

## MEET OUR AJT MEMBERS

### NOEMI SCHLOSSER FROM BELGIUM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF SALOME SHPEELT COMPANY <http://www.salomeespeelt.be/>

**1. So tell us something more about your plans for yourself and your theatre Salomee Speelt.** To be honest, in the past years I realised that one can make plans and G-d laughs at us. So I started to imagine things and see how far I could get those projects. That is how I decided just to go to the States, be bold and show theaters my work. I ended up having 35 interviews over the country and a few contracts! I decided to be bold and I got results. Now I just go on and I hope to be moving to the States in the near future. But again, not making any assumptions that that is going to work. What will happen will happen. I'm not going to force faith anymore...

So, in short in February I have shows of "MOSCOW-NEW YORK" at the JCC Manhattan (<http://www.jccmanhattan.org/cate-tent.aspx?catID=2932&progID=23067#/EAYMOS01W1>) and a one month run at the National Pastime theater in Chicago in April and May with two other plays (<http://www.npt2.com/>) --

"The Sound of Silence" a play written for Edith Piaf by Cocteau in the 40s and "DATE ME!" a bold and sexy comedy about relationships. For the American shows I invited Michelle Slonim <http://www.michelleslonim.com/> to join me on stage. Then David Chack is developing his new ShPIeL theatre project <http://shpiel.weebly.com/> and he has a show going through a development process that I will be involved in.

**2. Why do you do Jewish theatre and Jewish culture?** You can't dismiss who you are. It's my culture. It's my humour. In Belgium they make you feel that you're different, so then I'll give them something different. I have always been like that...

**3. What did you like about the AJT Jewish theatre conference in Chicago and did you make any good connections for present and future work?** First of all I had no idea something like AJT existed, so I was very pleased to see people in a country where you could have Jewish theatres outside of Israel. In Belgium the Jewish Cultural Center is closed since the '80s. I was there as a child... So in Chicago I did make terrific connections that will grow and expand in the future. I saw Michelle's play at the AJT Conference and had a chance to talk to her and now she is collaborating

with me to do the American version of my show! And then David Chack's *ShPIeL* theatre project. So I hope to be able to show my work in the future, in the JCC's and theaters around the country.

**4. What is the most exciting moment you ever had doing theatre?** I love my job. It makes me feel alive. After my mother's suicide I was on the edge of a nervous breakdown. I wanted to give everything up and just take my bag and travel the world. "What was the use of theatre?" I asked myself. So I traveled around for a while, and everywhere I went they asked me: "What's your name?" "Where do you come from?" "What do you do?"

And I discovered I couldn't answer anything else but that I was an actress and a director. That's who I am, what I do...my life. That was the source of my strength after that dramatic episode in my life -- to want to stay alive, myself, and make something of my life.



Noemi Schlosser in performance

David Chack, President, [dchack@ajt.com](mailto:dchack@ajt.com), 502-387-6789

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## HAPPENINGS

Bob Bar's full-length play, *MATCHMAKERS*, is about to be published by Lazy Bee Scripts in the UK. And there have been three showings in recent months of some of my ten minute plays in Huntsville AL, Greenville NC and Singapore.

My Hanukkah Musical, *THE ODD POTATO* received a production at the MINNESOTA JEWISH THEATRE in either 2006 or 2007. This past weekend *THE ODD POTATO* received a production at the Albany Jewish Community Center in Albany, New York, -Eileen Bluestone Sherman

The web site for Art Shulman's play "Sex is Good For You" is [www.secretrose.com](http://www.secretrose.com)

Joanne Koch's stage adaptation of Saul Bellow's "A Silver Dish" has just been published with the late Sarah Blacher Cohen's adaptation of Bellow's "The Old System" along with stories and essays by Ellen Schiff, Steve Stern, Norma Rosen and a tribute by Cynthia Ozick, in the special volume of *Studies in American Jewish Literature: in honor of Sarah Blacher Cohen* edited by Carole Kessner and Ann Shapiro.

Koch and Cohen's anthology *Shared Stages: Ten American Dramas of Blacks and Jews*, published by SUNY Press, is getting a new wave of sales and university usage, as it includes *Driving Miss Daisy*, revived on Broadway with James Earl Jones and Vanessa Redgrave, as well as "Fires in the Mirror," "I'm Not Rappaport," and the Koch and Cohen multicultural musical that has toured across the country "Soul Sisters."

Koch's musical with Ilya Levinson & Owen Kalt "Belle Barth: If I Embarrass You, Tell Your Friends," will have a staged reading in Spring 2011 at the York Theater featuring Lainie Kazan as the raunchy comic dubbed "the female Lenny Bruce."

### CALL TO ACTION!

Join with AJT to make it the most comprehensive and supportive organization of its kind. We are working towards getting more theatres to join with us giving our member playwrights and solo performers more opportunity to showcase their work.

Your membership in AJT actively puts you at the forefront of Jewish theatre and affirms the continuity of Jewish culture. Here are the benefits of renewing membership and joining the new AJT:

AJT members are informed of current trends in Jewish theatre worldwide through its global network

E-newsletters

Website maintained exclusively for members' information and links

The AJT List Serv allows members to communicate what is happening in the theatre world

Member theatres and theatre artists gain recognition

AJT annual international conference

### AND MUCH MORE!!!

If you are interested in joining (or rejoining) email Elayne LeTraunik, AJT Coordinator at

[virtualelayne@gmail.com](mailto:virtualelayne@gmail.com)

### MORE HAPPENINGS

Rebecca Joy Fletcher is taking her one woman theatrical cabaret *Cities of Light* to Miami at the beginning of February. She has been invited to lecture on performance during the Holocaust at University of Miami and to perform *Cities of Light* at a venue in Aventura. Also coming up this spring for *Cities of Light*: performances in London and Paris!

Rich Orloff's plays will have a plethora of productions in the first half of 2011, including *OY!* at Theatre OR (at the Sabes JCC in Minneapolis); plus *ROMANTIC FOOLS* in Cleveland, Louisville and Madrid; *FUNNY AS A CRUTCH* in Phoenix, Fairfax VA and Rochester MI; *NOTHING SERIOUS* in Phoenix, Poughkeepsie and Manila; *BIG BOYS* in Milwaukee; and *INCREDIBLE SEX* in Omaha.

Edward Einhorn's play "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep" got into the New York Times article "Cyborgs on Stage, Robots in the Wings" at [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/02/theater/02scifi.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/02/theater/02scifi.html?_r=1)

Congratulations to Michael Dorf and David Franklin for a successful Schmooze Conference of the Int'l Jewish Presenters Association at City Winery in New York. See <http://www.jewishpresenters.org/>

To submit something for HAPPENINGS send the information to Rebecca at

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