



THEATER J'S 2010-2011 SEASON

August 28–October 3, 2010

SOMETHING YOU DID

By Willy Holtzman

Directed by Eleanor Holdridge

Opening Night: Tuesday, August 31 at 7:30

October 23–November 28, 2010

THE ODD COUPLE

By Neil Simon

Directed by Jerry Whiddon

Opening Night: Tuesday, October 26 at 7:30

December 18, 2010–January 2, 2011

THE KINSEY SICKS in OY VEY IN A MANGER

Opening Night: Sunday, December 19 at 7:30

January 15–31, 2011

The Cameri Theatre Production of

RETURN TO HAIFA

Adapted by Boaz Gaon

from the novella by Ghassan Kanafani

Directed by Sinai Peter

Part of our *Voices From a Changing Middle East Festival*

Opening Night: Sunday, January 16 at 7:30

March 8–27, 2011

THE CHOSEN

Adapted and directed by Aaron Posner

Based on the novel by Chaim Potok

Presented by Arena Stage at the Mead Center
for American Theater – Fichandler Stage

Opening Night: Thursday, March 10 at 7:30

March 23–April 24, 2011

PHOTOGRAPH 51

A New Play by Anna Ziegler

Directed by Daniella Topol

Opening Night: Monday, March 28 at 7:30

May 11–June 12, 2011

THE MOSCOWS OF NANTUCKET

World Premiere Comedy

By Sam Forman

Directed by Shirley Serotsky

Opening Night: Sunday, May 15 at 7:30

MORE



THEATER J ANNOUNCES A 2010-2011 SEASON OF COMBUSTIBLE COUPLETS

**FEATURING WORKS BY WILLY HOLTZMAN, NEIL SIMON, KINSEY SICKS,
BOAZ GAON & GHASSAN KANAFANI, CHAIM POTOK & AARON POSNER,
ANNA ZIEGLER, AND SAM FORMAN**

For Immediate Release: June 8, 2010

Contact: Grace Overbeke / (202) 777-3230 / grace@theaterj.org

(Washington, DC) — Theater J proudly announces its 2010-2011 season, a collection of plays thematically linked by explosive, dynamic dyads. Like the energy-laced bonds that fasten DNA, the season's offerings are rooted in the thrilling tension of disparate elements thrust together. The season includes exciting new work by emerging and established playwrights about biophysics, politics and sibling rivalry, an Artistic Residency at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, an outrageously special holiday event, actor Rick Foucheux as an Associate Artist-in-Residence, and the continuation of work dealing with the Middle East—all making a year of kindred cultures in electrified orbit, colliding and converging.

The season begins with Willy Holtzman's **SOMETHING YOU DID**, a terse and topical political drama about an imprisoned '60's radical meeting up with a former comrade turned neo-conservative pundit as she awaits her parole hearing. It's followed by **THE ODD COUPLE**, Neil Simon's Tony Award-winning comic portrayal of two recently jilted men whose attempt to become roommates turns them from buddies to backbiters. For the holiday season, Theater J is joined by the Kinsey Sicks, a Dragapella Beautysop Quartet as they perform the hilarious musical revue **OY VEY IN A MANGER**. Only at Theater J can audiences ring in the new year with favorites like, "I Had a Little Facial!" and "Harried Little Christmas!" Next up, Tel Aviv's famous Cameri Theatre brings its hit production **RETURN TO HAIFA** to the Theater J stage. This gripping drama, performed in Hebrew and Arabic with English sur-titles, follows a young soldier torn between his Palestinian birth parents who fled Haifa during the 1948 war, and the Jewish Holocaust survivors who raised him. **RETURN TO HAIFA** will serve as the centerpiece of Theater J's fifth **VOICES FROM A CHANGING MIDDLE EAST FESTIVAL**, featuring Incubator series workshop readings of new Festival work throughout February. In the spring, Theater J moves to Arena Stage's newly refurbished Fichandler Stage, where it brings together an all-star artistic team to mount a new production of Chaim Potok's **THE CHOSEN**, adapted and directed by Aaron Posner. Theater J will return to the Aaron & Cecile Goldman Theater with the award-winning **PHOTOGRAPH 51**, named for the legendary image that unlocked the secret of DNA. Anna Ziegler's drama chronicling the frenzied chase to find the DNA molecule's structure focuses on Jewish female scientist Rosalind Franklin, whose huge contribution to the 20th Century's biggest scientific breakthrough went unsung. Concluding the season is the world premiere comedy **THE MOSCOWS OF NANTUCKET**, by Helen Hayes Award-nominated playwright Sam Forman. This hilarious depiction of a modern Jewish family crackles with sibling rivalry, alcohol-fueled confessions and acerbic wit.



Theater J is delighted that the 2010-2011 season about the drama of different people coming together will involve new collaborations of its own. Washington DC favorite, actor Rick Foucheux will be welcomed as Theater J's Associate Artist-in-Residence for the 2010-11 season. Mr. Foucheux will appear in three separate shows: **SOMETHING YOU DID**, in which he plays former liberal activist-turned ultra-conservative media star; **THE ODD COUPLE**, in which he portrays the incorrigible slob Oscar Madison and **THE CHOSEN**, playing the highly esteemed but emotionally closed-off Reb Saunders. Theater J also looks forward to working with two new directors making DC debuts after many Off-Broadway credits— the talented Eleanor Holdridge and Daniella Topol—as it simultaneously looks forward to its trip crosstown to become Arena Stage's first ever Company-in-Residence for **THE CHOSEN**.

Artistic Director Ari Roth comments, "It's a season that starts with a thought-provoking question: Do we ever pardon a domestic terrorist? And it hopscotches over masterpiece comedy and high camp frivolity right back to more provocation in the intertwining of Palestinian and Israeli family narratives colliding in the divided soul of a young man, born into one family but raised by another. The season undulates between highly charged interrogation, warmly etched relationships, and bittersweet loss in a collection of offerings that run the gamut of human emotion and experience."

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Theater J's 2010-2011 season is as follows:

August 28–October 3, 2010

SOMETHING YOU DID

By Willy Holtzman

Directed by Eleanor Holdridge

Featuring Rick Foucheux

Opening Night: Tuesday, August 31 at 7:30

"Willy Holtzman has done the nearly impossible: In Something You Did, he finds a fresh way to discuss modern terrorism." Time Out, New York

A stellar student from a good family, Alison Moulton is serving her third decade behind bars for an anti-war action she participated in as member of a '60s radical group that resulted in the death of an African American police officer. Now petitioning for parole, she's visited by the daughter of the slain officer. But her fiercest detractor comes in a former comrade turned neo-conservative pundit, media star and best-selling author. Gene Biddle (Rick Foucheux) argues against his former partner while implicating another group member, now a current public official residing in the White House, for a past association with the radical terrorist group. Smear politics, '60's revisionism, the realities of a wasted life in prison, and the desire to rejoin society form the driving, conflicting forces in this "fluid and eloquent play about the divisions in American culture and politics" (*The New York Times*)



Willy Holtzman is a New York-based playwright and screenwriter whose work is widely performed in theaters throughout America and Europe. From 1990 to 1992, he worked as the Resident Playwright at The Juilliard School. Some of his plays include the award-winning *The Closer*, *The Real McGonagall* and *Hearts*. He recently received the HBO Award at the O'Neil National Playwrights Conference for his contributions to contemporary American drama. He is a proud board member at New Dramatists and Harlem Stage Company.

Directing the play will be Eleanor Holdridge. Ms. Holdridge has worked at venues throughout the nation, including Rattlestick Playwright Theatre, The Arden Theatre and Portland Stage Company. Off-Broadway credits include *Cycling Past the Matterhorn* at the Clurman Theatre, *The Imaginary Invalid* and *Mary Stuart* at the Pearl Theatre Company. She recently announced her move to DC, where she will serve as the head of the Directing program at The Catholic University of America.

October 23–November 28, 2010

THE ODD COUPLE

By Neil Simon

Directed by Jerry Whiddon

Featuring Rick Foucheux & J. Fred Shiffman

Opening Night: Tuesday, October 26 at 7:30

"The inciting incidents are strong, the characterization is meticulous, even uncanny, and the aggression is allowed to let rip. The hostile outrageousness ... lifts them beyond the geniality and the safety of Simon's other work, calling out of him a different kind of license, something deeper, darker, and more thrilling." - The New Yorker

In this Tony Award-winning comic masterpiece, Neil Simon created two of the most memorable characters in the history of Broadway and broadcast television. With the help of four high-strung poker buddies and two British biddies coming in from upstairs, slovenly Oscar tries to mend his recently-divorced friend Felix's broken heart. When the finicky friend moves in, hilarity breaks out.

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Neil Simon, one of the most reliably successful writers in Broadway history with *Lost In Yonkers*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Biloxi Blues* among many others, is one of the most performed playwrights in the world. Though primarily a comic writer, his plays often reflect on the 20th Century Jewish-American experience. *The Odd Couple* premiered on Broadway in 1965, and spawned a successful film and television series. *The Odd Couple* will be staged by director Jerry Whiddon, former artistic director of Round House Theatre, who returns to Theater J having most recently staged *Lost In Yonkers* and *Speed-the-Plow*.

December 18, 2010–January 2, 2011

THE KINSEY SICKS in OY VEY IN A MANGER

Opening Night: Sunday, December 19 at 7:30

"If Dame Edna somehow mated with the Bobs their offspring might resemble The Kinsey Sicks, a San Francisco-based drag quartet that apparently has never encountered a tune it couldn't twist and bend to suit its own wickedly amusing purposes.... The Kinsey Sicks manage to put on quite a show.... Perfect harmony ... a spirited, crowd-cheering close." - The Washington Post



America's favorite Dragapella Beauty-Shop Quartet brings its irreverent humor and pitch-perfect harmonies to DC just in time for the holidays. With gut-busting parodies and raucous shtick, Kinsey Sicks offers wholesome favorites like "I Had a Little Facial," "Harried Little Christmas," and "'Tis the Season to Drink Stoli".

The Kinsey Sicks began in 1993, when four friends went to a Bette Midler concert in drag, not realizing that they would be the only ones at the concert to do so. One Off-Broadway show, an extended run in Las Vegas, two feature films, six CDs, and appearances throughout North America, South America and Europe—the Kinsey Sicks beautyshop quartet has made dragapella history. Their shows include "Sicks Appeal," "Sicks-Tease" "Everything but the Kitsch'n'Synch" and "GreatesTits."

January 15 –31, 2011

The Cameri Theatre Production of

RETURN TO HAIFA

Adapted by Boaz Gaon from the novella by Ghassan Kanafani

Directed by Sinai Peter

Featuring Mira Awad & Norman Issa

Part of our *Voices From a Changing Middle East Festival*.

Opening Night: Sunday, January 16 at 7:30

"As sheer human drama, the play... would be powerful enough. But what makes the - distinctly allegorical - subject matter unprecedented for one of Israel's leading theatres to tackle is the historical context...There will be many glitzier events to mark the 60th anniversary of Israel's foundation as a state...But there is unlikely to be one more intellectually daring than this production..."—The Independent

An extraordinary cross-cultural collaboration from the Israeli company that brought their kinetic *Hamlet* to DC in 2007, this heartrending saga tells the story of Sa'id and Saffiyah, who return to the home they fled during Israel's War of Independence and learn the fate of the baby they left behind. Now a young soldier in the IDF, Dov meets his birth parents while cleaving to Miriam and Ephraim, the Holocaust survivors who raised him, as he contemplates his identity and his country's future. **Performed in Hebrew with English sur-titles. With Incubator series workshop readings of new festival work throughout the month of February, and additional Peace Café Programming.**

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Return to Haifa is based on the seminal novel published in 1969 by one of the most famous Palestinian authors and political activists, Ghassan Kanafani (near). Kanafani and his family were exiled as part of the Palestinian exodus during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. He began teaching and writing, publishing not only acclaimed novels, but highly influential literary criticism and scholarly essays on Zionism and literature. Nearly four decades after its publication, *Return to Haifa* was turned into a script by Boaz Gaon (far). Gaon is the author of the book *Where America Ends—an Israeli in America*. He is Chairman of the Moshe David Gaon center for the Study of Latino Culture at the Ben Gurion University, and is one of Israel's leading young playwrights.

March 7–27, 2011

THE CHOSEN

Adapted and directed by Aaron Posner

Based on the novel by Chaim Potok

Featuring Associate Artist in Residence Rick Foucheux as Reb Saunders

Presented by Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater – Fichandler Stage

Opening Night: Thursday, March 10 at 7:30

“Stunning! A great universal work!” - Robert Aubrey Davis, Around Town

The much beloved novel of two boys, two fathers, and two very different Jewish communities in Williamsburgh, Brooklyn. Set against the backdrop of WW II, Aaron Posner's award-winning adaptation introduces us to Reuven Malter and Danny Saunders, passionate, intelligent young boys on opposite sides of a baseball game. When Reuven is injured by Danny's errant pitch, a unique friendship is born. Theater J is thrilled to offer this 10th anniversary staging of its own hit play as Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater's first local guest Company-in-Residence.



The Chosen was the first novel by Chaim Potok (right), one of the most prolific and bestselling Jewish American authors. After its publication in 1967, it was on *The New York Times* Bestseller List for ten months. Other works by Potok include *The Promise* and *My Name is Asher Lev*. He has received The National Jewish Book Award for Fiction, The National Foundation for Jewish Culture's 1997 Jewish Cultural Achievement Award, the O'Henry Award, and many others. Aaron Posner (left) was awarded the exclusive rights to adaptations of Potok's works. He has directed at theaters throughout the DC area, where he is moving.

March 23–April 24, 2011

PHOTOGRAPH 51

A New Play by Anna Ziegler

Directed by Daniella Topol

Opening Night: Monday, March 28 at 7:30

“Fascinating scientific suspense story...Ziegler superbly sculpts the humanity and emotional lives of these scientists into their race for the prize.” - Curtain Up Los Angeles

A funny and moving retelling of the unrequited life of Rosalind Franklin, one of the great female scientists of the 20th Century, and her fervid drive to map the contours of the DNA molecule. A chorus of physicists remember the trail-blazing, fiercely independent woman whose most stunning discovery was the beating of her own romantic heart. A beautifully imagined biography for the stage, this home-grown work was **winner of the 2008 Stage International Script Competition for Best New Play About Science & Technology.**

MORE



Playwright Anna Ziegler is the author of the full-length plays *BFF*, *Novel*, *Dov and Ali*, *Life Science*, *Variations on a Theme*, *In the Same Room*, *The Minotaur*, *To Be Fair* and *Everything You Have*. Her plays have been developed at The Sundance Theatre Lab, the Old Vic New Voices program, Primary Stages, The Kennedy Center, The New Harmony Project, New Georges (where she is an Affiliated Artist) and more throughout the U.S., U.K. and Australia. She earned her BA from Yale, and her MFA from Tisch School of the Arts, and served as a Dramatist's Guild Fellow. In 2005, she was a member of the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab, and she currently collaborates with the Lark's Monthly Meeting of the Minds writers group.

Directing *Photograph 51* will be Daniella Topol, a Washington, DC native, who is now a New-York based director with a focus on collaboration with writers. She has recently directed productions with Women's Project/ Cherry Lane, People's Light and Theatre Company and New Georges, where she is an Affiliated Artist.

May 11–June 12, 2011

THE MOSCOWS OF NANTUCKET

World Premiere Comedy

By Sam Forman

Directed by Shirley Serotsky

Opening Night: Sunday, June 15 at 7:30

"Forman's flavorful wit—he knows a thing or two about the crispness of a one-liner" – The Washington Post

Affluent, anxious and at each other's throats, the Moscows attempt some unusual family bonding over a summer weekend in Nantucket. On the agenda are brisket, booze and a blowout confrontation between competing brothers who've avoided each other for years. A fast-paced new American comedy with its heart in Chekhov's country, **from the author of Helen Hayes Award nominated *The Rise and Fall of Annie Hall*.**



In addition to writing *The Rise and Fall of Annie Hall*, Sam Forman is the lyricist for the new Broadway musical *Next Season* (dir. Alex Timbers). Some of his other works include *Please Stop Talking*, produced at Cherry Lane Theater and the Williamstown Theatre Festival; *The Quiet Game* at Hangar Theater and the upcoming AMC television show *Hickory Hill*. The production will be directed by Theater J's Director of Education and Public Programs, Shirley Serotsky. Ms. Serotsky is a Helen Hayes-nominated director whose other credits at Theater J include *Mikveh* and *The Rise and Fall of Annie Hall*.

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BEYOND THE STAGE EVENTS

Theater J is dedicated to continuing its dialogues beyond the stage, offering an array of innovative public discussion forums and outreach programs which explore the theatrical, psychological and social elements of our art. Following Sunday matinees, **Artistic Director's Roundtables** bring together the finest panelists with the cast and creative team of the production to edify the play-going experience through in-depth conversations of a wide range of topics. The **Peace Café** is a forum where people of various faiths, backgrounds and nationalities come together to break bread and respond to cultural presentations of often difficult issues presented in our productions. Also on select Thursday evenings, Theater J offers the audience the opportunity to interact with the cast at a number of Cast Talk-backs. Throughout the year, readings of the best new plays are presented with professional actors on Friday afternoons in the **Tea at 2** series.

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Theater J Fact Sheet:

LOCATION:

Theater J performs in the Aaron & Cecile Goldman Theater at the Washington DC Jewish Community Center at 1529 16th Street NW in Washington, DC, 4 blocks east of Dupont Circle.

REGULAR PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 pm, Saturdays at 8:00 pm, Sundays at 3:00 and 7:30 pm.
(Schedule is subject to change.)

PARKING & METRO:

Parking available every night at Colonial Parking, 1616 P Street, NW; Limited parking in the DCJCC lot. Limited street parking. Dupont Circle Station RED line (Q Street exit).

TICKETS:

\$35–\$55 Call Box Office Tickets (800) 494-TIXS (8497) or www.boxofficetickets.com.

For groups of 10+ call (202)777-3214 or email becky@theaterj.org

Limited \$15 tickets for patrons 35 & under to every performance

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Theater J is handicapped-accessible and offers large-print programs and assisted listening devices for all performances, and an open captioned performance for most productions. See the schedule of open captioning on the website at theaterj.org.

High resolution digital images are available upon request.

Theater J produces thought-provoking, publicly engaged, personal, passionate and entertaining plays and musicals that celebrate the distinctive urban voice and social vision that are part of the Jewish cultural legacy. Acclaimed as one of the nation's premiere playwrights theaters, Theater J, a program of the Washington DC Jewish Community Center, presents cutting edge contemporary work alongside spirited revivals and is a nurturing home for the development and production of new work by major writers and emerging artists exploring many of the pressing moral and political issues of our time. Dedicated above all to a pursuit of artistic excellence, Theater J takes its dialogues beyond the stage, offering an array of innovative public discussion forums and outreach programs which explore the theatrical, psychological and social elements of our art. Theater J works in collaboration with the five other components of the Washington DCJCC's Morris Cafritz Center for the Arts, which includes the Washington Jewish Film Festival and Screening Room, the Ann Loeb Bronfman Gallery, the Hyman S. and Freda Bernstein Jewish Literary Festival, and the Washington Jewish Music Festival. Theater J frequently partners with those of other faiths and communities, stressing the importance of interchange among a great variety of people wishing to take part in frank, humane conversations about conflict and culture. More information about these productions is available by calling (202)777-3230 or by visiting theaterj.org.

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