

NATIONAL YIDDISH THEATRE FOLKSBIENE  
AT THE MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE

FALL / WINTER  
2017 / 2018  
SEASON



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AT  
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NATIONAL YIDDISH THEATRE

פֿאָלקסבינע

Established in 1915, the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene, “the people’s stage,” emerged as the country’s first socially minded theatre by giving a voice to an underserved population of immigrant artists and audiences. NYTF’s unique programming celebrates a rich cultural heritage brought to this country from afar and preserves a way of life nearly destroyed some 75 years ago.

NYTF aims to bridge Jewish culture with a secular world using the arts as a connector to heritage, identity and global citizenship. Through strategic programming in theatre, music and education outreach, NYTF provides access to a culture that is at once familiar and new, enriching cultural identity and expanding cultural awareness.

For 103 consecutive years, NYTF has delivered high quality cultural programming earning 8 Drama Desk Award nominations and a special Drama Desk Award. The 2017-2018 season promises the same and more with programs that engage the past, entertain the present and enrich the future.

NYTF commits to a global outlook of socially-aware, relevant and impactful programming and carries a unique responsibility to celebrate Jewish culture as a mainstay of American life, reflecting the advances, collaborations and innovations that helped shape a land of opportunity, music and stories.

As we pass these stories from one generation to the next, the Folksbiene remains the people’s stage, offering a collective voice and affirming the cultural relevance of the Jewish experience.

**CHRISTOPHER MASSIMINE**  
Chief Executive Officer, NYTF



*Amerike - The Golden Land, Summer 2017*  
photo: Victor Nechay | properpix.com

DATES TO REMEMBER

**OCTOBER**

- 14 - FolksbieneRU Teen Drama Lab JCC begins
- 15 - FolksbieneRU Teen Drama Lab JCH begins
- 20 - FolksbieneRU Tots class begins
- 26 - A Taste of Yiddish classes begin

**NOVEMBER**

- 5 - FolksbieneRU *Komprot*
- 28 - Moriah College Orchestra Performance

**DECEMBER**

- 18 - NYTF Winter Gala, *Broadway: A Jewish American Legacy*
- 25 - Performances of *The Sorceress* begin

**JANUARY**

- 1 - Final performance of *The Sorceress*
- 7 - FolksbieneRU *Komprot*
- 15 - *Soul to Soul* Concert
- 28 - JCC Teen Drama Lab Performance

**FEBRUARY**

- 4 - JCH Teen Drama Lab Performance
- 11 - Early Yiddish Theatre & Vaudeville Concert

**NYTF.ORG | 212-213-2120**



# EXPLORING THE PAST

## YIDDISH THEATRE RESTORATION PROJECT

In 2015, National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene broke new ground with a fully restored production of Joseph Rumshinsky's 1923 operetta *The Golden Bride*. NYTF's deep investment of time and resources paid off with a production that was nominated for multiple awards, including two Drama Desk Awards, and reached over 24,000 audience members.

This success revealed that there is high demand for early works of the Yiddish theatre with contemporary audiences—and it left us with a blueprint for the process of bringing these long-neglected treasures to life. Therefore, NYTF has launched a global restoration project to identify the most irreplaceable operettas, musicals and plays that once played in Yiddish theatres in America and Europe.

The Yiddish Theatre Restoration Project will not only provide NYTF with first-class productions for our audiences, but will also preserve an entire Yiddish theatre repertoire for public performances around the world.

Here is a quick look at the restoration process:

- RESEARCH existing material in archives and libraries
- ASSESS the historic and artistic value of the works
- ASSEMBLE orchestrations and librettos, often housed at different institutions
- RESTORE material note by note and word by word
- DEVELOP the work through concerts and workshops
- PRODUCE a fully developed stage production



## A NOTE FROM NYTF'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

*NYTF's Yiddish Theatre Restoration Project, dedicated to identifying the very best examples of Yiddish operettas, musicals and plays and bringing them back to today's audiences, is at the heart of my life's work.*

*I first came into contact with these original documents during my research in the 1980's while creating The Golden Land. My mother Chana Mlotek, (1922-2013) would send me photocopies of scores that she would come across in the vast Yiddish theatre archives at YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.*

*It felt like an archaeological expedition, sifting through these scores, often tattered, with notations that were difficult to read in Yiddish handwritten script.*

*Finding the songs which had been the beating heart of the vibrant Yiddish theatre scene on Second Avenue was like unearthing priceless treasures.*

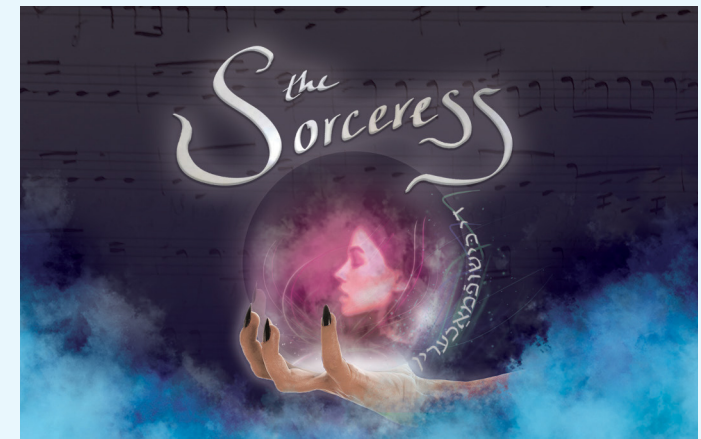
*Today, we are working towards the restoring of entire shows in order to preserve them in an enduring format to be usable for generations to come. This often requires knitting together orchestrations and librettos, which are now scattered among many libraries and archives decades ago.*

*The Golden Bride was just the first of these efforts and we look forward to sharing many more with you in the years to come.*

ZALMEN MLOTEK



NYTF's 2016 fully-restored production of 1923 operetta *The Golden Bride*



## THE SORCERESS (DI KISHEFMAHERIN)

DECEMBER 25—JANUARY 1  
at Museum of Jewish Heritage  
Edmond J. Safra Plaza  
36 Battery Pl, NY, NY 10280

By Avrom Goldfaden  
Directed by Motl Didner  
Music Direction by Zalmen Mlotek

This 1879 operetta was the first Yiddish theater piece produced in America by Boris Thomashevsky, at the age of 14. A fairytale-like story of an innocent young heroine, her wicked stepmother, dashing fiancé, an itinerant peddler, and a conniving witch is set to a delightful musical score full of memorable tunes. In Yiddish with English and Russian translation supertitles.

Performances:  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 | 2 PM  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26 | 7 PM  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27 | 7 PM  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29 | 12 PM  
MONDAY, JANUARY 1 | 2 PM

Tickets \$25  
Visit NYTF.org or call 866-811-4111

The restored score of *The Sorceress (Di Kishfmaherin)* includes partial arrangements found in the YIVO Vilna Collection, which was rescued from destruction by the famed Paper Brigade during the Nazi occupation. This orchestration dates back to an 1892 Kiev production.

## ENTERTAINING THE PRESENT



### A TASTE OF YIDDISH

THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 26—DECEMBER 14 at Museum of Jewish Heritage

Enjoy a gourmet lunch from LOX at Café Bergson, the Museum's restaurant, while learning Mamaloshn in two different course offerings with unique insight from NYTF's artistic staff.

### SCHMOOZE IN YIDDISH

with Motl Didner, NYTF Associate Artistic Director  
12–1 PM

A beginner-level course on the art of Yiddish conversation. In addition to Yiddish language, this course offers an introduction to the contemporary Yiddish cultural scene.

Prior knowledge of Yiddish not required; all material in both transliteration and Yiddish alphabet.

**\$150 tuition** (includes the price of lunch)

### EXPLORE YIDDISH SONGS

with Zalmen Mlotek, NYTF Artistic Director  
1:30–2:30 PM

Learn popular Yiddish songs and hidden gems with one of the world's foremost experts on Yiddish theater and folk songs. Zalmen continues the life work of his parents Chana and Yosl Mlotek who collected Yiddish poetry and songs for over 40 years in their weekly column for the FORVERTS and published as a series of seminal songbooks.

Prior knowledge of Yiddish and the ability to read music not required.

**\$150 tuition** (includes the price of lunch)

**SPECIAL OFFER** | Enroll in both courses and receive the discounted price of \$250 tuition, total, for two great learning opportunities.

To enroll please call 212-213-2120 Ext. 230 or email [tstigliano@nytf.org](mailto:tstigliano@nytf.org)

Note: Class will not meet on Thursday, November 2 or Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 23).

## ENRICHING THE FUTURE



### TEEN DRAMA LAB

FolksbieneRU's Teen Drama LAB, taught by internationally acclaimed professional actors of the Lost & Found Project, is a place where aspiring young actors can have fun while developing theatrical skills to explore identity through family history and personal stories.

### JCC MANHATTAN / GENERATION R

OCTOBER 14 – DECEMBER 16TH  
Saturday's 12:00-2:00pm  
Performance: February 4th

### MARKS JCH OF BENSONHURST

OCTOBER 15 – DECEMBER 17TH  
Sundays 4:00-6:00pm  
Performance: January 28th

Visit [NYTF.org](http://NYTF.org) to register

### FOLKSBIENERU

is the Russian Division of the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene.

This unique performing arts platform was created to explore the rich heritage and complex identities of the Russian-speaking Jewish community. Using theatre and instruments of the performing arts to boldly venture into the matters of the heart, FolksbieneRU programs help participants find their own creative expression, connect with earlier generations, and deepen their Jewish identity.



### MORIAH COLLEGE ORCHESTRA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28 at 6 PM at Museum of Jewish Heritage

Experience the bright, energetic sounds of young Jewish Australia with the musicians of Sydney's premier Jewish day school on tour in the U.S. The school's remarkable music program features over 600 participating students in 25 vocal and instrumental groups including their championship Wind Ensemble and their world-touring Concert Band. This concert marks their second appearance on NYTF's stage after charming audiences during their last trip to the United States.

FREE - Visit [NYTF.org](http://NYTF.org) to register



### NYTF'S 2017 WINTER GALA

**BROADWAY: A JEWISH AMERICAN LEGACY  
HONORING JERRY ZAKS**

MONDAY DECEMBER 18, 2017 AT 7 PM

Join us this Chanukah in honoring the career of legendary 4-time Tony Award winning director Jerry Zaks.

Stars from Broadway and the Yiddish stage unite in song and celebration of the Jewish contributions made to American musical theatre.

For tickets, packages, and more information  
Visit [NYTF.org](http://NYTF.org) or contact [rluka@nytf.org](mailto:rluka@nytf.org)



### RUtots

FRIDAYS, OCT 20TH, NOV 3, NOV 10, NOV 17, DEC 1, DEC 8, DEC 15 AT 10:30 AM  
at Museum of Jewish Heritage

A weekly interactive immersion program for Russian Jewish toddlers, ages 18-36 months, taking place each Friday. Russian-speaking early childhood educators use visual arts and dramatic storytelling in a playful environment. Each class concludes with a celebration of Shabbat.

Price: \$200

To register please email: [rkarповsky@nytf.org](mailto:rkarповsky@nytf.org)



### SOUL TO SOUL

MONDAY, JANUARY 15 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day) at 2 PM  
at Museum of Jewish Heritage

A joyful and moving concert exploring the parallel experience of two minority peoples path to find America's promise of freedom, overcoming segregation, prejudice and economic hardship. This concert features stirring songs in Yiddish and in English, culminating in a high-energy collection of enthralling songs from the Civil Rights era. This concert features Lisa Fishman (*The Golden Bride*), Cantor Magda Fishman (Temple Beth El of Stamford, CT), Elmore James (Broadway's *Beauty and the Beast*) and Tony Perry (*Five Guys Named Moe*). Conceived with musical direction by NYTF Artistic Director, Zalmen Mlotek

Tickets start at \$25

Visit [NYTF.org](http://NYTF.org) or call 866-811-4111



### EARLY YIDDISH THEATRE & VAUDEVILLE CONCERT

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 2 PM at Museum of Jewish Heritage

Join NYTF for an exclusive concert of rediscovered and revitalized work from Vaudeville and the early years of Yiddish theatre. Witness the newly restored works of Avrom Goldfaden, Joseph Rumshinsky, Sam Lowenwirth and other leading composers of the era performed by top New York vocalists and a full orchestra.

Tickets start at \$35

Visit [NYTF.org](http://NYTF.org) or call 866-811-4111



### KOMPOT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 AT 11 AM at Museum of Jewish Heritage  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 AT 11 AM at Museum of Jewish Heritage

Kompot is a series of get-togethers for Russian-Jewish families with children ages 2-8 built around highly imaginative and innovative music and theatrical performances, visual arts and hands-on experiential workshops.

Tickets: \$25 per family  
visit [NYTF.org](http://NYTF.org) for tickets

\*KOMPOT is made possible with the generous support of PJ Library of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation in partnership with Genesis Philanthropy Group

