

Association for Jewish Theatre
34th Annual Conference
Hosted by New Jewish Theatre, St. Louis, MO
“Redefining Jewish Theatre in an Age of Multi-Culturalism”
April 3 – 6, 2016

Pre-Conference: Saturday, April 2 – Optional Day/Evening

Recommendations: discounted tickets to NJT production of *Old Wicked Songs*, Rep production of *Satchel Paige*, St. Louis History Museum, St. Louis Art Museum

Conference Day 1: Sunday, April 3 – check in, arrival, registration, welcome

7:00 **Free Performance** - *Goodbye Marianne*, St. Louis Repertory Theater’s Imaginary Theatre Co

Welcome reception: wine & light hors d’oeuvres

Conference Day 2: Monday, April 4 -

8:00 – Breakfast on your own at hotel: Coffee, light snack provided at J

9:00 **Keynote address** – **Kimberly Senior** director of Broadway productions of Ayad Akhtar’s *Disgraced*, Matthew Lopez’ *Whipping Man* (Northlight Theater, Chicago), *Diary of Ann Frank* (Writers Theatre, Chicago) and many other renowned productions - followed by Q & A, Discussion

10:45 **Defining Multi-culturalism** – Gad Guterman (Webster Conservatory, dramaturg, theatre history)

12:15 – 1:45 – Lunch on own with option to purchase JCC kosher Box lunch

2:00 - **Conversation on Culturally-Specific Theater** – what does it mean to be a culturally specific theatre and why do we do it? How do we become more multi-cultural while maintaining our identity?

- a. Jewish Theatre - New Jewish Theatre – Kathleen Sitzer
- b. African-American Theatre - St. Louis Black Rep – Ron Himes
- c. Multi-cultural Theatre - Gitana Theatre Co – Cecilia Nadal
- d. Latino Theatre - Theatre Nuevo – Anna Skidis
- e. LGBT Theatre - That Uppity Theatre Co – AC/DC project – Joan Lipkin

3:45 - **Producers roundtable:**

(Extended conversations for those not interested in Roundtable)

5:00-6:30 **GALA DINNER PROVIDED**

7:00 - **Theodore Bikel Tribute**

Also Honoring AJT members who have made significant achievements

Conference Day 3: Tuesday, April 5

8:00 Breakfast on your own at hotel: Coffee, **light snack provided at J**

9:00 **Multi-cultural needs** –facilitated discussion: Activist Rabbi Susan Talve, Reverend Traci Blackmon, Cecilia Nadal (Gitana), Deanna Jent (Mustard Seed Theatre’s Bosnia Project).

Discussion of how the arts can support areas/situations such as Ferguson and other underserved populations

Ideas for direction of discussion:

- a. What can the arts do these areas
- b. How does theatre portray these incidents, situations, people
- c. How do residents of these areas want us as arts organizations to respond
- d. How do we respond
- e. How do you enter (and exit) the community

10:30 Experience examples of multi-cultural works from multiple perspectives

Three 30 minute workshops from different performance styles presented by AJT honorees Yoni Oppenheim (24/6 Theatre), Jon Adam Ross, Aaron Henne (theatre dybbuk)

Playwriting master writing class - Aaron Henne

12:15 - Lunch & Special Affinity sessions for producers, directors, actors and artistic directors (LUNCH provided) What information can you take away that may help you nurture your work

1:30 – **Choice of workshops** (choice of 2 one hour workshops)

- a. **Shakespeare in the Streets** – Radical Outreach
- b. **The Dining Room Project**
- c. **“Theatre for Social Change”**
- d. **Gitana Productions – “New World”** – verbatim theatre
- e. **Every 28 Hours project**

3:45 - **Playwrights & Solo Performers showcase** – curated program (see guidelines)

5:15 – General group takeaway discussion

5:45 dine around – dinners in various restaurants with NON-facilitated discussions (and AJT board meeting)

7:00 – evening on your own:

- choice of local theatre production (Rep – *Satchel Paige*)
- “Playwrights After hours” – (at Moonrise Bar or meeting room) an opportunity for playwrights to share moderated short scenes of your work with AJT members.
- Free evening

Conference Day 4: Wednesday, April 6

8:30 **Breakfast/brunch** at Regional Arts Commission

9:00 **General Association Meeting**

10:15 break

10:30 – 11:30 – **Closing Event**– Theatre Machers discuss attracting younger participants