

Chutzpah! 2006

The Lisa Nemetz Showcase of Jewish Performing Arts

February 25 to March 5, 2006
with the Chutzpah! Plus series from March 6-12

January 9, 2006

Spotlight on Theatre at Chutzpah!

Vancouver, BC – From Lithuania to Ethiopia, from Princeton to Beverly Hills, from Winnipeg to right here at home, the Chutzpah! Festival presents 9 days of theatre that spans the globe.

Says Chutzpah! Artistic Director Mary-Louise Albert: "We're delighted once again to present esteemed international artists alongside some very exciting local talent. Our theatre lineup offers a mixture of laughter and food for thought, as each of these artists grapples in a very personal way with larger questions."

Vancity Opening Night Gala

RAIN PRYOR in *Fried Chicken & Latkes: A One-Woman Experience*

With Special Guest Speaker The Honourable Carole Taylor for the Opening Night Gala Vancouver Premiere

Growing up black and Jewish in Beverly Hills as the daughter of the late, legendary comedian Richard Pryor and a Jewish mother, Rain Pryor inherited a wicked sense of humour and a strong political consciousness. But her knockout singing voice is all her own. Through potent song and inventive characters, this cabaret-style solo show brings to life a tumultuous journey of racial identity, family, career, spiritual growth and love.

When: Saturday, February 25 at 8pm
Sunday, February 26 at 1pm

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCC

IT SOUNDS BETTER IN AMHARIC

Starring Yossi Vassa

Written by Yossi Vassa and Shai Ben Attar

Vancouver Premiere

Straight from Israel, this entertaining and poignant one man show starring the Ethiopian-born Israeli actor **Yossi Vassa** ingeniously blends storytelling and standup comedy. It is a moving, personal account of a 700-kilometer journey by foot from Ethiopia to a refugee camp in Sudan and then finally to the Holy Land. Nostalgic memories of life in Ethiopia are mixed with hilarious perspectives on the adjustments that must be made when moving to modern-day Israel.

When: Sunday, February 26 at 5pm
Monday, February 27 at 8pm
Wednesday, March 1 at 8:30pm

Where: Wosk 2nd Stage, JCC

BOYCHIK

Written by Richard Krevolin

Starring Richard Kline

Vancouver Premiere

Boychik is the funny and moving spiritual journey of Larry Levin, a middle-aged American Jew, as he confronts the conflicting emotions that surface after the death of his scholarly father. This one-man show stars Richard Kline, known to millions of TV viewers as Larry on the classic sitcom *Three's Company* and for numerous other television and stage appearances.

When: Sunday, February 26 at 7pm
Tuesday February 28 at 7pm

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCC

LETTERS FROM LITHUANIA (Staged Reading)

By Mortal Coil

Through experimental theatre, song, music, video, puppetry and stilt dance, *Letters from Lithuania* will tell a remarkable and true story of how one man's fear kept news of the existence of World War II Holocaust survivors sealed in envelopes, unread, for 30 years. In anticipation of its public presentation in August 2006 in Stanley Park, this staged reading of this work-in-progress by Vancouver's Mortal Coil will include readings of excerpts from the script, live music by Zeellia and a stilt dance performance. Suitable for the whole family.

When: Sunday, February 26 at 8:30pm

Where: Wosk 2nd Stage, JCC

EINSTEIN

Written by Gabriel Emanuel

Starring Chris Britton

Set in the great scientist's Princeton study on his 70th birthday, this solo show takes a witty and often sardonic look at Albert Einstein's life. A veteran of the Shaw and Stratford Festivals, **Chris Britton** has performed *Einstein* more than 200 times in Canada and the US, and brings the production (not seen by Vancouver audiences since 1987) of this humorous and morally complex play to Chutzpah! The play has an extended run March 7-12 as part of Chutzpah! Plus.

When: Wednesday, March 1 at 9pm

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCC

Tuesday, March 7 at 8pm

Wednesday, March 8 at 9pm

Thursday, March 9 at 9pm

Friday, March 10 at 1:30pm

Saturday, March 11 at 8pm

Sunday, March 12 at 8pm

CHUTZPAH'S FULL OF MISHEGAS

They're out of the Fringe and they're Full of Mishegas! Chutzpah's annual showcase is back by popular demand with an all-new program - after several sold out shows last year. The 2006 Festival includes new work by cutting edge theatre artists Jonno Katz, Michael Rinaldi and a West Coast Premier of Daniel Thau-Eleff' and Chris Gerrard-Pinker's *Three Ring Circus*.

Mongrel

World Premiere

Performed and created by Jonno Katz and Michael Rinaldi

Directed and choreographed by Courtenay Dobbie

What happens when two comedians enter the dance world...as dancers? A group of artists well-known on Vancouver's Fringe and independent theatre scene take the plunge. Sure to inspire convulsive laughter.

Three Ring Circus: Israel, the Palestinians and My Jewish Identity

Written by Daniel Thau-Eleff and Chris Gerrard-Pinker

Performed by Daniel Thau-Eleff

Directed by Chris Gerrard-Pinker

Vancouver Premiere

What does it mean to be Jewish? How is a Jewish Winnipegger connected to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? And what's the best way to meet women? *Three-Ring Circus* explores these questions and more, in a heartfelt and charming look at what we share.

When: Thursday, March 2 at 9:30pm

Where: Wosk 2nd Stage, JCC

Saturday, March 4 at 7:30pm

Sunday, March 5 at 6pm

Closing Night Performance
DAN JOFFRE in Glatt To Be Back!

After a full capacity crowd last Chutzpah! with the fantastic 99.9 % *Kosher Show*, Dan is now *Glatt To Be Back!* with a whole new kosher comedy spin on things! Imagine *Whose Line is it Anyway?* with a little matza meal thrown in. This improvised comedy show is suitable for the whole family. Accompanying Dan is his Kosher Comedy Crew – elite TheatreSports veterans Margret Nyfors, Michael Robinson and comedic composer/musician Patrick Pennefather – are sure to wrap up another successful season with a side-splitting aplomb.

When: Sunday, March 5 at 8pm

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCC

Designed to celebrate established and emerging professional Jewish artists and their collaborators from around the world, Chutzpah! has earned an admirable reputation for its innovative and eclectic programming.

Now in its sixth year, Chutzpah! continues to present professional local, national and international Jewish artists and their collaborators creating an exciting multi-cultural celebration of music, theatre and dance of the highest calibre. Single tickets for Chutzpah! performances and workshops, which range in price from \$8 to \$25 (Opening Night Gala - \$36), can be purchased by phone (604 257 5145), online at www.chutzpahfestival.com or in person at the JCCGV (950 41st Ave). Chutzi Packs, which enable patrons to see four shows of their choice (excluding the VanCity Opening Night Gala) at a discounted price, are also available.

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Media inquiries:
Jodi Smith, JLS Entertainment
T: 604 736 4939 E: jlsmgmt@lightspeed.ca