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### **Enter into Temptation with Theatre and Art at JWT in January**

Santa Monica, CA (December 15, 2015) – The Jewish Women’s Theatre (JWT) will present two premiers this month – an original play and an art gallery exhibition, both exploring the timeless theme of “Temptation.”

*Temptation* the play, which examines the eternal conundrum of temptation through words and music, looks at moments in life that are too tempting to resist and the consequences of taking a bite out of various forbidden fruits. From teenagers who open a book about tantric sex, to an elected official offered a bribe, to a family dealing with homosexuality, a troupe of talented actors delve into temptation with humor and sensitivity.

“JWT is well known for tempting Jewish writers with intriguing ideas such as temptation and presenting their always engrossing stories before audiences,” said Ronda Spinak, JWT’s artistic director. “*Temptation* is sure to advance JWT’s goal of giving voice to Jewish authors, a stage for Jewish actors and a meaningful theatrical experience to our diverse audiences.”

*Temptation* will be open at the National Council of Jewish Women, 543 N. Fairfax Ave on Jan. 23 at 7:30 pm. It will also travel to The Braid, JWT’s home at 2912 Colorado Ave #102, Santa Monica on Jan. 25 & 26 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$40 and more information is available at: [www.jewishwomenstheatre.org](http://www.jewishwomenstheatre.org).

JWT also takes its original shows on the road. *Temptation* will be staged at JWT’s synagogue partners: Shomrei Torah Synagogue on Jan. 24 at 11 am, ticket information at 818.223.1557 and at Wilshire Boulevard Temple’s Irmas Westside Campus on Jan. 24 at 3pm, ticket information at 424.208.8932 and Jan. 30 at 7:30 pm at Beth Chayim Chadashim (BCC)—tickets at (323) 931-7023.

*Temptation* was written by several notable contributors, including award-winning author Julie Orringer, best known for her novel *The Invisible Bridge* and *How to Breathe Underwater*, a short story collection that was an *LA Times* Best Book of the Year and a New York Times Notable Book, among other distinctions. A grant from the National Endowment for the Arts led to adaptations for radio, the BBC and the stage. A graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, she has taught at University of Michigan and Columbia University among others.

David Masello, an additional writer for *Temptation*, was the senior editor and men’s fashion editor of *Town & Country* magazine. He is the author of two books and has written many articles, stories and performed many of his own works.

*Temptation*’s ensemble cast includes actor Aaron Himmelstein, best known for his work *Austin Powers in Goldmember* and *Joan of Arcadia*. He also wrote, directed and edited the short film, *Sugar Mountain* and has appeared in numerous television series such as *Boston Public*,

*House and Community* and in Off Broadway productions, and plays at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago and the Blank Theatre in Los Angeles.

### **Continuing at the Braid**

EMMY Award winning writer/comedienne Monica Piper's *Not That Jewish*, the hilarious one-woman show that is sold out at every performance, continues throughout the month of January. *Not That Jewish*, which celebrated its one year anniversary last month, is now one of L.A.'s longest running one woman shows. Tickets are \$35 and can be obtained at: [www.jewishwomenstheatre.org](http://www.jewishwomenstheatre.org)

### **Temptation: The Art Gallery Show**

A new multimedia exhibit that explores the eternal theme of "Temptation" through painting, photography and jewelry will open at The Gallery @ The Braid, in Santa Monica on January 10 and runs through the end of the month.

The Grand Opening reception with the artists will be Sunday, January 10 from 4-6:30 p.m. at The Braid, 2912 Colorado Avenue, Suite 102, Santa Monica.

LA artist Debbie Winston Litoff exhibits a series of large canvases that saturate, tempt and surround viewers with different shades of only one color. Her paintings evoke complex emotions and, ultimately, healing. Photographer Carol Kleinman displays images gleaned from years of wandering the streets, taking single exposures of store window treasures that tempt passersby. Jewelry designer Liza Shtromberg's unique, statement-making pieces in silver, gold and platinum epitomize temptation.

"Ever since Eve bit the apple, people have been struggling with temptation. In January, JWT will present a new gallery show that displays LA artists' distinctive perspectives on this eternal theme," says Ronda Spinak, The Braid's artistic director. "All are invited to enter into Temptation, our new show."

Litoff was born and raised in Los Angeles and is the product of an artistic family. Her father Stan Winston was the iconic, multiple Oscar-winning special effects artist. Litoff's work is spiritual expression that transmits feelings of positive energy, wonder, harmony, inspiration and balance. Her work was featured at Tracy Park Gallery in Santa Monica in 2007 and now graces the walls of the Gallery @ the Braid.

For 40 years, Hawaii native Carol Kleinman has provided a lens to capture moments in time and take viewers deeper into the relationships that shape reality. Her images actually existed at a specific time and place and are not her creations or manipulations. Nothing she does is set up or manufactured. The ultimate goal of her work is to stimulate the imagination, to help people look more closely at the world and see the richness and depth of everyday experience

**Liza Shtromberg:** Born in Moscow and raised in Israel, Liza Stromberg specializes in utterly tempting jewelry crafted with 100% recycled metals and vintage and recycle diamonds.

JWT provides a home for the diverse and eclectic community of artists and creators who comprise L.A.'s Jewish women's community. Both at its new home in The Braid theatre and art gallery in Santa Monica's Bergamont Arts District, in intimate salons throughout the city, and on tour throughout the state, JWT stages and displays traditional and contemporary works that provide a forum for the development, performance and showcasing of Jewish talent.

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January at the Jewish Women's Theatre (JWT)

***Temptation***, the play

Premiers January 25 and 26 at 7:30 pm at The Braid, home of the Jewish Women's Theatre, 2912 Colorado Ave #102, Santa Monica.

Also presented at:

The National Council of Jewish Women, 543 N. Fairfax Ave on January 23. Tickets \$40:  
[www.jewishwomenstheatre.org](http://www.jewishwomenstheatre.org)

Shomrei Torah Synagogue, 7353 Valley Circle, Canoga Park, at 11 am on January 24.  
Tickets at 818.223.1557.

Wilshire Boulevard Temple's Irmas Westside Campus, 11661 W. Olympic Boulevard, Los Angeles on January 24 at 3 pm. Tickets at 424.208.8932.

Beth Chayim Chadashim (BCC) on January 30 at 7:30 pm. 6090 W. Pico, Los Angeles.

**The Gallery @ The Braid**

Temptation: Painting by Debbie Winston Litoff, Photography by Carol Kleinman, and Jewelry by Liza Shtromberg.

Opening reception with the artists: Sunday, January 10 2016 4-6:30 pm.

Show Dates: January 10- February 1, 2016

2912 Colorado Avenue, Suite 102, Santa Monica, CA 90404

For more information about JWT's plays and gallery, contact: [www.atthebraid.org](http://www.atthebraid.org), or [www.jewishwomenstheatre.org](http://www.jewishwomenstheatre.org).