

**Ron Pinkovitch (Playwright)** grew from child actor at HaBimah theatre, the National Theatre of Israel to become a prolific director, actor and playwright in Israel. He trained as an actor at Nissan Nativ in Israel and as a director at Middlesex University in London. Ron has served as artistic director for Haifa Municipal Theatre and resident director there, at HaBimah and Beit Lessin in Tel Aviv. A self declared director who writes plays, he is committed to developing new work with other playwrights and teaching the next generation of theatre artists in Israel.

### **Post Show Forum**

#### **Dr. Aart Lovenstein, Psy.D, LPC (Guest Speaker)**

Dr. Aart Lovenstein received his master's degree in psychology from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and his doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Denver. Born to Dutch Holocaust survivors, he grew up in Holland and immigrated to Israel as a teenager. He served as a psychologist in the Israeli Army for five years treating combat and stress reactions in soldiers, most notably in the Lebanon War. Upon receiving his doctorate he treated first and second-generation Holocaust survivors in Israel, and victims of terror and abuse for many years. He returned to the USA in 1994, working in private practice and as a mental health consultant and clinical supervisor for Washington County Community Corrections. He is an advanced level EMDR practitioner and have given workshops and taught on the treatment of trauma in Portland and Tel-Aviv.

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### **Jewish Theatre Collaborative**

Led by director Sacha Reich, JTC's goal is to reestablish the centrality of story as a tool for making meaning of the human and communal experience. The PSU course officially launches The Jewish Theatre Collaborative, and will be followed by other community events and performances in the coming year.

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

## **Israel Onstage: Israeli Society through Drama**



## **Tea**

**By Roni Pinkovitch**

Translated from the Hebrew by Evan Fallenberg

**Directed by**

**Sacha Reich**

**July 8, 2008**

**Studio Theatre, Lincoln Hall  
Portland, Oregon**



# Tea

## By Ron Pinkovitch

*Raisele's apartment: tightly shuttered, dark and gloomy, old fashioned.*

Raisel	Michele Mariana*
Yaakov	Richard Mathews*
Sammy	David Berkson*
Anya	Elizabeth Garrett
Naum	Richard Sanders

\* Appear with the permission of Actor's Equity

TEA presented with permission of Institute of Israeli Drama.

### The Company

Director	Sacha Reich
Russian Coach	Nila Friedberg
Yiddish Coach	Jack Falk
Stage Manager	Hannah Martin
House Manager	Ben Sheragy

TEA was originally produced by Beit Lessin Theatre where it opened in 2006. All rights reserved by the Institute of Israeli Drama.

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The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies, Consulate General of Israel San Francisco, the Institute for Judaic Studies in the Northwest, The Institute of Israeli Drama, the Oregon Israel Fund of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation and Portland State University

### Director's Notes

Over a steaming cup of tea, can a bunch of broken, dislocated individuals heal wounds decades old recover their humanity and their faith in each other? The challenge is formidable, but to do so is to regain the world. Pinkovitch's biting, entertaining story gives us a path out of the cynicism and skepticism that can keep us fractured and isolated. Pinkovitch imagines a future that bears fruit.

Specific challenges these characters face.

The Sephardic/Ashkenazi ethnic and cultural rift that divides Raisele and Ya'akov, that played out in Israeli to some extent like the color divide in America.

Raisele is still traumatized by her experience of the Holocaust and her son Sam experiences Second Generation syndrome.

The last thematic piece of the puzzle that I would like to draw your attention to concerns the Russian immigration of the 90s. Russian immigrants from this period now constitute 20% of the Jewish population of Israel. They arrived 90% non-religious, with no attachment to "the motherland" due to decades of communist atheism. Further, professional and cultural dislocation has played a major role in their integration and absorption or lack there of in Israeli society.

Finally, Pinkovitch has created beautiful music out of this tapestry of immigrant Israelis. We see united in Israel – a community born from the 4 corners of the earth.

-- Sacha Reich

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