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Men Finally Have Their Say at Jewish Women's Theatre (JWT)

*JWT's First-Ever Summer Salon Presents Male Perspectives on
Romance, Rebellion, Regrets and Religion*

Santa Monica (July 7) Why would the Jewish Women's Theatre (JWT) dedicate a whole show to the male voice? Why not? In an effort to balance the gender scales of comedy and drama, JWT will present a new salon show, "Our Men Get to Have Their Say" for six performances only, beginning July 21 at The Braid, 2912 Colorado Ave. in Santa Monica.

Eight distinguished, masculine authors (and two women) will bare their souls as three talented actors (and one actress) take audiences on a journey through erotic dreams about 90-year old Biblical heroines, disappointing parents by hanging out at the mall instead of showing up for Friday night dinner, surviving miscarriages and keeping scandalous secrets from a spouse through 50 years of marriage, plus more.

"Traditionally, we produce shows by predominantly women writers," explains JWT artistic director Ronda Spinak. "But men are always included as authors and actors. We thought it was time to focus on them, to give them their own theatrical voice that will be enjoyed by both sexes."

The salon, modelled after Parisian soirees of the 1920's, features pieces from an international company of American writers originally from Russia, Chile and Morocco, as well as the US. The show will include some of JWT's classic pieces as well as some brand new ones, as seen through masculine eyes.

"Our fathers, brothers, grandpas, boyfriends, lovers, and husbands all play such profound roles in women's lives, we felt it was time for a gender switch," says producing director Susan Morgenstern.



Sean Topps performs Rabbi Feldman's story about his hunger strike in the Former Soviet Union and how this refusnik got out.

Featured writers include: *Saturday Night Live* alumna Alan Zweibel; American Jewish University Professor Dr. Ron Wolfson, author of *The Best Boy in the United States of America: A Memoir of Blessings and Kisses*; essayist David Masello; and David Suissa, *Jewish Journal*/Tribe Media president and columnist. Chilean author Barbara Mujica, shares her story about a grandfather's suicide when he sees Allende-created events echo those he had escaped from in Nazi Germany years before.

Suissa notes, "It's an unusual experience to see a column I wrote about a sweet little moment during a Passover seder turn into an actual piece of theatre. Maybe it shows the power of story to transcend boundaries. "

“It is terrific that the Jewish Women’s Theatre is presenting men’s stories and I am thrilled to have one of mine in this exciting show at the Braid. You’ll laugh, you’ll cry, you’ll be entertained and inspired,” says contributing writer Wolfson.

Essayist Masello adds, “The characters I have heard in my head are now being heard by an audience.”

Angelenos will have an opportunity to hear these varied and meaningful stories for themselves at the Braid, on Thursday evenings July 21 and 28 at 8 pm, and on Sundays, July 24 and 31 at 2 and 5 pm. Tickets are \$40, include a dessert buffet and Q & A with talent and may be purchased at www.jewishwomenstheatre.org.

JWT provides a home for the diverse and eclectic community of artists and creators who comprise L.A.’s Jewish women’s (and now men’s) community. Both at its home in The Braid theatre and art gallery in Santa Monica’s Bergamot Arts District, in intimate salons throughout the city, and on tour throughout the country, 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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