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**JEWISH PLAYS PROJECT RETURNS TO JCC MANHATTAN FOR
FESTIVAL OF NEW JEWISH PLAYS FEATURING
WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL JEWISH PLAYWRITING CONTEST;
THREE READINGS+ OVER TWO DAYS, NOV 30 & DEC 1**

New York, NY *November 1, 2022* -- The [Jewish Plays Project](#) (David Winitzky, Artistic Director) is proud to announce its return to New York City after a three year hiatus. The Festival of New Jewish Plays, in partnership with the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, will feature the winners of the 2020, 2021, and 2022 National Jewish Playwriting Contests in the JPP's signature Reading+ format (script-in hand readings with targeted design support), created by the city's best actors, directors, and designers.

The three plays, chosen by the combined efforts of more than 100 artists and 2,500 audience members in New York, Israel and six U.S. cities - as well as through online video and podcasting competitions - represent a diverse range of important contemporary Jewish voices and issues. The Festival is presented for public and industry audiences, with a goal of finding World Premiere productions for these plays.

"I cannot overstate how amazing it is to be bringing the JPP back to New York with these three brilliant playwrights," says Artistic Director David Winitzky. "And partnering again with the JCC Manhattan - one of the city's brightest spots for new Jewish culture - and Kendell Pinkney and artists of The Workshop makes this the perfect way to relaunch the JPP's mission to develop and advocate for new Jewish plays in New York."

The three plays are:

- **OKLAHOMA SAMOVAR** by Alice Eve Cohen, directed by Eric Nightengale:
In 1887, two Latvian teenagers flee the Russian army and become the only Jews in the Oklahoma Land Run. A century later, their daughter reinvents their story, aided by ghosts, blintzes and strong Russian tea.
 - Wednesday, November 30 at 7 pm. Tickets [here](#).
 - Winner of the 10th Jewish Playwriting Contest (2021)

- **MADELEINES** by Bess Welden, directed by Annette Jolles: Spiced with poetry, Yiddish, and Spanish, *Madeleines* is about a family of Jewish women grappling with how to love each other through shared grief and the solace of baking.
 - Thursday, December 1 at 1 pm. Tickets [here](#).
 - Winner of the 11th Jewish Playwriting Contest (2022)
- **A MOVING PICTURE** by Jennie Berman Eng, directed by Rebecca S'Manga Frank: An NYU student screenplay about a WWII Mercedes Benz labor camp collides with a legendary professor and the dark secret of his Hollywood success.
 - Thursday, December 1 at 7 pm. Tickets [here](#).
 - Winner of the 9th Jewish Playwriting Contest (2020)

The reading of Berman Eng's *A Moving Picture* on December 1st will be followed by a talkback co-presented by The Workshop, North America's first arts fellowship centering the work of JOCISM (Jews of Color, Jewish-Indigenous, Sephardi & Mizrahi) artists & culture-makers, that will focus on the dynamic between the Holocaust, Jewish identity, and race. The talkback will be moderated by theater artist and rabbi Kendell Pinkney. Learn more about The Workshop at <https://theworkshopny.com>.

Full casting for all readings will be announced before Thanksgiving.

All three readings are Pay What You Wish. Reservations are required. For full information and to reserve a ticket, visit www.jewishplaysproject.org/festival.

About The Jewish Playwriting Contest

The Jewish Playwriting Contest seeks to discover, highlight, and nurture contemporary Jewish drama by engaging with artistic and Jewish communities throughout the English-speaking world. The Contest has received and vetted over 1,600 plays by 1,000 writers in 32 states and 9 countries. The JPP has actively developed 55 of those plays, 35 of which have gone on to production in cities across the globe, including New York, Los Angeles, London, and Tel Aviv, playing for more than 100,000 audience members.

About The Jewish Plays Project

The Jewish Plays Project, founded in 2011, identifies, develops, and presents new works of theater via one-of-a-kind explorations of contemporary Jewish identity between audiences, artists, and patrons. The JPP's innovative and competitive development process engages Jewish communities in the vetting, selecting, and championing of new voices and secures mainstream production opportunities for the best new plays.

The JPP has featured some of the best artists working in New York, including writers David Hein and Irene Sankoff (*Come from Away*), Robert Askins (*Hand to God*), and Lauren Yee (*Cambodian Rock Band*); directors Marc Bruni (*Beautiful*), Daniella Topol (Artistic Director, Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre), and Tamilla Woodard (WP Theater, 3LD); and actors Andrew Polk (*The Band's Visit*), Ronald Guttman (*Mad Men*, *Homeland*), Kirrilee Berger (Amazon's *Just Add Magic*), and Obie and Drama Desk nominee Marcia Jean Kurtz.

About the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan

Together with its community, the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan creates opportunities for people to connect, grow, and learn within an ever-changing Jewish landscape. Located on 76th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, the JCC is a vibrant non-profit community center on the Upper West Side. It also presents a robust slate of virtual programming, serving an even wider community. The JCC serves over 55,000 people annually through 1,200 programs each season that educate, inspire, and transform participants' minds, bodies, and spirits. Throughout COVID-19, the JCC has pivoted to meet the community online, exceeding 102,000 registrations to over 3,000 virtual classes and programs in the earliest part of the pandemic. Since its inception, the JCC has been committed to serving the community by offering programs, classes, and events that reach beyond neighborhood boundaries, reaching people at all stages of their lives. Learn more at mmjccm.org.

About The Workshop

The Workshop is North America's premier arts fellowship centering the work of JOCISM (Jews of Color, Jewish-Indigenous, Sephardi & Mizrahi) artists & culture-makers. Conceived and founded by theatre-artist and rabbi, Kendell Pinkney, The Workshop seeks to interrogate and expand ideas of Jewish art by providing unparalleled career support and incubation for wildly talented artists. Over the course of a year, fellows receive artistic mentorship, financial support, research support, and access to performance and residency space. Additionally, fellows learn together regularly, build community with each other and partner organizations, and present their work at seasonal performances across New York City. Initially piloted at The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, The Workshop is incubated and fiscally sponsored by Reboot.

For full artist bios, visit www.jewishplaysproject.org/festival

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