

Rabbi Rabino

Co-Production of Rattlestick Playwrights Theater and PS 122

Director: Vivi Tellas

Collaborators: Julie Kline and Dahlia Fischbein

Performers: Rabbi Moses A. Birnbaum and Rabbi Hyman Levine

Stage Manager: Mei Ling Acevedo

Research in Buenos Aires: Pablo Chernov

Associate Producer: Julie Kline

Video/Photo Documentarian: Dahlia Fischbein

Production Photos: Pascal Perich

Postcard Design: Horacio Gallo

Vivi Tellas' website: Mei Iudicissa

We invite you to stay after the performance to enjoy some Kosher refreshments with the performers.

Director's Note:

As a Jewish person without a Jewish education I always felt very curious and had great attraction to the whole mise en scene of the synagogue. As a theatre director this feeling was enough to make me think of starting my research on the "Rabbi's world", as part of my documentary work. I am looking for the most theatrical moments in the life of a Rabbi, and to examine certain questions....

Is theatre true?

Rabbi Murray said that God is a voice.

Rabbi Ellen said God is "feeling right".

Rabbi Jan said God is memory.

Rabbi Moshe said God is being Jewish.

Rabbi Hy said God is the essence.

How does a person get to be a Rabbi? Is there a sign?

Is there a moment of revelation?

What does it mean to be a Rabbi? Is it a responsibility? A calling?

Moses heard God's voice for the first time coming from The Burning Bush. A bush that never burns down.

Are Jewish jokes the best jokes on earth?

What does it mean to be chosen?

Why is Hollywood a Jewish invention?

Vivi Tellas has been at the cutting edge of the Argentine theater scene since 1980, first as the originator of Teatro Malo (Bad Theater) and since then as the director of a succession of innovative stage productions. Tellas has continually explored and tested the limits of theatrical practice and institutions. Her original contributions include Homenaje a Xul Solar (1989), Europera V (1995), Los fracasados del mal (1992), and a groundbreaking interpretation in collaboration with artist Guillermo Kuitca of La casa de Bernarda Alba (2002). Since 2000 she has worked on the Archives Project, a cycle of radical stagings of everyday life in Buenos Aires, directing her real-life mother and aunt (Mi mamá y mi tía, 2003-4), recreating her driving lessons in the Automóvil Club Argentino (Escuela de conducción, 2006-7), staging a conversation between the writer Edgardo Cozarinsky and his doctor (Cozarinsky y su médico, 2005-2006), and exploring Buenos Aires dance nightlife in Disc Jockey (2008).

Vivi Tellas founded and directed the Center for Experimentation in Theater of the University of Buenos Aires. Between 1998 and 2000 she was in charge of performing Arts of the Recoleta Cultural Center. Between 2001

and 2008 she was the Artistic Director of the Sarmiento Theater, which she transformed into the experimental wing of the Theater Complex of the City of Buenos Aires. There, Tellas created the Biodrama Project, about staging real people's lives. In 2008, she taught the seminar "Family Theater," first in London by joint invitation of the National Portrait Gallery and Shunt, the legendary performance space, then in Dublin by invitation of the Project Arts Center.

In 2009 she was invited as a visiting professor at New York University, where she taught a semester workshop in the Creative Writing Program and was part of Teatro Vivo Festival at NYU. She also presented her work at Princeton's University Documentary Film Festival.

Julie Kline (Collaborator/Associate Producer) is an actor, director, and producer in New York City. She is a Literary Associate at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, Artistic Associate of Rising Phoenix Rep, and Associate Director of Roots&Branches Theater. Acting credits include work with Rising Phoenix Rep, EST, The Women's Project, HERE Arts Center, and the New York and DC Fringe Festivals. Producing credits include SLIPPING (RPR/Rattlestick) and TOO MUCH MEMORY (RPR/NYTW). Up-coming - Director, THE STRAY DOG by Kristen Palmer, as part of Rising Phoenix Rep's CINO NIGHTS monthly series of new site-specific plays. BFA in Acting from The Theatre School, DePaul University, Chicago.

Dahlia Fischbein (Collaborator/Documentarian) is an Argentine-born New York-based artist. Educated in Film and Political Science in Argentina and New York she was also trained as a video editor. Her work has been shown in galleries, festivals and art fairs in the US, Europe and South America such as ~Scope Miami, ~Scope New York, Athens Video Art Festival, ArteBA, Festival Internacional Sueños Cortos, Toxic Video, Flicker Film LA, Museum Quartier, Galerii Fotografic [Prague], The Hogar Collection and nydesignroom. She has designed visuals for multidisciplinary events such as a theater performance in collaboration with the Ex p Girls Company or a fashion exhibit in collaboration with GGrippo. In 2004 she created Sharp [Cecilia Biagini & Dahlia Fischbein] a video collective whose work was exhibit at Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, South Bend Regional Museum of Art, PACE University Gallery, Gallery W52, Weiss Pollack Gallery among others. Since 2009 she is an Audio Visual Designer for Limbo Arts, a record label and sound design company based in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She is very happy to collaborate with Vivi Tellas in Rabbi Rabino.

Pablo Chernov (Research) graduated from the Fundación Universidad del Cine (FUC) in Buenos Aires with a degree in Film Direction, where he currently teaches postproduction. Presently he is working together with Gastón Solnicki in the production company Filmy Wiktora. Producer: El Hombre Robado, directed by Matías Piñeiro, which competed in: Buenos Aires, Vienna, FICCO, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (José Riveros Award for Best New Director) and Jeonju (Award for Best Film in the International Competition). Co-producer: Matías Piñeiro's second feature film, Todos Mienten, winner of two awards in the International Competition at the BAFICI, international premiere in Locarno and was premiered at MoMA. In 2009 he obtained a grant from the Fondo Metropolitano de las Artes y las Ciencias for the short-film Escenas sobre la muerte de los niños directed by Nicolás Zukerfeld. Currently he's working with producer Hernán Musaluppi in a book about film production in Argentina and with theater director Vivi Tellas in her new piece Rabbi Rabino.

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