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DATE: 2 June 2008

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

WHAT: Summer Course/Staged Reading Series Open to Public  
An examination of Israeli society through its  
reflection on stage

WHEN: Tuesdays, June 24, July 1, 8 and 15

WHERE: Studio theatre in Lincoln Hall,  
1620 SW Park Avenue, Portland OR 97201

HOW MUCH: Registration Information: [www.judaic.pdx.edu/osjs](http://www.judaic.pdx.edu/osjs)  
\$8 Suggested Donation for individual readings

RESERVATIONS: [reservations@jtcdpx.org](mailto:reservations@jtcdpx.org), 503-810-5408  
Seating is first come, first seated

#### JTC Launches 1<sup>st</sup> Season

"Stories have played an essential role throughout Jewish History transmitting and exploring values, traditions and history. We need stories now more than ever to help us make meaning of our own experience and of others in this world," says JTC founder Sacha Reich.

"In Israel, theatre is a cultural necessity: playwrights are nurtured, plays written and produced and toured throughout the country for the community to grapple with the issues that the plays raise," states she continues.

Through humor and drama, Israel@60 Onstage! will expose students and audiences to a complex tapestry of modern Israeli experience from secular Tel Aviv to Holocaust survivors and Russian immigrants to Religious Zionists in the Territories.

Designed to commemorate Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the course will provide exposure to Israeli drama and hope to deepen understanding of the challenges of the modern Israeli experience. The course will focus on the work of three contemporary Israeli playwrights who explore themes of family, grief, ethnic and religious divisions, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Themes and issues raised by the plays will be explored with the audience in a facilitated discussion following each reading.

Three plays will be presented as professionally staged readings directed by JTC founder Sacha Reich and guest director Mary McDonald-Lewis. The readings will be open to the public to attend on an individual basis.

Jewish Theatre Collaborative (JTC) is a theatre company emerging under the auspices of The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies

at Portland State University. Led by director Sacha Reich, the company hopes to reestablish the centrality of story as a tool for making meaning of the human and communal experience. The Israel @ 60 Onstage! officially launches JTC and will be followed by other community events and performances in the coming year.

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#### Staged Readings

July 1 Master of the House by Shmuel Hasfari

*Master of the House* is a tragicomic play that exposes everyday life in Tel Aviv under the shadow of terrorist attacks. The life of a Tel Aviv couple falls apart against the backdrop of renovations to their apartment. Best Israeli Play 2003

July 8 Tea by Roni Pinkovich

Tea is a moving, humorous drama about a small family and an extended family, about a transaction of poems for a kidney, and about that steaming cup of tea which always comes to the rescue when it seems that all hope is lost.

July 15 Pangs of the Messiah by Motti Lerner

*Pangs of the Messiah* describes events in the life of a community in the territories. The events unfold against a backdrop of advanced peace negotiations between the Israeli and Jordanian governments, leading to fierce disagreement regarding the courses of action adopted by members of the community. Nominee for The Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play 2008.