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For Immediate Release

**SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE ANNOUNCES
THE 29TH ANNUAL LIPINSKY FAMILY
SAN DIEGO JEWISH ARTS FESTIVAL
May 23rd - July 19th**

The star-studded 2022 lineup includes virtual and live events featuring Hershey Felder, hip hop artist Nissim Black, Yiddish songstress Niki Jacobs, renowned soprano Angelina Reaux, Broadway icon Joel Grey, Ali Viterbi's In Every Generation, and more...

San Diego, CA (April 20, 2022) – San Diego Repertory Theatre announced today the lineup for the **29th Annual Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival (JFest)**, which brings another fantastic year of Jewish music, theatre, art and ideas to the community. This year's festival will last from **May 23rd – July 19th, 2022** and features a slate of 14 virtual and live performances celebrating San Diego's diverse performing arts community. All events are available for reservations at <https://www.sdrep.org/jfest>

Festival Artistic Director **Todd Salovey** shared "This year's JFest is both live and virtual. At the center is Ali Viterbi's wonderful *In Every Generation* which started as a festival reading and now has three full productions nationally! *We have amazing headliners: Joel Grey, Hershey Felder, rap star Nissim Black, the cast of Shtisel, Niki Jacobs from Netherlands, Angelina Reaux, plus festival favorites Klezmer Summit and Women of Valor. There's theatre, music, opera, dance, and so much to celebrate and enjoy!*"

This year's festival features the inimitable hip hop artist **Nissim Black** in a concert overlooking the ocean, songstress **Niki Jacobs** performing the world's most gorgeous Yiddish music and the renowned **Hershey Felder** with two unmissable events. The 21st **Klezmer Summit**, a festival favorite, is a celebration of hope and a tribute to Ukraine. Renowned opera, theatre and cabaret performer, **Angelina Reaux** performs the music of Kurt Weill, and choreographer **Yehuda Hyman** shares his solo show. This year also celebrates the **13th Annual Women of Valor** with music, stories and images of six women who have made a significant impact in San Diego.

A special highlight of the festival is Broadway icon **Joel Grey** (June 18 6pm) who will share his favorite plays with festival Artistic Director, **Todd Salovey**. Another highlight is a discussion (June 18 12pm) with Actor **Michael Aloni** and co-creator and writer **Ori Elon** on their award-winning Israeli series *Shtisel* on Netflix.

The 29th annual presentation of JFEST will also feature the return of ***The Whole Megillah***, a festival of new Jewish plays. This new play festival highlights unproduced and unapologetically Jewish work for the American Theatre. Throughout June, four brand new works from four powerhouse female writers will be presented as staged readings. Each distinct work explores different facets of the contemporary Jewish experience, and is coupled with panel discussions featuring renowned Jewish artists and speakers.

In a continued focus on our next generation of artists, the festival will feature the 4th Annual **The Room Where It Happens** with San Diego Jewish Academy. The festival also showcases plays that have progressed onto stages around the world. A cornerstone of this year's festival is the highly-anticipated world premiere of **Ali Viterbi's** enthralling and touching family saga, *In Every Generation* (May 26-Jun 19.) ***The Blessing of a Broken Heart***, written by Todd Salovey was performed in Jerusalem in May 2022 and captured on film. The film will also stream at this year's festival.

Reservations for the 29th Annual Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival are currently available and can be made at sdrep.org/jfest or by calling 619.544.1000.

Festival Calendar: Todd Salovey's *The Blessing of a Broken Heart* (5/23-30), *Niki Jacobs' A Ballad of Resilience* (5/24), *The Room Where It Happens* (5/25), *In Every Generation* by Ali Viterbi (5/26-6/19), *The Dancing Room* by Yehuda Hyman (5/29), *Nissim Black in Concert* (5/30), *21st Annual Klezmer Summit: To Ukraine With Love, Songs of Hope* (6/7), *13th Annual Women of Valor* (6/9, 6/12), *The Art of Shtisel* (6/18), *Joel Grey's Favorite Plays* (6/18), *Angelina Reaux Sings The Love Songs of Kurt Weill* (6/23, 6/26) *The Whole Megillah - Jewish New Play Festival* (6/14, 6/20, 6/22, 6/26), *Hershey Felder's Singalong* (7/11), *Hershey Felder's Music In The Jewish Ghetto Of Venice* (7/12-7/19)

About San Diego Repertory Theatre

San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) produces intimate, provocative and inclusive theatre. Founded in 1976, San Diego Repertory Theatre is downtown San Diego's resident theatre, promoting an interconnected community through vivid works that nourish progressive political and social values and celebrates the multiple voices of our region. The company produces and hosts over 550 events and performances year-round on its three stages at the Lyceum Theatre. Since moving to the Lyceum, The REP has produced 54 main stage productions by Latino playwrights, and more than 45 world premieres. The company has received more than 200 awards for artistic excellence from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, Patté Theatre Awards, NAACP, Backstage West, Dramalogue and StageSceneLA. In 2005, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle presented The REP with the Craig Noel Award "For 30 Years of Artistic Dedication to Downtown and Diversity." San Diego Repertory Theatre feeds the curious soul. Learn more about San Diego Repertory Theatre at sdrep.org. Follow us on social media @SanDiegoREP.

Supported By

San Diego REP Season 46 financial support provided in part by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Conrad Prebys Foundation, Joan and Irwin Jacobs, Larry Aldredge and Dawn Moore and Harvey Neiman. Additional support for the 29th Annual Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival is supported by Lipinsky Family Foundation, National New Play Network, Leichtag Foundation, Dylan Jacobs and Mikayla Wilson.

Fact Sheet Below

FACT SHEET

San Diego Repertory Theatre presents

The 29th Annual Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival

Festival Artistic Director: Todd Salovey

Festival Associate Artistic Director: Ali Viterbi

Festival Associate Producer: Rebecca Myers

Calendar of Events (all events listed in Pacific time):

- Mon, May 23 - 7:30pm, then streaming until May 30 *The Blessing of a Broken Heart*
- Tue, May 24 – 7:30pm – Lyceum Stage – Niki Jacobs - *A Ballad of Resilience*
- Wed, May 25-7pm – San Diego Jewish Academy (address below) - *The Room Where It Happens*
- Thur, May 26 – Sunday June 19 *In Every Generation* by Ali Viterbi, Directed by Todd Salovey and Emily Moler – Lyceum Space
- Sun, May 29 6pm – Lyceum Stage –*The Dancing Room (selections)* – Free
- Mon, May 30 – 7pm – *Nissim Black in Concert* - Leichtag Commons, Encinitas
- Tues, June 7 - 7:30pm – Lyceum Stage - *21st Annual Klezmer Summit – To Ukraine With Love: Songs of Hope*
- Thu, June 9 - 7:30pm – *13th Annual Women of Valor* - Lyceum Stage
- Sun, June 12 - 2pm – *13th Annual Women of Valor North County* - Leichtag Commons
- Sun, June 19 - 12pm– Michael Aloni along with Ori Elon – *The Art of Shtisel* – Live Stream - \$18
- Sun, June 19 - 6pm *Joel Grey's Favorite Plays* – Streaming
Thu, June 23 at 7:30pm and Sun, June 26 at 2pm - Lyceum Space – Angelina Reaux Sings the Love Songs of Kurt Weil
- June 14, 20, 22, 26 – The Whole Megillah – Jewish New Play Festival – Lyceum Space & Streamed
- July 11 – 7:30pm - Hershey Felder's Sing-Along featuring music by Jewish and Jewish-American composers – Lyceum Space
- July 12 - 19 - Hershey Felder's Music *In The Jewish Ghetto Of Venice* World MUSICAL FILM PREMIERE Streamed

Festival Locations:

Digital Viewing from Home

San Diego Repertory Theatre, The Lyceum Theatres

79 Horton Plaza, San Diego, CA 92101

The HIVE @ Leichtag Commons

441 Saxony Road, Encinitas, CA 92024

San Diego Jewish Academy

11860 Carmel Creek Road, San Diego 921320

ABOUT THE 29th ANNUAL LIPINSKY FAMILY SAN DIEGO JEWISH ARTS FESTIVAL (JFEST)

The Blessing of a Broken Heart

by Todd Salovey, based on the memoir by Sherri Mandell
Directed by Yael Valier

Mon May 23, 7:30pm, then available to stream until May 30
Online event and post show discussion, \$15

Yael Valier's beautifully staged *The Blessing of a Broken Heart* performed in Jerusalem in May 2022 was captured in film. The moving story of a young American mother who relocates her family from Maryland to the rural outskirts of Jerusalem in search of meaning and adventure - only to be immersed in the storm of a 3000 year old struggle. When a shocking tragedy hits the heart of her family, she embarks on a profound journey of discovery, growing faith and spiritual transcendence that becomes an inspiring story of healing and rebirth. Todd Salovey's Edgerton Award-winning script premiered at San Diego REP in 2008. This Israeli production in English is followed by a discussion with Sherri Mandell, Todd Salovey, and director Yael Valier.

"Watching [this] play was a profound experience for me." Sara Yoheved Rigler, Jerusalem author and columnist.

Niki Jacobs' A Ballad of Resilience

Tue May 24, 7:30pm
In person event at San Diego Repertory Theatre, Lyceum Theatres
\$30 premiere seating, \$18 standard

Songstress Niki Jacobs and her ensemble visit JFEST from Netherlands where she has become one of the world's leading interpreters of Yiddish music. Seth Rogovy of *The Forward* writes, "A Yiddish performance so versatile, it spans from 'Mauthausen' to Elvis Presley."

This performance features *The Ballad of Mauthausen*, one of the most gorgeous pieces ever written about the Second World War. It is a collaboration between the Greek poet Iakovos Kambanellis, who was a survivor of Kamp Mauthausen, and Mikis Theodorakis, the famous Greek composer banned for his activism against social injustice. Commemorating 75+ years of liberation from the Nazi regime **Niki Jacobs** re-addresses this musical piece, using a beautiful Yiddish translation to not only emphasize and give voice to those who perished or fled Eastern-Europe before, during and after the Second World War, but to also show that the Yiddish language is still alive.

The Room Where It Happens

With San Diego Jewish Academy
Produced and curated by Rebecca Myers and Kayla Swartzberg

Wed May 25, 7pm
In person event at San Diego Jewish Academy, 11860 Carmel Creek Road, San Diego 921320
\$10

The 4th Annual *Room Where It Happens* puts the spotlight on the next generation of artists. Talented teens from across San Diego perform music, dance, theatre and spoken word.

In Every Generation

By Ali Viterbi
Directed by Todd Salovey and Emily Moler

May 26 - Jun 19
Performance times vary

In person event at San Diego Repertory Theatre, Lyceum Theatres
Tickets from \$25

One family. One holiday. Four millennia. The Levi-Katz family celebrates Passover again and again—1416 BCE, 1954, 2019 and 2050 to be exact. Why is this night different from all others? Written by San Diegan Ali Viterbi, *In Every Generation* has already won several awards, including the National Jewish Playwriting Contest and two Kennedy Center Awards. The highly-anticipated world premiere of this enthralling and touching family saga is not to be missed.

The Dancing Room (Selections)

Yehuda Hyman

Sun May 29, 6pm

In person event at San Diego Repertory Theatre, Lyceum Theatres

Free event (prior to 7pm performance of *In Every Generation*)

No tickets required, just turn up

Choreographer Yehuda Hyman's solo show, *The Mad Dancers* was performed in the first JFest. His latest piece, *The Dancing Room* is a theatre tale about the award-winning playwright/performer's dancer's life: from the first rhythmic steps his Polish and Russian immigrant parents taught him, to his teenage obsession with the legendary Nijinsky, to the winding road that led to his initiation into the ecstasy of Hasidic dance. In this 20 minute excerpt followed by a Q & A, Yehuda mixes memoir, humor and pathos in a search for levitation of the feet - and heart.

Nissim Black in Concert

Mon May 30, 7pm - Memorial Day Weekend

In person event at Leichtag Commons, Encinitas

\$50 inc. pre-show reception with Nissim Black

\$30 premiere seating, \$18 standard

Experience inimitable hip hop artist Nissim Black performing outdoors overlooking the ocean at sunset on Memorial Day weekend. Nissim Black has been a gangsta rapper, a gang member and a faith seeker. His current incarnation is here to stay: an African American Hasidic Jew who brings his sharp, hook-filled hip hop to audiences worldwide. His music pays tribute to both his urban past and Orthodox present through big beats, African hooks and memorable melodies that show off his silky smooth vocals. His recent releases *Mothaland Bounce* and *Fly Away* have garnered more than 7 million views on YouTube. Listen to Nissim Black on [Spotify](#).

Sponsored by Leichtag HIVE, Congregation Adat Yeshurun & Congregation Beth Jacob.

21st Annual Klezmer Summit

To Ukraine With Love: Songs of Hope

Tue Jun 7, 7:30pm

In person event at San Diego Repertory Theatre, Lyceum Theatres

\$25 premiere, \$18 standard

Now in its 21st year, JFEST's Klezmer Summit is a musical celebration featuring an international all-star line-up celebrating Jewish, jazz and cross-cultural music of hope. Beloved long-time hosts Yale Strom and Hot Pstromi are joined by vocalist Elizabeth Schwartz, guitarist Fred Benedetti, bassist Gunnar Biggs and Irving Flores on piano. This Summit features San Diego's jazz giant, Gilbert Castellanos and his trio performing jazz standards by Jewish composers. Featured soloist is Peter Sprague called by the LA Times, "One of the emergent great guitarists." The concert offers a tribute to the communities of Ukraine with Efim Chorny (vocals) and Susan Ghergus (piano) from Chisinau, Moldova and jazz singer Petra Ernyei and Adam Tvrny (guitar) from Prague, Czech Republic.

13th Annual Women of Valor

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

Thu Jun 9, 7:30pm in person event at San Diego Repertory Theatre, Lyceum Theatres
Sun June 12, 2pm In person event at Leichtag Commons, Encinitas

\$25 Premier, \$18 Standard

Honoring Phyllis Epstein, Ellen Fox, Rabbi Susan Freeman, Betzy Lynch, Perla Myers and Edith Palkowitz

Performed by some of San Diego's finest local actors, *Women of Valor* seeks to answer the immortal question from Proverbs: *A woman of valor, who shall find?* Enjoy six new short works that honor six San Diego Jewish women who are jewels of our community: Phyllis Epstein, Ellen Fox, Rabbi Susan Freeman, Betzy Lynch, Perla Myers and Edith Palkowitz. Through theatre, music and visuals we celebrate their accomplishments, passions and challenges.

Sponsored by Jewish Federation of San Diego County, and Jewish Family Service Center for Jewish Care. Co-sponsored by the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, Temple Solel, and Jewish Community Foundation San Diego. Proceeds from this year's program will benefit: Hebrew Free Loans of San Diego, Joint Distribution Campaign's Emergency fund for Ukraine, Jewish Gift Closet – San Diego Gmach.

The Art of Shtisel

Michael Aloni and Ori Elon in conversation with host Todd Salovey

Sat June 18, 12pm

Online event, \$18

Audiences worldwide binge-watched the award-winning Israeli series *Shtisel* on Netflix. With incredible acting and writing, *Shtisel* provides an intimate glimpse into unapologetically Jewish lives in a Jerusalem neighborhood. Series star Michael Aloni plays artist-seeking-soulmate Akiva Shtisel, and is one of Israel's most sought after actors and television personalities. Michael joins *Shtisel* co-creator and award winning writer Ori Elon for a live-stream conversation with JFEST artistic director, Todd Salovey.

Joel Grey's Favorite Plays

Joel Grey in conversation with Todd Salovey

Sun Jun 18, 6pm

Online event, \$18

Joel Grey's Academy and Tony-Award winning performance as the Emcee in *Cabaret*, the Broadway musical and movie with Liza Minnelli, is one of the most iconic in musical theater history. His remarkable production of *Fiddler on the Roof* won Drama Desk and Outer Critics awards as Best Revival of a Musical, and re-discovered the intimacy and emotion of the beloved Jewish story. In this exclusive conversation with JFest Artistic Director Todd Salovey, Joel Grey will share his unique perspective on 3 of his favorite plays: *Fiddler on the Roof*, Paul Osborn's *On Borrowed Time*, and of course, *Cabaret*.

Angelina Reaux Sings *love, liebe, l'amour*: The Love Songs of Kurt Weill

Produced in partnership with San Diego Opera

Thu Jun 23, 7:30pm and Sun Jun 26, 2pm

In person event at San Diego Repertory Theatre, Lyceum Theatres

\$50 premiere, \$36 standard

Angelina Reaux is a lyric soprano who performs opera, theatre and cabaret to glowing reviews across the US. She has collaborated with Leonard Bernstein, mastered works by composers ranging from Gershwin to Puccini - but there is one artist that she is associated with more than any other - Kurt Weill. In this concert, Reaux celebrates the love songs of Weill in German, French, and English, accompanied by Scott Dunn on piano.

"Réaux brings a better voice to Weill than anyone has ever heard and a degree of identification with the material no one has matched since Lotte Lenya herself." The New York Times

The Whole Megillah: Jewish New Play Festival

June 14, 20, 22 and 26, Times vary

In person events at San Diego Repertory Theatre, Lyceum Theatres, and available online

The Whole Megillah is JFest's 2nd annual festival of new Jewish plays. Throughout June, be the first to experience staged readings of four brand new works from four female writers. Each distinct work explores different facets of the contemporary Jewish experience, and is coupled with panel discussions featuring renowned Jewish artists and speakers. Join us to be part of developing the next wave of outstanding theatre from Jewish writers. The Whole Megillah is produced by Rebecca Myers.

The Whole Megillah Staged Readings:

World to Come

By Ali Viterbi

Jun 14, 7pm

A coming-of-age story set in the SeaBreeze Hebrew Home for the Aging, *The World To Come* asks how do we as a society care for our elders? And at the end of the world, what comes next?

In person and online

Committed

Written and performed by Lisa Robins

Jun 20, 7pm

Committed, written and performed by Lisa Robins, reveals her complex journey to understand and find meaning in her brother's suicide. This healing "Ritual for Robbie" has no rules, unearthing questions of faith, art, mental illness, and personal responsibility while using dark humor to explore the meaning of life.

In person and online

These and Those

By Ruth Geye

Jun 22, 6pm

October 27th, 2018. Six college students pile into a small basement apartment for Shabbat lunch, but they can't keep the outside world from showing up uninvited.

Online only

Shanghai

By Linda Alper

Jun 26, 6pm

Shanghai follows Eva Broder, an adolescent girl from Berlin who grows to maturity in one of the most crowded, colorful and corrupt places on the planet. Eva discovers how her life is interwoven with that of others and what kind of responsibilities she has the courage to embrace.

Online only

Hershey Felder's Sing-Along

Featuring music by Jewish and Jewish-American composers

Jul 11, 7:30pm

In person fundraising event at San Diego Repertory Theatre, Lyceum Theatres

\$180 donation, including wine and dessert reception

This special event supports JFest and San Diego REP. Join Hershey's well known audience sing-along of tunes by great 20th-century Jewish American songwriters, including George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Leonard Bernstein, Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick, Stephen Sondheim, Richard Rodgers and others. Virtuoso Felder has dazzled audiences with live shows and live-streams of beloved composers – Beethoven, Chopin,

Bernstein, Gershwin, Berlin and so many more. He returns to JFEST for a musical trip through 100 years of the *yiddishe bochers* who had a large hand in creating America's songbook.

Hershey Felder's Music In The Jewish Ghetto Of Venice

A New Venetian Musical Film

By Hershey Felder, featuring international musical artists

Streaming July 12 - 19

\$50 to benefit Jfest

Venice, Italy, 1516. The first Ghetto in the world is created. The origin of the Venice Jewish Ghetto, is not what one might think. In this world premiere program, Hershey Felder is joined by internationally renowned cellist Amit Peled, singer, writer, and Tony nominated director, Eleanor Reissa as well as renowned Italian quartet, Klezmerata Fiorentina. Filmed throughout one of the still-vibrant post war Jewish communities in Venice, Italy, Hershey Felder explores how music has reflected Jews' changing roles in society.

Ticket Information:

Individual tickets for JFest are on sale now. Tickets can be purchased by calling 619-544-1000 (12pm-6pm daily), or online at sdrep.org.

Active-duty military, teachers, group and senior discounts are available. Student tickets are available for all performances. Prices subject to change.

Location:

San Diego Repertory Theatre

79 Horton Plaza

San Diego, CA 92101

Box Office:

Phone: 619.544.1000

Website: www.sdrep.org

Parking:

Subscribers receive free parking at 225 Broadway with their parking voucher. For non-subscribers, it is a flat rate of \$10 Monday-Friday after 5pm and weekends.

About San Diego Repertory Theatre

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