirull, Amelia Glaser, Annie Benaroch, Jan Landau, and Fanny Krasner Lebovits. Fanny was previously honored as a Woman of Valor 13 years ago in 2010, but this year's performance features a new piece of her remarkable story in honor of her 100th birthday.

Thank you so much for being here, and I hope the stories of these incredible women in our community inspire you too.

### Cast

Eva Barnes . . . . .	Sheila Lipinsky
Sandy Campbell . . . . .	Beth Sirull
Bea Basso . . . . .	Annie Benaroch
Jackie Ritz . . . . .	Jan Landau
Sarah Price-Keating . . . . .	Amelia Glaser
Susan Denaker . . . . .	Fanny Krasner Lebovits

### Sponsors

Community Sponsor – Jewish Federation of San Diego County  
Community Co-Sponsors – Jewish Family Service, Congregation Beth El

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The mission of **the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center**, is to connect the community to Jewish heritage, identity, experiences and values to ensure the continuity and vibrancy of the Jewish community. We accomplish our mission by promoting the physical and mental well-being of the community and offering a rich array of stimulating and innovative social, cultural, educational, and recreational programs and services. The LFJCC is committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for San Diego's diverse Jewish community and its greater general community.



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**Tribute**

“Women of Valor pays tribute to two remarkable women, Rose Schindler, and Judy Handler, that we were privileged to honor in 2017 and 2013 respectively, who departed in the past year. Your words, stories, and remarkable lives continued to inspire us. We will never forget your valor.”



# Witnesses

Sunday, June 4 at 2:00pm | Lawrence Family JCC

Five Jewish teens recorded their experiences in diaries as their world descended into World War II. These memoirs are a testament to the human spirit during a period in history that must never be forgotten. Winner of the 2023 San Diego Critics Circle award for Outstanding New Production & Outstanding Direction, five songwriting teams and Tony Award-winning writer Robert L. Freedman have crafted this theatrical event to bring their words to life and tell a story with stunning contemporary relevance.

**Conceived by JORDAN BECK**

**Book by ROBERT L. FREEDMAN**

**Music by CARMEL DEAN, MATT GOULD, ADAM GWON, ANNA K. JACOBS & GERALD STERNBACH**

**Lyrics by JORDAN BECK, MINDI DICKSTEIN, MATT GOULD, ADAM GWON & ANNA K. JACOBS**

**Projection Design MATTHEW HERMAN**

**Costume Design JANET PITCHER**

**Musical Direction by LISA LEMAY**

**Stage Manager KATE THORVICK**

**Direction by J. SCOTT LAPP**

(member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers union)

## Musical Numbers

We Will All Be Witnesses	Company
Dear Diary	Eva Heyman
The Typing Song	Moshe Flinker, Katerina, Sebastian & Company
If I Let Him Read It.	Renia Spiegel
Fox In the Field	Dawid Rubinowiz & Company
If Mama Were Here (Part I)	Renia Spiegel
If Mama Were Here (Part II)	Renia Spiegel & Company
We Are Here.	Yitskhok Rudashevski, Gertsen (his teacher) & Company
Another Renia (The World Is Upside Down)	Renia Spiegel & Company
A Beastly Lie	Dawid Rubinowicz & Company
Trip to the Butcher	Yitskhok Rudashevski & Company
Agi Says	Eva Heyman & Company
Before It's Over	Moshe Flinker
Bundles	Yitskhok Rudashevski & Company
Like in a Film	Dawid Rubinowicz & Company
Even in the Darkest Moments	Renia Spiegel & Company
On That Day	Eva Heyman & Company
What Will You Do?	Moshe Flinker & Company
We Will All Be Witnesses (Reprise)	Company

**Proudly sponsored by Jean Will Presents**



## Cast

Moshe Ze'ev Flinker ..... Kai Justice Rosales  
 Renia Spiegel ..... Katherine Paladichuk  
 Eva Heyman ..... Afra Sophia Tully  
 Dawid Rubinowicz ..... Giov Anny Diaz De Leon  
 Yitskhok Rudashevski ..... Austyn Myers\*  
 The Ensemble ..... Ian Dembek, Hannah Frederick,  
 David Landis, Priya Richard

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States



Giovanni Diaz  
De Leon



Katherine  
Paladichuk



Austyn  
Myers



Afra Sophia  
Tully



Kai Justice  
Rosales



Ian  
Dembek



Hannah  
Frederick



David  
Landis



Priya  
Richard

## Orchestra

Musical Director/Conductor/Piano ..... Lisa Lemay  
 String Bass ..... Mark Vanderpoel  
 Violin ..... Andrea Altona  
 Clarinet ..... Rob Elinson  
 Cello ..... Jennifer Epler  
 Viola ..... Travis Maril  
 Percussion ..... David Whitman

# Festival Keynote: Judaism and Art

## Rabbi Meir Soloveitchik

Monday, June 5 at 7:30pm | Congregation Adat Yeshurun, La Jolla

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik is one of the world's preeminent Jewish thinkers and educators, and he's one of America's most influential religious leaders. He is the senior rabbi of Congregation Shearith Israel in Manhattan, the oldest Jewish congregation in the United States. He is also director of the Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought at Yeshiva University. Rabbi Soloveichik has lectured internationally to Jewish and non-Jewish audiences on topics relating to faith in America, the Hebraic roots of the American founding, Jewish theology, bioethics, wartime ethics, Jewish-Christian relations, and more. He writes a monthly column in Commentary magazine, and his writing has appeared in the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, Mosaic, First Things, Azure, Tradition, the Jewish Review of Books, and many other outlets. Rabbi Soloveichik is a descendent of one of the Jewish world's great rabbinic dynasties. He graduated summa cum laude from Yeshiva University, received his rabbinic ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, and studied at its Beren Kollel Elyon. He has also studied at Yale Divinity School, and in 2010, received his doctorate in religion from Princeton University.

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**Congregation Adat Yeshurun** is a vibrant Jewish community in the heart of La Jolla ("The Jewel"). Our membership is diverse, coming from many different countries and backgrounds, blending together to create a welcoming atmosphere of caring and spiritual growth. Not all of our members come from an Orthodox background, but we all come to Adat Yeshurun to grow spiritually and intellectually, and to increase our understanding of Judaism and what it means to be an observant Jew. The community was started 30 years ago by Rabbi Jeffrey and Shoshie Wohlgeleerter and now consists of approximately 250 families. Rabbi Daniel and Brooke Reich are the Rabbi and Rebbetzin of the Congregation.



# The Whole Megillah

## Jewish New Play Festival

Wednesday June 7 at 7:30 pm and Sunday June 11 at 7:00 pm Old Globe Theatre.

Thursday July 6 at 7:30 pm and Sunday July 9 at 2:00 pm New Village Arts

***The Whole Megillah*** celebrates new plays that are “unapologetically” Jewish and express the entire gamut of Jewish ideas, affiliations, and experiences.

Each year, we select several new plays with a relationship to Judaism in order to develop new and unapologetically Jewish work for the American Theatre. Our new plays fit the following criteria:

- This play is unapologetically Jewish, with appreciation for texts, commentary, and and/or traditions which have sustained the Jewish people.
- This play looks at Judaism as ever-changing, “alive”, and focuses on the context of Judaism in contemporary issues.
- This play looks at Judaism as something with many languages, customs, and faces.
- This play looks to explore, refine, and express what being Jewish now means, has meant, or will mean.

Read the full credits of our selections ***The Red Beads***, ***Hereville***, and ***Chagall*** as they appear further in this program.

**Festival Producer – Rebecca Myers**



The Whole Megillah Jewish New Play Festival  
presents



# The Red Beads

Wednesday, June 7 at 7:30pm | The Old Globe

**By Rinne B. Groff based on *The Singer of His Sorrows* by Osip Dymov as adapted by Adrian Guo-Silver and Rinne B. Groff from a translation by Adrian Guo-Silver**

When a father's bedtime story magically comes to life, his young daughter is plunged into the world of a poor shtetl poet, desperately in love with a woman who spurns him. With great wit and even greater heart, *The Red Beads* explores the beauty – and the pain – of letting love triumph over logic.

## Crew

Director . . . . . Todd Salovey  
Assistant Director . . . . . Raphael Stigliano  
Studio Teacher . . . . . Mary Janus  
Dramaturg . . . . . DW Jacobs  
Stage Manager . . . . . Joseff Paz  
Costumes . . . . . Natalie Barshow

## Cast

Father/Yoshke . . . . . Noah Israel  
Alyetschke . . . . . Anna Kemp  
Madam Lurye . . . . . Sandy Campbell  
Seymontshik . . . . . Michael Kendrick  
Sheyne . . . . . Kate Rose Reynolds  
Hodes . . . . . Linda Libby  
Berl Perlson . . . . . DW Jacobs  
Godinsky . . . . . Jamie Newcomb  
Fiddler . . . . . Yale Strom

## Setting

A bedroom  
The kitchen and a parlor in Madam Lurye's house

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**The Old Globe** believes that theatre matters. Our commitment is to make it matter to more people. The mission of The Old Globe is to preserve, strengthen, and advance American theatre by: Creating theatrical experiences of the highest professional standards; Producing and presenting works of exceptional merit, designed to reach current and future audiences; Ensuring diversity and balance in programming; Providing an environment for the growth and education of theatre professionals, audiences, and the community at large.



Rinne B. Groff's plays and musicals have been produced at the Public Theater, Playwrights Horizons, Trinity Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Yale Rep, the Women's Project, PS122, and Clubbed Thumb, among others, in the United States and internationally. She also writes for television. Rinne is a recipient of the Whiting Writers Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and an Obie Award grant. Founding member of Elevator Repair Service Theater Company. New Dramatists, Dramatist Guild.

# “Neshama” – Music of the Soul

Thursday, June 8 at 7:30pm | The Old Globe

The Hebrew word “Neshama” refers to “soul” or “spirit.” This evening we present an amazing showcase of the soul of the San Diego Jewish community. The artists involved were asked, “what does the word ‘neshama’ and the concept of ‘soul’ mean to you?”. Their varied and inspired work here showcases their answers. JFest is a community organization, created by and for the San Diego communities who are touched by our work. This evening of “Neshama” grew out of a desire to create an opportunity to showcase the incredible talent of our community members. They share this talent with those close to them: their shuls, the organizations they love, their families. And tonight, they share it with you. This evening represents a small slice of the “neshama” of San Diego, as the performers here bring us into their inner circle, and offer us a glimpse of their souls.

## Performers

LITVAK Dancers

Heidi Gantwerk

Andrew Mayer

Becca Myers

Daniel Myers

Jeffrey Myers

Sophie Nevarez

Zeji Ozeri

Lou Rosen

Elizabeth Schwartz

Lisa Schwartz

Yale Strom

Eliza Vedar

Myla Wingard

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The Whole Megillah Jewish New Play Festival  
presents

# Hereville

Co-Produced by Kids On Stage Productions

Sunday, June 11 at 7:00pm | The Old Globe

Sunday, July 9 at 2:00pm | The Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center

**Book by Robby Sandler with Jess Kaufman**

**Music by Lizzie Hagstedt, Lyrics by Robby Sandler**

**Based on the *Hereville* graphic novels by Barry Deutsch.**

*Hereville* is based on the graphic novels by Barry Deutsch, but if you read them, you'll notice a lot of differences between the books and the musical! Barry told us to "write your own *Hereville*," and that's exactly what we did! Mirka is still "Boldly Going Where No 11-Year-Old Orthodox Jewish Girl Has Gone Before," but we chose to focus on the love story between Mirka and her stepmother in a world that celebrates the women who pass along the light of Jewish tradition. *Hereville* has been developed at 92Y (NYC) and Kids on Stage Productions. – **Robby Sandler and Lizzie Hagstedt**





## Cast / Crew

Director . . . . .	Laura Brandel
Co-Producer and Stage Manager . . . . .	Becky Cherlin Baird
Assistant Stage Manager . . . . .	Aaliyah Thompson
Pianist . . . . .	Ben Read
Witch . . . . .	Becca Myers
Laye (June) . . . . .	Maya Gimbel
Laye (July) . . . . .	Ezra Florsheimer
Fruma . . . . .	Rena Strober
Rochel . . . . .	Colette Nucci Coogan
Mirka . . . . .	Ava Madison Gray
Mama . . . . .	Samantha Tullie
Mettie . . . . .	Sophia Oberg

If you would like to learn more about the Hereville musical, please email [herevillemusical@gmail.com](mailto:herevillemusical@gmail.com)

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The mission of **New Village Arts** is to create adventurous artistic experiences to awaken the human spirit. We provide:

- a collaborative and inspiring home for performing and visual artists
- a forum for laughter, discussion, and deeper thinking within our community
- a training ground for future generations of art-makers and art-lovers

NVA attracts over 20,000 patrons to Carlsbad Village each year to experience professional theatre in its intimate, 100 seat house. In addition to full seasons of plays and musicals featuring some of the best artistic talent in Southern California, NVA hosts talkback discussions and other supplementary events designed to create conversation and cultivate community. NVA also maintains The Foundry Artist Studios, a collaborative studio space for local visual artists, and we offer robust theatre programs in partnership with local schools. NVA hosts educational and artistic programs for young adults with neurodiversity and adults with Alzheimer's and dementia. Teatro Pueblo Nuevo, NVA's Latinx outreach initiative, aims to celebrate Latinx culture and heritage and to promote Latinx storytelling on and off our stage throughout the year. NVA strongly believes that theatre and arts experiences should be accessible to ALL people and has become a leader in equity, diversity, and inclusion in San Diego. NVA has been fortunate to receive support from the City of Carlsbad and other local businesses, who recognize the importance of a resident professional theatre company as a crucial component of an inclusive and creative community. We, in turn, prioritize serving our community by presenting works that respect the diversity surrounding us, engaging every citizen with relevant and inspiring stories.

NVA has truly become the cultural hub of North County San Diego.

# Perla Batalla in *House of Cohen: The Songs of Leonard Cohen*

Thursday, June 15 at 7:30pm | The Lawrence Family JCC

In 2015, Grammy nominated singer Perla Batalla began pondering songs to include in a followup CD to her 2007 tribute release to friend and mentor Leonard Cohen. As a longtime singer and touring band member with the legendary songwriter, Perla knew there was much of Cohen’s body of work she still wanted to perform and record.

Batalla’s first Cohen CD, “Bird on the Wire” was produced with Leonard’s blessing; he attended the recording session, weighed-in on material, arrangements, and uncharacteristically participated in a photo session at his Los Angeles home to promote the project.

Cohen’s passing in November 2016 reaffirmed Batalla’s mission of sharing the lesser-known songs of Canada’s poet laureate. She also wanted to dispel the too common mischaracterization of Cohen as “The Godfather of Gloom”.

Perla Batalla selected songs and rare personal anecdotes that serve to reveal Cohen’s lighter side (like Mr. Cohen’s deep affection for the .99 Cent Store and his delight at dining on hot dogs at Home Depot). Perla reveals the timelessness of Cohen’s art through her signature crosscultural style, to convey her sincere respect and deep love for the music, the poetry, and most of all for her dear friend, Leonard Cohen.

*“I feel that the coming together of voices has the power to touch Leonard’s spirit and his lifelong devotion to art and the mysteries of the human heart. Live music is about being in the moment, and I always have this secret expectation that as we lift our voices up together we will feel Leonard all around us.”*

Perla Batalla

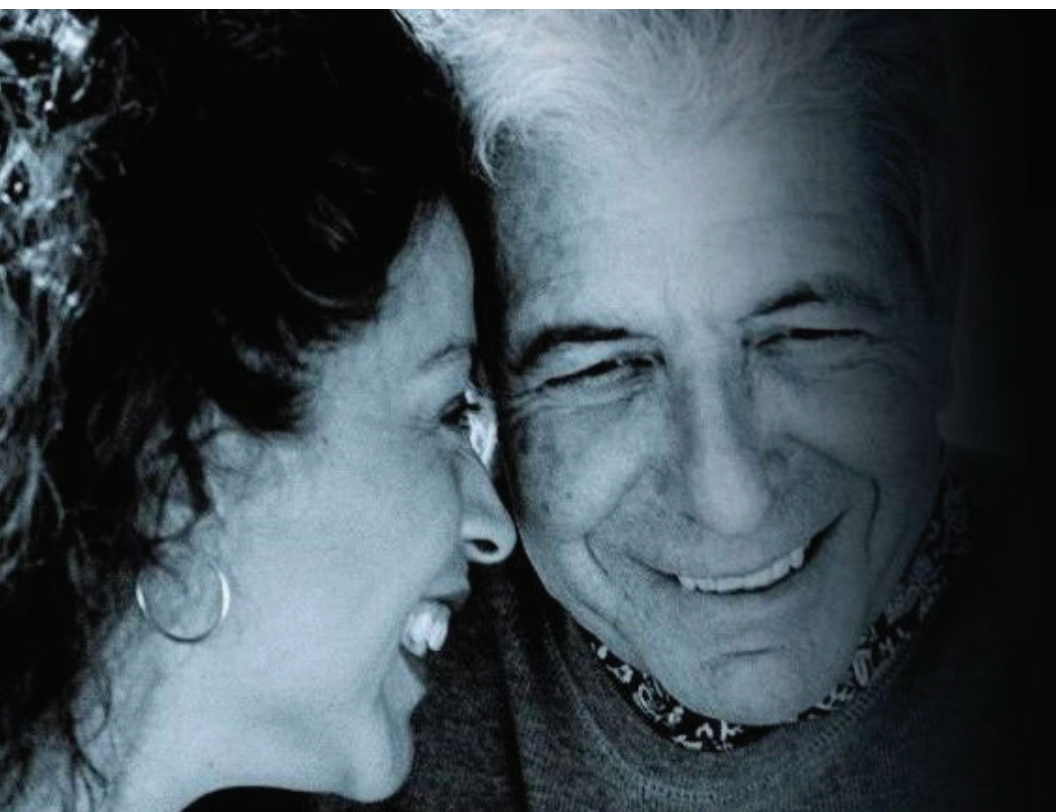
*“Onstage, offstage, digital or analog, I love Perla Batalla.”*

Leonard Cohen

Perla Batalla . . . . . Vocals  
Claud Mann . . . . . Percussion  
Karen Hammack . . . . . Pianist  
Dimitris Mahlis . . . . .Oudist / Guitarist

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The mission of **the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center**, is to connect the community to Jewish heritage, identity, experiences and values to ensure the continuity and vibrancy of the Jewish community. We accomplish our mission by promoting the physical and mental well-being of the community and offering a rich array of stimulating and innovative social, cultural, educational, and recreational programs and services. The LFJCC is committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for San Diego’s diverse Jewish community and its greater general community. 19



# theatre dybbuk: *The Merchant of Venice (Annotated), or In Sooth I Know Not Why I Am So Sad*

Sunday, June 18 at 2:00pm | The Lawrence Family JCC

**Written and Directed by Aaron Henne**

**Developed with Leslie K. Gray, Erith Jaffe-Berg, Joe Jordan, Julie A. Lockhart, Gabrielle Ostrove, Flori Schutzer, Fahad Siadat, Dylan Southard, Diana Tanaka, Inger Tudor, Jon Weinberg, and Jonathan C.K. Williams**

Ensemble . . . . . Joe Jordan, Adam Lebowitz-Lockard\*  
Julie A. Lockhart\*, Diana Tanaka\*, Inger Tudor\*  
Stage Manager . . . . . Roella Delloso  
Composer / Music Director . . . . . Fahad Siadat  
Keyboardist . . . . . Andrew Anderson  
Lighting Designer . . . . . Brandon Baruch  
Sound Designer . . . . . Daniel Tator / Launch  
Production Designer . . . . . Leslie K. Gray  
Costume Designer: . . . . . Kathryn Poppen  
Dramaturg . . . . . Dylan Southard  
Contributing Scholar . . . . . Erith Jaffe-Berg, PhD  
Consulting Scholar . . . . . Daniel Pollack-Pelzner, PhD  
Historical Consultant . . . . . Jennifer Wells, JD/PhD  
Accent Consultant . . . . . Jim Johnson

\*Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

*The Merchant of Venice (Annotated), or In Sooth I Know Not Why I Am So Sad* is presented in five acts and runs 2 hours and 45 minutes, including one 15 minute intermission.

This production is supported in part by a Signature Grant from The Covenant Foundation.

We gratefully acknowledge the Chumash and Tongva (Gabrielino) peoples, on whose ancestral homelands theatre dybbuk is based, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home there today. We'd also like to acknowledge that we cannot separate the complicated reality of any community in the United States from our country's history of colonialism and slavery.

## **about theatre dybbuk:**

theatre dybbuk creates provocative new works that blend physical theatre with poetry and music for exciting, utterly singular live events. The company explores the rich world of Jewish history, building lyrical performances that illuminate universal human experience for contemporary audiences.



With an in-depth development process that can range from a few months to three years, Artistic Director Aaron Henne builds each piece with a cast of dedicated professional actors, designers, musicians, and scholars. The resulting works, from the dark and visceral dance theatre of *cave... a dance for lilith* to the shadowy and immersive *hell prepared: a ritual exorcism inspired by kabbalistic principles, performed within a dominant cultural context*, are challenging and beautiful to behold.

theatre dybbuk is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. [www.theatredybbuk.org](http://www.theatredybbuk.org)

about *The Merchant of Venice (Annotated)*, or *In Sooth I Know Not Why I Am So Sad*: This multidisciplinary production brings together elements of William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* with Elizabethan history and news from the 21st century to expose the underbelly of the classic play, taking a kaleidoscopic view of the ways in which members of a society displace their fears on the "other" during times of upheaval.

The show's presentation at The Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival is part of a rolling world premiere which began in Los Angeles and will continue at the Oshman Family JCC in the San Francisco Bay Area. The show will then tour to additional metropolitan areas including Portland, Oregon and Baltimore, Maryland.

"Anti-Semitism has real impact beyond just hate crimes. It distorts our understanding of how the actual world works. It isolates us. It alienates us from our communities, from our neighbors, and from participating in governance. It kills, but it also kills our society. Anti-Semitism isn't just bigotry toward the Jewish community. It is actually utilizing bigotry toward the Jewish community in order to deconstruct democratic practices, and it does so by framing democracy as a conspiracy rather than a tool of empowerment or a functional tool of governance."

- Eric K. Ward, Senior Fellow, Southern Poverty Law Center

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The mission of **the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center**, is to connect the community to Jewish heritage, identity, experiences and values to ensure the continuity and vibrancy of the Jewish community. We accomplish our mission by promoting the physical and mental well-being of the community and offering a rich array of stimulating and innovative social, cultural, educational, and recreational programs and services. The LFJCC is committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for San Diego's diverse Jewish community and its greater general community.

# Matisyahu

Tuesday, June 20 at 8:00pm | The Belly Up

Concert by the renowned Reggae star, Matisyahu whose hit song, "One Day," is one of the most beloved Jewish pop songs.



# 22nd Klezmer Summit: The World of Jewish Music

Wednesday, June 21 at 7:30pm | The First Universalist Unitarian Church of San Diego

Wherever Jews traveled and settled they carried with them since ancient times their Middle Eastern songs. When they came to a new location the Jewish musicians were quick to adapt and adopt their synagogue songs and wedding melodies with the local folk music. The lingua franca of these itinerant musicians was not Hebrew, Yiddish or Ladino but was literally music.

## Hot Pstromi Band

Gunnar Biggs ..... Contrabass  
Duncan Moore ..... Percussion  
Fred Benedetti ..... Guitar and Mandolin  
Elizabeth Schwartz ..... Vocals  
Yale Strom ..... Violin

## Guest Soloists

Robert Zelickman ..... clarinet and bass clarinet - klezmer tunes  
Coral MacFarland Thuet ..... vocalist - Italian and Spanish songs  
Farhad Bahrami ..... oud - Persian folk melodies



# Yale Strom's

## *Recordially Yours, Lou Curtiss*

Sunday, June 25 at 7:00pm | Digital Gym CINEMA, Park & Market, San Diego

Curtis was the creator of the San Diego Folk Festival and the Adams Avenue Roots Festival, an audiophile, folklorist, author, raconteur, radio host, and proprietor of Folk Arts Rare Records. His shop was a mecca for some of the most celebrated American roots musicians in America, such as Jack Tempchin, Tom Brousseau, A.J. Croce, Mojo Nixon, George Winston, Sue Palmer, Alison Brown, Tomcat Courtney, Tom Waits, Gregory Page, Mike Seeger, Sam Hinton, and many others who were profoundly influenced in their careers and lives by Lou.

His influence on musicians who flocked to his shop extends far beyond this corner of the world (today the shop is located at 3610 University Ave. San Diego, CA 92104 under the visionary leadership of Lou's protege, Brendan Boyle).

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**Park & Market** brings UC San Diego downtown—in a glorious new state of the art building in East Village. Here, experts, community leaders, artists, entrepreneurs, and visionaries will mingle and confer—welcoming you into the mix.

Every culture. Every age. No barriers to learning. A new home where worlds collide, minds meld, collaborations thrive, and our civic DNA is expressed—in full measure.

**The Digital Gym Cinema**, founded by the Media Arts Center San Diego, first opened its doors in 2013 in North Park. The cinema played a huge role in revitalizing the intersection of El Cajon Blvd. and 30th St. Through the dedication of programmers, cinema associates, Media Arts Center San Diego staff, community partners, and cinephiles, the Digital Gym Cinema became the home for the very best independent films from around the world.





# Chagall



Thursday, July 6 at 7:30pm | The Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center

This play written by Yale Strom & Todd Salovey with music and songs by Yale Strom depicts the lives of the Chagall's before they left their homes in Vitebsk, Russia and moved to France. This reminiscing takes place during the German occupation of France during WWII. Slowly and steadily the Chagall's are caught up in the dragnet where all the Jews of France are being imprisoned then deported to concentration camps to the East.

Yale Strom has always loved the work of the artist Marc Chagall, in particular its innate Jewishness and capturing of shtetl life. This project's journey began in 2009 as a ballet; since then, and over the course of several workshops, it has evolved into a full theatrical musical, encompassing dialogue, characters, song and dance. In 2019, Strom began to develop the story with Todd Salovey. They wanted to tell the story not only of Chagall but of his partner and muse Bella Chagall. The story's arc includes their daughter, Ida, American Varian Fry and Chagall's creation and alter-ego, the Green Fiddler. The play is set in April 1941 in Gordes, France, now under Germans occupation with the eager collaboration of the fascist Vichy government. Despite the deportation of Jews from France and other European countries, the Chagalls are reluctant to abandon their village in southern France. They think they have time and can tolerate living under the increasingly antisemitic restrictions. But Varian Fry, under the auspices of the Emergency Rescue Committee (supported by Eleanor Roosevelt among others) and Vice Consul Hiram Bingham IV have already begun to get "celebrity" visas to escape and come to America. The Chagalls confront a new, worse peril as they reflect on their lives in Vitebsk, in France and the unknown future. What will it be in a strange new country where they don't speak the language? What will become of their life's works? What will they be as refugees in a new world? Music from the Green Fiddler, songs sung by the cast and Chagall's own artistic vision help to tell this fascinating story, one that has become relevant to contemporary life.

## Cast / Crew

Todd Salovey	Director
Playwright	Yale Strom
Director	Todd Salovey
Assistant Director	Raphael Stigliano
Dramaturg	Haia Bchiri
Stage Manager	Joseff Paz
Pianist	Shawn Jerge
Chagall (AEA)	Steven Goldstein
Bella (AEA)	Elizabeth Schwartz
Green Fiddler	Nuvi Meta
Varian Fry (AEA)	Jason Heil
Ida	Becca Myers
Guard/Ensemble	Cody Bray
Costume Designer	Anastasia Pautova



### Settings

The home, a bungalow, prison, an office all are contained within a large circus tent. In Gordes, France; Marseille, France; Vitebsk, Belarus; and Cranberry Lake, New York.

### Time

The piece takes place between June 1940 and August 1944.

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The mission of **New Village Arts** is to create adventurous artistic experiences to awaken the human spirit. We provide:

- a collaborative and inspiring home for performing and visual artists
- a forum for laughter, discussion, and deeper thinking within our community
- a training ground for future generations of art-makers and art-lovers

NVA attracts over 20,000 patrons to Carlsbad Village each year to experience professional theatre in its intimate, 100 seat house. In addition to full seasons of plays and musicals featuring some of the best artistic talent in Southern California, NVA hosts talkback discussions and other supplementary events designed to create conversation and cultivate community. NVA also maintains The Foundry Artist Studios, a collaborative studio space for local visual artists, and we offer robust theatre programs in partnership with local schools. NVA hosts educational and artistic programs for young adults with neurodiversity and adults with Alzheimer's and dementia. Teatro Pueblo Nuevo, NVA's Latinx outreach initiative, aims to celebrate Latinx culture and heritage and to promote Latinx storytelling on and off our stage throughout the year. NVA strongly believes that theatre and arts experiences should be accessible to ALL people and has become a leader in equity, diversity, and inclusion in San Diego. NVA has been fortunate to receive support from the City of Carlsbad and other local businesses, who recognize the importance of a resident professional theatre company as a crucial component of an inclusive and creative community. We, in turn, prioritize serving our community by presenting works that respect the diversity surrounding us, engaging every citizen with relevant and inspiring stories.

NVA has truly become the cultural hub of North County San Diego.

# Eco-Jewish Play Fest

*New Stories for a New Planet*

Coastal Roots Farm at Leichtag Commons, Encinitas

Sunday July 16

Doors open 5:30pm

Plays 6-7:30pm

After party 7:30pm

Suggested donation: \$36/person

The stories we tell create the world we live in. This is a critical time in climate history. What stories will we choose to tell?

Join us for an evening of vital, quick-made, top-notch theater as we cultivate a vision for a thriving and sustainable future.

In partnership with JFEST, The Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival, Coastal Roots Farm's first-ever *Eco-Jewish Play Fest* will feature 7 nationally recognized local playwrights, 7 directors, and 20+ local actors. In just 24 hours, they will create brand new plays inspired by Eco-Jewish themes.

Performances will take place on the Farm on Sunday evening, July 16, followed by an afterparty for artists and audience. It promises to be a provocative, uplifting and magical night. In other words, **7 plays. 24 hours to create. 1 night to enjoy!**

## FAQ'S

### ***Why an eco-Jewish new play Fest?***

When we imagine and share new stories about the earth, the climate crisis, and the future we hope for, we come much closer to creating that future. We build our world from the stories we tell, and far too many current stories are helpless, despairing or confusingly naive. Let's tell more resilient, comforting, hilarious and inspiring eco-stories, towards a more loving, equitable, and spiritually joyful world!

### ***What should I expect?***

Top notch playwrights, actors and directors sharing 7 10 minutes jewels with you! Expect wonder, sadness, laughter, surprise, questioning, anticipation and inspiration. And a great after-party with lots of new friends.

### ***Will all the plays in this Fest be family friendly?***

Yes, they definitely will be.

### ***If I don't identify as Jewish, will this still speak to me?***

Absolutely. Many of our playwrights do not identify as Jews too. The goal is many different voices creating 7 universally resonant little plays - for you.



**ECO-JEWISH PLAY FESTIVAL PRODUCTION STAFF**

Festival Producer, & Farm Director of Jewish Life. . . . . Rebecca Joy Fletcher  
 Farm President and CEO. . . . . Javier Guerrero  
 Farm CFO . . . . . Denise Naylor  
 Eco-Jewish Play Fest Party Coordinator &  
 Director of Strategic Outreach at the JCC . . . . . Meghan Rodarte  
 Event Manager . . . . . Jess Arroyo  
 Festival Producer, JFest Associate Producer . . . . . Becca Myers  
 Festival Producer, JFest Artistic Director . . . . . Todd Salovey  
 Head Stage Manager . . . . . Joseff Paz  
 DEI Representative . . . . . Kali Boston  
 Production Manager . . . . . Raphael Stigliano

**PLAYWRIGHTS**

. . . . . Agyeiwaa Asante  
 . . . . . Carson Becker  
 . . . . . Haia B'chiri  
 . . . . . Karen Hartman  
 . . . . . Oliver Jai'Sen Mayer  
 . . . . . Sadie Weinberg  
 . . . . . Yale Strom

**DIRECTORS**

. . . . . Doug Oliphant  
 . . . . . Jeremy Aluma

**DIRECTORS (continued)**

- ..... Kali Boston
- ..... Kandace Crystal
- ..... Kristianne Kurner
- ..... Patrice Amon
- ..... Rosie Glen-lambert

**ACTORS**

- ..... Anna Kemp
- ..... Ashley Akhavan
- ..... Becca Myers
- ..... Celeste Lanuza
- ..... Daniel Myers
- ..... Emily Miller
- ..... Eva Barnes
- ..... Gwyn Torio
- ..... Hannah Trujillo
- ..... Hannah Wyer
- ..... Jacqueline Schweighardt
- ..... Jason Hei
- ..... Levani Korganashvilli
- ..... Linda Libby
- ..... Lisa Robin
- ..... Milena Phillips
- ..... Naomi Louie
- ..... Noah Israel
- ..... Rebecca Joy Fletcher
- ..... Sandy Campbell
- ..... Summer Broyhill
- ..... Victor Morris

**STAGE MANAGERS**

- ..... Avery Simionian
- ..... Denise Lopez
- ..... Jenny Hernandez
- ..... Karla Garcia
- ..... Lisa Fang
- ..... Sashank Kanchustambam

**Coastal Roots Farm** is a non-profit regenerative farm and education center inspired by Jewish wisdom and tradition. On 17 beautiful acres in Encinitas, California, we practice organic, climate-smart farming, share our harvest with those in need, deliver unique farm-based education, and foster inclusive spaces for people of all ages and backgrounds to gather and celebrate Jewish tradition and spiritual well-being. Through our Jewish Life initiative, we foster opportunities for engagement around earth-based Judaism, wonder and joy, climate resiliency and action, and the power of sacred time. We seek to bring people closer to each other and to this earth we all call home. The Farm’s Director of Jewish Life, Cantor Rebecca Joy Fletcher, is also a long-time actor and theater-maker. She is thrilled to be bringing theater to the Farm for the first time and hopes that the Eco-Jewish Play Fest will ignite the audience’s imagination, optimism, and comradery.



# Center for Jewish Care



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Jewish  
San Diegans



A Home for  
Tikkun Olam

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- Housing Resource Navigation
- Care Coordination for Holocaust Survivors
- JFS David Rubenstein Memorial Scholarship for College Students



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[www.CenterForJewishCare.org](http://www.CenterForJewishCare.org)



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Service**

Moving Forward  
Together

# Good work, great returns



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Every contribution to our community has the potential to change lives for the better. At U.S. Bank Private Wealth Management, we're proud to support **The Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival (JFEST)** and its work toward the greater good. Thank you for improving our community today, tomorrow and well into the future.

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# MAZEL TOV

## TO THIS YEAR'S WOMEN OF VALOR HONOREES

Sheila Lipinsky, Beth Sirull, Fanny Krasner Lebovitz,  
Amelia Glaser, Jan Landau, and Annie Benaroch

Jewish Federation of San Diego is proud to celebrate your accomplishments  
and the lasting impact you have had on our community.



Jewish Federation  
of San Diego

# YOUR ROAD TO THE RIGHT CAR

**Kearny Mesa**  
CHRYSLER  
DODGE // Jeep RAM

GENESIS OF KEARNY MESA

**San Diego**  
CHRYSLER  
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**BMW of EL CAJON** | BMW

**Kearny Mesa**  
CHEVROLET

**TOYOTA CHULA VISTA**  
WE GO THE EXTRA MILE | TOYOTA

**KEARNY MESA HYUNDAI**  
YOUR SEARCH ENDS HERE | HYUNDAI

MADERAS GOLF CLUB

**KEARNY MESA SUBARU**  
It just makes sense | SUBARU

**Kearny Mesa** | Ford | **Kearny Mesa** | KIA

**PACIFIC HONDA**  
FOR ALL THE RIGHT REASONS | HONDA

**TOYOTA Tijuana** | SUBARU | **SUBARU TIJUANA**

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# Congratulations Beth!



Jewish Community Foundation  
President and Chief Executive Officer

We are proud to honor **Beth Sirull** and all of this years' **Women of Valor**.

**Annie Benaroch, Amelia Glaser, Jan Landau, Fanny Krasner Lebovitz, and Sheila Lipinsky**

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## *Create a Jewish Legacy*

A PROGRAM OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, SAN DIEGO

The Foundation can help you **Create a Jewish Legacy** to support Jewish life for generations to come. **What will your legacy be?**

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### **Jewish Community Foundation San Diego**

*Individuals can make a difference; together we change the world.*

(858) 279-2740 / [info@jcfsandiego.org](mailto:info@jcfsandiego.org) / [www.jcfsandiego.org](http://www.jcfsandiego.org)

# *The 30th Annual Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival Staff*

Todd Salovey	Artistic Director
Matt Graber	Managing Director
Rebecca Myers	Associate Producer
Ali Viterbi	Women of Valor Director
Kali Boston	Production Manager/Assistant to the Artistic Director
Joseff Paz	Production Stage Manager
Alejandra Enciso-Dardashi	PR Director
Ajay Pawaan	Social Media & Marketing Manager
Cheryl Katz	Social Media, Marketing & Fundraising Manager
Brett Oyler	Media Designer
Adam Nicolai	Senior Director of Community Engagement JCC
Rachel Le Fine	Theatre Production Coordinator JCC
Chris Renda	Technical Director JCC
Shanon Kelley Powell	Facilities Manager JCC

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We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers' Unions:

**ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION**

**AMERICAN GUILD OF MUSICAL ARTISTS**

**AMERICAN GUILD OF VARIETY ARTISTS**

**SAG-AFTRA**

through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting  
the Artists to appear in this program.