

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Tuesday, April 10, 2018

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NEW REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS  
**TWO JEWS WALK INTO A WAR...**  
BY SETH ROZIN  
DIRECTED BY WILL LEBOW  
APRIL 28-MAY 20, 2018

[WATERTOWN] New Repertory Theatre presents *Two Jews Walk into a War...*, April 28-May 20, 2018 in the MainStage Theater at the Mosesian Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA. Tickets are \$37-\$67 and may be purchased by calling the New Rep Box Office at 617-923-8487 or visiting newrep.org. Student, senior, and group discounts are available.

**The press opening will be on Monday, April 30 at 7:30pm.**

“New Repertory Theatre is pleased to conclude our 2017-2018 season with the Vaudeville-inspired comedy *Two Jews Walk into A War* by Seth Rozin,” says Artistic Director Jim Petosa. “During a season in which we celebrate the remarkable resilience of the human spirit, this play captures that element eloquently with both charm and wit. As we witness the two characters in this play working together to save their religion against all hope, we’re reminded that it is from these small foundations that we are reminded of the power of persistence.”

“New Rep is excited to welcome back both Joel Colodner and Jeremiah Kissel to our stage,” says Managing Director Harriet Sheets. “We’re pleased to have them reunite in this production after performing together in the critically-acclaimed *Imagining Madoff*. Separately, they most recently appeared in some of our favorite shows: Jeremiah having last appeared in our smash hit *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Joel in our production of *Freud’s Last Session*, among many others. We hope all will join us as our 2017-2018 season comes to a rousing conclusion with this hilarious comedy.”

**About TWO JEWS WALK INTO A WAR...**

What do you do if you’re the last two Jews in Afghanistan? You re-write the Torah, of course! Ishaq and Zeblyan are on a mission to save Judaism in Kabul by rebuilding their synagogue and keeping the faith alive, but only if they don’t kill each other first. Jeremiah Kissel (*Fiddler on the Roof*, *Broken Glass*, *The King of Second Avenue*,

*Imagining Madoff*) and Joel Colodner (*Regular Singing, Freud's Last Session, Imagining Madoff*) star in this Vaudeville-inspired play, doing their best in a shtick-y situation.

## **New Rep's Mission**

New Repertory Theatre produces plays that speak powerfully to the vital ideas of our time.

### **What we do:**

- Through the passion and electricity of live theater performed to the highest standards of excellence, New Rep seeks to spark community conversations on crucial contemporary issues.
- Our work expands and challenges the human spirit of both artists and audiences. We present world premieres, contemporary plays and classic works in several intimate settings. Our productions are designed to be accessible to all. We are committed to education and enrichment for learners of all ages, with a special dedication to the creation of innovative in-school programming and outreach to underserved audiences. We embrace theater as the basis for enduring connections with our community and as a springboard for meaningful civic engagement.
- New Rep is an active advocate for the arts and a major voice in the national dialogue defining the role of theater in our culture.

## **About NEW REPERTORY THEATRE**

New Repertory Theatre is the award-winning, professional theatre company in residence at the Mosesian Center for the Arts in Watertown, MA. For over 30 years, New Rep has been a leader of self-produced theatre in greater Boston, producing contemporary and classic dramas, comedies, and musicals in both the 340-seat MainStage Theater and the 90-seat BlackBox Theater. Annually, New Rep serves over 40,000 patrons, including 2,000 season subscribers. In addition to its mainstage productions, New Rep produces Next Voices, a program dedicated to developing new plays with playwrights through staged readings and world premiere production. Under its Lifelong Enrichment Arts Programs (LEAP), New Rep also produces its Classic Repertory Company, Page To Stage, Insider Experiences, and Spotlight Symposium Series.

## **Artistic Bios**

**JOEL COLODNER\* (Ishaq)** returns to New Repertory Theatre after performing in *Regular Singing, Freud's Last Session, Imagining Madoff, The Elephant Man, Three Viewings, and Indulgences*. Other area credits include *Sorry and That Hopey Changey Thing* (Greater Boston Stage Company); *Sweet and Sad* (Gloucester Stage); *It's a Wonderful Life, Glengarry Glen Ross, and Mrs. Whitney* (Merrimack Repertory Theatre); *Our Town* (Huntington Theatre Company); *The Chosen and My Name is Asher Lev* (Lyric Stage Company); *The Light in the*

*Piazza* (SpeakEasy Stage Company); and numerous roles with Actors' Shakespeare Project. Regional credits include *Streamers*, *Comedians*, and *Hamlet* (Arena Stage); *The Rainmaker* (Guthrie Theatre); *An American Clock*, *Measure for Measure*, and *Wild Oats* (Mark Taper Forum); *The Threepenny Opera* (Repertory Theatre of St. Louis); and *The Seagull* (Pittsburgh Public Theatre). Off-Broadway credits include *How I Learned to Drive* (Vineyard Theatre). Broadway credits include work with the Acting Company and Phoenix Theatre. Television credits include *Moonlighting*, *Remington Steele*, *Eight is Enough*, *Highway to Heaven*, *St. Elsewhere*, *21 Jump Street*, *Cagney and Lacey*, and *LA Law*. Mr. Colodner earned his BA from Cornell University and MFA from Southern Methodist University. Originally from New York, he resides in Portsmouth, NH.

**JEREMIAH KISSEL\* (Zeblyan)** returns to New Repertory Theatre after performing in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Broken Glass*, *The King of Second Avenue*, *Imagining Madoff*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Hard Times*. Area credits include appearances at the Huntington, A.R.T., Commonwealth Shakespeare, the Lyric Stage, and Merrimack Rep, as well as Symphony Hall. Screen credits include *The Town*, *The Fighter*, *The Great Debaters*, *Stronger*, and *Joy*. He is the recipient of two Elliot Norton Awards (1990, 2014), two IRNEs, and the Elliot Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence (2003).

**WILL LeBOW (Director)** returns to New Repertory Theatre after performing in *The King of Second Avenue*. Credits include *Awake and Sing* (Huntington Theatre Company); and *Act One* (Lincoln Center Theater). As an American Repertory Theatre company actor he appeared in more than 55 productions over 17 seasons including *The Merchant of Venice*, *Full Circle* (Elliot Norton Award), *Nocturne* (Drama Desk Nomination), *Endgame*, *Romance*, *Copenhagen*, and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Other credits include *The Rivals*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, and *Sonia Flew* (Huntington Theatre Company); *Once in a Lifetime* (American Conservatory Theater); and *Casey at the Bat*, *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, and world premieres of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, and *The Polar Express* (Boston Pops). He is a veteran of 15 years with *Shear Madness* and three seasons with the Boston Shakespeare Company. Film and television credits include *Act One* (2015 release), *Next Stop Wonderland*, *What Doesn't Kill You*, *Second Sight*, and six seasons as Stanley on Comedy Central's *Dr. Katz: Professional Therapist*.

**HANKUS NETSKY (Music Consultation)** is chair of New England Conservatory's Contemporary Improvisation Department and Founder and Director of the Klezmer Conservatory Band. He has collaborated with playwright Robert Brustein on two musicals: *The King of Second Avenue* (New Repertory Theatre) and *Shlemiel the First* (American Repertory Theater and the American Musical Theatre Festival). Other musical scores include *The Imported Bridegroom* and *Borsht Capades '94*. He is musical director, producer, and arranger for *Eternal Echoes*, Itzhak Perlman's much-acclaimed Jewish music collaboration featuring cantor Yitzchak Meir Helfgot,

and *In the Fiddler's House*, Perlman's klezmer touring and recording project. His most recent project with Perlman, *Rejoice*, aired on *Great Performances* (PBS) in the fall of 2014. Mr. Netsky received a BM and an MM in Composition from New England Conservatory and a PhD in Ethnomusicology from Wesleyan University. He has been the recipient of the Forward Fifty award, a New England Conservatory Outstanding Alumni award, the Yosl Mlotek award, and the New England Conservatory Louis Krasner and Lawrence Lesser awards. He has taught at McGill University, Hampshire College, Wesleyan University, and Hebrew College. His book *Klezmer: Music and Community in 20th Century Jewish Philadelphia* is scheduled for publication in June of 2015. Originally from Philadelphia, he currently resides in Newton.

**SETH ROZIN (Playwright)** is the author of numerous plays, including *Human Rites*, *Strut*, *A Tool for the Living*, *The Three Christs of Manhattan* (produced at InterAct Theatre Company, 2015), *Two Jews Walk Into A War...* (National New Play Network rolling world premieres at Florida Stage, Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey and New Jersey Rep, plus productions at Shadowlands Theater, Merrimack Rep, Unicorn Theatre, InterAct, Florida Studio Theatre, GEVA Theater, Barter Theater and Jewish Theatre of Grand Rapids; published by Playscripts.com), *Black Gold* (NNPN rolling world premieres at InterAct, Phoenix Theatre, PROP Thtr, Arts West Playhouse), *Reinventing Eden* (InterAct), *Missing Link* (InterAct, Civic Theatre of Schenectady), *The Space Between Us* (readings at Abington Theatre, Philadelphia Art Alliance), and *Men of Stone* (Theater Catalyst; published by Playscripts.com). He is also the composer, lyricist, and book author of *A Passing Wind*, a musical about history's greatest "fartiste" that premiered at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts' inaugural Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts in 2011. Seth is the winner of two playwriting fellowships from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the 2006 Smith Prize (awarded by the National New Play Network), a 2002 Commission from the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, and two Barrymore Award nominations for Outstanding New Play.

## THE BAKELITE MASTERPIECE at a glance

Company:	New Repertory Theatre
Artistic Director:	Jim Petosa
Managing Director:	Harriet Sheets
Production:	<i>Two Jews Walk into a War...</i>

Venue: MainStage Theater | Mosesian Center for the Arts  
321 Arsenal Street | Watertown, MA 02472

Playwright: Seth Rozin

Director: Will LeBow

Cast: Joel Colodner\* Ishaq  
Jeremiah Kissel\* Zeblyan

Production Team: Jon Savage ° Scenic Designer  
Nancy Leary° Costume Designer  
Karen Perlow° Lighting Designer  
Lee Schuna Sound Designer  
Becca Freifeld\* Stage Manager

\* Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA)

° Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829

Performance Schedule: Saturday, April 28, 8:00pm Preview  
Sunday, April 29, 4:00pm Preview/Talkback with the Playwright  
Monday, April 30, 7:30pm Opening

Thursday, May 3, 7:30pm  
Friday, May 4, 8:00pm  
Saturday, May 5, 8:00pm  
Sunday, May 6, 2:00pm Talkback  
Sunday, May 6, 7:30pm

Wednesday, May 9, 7:30pm  
Thursday, May 10, 7:30pm  
Friday, May 11, 8:00pm  
Saturday, May 12, 3:00pm  
Saturday, May 12, 8:00pm Talkback  
Sunday, May 13, 2:00pm Talkback

Thursday, May 17, 2:00pm Talkback  
Thursday, May 17, 7:30pm  
Friday, May 18, 8:00pm  
Saturday, May 19, 3:00pm  
Saturday, May 19, 8:00pm  
Sunday, May 20, 2:00pm Talkback

Symposium: The History of Vaudeville  
Saturday, May 19, following the 3pm performance

Tickets: \$37-\$67. Student, senior, and group discounts available.  
Telephone: 617-923-8487, Online: newrep.org  
In Person: 12pm to 5pm, Tues-Sun  
Mosesian Center for the Arts  
321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA 02472

Parking: Free, six-level parking garage next to the  
Mosesian Center for the Arts

Public Transportation: #70 or #70A Bus to School Street from  
Central Square Station, Red Line

Accessibility: Wheelchair Accessible, T-Coil/Hearing Loop,  
Large-Print and Braille Programs Available

Season Sponsors: WGBH  
Massachusetts Cultural Council  
NCGIT  
Branch Line

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