

14th Street Y
344 East 14th Street (at 1st Ave)
New York, NY 10003

(646) 395-4310
14StreetY.org

   @14StreetY
#14YArtists

Subscribe and Save with the
14Y FLEX PASS

For the low price of \$42, choose any 3 shows from our upcoming season of LIFE + DEATH. That's \$14 per show. A savings of at least 33% per ticket! Visit 14StreetY.org/FlexPass

Theater at the
14th Street Y
2019/20

Season of Life + Death

Бабушка



Theater Staff

Ronit Muszkatblit

Senior Director of Arts + Culture + LABA

David Stallings

Director of Arts + Culture

Kryssy Wright

Production Manager

Rebecca Miller

Theater Manager

Lilith Bachelder

Box Office + Special Events Coordinator

Laura Newmark

Director of LABA + Culture Producer

About the Theater

The Theater at the 14th Street Y focuses on social awareness and change through big picture narratives. Inspired by works that welcome artists of all backgrounds, we place artists at the heart of our community and seek to create an inclusive and open cultural experience for all. Art is incubated here.

About LABA

LABA: A Laboratory for Jewish Culture is a program of the 14th Street Y that uses classic Jewish texts to inspire the creation of art, dialogue, and study. The LABA program is supported, in part, by public funds from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



"In the Jewish Culture, when someone is grieving, we let them speak first. We let them drive the conversation."

These words by former Executive Director, Rabbi Shira Koch Epstein, were words of comfort and preparation after the unexpected and personal loss of my father.

In her tenure at the 14th Street Y, Rabbi Shira provided insurmountable support for the community and her lasting impression will be a driving force for our values at the 14th Street Y for years to come. The Arts + Culture + LABA Team would like to dedicate our 2019/2020 Season of Life + Death to Rabbi Shira Koch Epstein as she continues to inspire the world on an international level.

As we see in the 2019/2020 Season, different cultures honor and celebrate the life cycle in many ways. Our diverse artists wrestle with how we can learn from the traditions of previous generations and pay tribute through living life to its fullest. While at times the pieces we read made me suddenly remember my own grief, it was a refreshing discovery that our artists are drawn to tales of survival and remembrance to explore the theme. There is humor in the life cycle as well as joy and courage. We have productions about surviving cancer, recovering from drug addiction, a son learning about his father's battle with AIDS, a darkly humored ghost story from the Bronx, and a rich and lyrical play about love and loss from acclaimed playwright/director José Rivera. Join us as we explore these themes with innovative new works of theater, dance and opera. We'll see you in the Theater.

-David Stallings, Director of Arts + Culture

14th Street Y Talks Back

Our theater season for 2019-2020 will deep dive into the bold themes of Life and Death. Join us for our Talkback Series where we find hope, sorrow, humor, strength and ways to support the in between in an ever changing world order, with tangible engagement and activism tools to continue the conversation.

Learn more at 14StreetY.org/14YTalksBack



National Winner of the 2019 Jewish Playwriting Contest

Jewish Plays Project
Theater

David Winitsky | Artistic Director
Joshua Benghiat | Artistic Associate

September 6 – 8

7 cities, 1000 people, 1 Winner. Crowd-sourced and audience vetted, the Winner of the 2019 Jewish Playwriting Contest will be announced in June of 2019, and comes home to the 14th Street Y in September for the JPP's featured workshop production. Come be a part of the movement for contemporary Jewish theater!

#JewishStories

Recovery

Johari Mayfield Dance
Dance

Johari Mayfield | Choreographer
Milica Paranosic | Composer

September 9 – 15

Blending movement and technology "Recovery" unpacks the container of addiction through the lens of a woman struggling with substance abuse. Where does she belong in a world where legalized drugs and alcohol are so readily accessible? Is she good or evil? The urge to explain and define the addict, society and recovery is cracked open and explored in this hybrid work.

#StrongWomen

...it's time...

Freemove Dance
Dance

Jenn Freeman | Director and Choreographer
Dani Markham | Composer

September 19 – 22

Following a sold-out run in 2018, Freemove Dance returns to present this gutsy and percussive dance piece. It is a call-to-arms for re-defining how and why the clock has a titan grip on our life experience.

#StrongWomen



Recovery



Бабушка | BAb(oo)shka

Anna Lublina
Theater

Anna Lublina | Theater Creator
Julia Danitz | Composer
Elena Rose Light | Choreographer

September 26 – October 6

Бабушка tells a true story about Jewish life in the USSR onstage—in Russian. Her story is live translated into klezmer music, gibberish, poetic text, and puppetry, creating a meta conversation on the act of translation and historization.

#StrongWomen #JewishStories
#Heritage #Puppets

The Stray

Rebel Playhouse
Family Theater

Arif Silverman | Book,
Music and Lyrics

September 28 – October 6

The conflict between wolves and humans has existed for years, but can an unlikely friendship mend the rift between them? A new folk musical about love, loss, and the power of understanding, “The Stray” shows us growing pains lead to remarkable change.

#TheaterForFamilies

The Pink Hulk: One Woman’s Journey to Find the Superhero Within

Valerie David
Theater

Valerie David | Performer/Playwright
Padraic Lillis | Director

October 8 – 13

A cancer diagnosis means only 1 thing: Time to get laid! This award-winning solo show follows Valerie’s triumphant journey to become a 3-time cancer survivor & redefines what it means to summon the superhero within. An inspiring story that’s been touring the globe!

#StrongWomen

Ominous Men

MultiStages
Theater

Desi Moreno-Penson | Playwright
Lorca Peress | Director

October 19 – November 3

MultiStages New Works Winner.

It was the wrong night and the wrong place for these OMINOUS MEN to be playing a game of "Bones" when the 1977 NYC Blackout hits the Bronx! Overtaken by their demons, they descend into a supernatural night of the soul. Told through a magic realism lens, "Ominous Men" is a gothic horror tale about race, poverty, drugs, misogyny and violence in America.

"Ominous Men" is made possible in part with public funds from Creative Engagement, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and administered by LMCC.

#StrongWomen #GhostStories

75th Anniversary of the Jerome Robbins Dance Division

From The Horse's Mouth
Dance

November 6 – 10

The next edition of From The Horse's Mouth is proud to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the country's most prestigious repository of dance materials at the Jerome Robbins Dance Division of the Library of Performing Arts at Lincoln Center. This production will be in collaboration with the Jerome Robbins Dance Division, Linda Murray, Curator.

#DanceStories

Riyaz/Practice

Courtyard Dancers, Dakshina Dance Company, Sakshi Productions, and Sattriya Dance Company
Dance

November 15 – 16

With bharatanatyam, kathak, odissi, and sattriya as foundational training, four east coast, contemporary dance companies collaborate to explore the rigor and sanctuary of a daily, physical and intentional practice.

Prerona Bhuyan, Madhusmita Bora, Pallabi Chakravorty, donia salem, Nandini Sikand and Daniel Phoenix Singh | Dance Choreographers

#DanceStories #Heritage



Riyaz/Practice



State of the Jews

LABA 2nd Stage
Opera

Alex Weiser | Composer
Ben Kaplan | Librettist

December 5 – 8

A semi-staged preview performance of “State of the Jews”, an opera by composer Alex Weiser and librettist Ben Kaplan which follows Theodor Herzl, visionary of the Jewish state in the last year of his life, as his efforts to secure a Jewish homeland become increasingly desperate.

#JewishStories #Heritage

Straight Faced Lies

M-Squared Productions
Theater

Mark Jason Williams | Playwright
Andrew Block | Director

December 9 – 22

Grab a plate for an unforgettable holiday with the Ryans, where family battles and deep secrets are the most delicious things on the menu. “Passionate, biting and deeply funny, this play is equal parts fresh and familiar...” — The Villager

#LGBTQStories

A Golem from Buenos Aires

Carina Toker
Family Theater | Dance

Carina Toker | Writer, Director and
Choreographer
Gabriel Toker | Music Composer

December 9 – 22

A Golem from Buenos Aires is a multidisciplinary theater play for the whole family, inspired by the Jewish legend of the Golem of Prague. In this original performance, an unexpected event unfolds a new hilarious, poetic, moving story.

#TheaterForFamilies
#JewishStories

#NastyWomen - A Night of Female Resistance Comedy

Laura Beatrix Newmark
Comedy

Laura Beatrix Newmark | Producer
Amanda Duarte | Host

November 18, January 27, May 11,
and June 15

Following the Women's March
and in light of the #MeToo, Time's
Up, #NeverAgain movements,
we provide a forum for female
comedians that empowers all
through laughter, camaraderie and
tangible activism tools.

#StrongWomen
#ComedyIsTheResistance

Scenes from Childhood

LABA 2nd Stage
Theater

Ari Brand | Writer
Eugenia Manwelyan | Director

January 10 – 26

Set amidst the AIDS crisis in NYC,
this semi-autobiographical play
reveals a family of performers
wrestling with ambition, tragedy,
and the stories we tell about who
we are. Alongside an ensemble
cast, Ari Brand plays two
characters based on himself and
his late father, the concert pianist
Natan Brand.

#JewishStories #LGBTQStories

The Imperfect Love Song of Delilah and Venizio || Planet Connections Short Form Series

Planet Connections
Theater

José Rivera | Writer and Director
Glory Kadigan | Series Curator

February 7 – 23

Playwrights For A Cause writer
José Rivera brings a new play to our
season. Death has been declared illegal
by the U.S. government. Trees grow
lights instead of leaves. Ghosts love the
living. And in heaven you can taste the
wind. Two impetuous lovers look for a
love that lasts forever in this fantastical
comedy about imperfect relationships,
by the author of The Motorcycle Diaries
and Marisol.

This play will be running in rep with
Planet Connections Short Form Series,
Award Nominated Planet Connections
writers, present new short form playlets.
Series curated by Glory Kadigan.

#GhostStories #Festival





February Puppet Takeover!

WonderSpark Puppets
Family Theater

Chad Williams | Writer, Director
and Performer
Lindsey 'Z.' Briggs | Puppets
Creaturiste | Puppets

February 1 – February 23

I The Three Little Pigs
February 1 – 2

**I Princess Petunia &
The Dragon** (Tu B'Shevat)
February 8 – 9

**I Mystery Max &
The Missing Dinosaur**
February 15 – 16

I Esther Saves the Day! (Purim)
February 22 – 23

There's a different puppet show every weekend at the 14th Street Y Theater in February! Come see 4 family-friendly puppet shows about dinosaurs, big bad wolves, dragons, and princesses (and queens) saving the day. WonderSpark Puppets presents shows about Purim, Tu B'Shevat, a missing dinosaur, and the three little pigs. Each puppet show is 35-40 minutes long, highly interactive and best for ages 3+.

#TheaterForFamilies #Festival
#Puppets #JewishStories



Women's History Solo Series

First By Faith: The Life Of Mary McLeod Bethune

Richarda Abrams
Theater

Richarda Abrams | Performer,
Playwright and Producer
Dina Vovsi | Director
Amina Claudine Myers | Music
Director

February 25 – March 15

2018 Winner of United Solo Theatre Festival's Best Educational Show Award. Abrams uses storytelling/song, bends time/gender, explores Bethune's journey from an uneducated child to a world renown educator; returning to earth to share one last lesson.

#StrongWomen #Trailblazer
#Educator #Festival

Women's History Solo Series

Cheer from Chawton: A Jane Austen Family Theatrical

Love Arm'd Productions
Theater

Karen Eterovich | Playwright,
Actress, and Producer
Susan Pilar & Amy Stoller | Direction,
Dialect Design, and Choreography

February 25 – March 15

Cheer from Chawton is the 2010 & 2019 Finale Production of the Jane Austen Festival in Bath, England and has toured to Universities & Theatres from coast to coast as well as Bath, England for more than a dozen years. Meet novelist Jane Austen at her brother's mansion in this hour-long comedy about the famous author. Ages 8 & up!

#StrongWomen #Trailblazer
#Educator #Festival
#TheaterForFamilies

Women's History Solo Series

PLACES!

Pat Addiss, Producer
Theater

Romy Nordlinger | Performer and
Playwright
Cailin Heffernan | Director
Nick T. Moore | Composer

February 25 – March 15

PLACES!, a Multimedia solo show, tells the story of the most famous star you've never heard of: Russian Jewish lesbian trailblazer, Alla Nazimova - silver screen icon, Broadway legend, and first female director and producer in Hollywood.

#StrongWoman #Trailblazer
#Educator

Abrahamic Americans

Jewish Plays Project
Theater

David Winitzsky | Artistic Director
Joshua Benghiat | Artistic Associate

April 2 – 5

From the Travel Ban to Tree of Life, American Jews and American Muslims have been showing up for each other. At the same time, complex tensions – Linda Sarsour and the Women's March, Rep. Ilan Omar and civic discourse - have risen. Four brand-new short plays from our hottest Jewish and Muslim playwrights and directors examining what's changing, how it is positive and how to make it last.

#JewishStories

The Olive Tree

Theater | Comedy

Iris Bahr | Writer

April 12 – May 3

The Olive Tree: A Comedy for the Hopeless Optimist. A wild, insightful and hilarious “play within a play” from award winning playwright Iris Bahr (DAI, Curb Your Enthusiasm) it’s Noises Off meets Fauda, with a touch of Oslo for good measure.

#JewishStories

Israel Arts Fest

Israeli Artists Project

Theater | Music | Family Theater

Anat Gov | Playwright, Best Friends

May 4 – 31

Israeli Artists Project will be presenting the New York premiere of Sof Tov (Happy Ending) by Anat Gov, along with an art exhibit of New York-based Israeli artists, various cultural nights, jazz, comedy, film, dance, children’s theater, and more.

#JewishStories #Festival

The Three Little Pigs

WonderSpark Puppets

Family Theater

Chad Williams | Writer and Director

June 6 – 7

WonderSpark Puppets returns with the classic fable told with fun puppets and humor that will delight our youngest theatergoers! This show is highly interactive and best for ages 3 & up!

#TheaterForFamilies #Puppets

14th Street Y PRIDE Fest

The Theater at the 14th Street Y

Theater | Music | Dance | Drag

Larry Daniels & David Stallings | Curators

June 11 – 28

The Theater at the 14th Street Y is proud to present the 14 Street Y Pride Fest 2020. Theater, dance, film, music, drag, and more will be celebrated in honor of the diversity of the LGBTQ community in the Lower East Side.

#LGBTQStories #Festival



About the 14th Street Y

The 14th Street Y is a vibrant community center grounded in the belief that contemporary Jewish sensibilities can be a source of inspiration, connection, and learning for the individuals and families we serve throughout downtown Manhattan. We focus on health and fitness, education and enrichment programs, and innovative arts and cultural programming.

We serve more than 26,000 people annually with a variety of community programs. The 14th Street Y is part of Educational Alliance, whose network of community centers also includes the Center for Recovery and Wellness, the Manny Cantor Center, the Sirovich Center, and Educational Alliance Community Schools.

About Educational Alliance

Educational Alliance brings together and partners with diverse communities in Lower Manhattan, offering individuals and families high-quality, multi-generational programs and services that enhance their well-being and socioeconomic opportunities. We are proud of our legacy as a Jewish organization and we provide high-quality, transformational services and programs to all New Yorkers through our network of community centers. As we have for 130 years, we offer best-in-class programming—now across 15 sites—focusing on a mix of education, health and wellness, arts and culture, and civic engagement.

Special Thanks to

Lauren Khalfaya | Photographer
Walter C. Barnett | Graphic Designer

