

## A Chorus Line comes to Rainbow Stage

For 15 years, the lightbulb marquee flashed outside the Shubert Theatre in New York, announcing A Chorus Line was playing inside. Now, thanks to Rainbow Stage, our marquee is lit, and this legendary musical is on the Winnipeg stage.

A Chorus Line is the story about Broadway "gypsies" - the chorus dancers, that persevere, suffering through endless auditions and oftentimes, constant rejection that comes with a life in the theatre. They are multi-talented performers who can dance, sing and act, but the competition is keen.

A Chorus Line is about their hopes, their dreams, their fears. Zach (played by Stephan Beckon) is a driven, compulsive director. He draws out their personal stories, revealing their vulnerabilities. Their childhood memories emerge, in musical numbers and monologues, some poignant (At the Ballet), some reminiscent of their adolescence (Hello Twelve, Hello Thirteen, Hello Love). In doing so, each performer gains a renewed strength and conviction about their chosen line of work.

This musical will hold you by your heartstrings, watching the cuts until the group numbers 17: eight boys and nine girls. They know, as does the audience, there will be one final cut, with only four boys and four girls to remain in the chorus line.

With the final cut pending, we discover similarities between ourselves and those Broadway gypsies. We too, compete, whether it be in business... for promotion... for attention... for approval... for love.

In the end, the chorus dancers join together to become "One singular sensation..."

### PROFILE OF THE PRODUCTION PROCESS

An empty stage sets A Chorus Line apart from other musicals. "The focus is on the spoken word, song and dance," says Allan Sansom, production manager. Sansom has worked with Rainbow Stage since 1992, and admits that one of the biggest challenges faced by the company is "to produce musical theatre at an affordable price". A few of the aspects of A Chorus Line make this easier to accomplish than with other shows.

Where more conventional musicals use nine or more wagons of rolling scenery and the same number of backdrops, A Chorus Line has been produced using a black scrim, a grid of lines on the floor and a wall of mirrors. Simply stated, these pieces are a mesh backdrop, a set of reference points on the floor for the benefit of the dancers, and mirrors - standard fare in a dance studio.

With limited props, and virtually no scenery, the onus is very much on the performers to make their roles and the show as a whole memorable. Sansom is confident. "Live theatre offers what other preserved art forms don't. Within seconds of walking into the theatre, you see the handiwork of all the people involved. There's an immediate sense of collaboration, to face challenges and overcome obstacles - it's about a number of people banding together to share a truth in the dark."

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Holocaust survivors' stories collected, preserved for history

By PETER EPHROSS

NEW YORK (JTA)

A Polish Jew worked as a doctor in the Warsaw Ghetto before he was sent to Treblinka and Dachau. A Dutch Jewish girl's family used diamonds to bribe its way through Europe and eventually settled in Miami. A German Jewish teen-ager was sent on a children's transport to England in 1939 and then worked with survivors in displaced persons camps after the war.

These stories are among the nearly 200 memoirs sent so far to the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project, which has received \$1 million U.S. in funding from Random House.

Elie Wiesel, the project's honorary chairman, has been pushing the idea for years. Wiesel says the project, set up by the World Jewish Congress, will encourage survivors, many of whom are in their 60s and older, to write down their stories.

The survivors' "stories are unique and what they have to say nobody else has to say," Wiesel, a Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor, recently told The New York Times. "They should feel that people want to know what they have gone through." The project wants to preserve the memoirs of survivors, according to Menachem Rosensaft, the project's director and editor in chief.

In addition, the project hopes to make these memoirs accessible to scholars, students and the general public to ensure that those studying the period know the experiences of the survivors, Rosensaft says. So far, most of the memoirs received have come from North America, with a smattering from Latin America, Israel and England. Most are written in English, with a few in Yiddish. One memoir of life in Buchenwald is written in Hebrew.

Some of the memoirs include experiences in



ELIE WIESEL, honorary chair of the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project, has been pushing it for some time.

displaced persons camps after the war - and in resettlement in the United States, Britain and elsewhere. "The authors do not end their experiences in 1945," says Rosensaft, who was born in the Bergen-Belsen displaced persons camp in 1948.

Rosensaft says the memoir project complements Steven Spielberg's massive oral history project, which is interviewing tens of thousands of survivors. "Here you have the written word - survivors who

sat down, often for years, writing down, crossing out, putting down their experiences" and often expressing in writing what they couldn't say, Rosensaft says. He hopes the first batch of memoirs will come out in the next 12 to 15 months, but it's not clear how they will be made accessible.

Since Random House funded the project, it has first rights to publish any of the manuscripts. An academic press may publish some, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum or the WJC may publish others. Some may be published online.

The project's goal remains clear, says Rosensaft. It is to put survivors' "perspective front and center. It is ensuring that their words and their memories be part of the permanent record of the Holocaust." Memoirs can be sent to the Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs Project, World Jewish Congress, 501 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

### Tolerance exhibit shines light on hate mongering Internet sites

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES (JTA) - The Museum of Tolerance here has unveiled a new \$5 million U.S. interactive exhibit to combat the proliferation of Internet sites by hate groups. Visitors to the exhibit see eight large screens, illustrating some of the most heinous hate crimes of the last few years and community responses to them. "Hate sites by neo-Nazis, white supremacists and other bigots represent one of the major growth industries on the Internet," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which created the museum.

"In 1995, when the Oklahoma City federal building was blown up, there was one such site. Now there are over 2,000." At the entrance to the exhibit is a bank of computer screens on which the visitor can instantly call up many of the 2,000 Web sites run by the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, white supremacists, skinheads and Holocaust deniers.

"These extremist groups have become very sophisticated," said Cooper. "For instance, a student researching the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. might well click on MLKing.org. On the face of it, the site appears perfectly legitimate, but once you get into it, it becomes a front for white supremacists."

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## Jewish Community Calendar of Events - February, 2001

(Including English, Hebrew, school and refuse collection calendars)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8 Shevat	2 9 Shevat - 5:07 p.m.: Candle lighting.	3 10 Shevat
				School Day 5 Refuse Day 4	School Day 6 Refuse Day 5	
4 11 Shevat - 9:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.: Shaarey Zedek Synagogue Beit HaMidrash - Learning Community Series. - 12:00 p.m.: Sunday Stories (children 5 and up). One hour cross-cultural story & craft program involving Chinese, Japanese & Jewish Communities. (Pre-registration required.)	5 12 Shevat School Day 1 Refuse Day 1	6 13 Shevat - 7:00 p.m.: Margaret Park School-Hebrew English bilingual program. Grades K to 6. OPEN HOUSE in the School library at 385 Cork. Interested persons are invited to attend.	7 14 Shevat - Erev Tu B'Shvat. - 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.: Gray Academy Fundraiser at Rumours. - 7:30 p.m.: EXECUTIVE MEETING Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/CJA. Kraft Board Room AJCC.	8 15 Shevat - Tu B'Shvat - 7:30 p.m.: Jewish Heritage Centre Shanghai Connection Program. Professor Pan Guang, Barney Theatre Asper Jewish Community Campus.	9 16 Shevat - 5:19 p.m.: Candle lighting. - 8:00 p.m.: Prairie Ruach Minyan with Rabbi Alan Green. Shaarey Zedek Synagogue.	10 17 Shevat
				School Day 4 Refuse Day 4	School Day 5 Refuse Day 5	
11 18 Shevat - Jewish National Fund Tu B'Shvat Telethon. Asper Jewish Community Campus. - 9:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.: Shaarey Zedek Synagogue Beit HaMidrash - Learning Community Series. - 12:00 p.m.: Sunday Stories (children 5 and up) One hour cross-cultural story & craft program involving Chinese, Japanese & Jewish Communities. (Pre-registration required.) - 1:00 p.m.: Jazz series: Tommy Ambrose with Ron Poley Big Band. Asper Foundation Performances. Beverly Theatre. - 8:00 p.m.: Jazz series: Tommy Ambrose with Ron Poley Big Band. Asper Foundation Performances. Beverly Theatre.	12 19 Shevat School Day 6 Refuse Day 1	13 20 Shevat - 7:30 p.m.: Rosh Pina Congregation Board of Directors Meeting. - 7:30 p.m.: Lecture: Jewish Heritage Centre, Jews in Britain. Dr. Leon Michaels. Adult Lounge AJCC.	14 21 Shevat School Day 2 Refuse Day 3	15 22 Shevat - 7:00 p.m.: Chagigat Ha Torah in Barney Theatre. - 7:00 p.m.: Grade 2 Chagigat Ha Torah. - 7:00 p.m.: WBJE Executive Meeting. Kraft Board Room.	16 23 Shevat - 5:31 p.m.: Candle lighting.	17 24 Shevat
				School Day 3 Refuse Day 3	School Day 4 Refuse Day 5	
18 25 Shevat - 9:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.: Shaarey Zedek Synagogue Beit HaMidrash Learning Community Series - 12:00 p.m.: Sunday Stories (children 5 and up). One hour cross-cultural story & craft program involving Chinese, Japanese & Jewish Communities. (Pre-registration required.)	19 26 Shevat - 7:00 p.m.: Shaarey Zedek Synagogue Congregational Meeting.	20 27 Shevat - Shaarey Zedek Synagogue Board of Management Meeting. - 8:00 p.m.: Sarah Sommer Chai Folk Ensemble Annual Concert. "Gates of Jerusalem". Tickets on sale at Ticketmaster beginning Jan. 23rd. - 8:00 p.m.: National Council of Jewish Women Owen Sector Branch Meeting.	21 28 Shevat - 7:00 p.m.: WBJE Board Meeting Kraft Board Room. - 8:00 p.m.: Alid/Mao Shanin Chapter ORT Meeting.	22 29 Shevat - 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.: Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate Grade 7 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Evening. - 7:30 p.m.: Jewish Heritage Centre Shanghai Connection Program. "The Vines that Saved Lives: Story of Chinese Sophists". (Japanese with English Subtitles.) (Freeform Holocaust Educational Centre. Asper Jewish Community Campus). - 7:30 p.m.: Board Meeting, Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/CJA. Kraft Board Room AJCC.	23 30 Shevat - BBYO Winter Convention February 23-25. Viscount Gort Hotel. - 5:43 p.m.: Candle lighting.	24 1 Adar
				School Day 1 Refuse Day 3	School Day 2 Refuse Day 5	
25 2 Adar - 12:00 p.m.: Sunday Stories (children 5 and up). One hour cross-cultural story & craft program involving Chinese, Japanese & Jewish Communities. (Pre-registration required.) - 7:30 p.m.: "Spirituality, Who Needs It?" Jointly with Israel Synagogue & Rosh Pina Congregation at the Beit Israel Synagogue 1007 Sinclair Street.	26 3 Adar School Day 5 Refuse Day 1	27 4 Adar School Day 6 Refuse Day 2	28 5 Adar School Day 1 Refuse Day 3	School Day 2 Refuse Day 4	School Day 3 Refuse Day 5	

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