



Remember the Women Institute & Marlene Meyerson JCC
Manhattan

in partnership with National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene, Jewish Theatre Circle,
& National Jewish Theater Foundation

present

Women, Theater, and the Holocaust
2025 Yom HaShoah Program

April 24, 2025, 7:00 PM

*Introduction & Launch of the 6th Edition of the Women, Theater, and the Holocaust
Resource Handbook*

As Happy as God in France (excerpt) by Julia Pascal
directed by Dr. Meghan Brodie

How to Live (excerpt) by Mindy Pfeffer
directed by Illana Stein

Powerless by Dana Leslie Goldstein
directed by Robert Bruce McIntosh

The Courier: Based on a True Story by Cynthia L. Cooper
directed by Melanie Sutherland

Panel Discussion & Reception

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Welcome to Our Women, Theater, and the Holocaust Yom HaShoah Program

This is the tenth anniversary of Remember the Women Institute's annual **Women, Theater, and the Holocaust Yom HaShoah Program**. On this occasion, we are launching the sixth edition of our interactive on-line publication, *Women, Theater, and the Holocaust Resource Handbook*, written and edited by Rochelle G. Saidel, Karen Shulman, and Bess Wadler, and available on our website, rememberwomen.org.

For nearly 28 years, Remember the Women Institute, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation based in New York City, has conducted and encouraged research and cultural activities that contribute to including women in history, with special emphasis on the Holocaust. Through research and related activities, the stories of women—from the point of view of women—are made available to be integrated into history and collective memory. *VIOLATED! Women in Holocaust and Genocide*, the Institute's international group art exhibition on sexual violence during the Holocaust and other genocides, was shown at the Ronald Feldman Gallery in New York City in spring 2018. The work of the Institute influences academic research and publications, as well as theater, fine arts, film, and popular culture, by encouraging the inclusion of all of humanity in historical and commemorative representations. Academic fields such as History, Humanities, Holocaust Studies, Theater Studies, Political Science, Sociology, Women's Studies, Gender Studies, and Cultural Studies benefit from our work. Remember the Women Institute has published books and organized groundbreaking panels and workshops on women and the Holocaust internationally, as well as cooperating with individuals and other organizations. Donations to further our work are welcome.

Dr. Rochelle G. Saidel is the founding executive director of Remember the Women Institute. She authored *The Jewish Women of Ravensbrück Concentration Camp* and other Holocaust-related books, edited *Fiorello's Sister: Gemma La Guardia Gluck's Story*, and co-edited *Sexual Violence against Jewish Women during the Holocaust*, *VIOLATED! Women in Holocaust and Genocide*, and *Women, Theater, and the Holocaust Resource Handbook*.

The Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, together with their community, creates opportunities for people to connect, grow, and learn within an ever-changing Jewish landscape. The vision of the JCC imagines Jewish life that is diverse and engages meaningfully with its values, culture, and ideas in everyday lives.

See www.mmjccm.org.

Acknowledgements

Remember the Women Institute thanks: our partner, Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, especially Rabbi Yael Rapport and Matt Temkin, for inviting us to share their space and providing support; and our other partners, National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene, National Jewish Theater Foundation, and Jewish Theatre Circle. We thank Patti Askwith Kenner and the Five Millers Family Foundation for generously providing funding for this event and publication of our resource handbook.

We thank Cynthia L. Cooper and Dr. Meghan Brodie, our invaluable project colleagues, for sharing their time, talent, and love of meaningful theater for ten years. We thank our talented performers, directors, and playwrights. We thank Jeff Segall for taking wonderful photographs. We thank Joan Dean, Elizabeth Howitt, Ricki Lulov Segall and Karen Shulman for pitching in to help. We thank Bess Wadler, Karen Shulman, David Druce, and the essayists for their roles in creating the sixth edition of the resource handbook.

This event is part of the National Jewish Theater Foundation/Holocaust Theater International Initiative Remembrance Readings.

Program

Greetings, Introduction, and Launch of the 6th Edition of the Women, Theater, and the Holocaust Resource Handbook

Rabbi Yael Rapport, Director, Gottesman Center for Jewish Living, Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan

Dr. Rochelle Saidel, Executive Director, Remember the Women Institute

Karen Shulman: Introduction to the Sixth Edition of the *Women, Theater, and the Holocaust Resource Handbook*

Readings

As Happy as God in France (excerpt) by Julia Pascal

directed by Dr. Meghan Brodie

Time: 1940

Place: Gurs Concentration Camp, France

Characters: Hannah Arendt, Eva Daube, Trude Gottlieb, Charlotte Salomon

Music: Adapted from “Wiegala” composed by Jewish poet, Ilse Weber (1903-1944, murdered in Auschwitz)

Calista Baechtold (Charlotte Salomon) is a junior double majoring in Theater & Media and Communication Studies. Calista has been in many Ursinus shows including *Afternoon at the Seaside*, *Execution of Justice*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and the world premiere of *Captain Darling*. Calista has also performed in a shadow cast of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* as well as a performance of *The Pragmatists*.

Sophia Bush (violinist) is a junior at Ursinus College majoring in Theater and Environmental Studies. Previous Ursinus Theater credits include *Execution of Justice*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Captain Darling*, and *Into the Breeches!* as well as parts in Breakaway Student Production’s *365*. Sophia previously performed in an excerpt from *The Ruins of Memory* for the Remember the Women’s 2023 Yom HaShoah program.

Evan Chartock (stage directions) is a senior double majoring in Theater and Communication Studies at Ursinus College. Previous Ursinus acting credits include *Fun Home*, *Into the Breeches!*, *Everybody*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, *Execution of Justice*, and *And Baby Makes Seven*. For previous Remember the Women Institute’s performance excerpts, Evan has portrayed Jacob Gens in *Bird of the Ghetto* (2022) and multiple company members in *The Ruins of Memory* (2023).

Gianna Daiuto (Hannah Arendt, violin transcription) is a junior double-majoring in Music and Theater at Ursinus College. Among her Ursinus acting credits are *Fun Home* (Small Alison), *Into the Breeches!* (Maggie), *Working* (Freddy/others), and originating the role of Smee in the world premiere of *Captain Darling*. Favorite credits elsewhere include *The Wolves* (#7), *Sensical* (Mayzie), and *The SpongeBob Musical* (Pearl). She is honored to be a part of this event alongside her friends and Dr. Brodie.

Mel Petro (Trude Gottlieb) is a sophomore at Ursinus College, majoring in both Theater and Performing and Visual Arts Design and Technology (PVDI). Mel has acted in Ursinus Theater’s *Captain Darling*, *Afternoon at the Seaside*, *The Patient*, and *Fun Home* as well as Breakaway Student Productions’ *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Mel was also seen in the student-directed *The Pragmatists* last spring.

Annie Zulick (Eva Daube) is a senior Media Communication Studies and Theater honors student at Ursinus College. Ursinus acting credits include *Captain Darling*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *And Baby Makes Seven*, *Execution of Justice*, and *Fun Home*. This past summer, she performed in Philadelphia for Shakespeare in Clark Park in *As You Like It*. Annie previously performed in an excerpt from *The Ruins of Memory* for the Remember the Women's 2023 Yom HaShoah program.

Meghan Brodie (director) is Associate Professor of Theater at Ursinus College. She is also a director, dramaturg, and playwright. Meghan directed the English-language world premiere of *In the Underworld*, a darkly comic operetta written by Germaine Tillion while Tillion was in Ravensbrück concentration camp during World War II. Her other directing credits include plays by dramatists such as Sarah Ruhl, Charlotte Jones, Diana Son, Angela Carter, Emily Mann, and Paula Vogel. Meghan holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University. meghanbrodie.com

Julia Pascal (playwright) grew up in the north of England. She trained as an actor and was also a journalist before starting her career as a playwright and theatre director. Pascal was the first woman director at the National Theatre on the South Bank with her stage adaptation of Dorothy Parker's *Men Seldom Make Passes*. It ran at the National Theatre for two years. Pascal's plays are about those living on the edge of society. They are about war, exile and struggle. New York, London, Vienna, Paris, Karlsruhe, Edinburgh, Dublin, Lille are some of the places where her dramas have been staged. Many are published by Methuen Bloomsbury, Faber and Samuel French (Inc). Awards include Sphinx Theatre 30-30, Dyspla, the National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts, Arts Council of England, the BBC Alfred Bradley Prize, Cockayne Grants for the Arts, Moondance Columbine Prize, the Goethe Institute, the European Association for Jewish Culture and the Leverhulme Trust. She is a member of the League of Professional Theatre Women (US).

How to Live (excerpt) by Mindy Pfeffer directed by Illana Stein

Time: 1980

Place: Lecture Hall of University where Maria teaches and Maria's therapy clinic, Krakow, Poland

Characters: Maria Orwid, psychiatrist and professor; Henryk Laska, medical doctor, former Sonderkommando at Auschwitz; both Polish and Jewish

***denotes member of Actors' Equity**

James Hallett* (Hendryk) is an actor, audiobook narrator, and acting coach with an MFA from the Yale School of Drama. As an actor, James has performed on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in regional theaters, in films, and on television. James has helped actors book roles on stage, in films, and on television. He was in the full production of *How To Live* at the 14Y Theater in 2023. www.jameshallett.com

Mindy Pfeffer's* (Maria, playwright) plays include *How To Live*, 14Y Theater/LABA Second Stage in NYC and the Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow, Poland; *Dream Land* on the Coney Island boardwalk; *Swimming with Esther*, Woodstock Fringe Festival; solo play *There's Iron in Your Future* at the NYRR RunCenter, Omega Institute, and fringe festivals. She has appeared in over 60 plays regionally and in NYC. She works as a teaching artist/puppeteer with NYC Kids Project. www.mindypearlpfeffer.com

Illana Stein (director, she/her), NYC-based director. Credits: *Julius Caesar* Tour (HVSF), *Hans & Sophie* Director/Co-Writer (5 critic-awards, Amphibian Stage), Director at NYU Tisch/Stella Adler and Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute. Associate credits: *Tamburlaine the Great* (TFANA, Dir: Michael Boyd), *Pericles* (TFANA, Dir: Trevor Nunn), *Fingersmith* (A.R.T., Dir: Bill Rauch). Asst. credits: Signature, Pearl, OSF, Yale Rep, Hangar, Cincinnati Playhouse. Drama League First Stage Residency, LCT Directors Lab, former LPTW board, JPP Director of Artistic Programs. www.illanastein.com

***Powerless* by Dana Leslie Goldstein**

directed by Robert Bruce McIntosh

Time: Now

Place: Saul's Home in New York City

Characters: Saul Lieber, a Holocaust survivor, once very strong and still showing signs of it; Amy, Saul's granddaughter, trying to take care of him but at her wit's end; Joan, a home health aide, with an inner strength that's apparent to anyone who's actually looking

**denotes member of Actors' Equity*

Sarah Guilbault, she/they (Amy) is a NYC-based performer and nuisance who has performed all over New York City. Sarah is stoked that this is the third time they've gotten to work on a play of Dana's.

Jacob Harran* (Saul) A child of Holocaust survivors, Jacob is a graduate of Performing Arts H.S. and Hofstra University. He was recently seen in *King of the Jews* and has originated roles and appeared in some of the following: Uncle Luigi/*Tony n' Tina's Wedding*, Sam, in the stage version of *Crossing Delancey*, *Balm In Gilead* (Minetta Lane) and Circle in the Square's revival of *Awake & Sing!* Jacob can also be seen as Georgie, Dylan McDermott's concierge, in *FBI: Most Wanted*.

Leslie Kincaid* (Joan) is an award-winning director, dramaturge, performer. Film *Robin Hood* recently won multiple awards in Hudson International and Inwood Film Festivals. NY Innovative Theatre outstanding director award for Drama Desk-nominated production *The Navigator* (The Workshop Theater) and NY Fringe Overall Excellence award for direction *Zamboni*. Always delighted to return to her acting roots, Leslie performs frequently with The Workshop Theater and UP Theater. She is a graduate of the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Purchase.

Robert Bruce McIntosh (director) is a long-time collaborator with Dana Leslie Goldstein, directing productions of her plays and musicals *Next Year in Jerusalem*, *LIBERTY the musical*, *First Lady*, *Enough for All* and *Lady of Copper*. He teaches Acting, Playwriting and Theatre History at Repertory Company High School for Theatre Arts. Rob's production of *The Skin of Our Teeth* was recently featured on Broadway as part of the Shubert High School Theatre Festival.

Dana Leslie Goldstein (playwright) is a playwright/librettist/lyricist whose work has been seen at Manhattan Theatre Club, Cherry Lane, Culture Project, WP, York, Theatre80, New Dramatists, Ellis & Liberty Islands, the UN, across the US, in Canada, Singapore, the UK & Australia. Member: BMI, Brave New World, Workshop, PlayGroundNY, Dramatists Guild. Winner: New England New Play Competition, Harold and Mimi Steinberg Playwriting Prize, Different Voices New Play Award, ACTF New Play Award and numerous development grants.
www.danalesliegoldstein.com

***The Courier: Based on a True Story* by Cynthia L. Cooper**

directed by Melanie Sutherland

Time: 1977

Place: A modest apartment in New York City

Characters: Helen, a writer; Herb, married to Helen

**denotes member of Actors' Equity*

Ivy Austin* (Helen) is a lifelong entertainment professional, and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Her performance career has taken her from Broadway to New York City Opera, to “A Prairie Home Companion” on NPR, to singing with The Muppets on “Sesame Street.” A member of the counseling staff at Manhattan School of Music and professor at Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology, Ivy merges her passion for both the arts and mental health in her unique private practice, www.artfulcouplestherapy.com.

Jimmy Georgiades* (Herb) recently played Donald Stewart in ‘The Calling’ directed by Barry Levinson. He also played the role of Sergeant Brown in the film ‘The Upside’ opposite Bryan Cranston and Kevin Hart. TV credits include multiple L&O’s, SVU, Gotham, Blue Bloods, Nurse Jackie, God Friended Me, White Collar, Are We There Yet? and the last episode of 30 Rock. Jimmy is planning a production of his solo play titled ‘Son of Zeus’, written by Jimmy and directed by Gretchen Cryer.

Melanie Sutherland (director) developed & directed new works at Rattlestick, Women's Project, Circle Rep, HERE, Philly Fringe, EST, Cherry Lane, NCTC, HERE, Cider Mill, NJ Rep. *Residencies & Awards:* Atlantic Center for the Arts (puppetry & performance); Directors Lab Chicago, Directors Lab West; LaMaMa Umbria International Symposium for Directors; John Golden Award for Directing; *Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in America, Who's Who of American Women, International Who's Who.* Member SDC, LPTW.

Cynthia L. Cooper (playwright) is an award-winning writer whose plays have been produced in the US, Canada, Europe and Israel. In NYC, her work has been at Primary Stages, The Women’s Project, Wings, Lincoln Center’s Clark Studio, MultiStages, Town Hall, Museum of Tolerance, Center for Jewish History, WOW Café, others, and elsewhere in Chicago, Minneapolis, DC, Boston, LA and more. This is the 10th year she has participated in ‘Women, Theatre and the Holocaust.’ www.cyncooperwriter.net