

**Yael Ronen and Company (Playwright)** The production is a collaborative work of nine Israeli actors – five Jews and four Arabs. Yael Ronen, the production's 29 year old midwife and director called it "a new generation's quest to define our own identity as Israeli's." In preparing the play, cast members visited Palestinian towns, Jewish Settlements and checkpoints, culled from their own experiences, had history lessons and polled the public.

**Hagith Sivan (Post Show Forum Guest)** had been happily trained in Roman history and through Rome found her way back to the Hebrew Bible. The trek, not unlike Plonter, resulted in deep and abiding interest in gender issues as expressed by biblical authors and by rabbinic authorities. Hagith tries to keep her feet wet in several scholarly camps through teaching, books and articles. Her most recent book, *Palestine in Late Antiquity* (between Christianity and Islam) was published last year and reviewed in the June 11 issue of the New York Review of Books.

**Lior Zadok (Post Show Forum Guest/Actor)** stresses that he is not an expert in this subject matter and does not represent a specific side. He grew up in Rishon Le Zion, served in the Israeli Army until 1997, and moved to the United States in 2001. He is a software engineer with The Regence Group and trained as an actor with the Portland Actors Conservatory.

Your tax-deductible donations  
Make future JTC programming possible  
Contributions can be made to  
Jewish Theatre Collaborative  
2510 SE 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Portland, 97206

[www.jewishtheatrecollaborative.org](http://www.jewishtheatrecollaborative.org)

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Greater Portland Innovation Impact Fund

*Jewish Theatre Collaborative & The Harold Schnitzer  
Family Program in Judaic Studies present:*

**Israel Onstage: Israeli Society through Drama**

# PLONTER

By Yael Ronen and Company



Directed by Sacha Reich

July 14, 2009

Morrison Stage, Artists Repertory Theatre  
Portland, Oregon



## Plonter by Yael Ronen and Company

### Company:

Director	Sacha Reich
Stage Manager	Shannon Goffe
Lighting	Jamie M. Rea

### Actors: Primary Character/s

Matt Dieckman	Yoav
Jamie M. Rea	Tsippi
David Berkson*	Radio/Contractor
Ana Reisman	Raida
Bobby Bermea*	Yusuf
Wendy Wilcox	Michal
Nick Ferrucci	Yoni
Lior Zadok	Ashraf/Yehuda
Cristi Miles*	Bat Chen/Mira

\* Appear with the permission of Actor's Equity

*Plonter* presented with permission of the playwright. *Plonter* premiered by the Cameri Theatre April 17, 2005 and has played to general audiences as well as groups of students, Arab and Jewish, soldiers. It has also toured in Europe. It is performed in Hebrew and Arabic with simultaneous translation in English, Hebrew and Arabic.

### Israel Onstage 2 made possible with support from

The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at PSU, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, the Oregon Israel Fund of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, the Consulate General of Israel in San Francisco and the Institute of Israeli Drama.

**Jewish Theatre Collaborative** engages people in Jewish stories from the past and present exploring values, traditions, and history, in order to better comprehend the diversity of contemporary human experience.

## JTC Notes

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The Security Fence is an operational concept conceived by the Israeli Defense Establishment in order to reduce the number of terrorist attacks whether in the form of explosive-rigged vehicles or in the form of suicide bombers who enter into Israel with the intention of murdering innocent babies, children, women and men. Sadly, this abhorrent phenomenon has become common practice since September 2000. Israeli Ministry of Defense

*From the original program notes:*

“People are afraid to see the other side as human beings because it makes it harder to sustain a vivid conflict if they do.” Yael Ronen

The versatile cast set out to confront the complexities of the conflict. For the mainly left-wing Jewish Actors, for example, this meant, says Ronen, understanding soldiers and settlers as well as Palestinians. “The first thing we had to do was to destroy every opinion we had about the conflict,” she says. We wanted to expose our own ignorance and prejudice.”

***Does the play expose your ignorance and prejudices? Are you surprised by empathies the play provokes?***

***Are you weary of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict? What are the costs of the protracted entanglement? Can we reconcile ourselves to them?***

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**Lobby: Photo Essay of Israel Palestine security fence, separation wall <http://www.pbase.com/yalop/fence>**

**JTC Thanks** the Actors, Sam Mowry, Dina Feuer, James Sullivan and Artist Repertory Theatre

