



New Salon Show Celebrates Jews of Color on Stage at Jewish Women's Theatre

***True Colors* at Jewish Women's Theatre (JWT) to Tell Stories of Love, Inter-Marriage, Identity Struggles and Kimchi on the Seder Plate**



Pictured left to right: Joshua Silverstein performs his own story, "Special," in TRUE COLORS. Kimberly Green will play many roles in TRUE COLORS, including the riveting story by a rabbi of Korean decent.

Santa Monica (April 9, 2019) Today's American Jewish community was created by the twists and turns of history. It was nourished by the ethnic, racial and cultural diversity of a myriad of worldwide Jewish identities and experiences. Jewish Women's Theatre's (JWT) will celebrate today's multicultural Jews in its new salon show *True Colors*, beginning May 4 at The Braid in Santa Monica.

In *True Colors*, audiences will meet unforgettable characters who tell personal stories about how they see themselves and how others see them. Ironically, while many American Jews can reach consensus about a commitment to social justice for others, they do not always embrace diversity in their own community. This enlightening show will explore the impact of living as Jews of Color when inclusion and equity are not always practiced in the Jewish Community.

"We are proud to spotlight the experiences of Jews of Color," said Ronda Spinak, JWT's artistic director. "These are poignant and moving stories of questioning, of feeling like the outsider, of committing to Judaism... quintessential and universal Jewish stories!"

In *True Colors*, audiences will hear the story of a daughter of a Jewish mother and a Black/Chinese father and how she was taught to embrace her diversity, and have confidence that the world would embrace it as well. They will learn of a young man of a Jewish and Chinese descent who has to make a painful decision: to call out a racist boss and forfeit a job for which he's worked his whole life to get, or to stay quiet.

Eric Greene, a writer and civil rights activist of African American, Native American and European descent, who is a consultant and co-producer on *True Colors*, says, "The show is about resilience, self-respect, and celebrating the many colors and voices in our community."

“We’ve always been inclusive at JWT, welcoming and embracing every kind of diversity in our audience, our writers, and the actors on our stage,” says JWT’s Producing Director Susan Morgenstern. “All people face challenges and struggles, while striving to find the joy and meaning of our lives. The stories in *True Colors*, ostensibly about Jews who feel “different,” remind us how very much alike we are. It’s a great privilege to bring these stories to life at JWT.”

In addition, there is a story about the daughter of a Korean Buddhist mother and a White Jewish father who was challenged by classmates for wearing a Jewish star. “I’m just as Jewish as anyone and I’m gonna show you how Jewish I am,” she declared as a young girl and she fulfilled her declaration, becoming the senior rabbi at Manhattan’s Central Synagogue. On the other hand, a young African-American man loved being the only Jew of Color in his community. It made him feel special and exotic. Invited to a Shabbat dinner for Jews of Color forced him to reconcile the joy of newfound community with the loss of presumed uniqueness.

Jews of Color face new sets of challenges when they leave urban enclaves and settle in “White islands.” A Black Jew’s visit to her synagogue taught her the love and acceptance of Bakersfield, Hanukkah style. A Latina Jewish woman learns she doesn’t have to choose between culture or religion. She could be both/and instead of either/or. And a woman who was adopted from a White Jewish mother and African-American father experiences a complex mixture of love and disdain from her White Jewish family. Even at synagogue, fellow congregants could not believe she was Jewish, and often directed her to the kitchen thinking she was one of the help.

True Colors will premiere at The Braid, JWT’s performance and art space on May 4 and will travel to the Westside, the San Fernando Valley, the Fairfax District and the South Bay until May 16. Pre-sale tickets are \$45, \$50 at the door and available at: www.jewishwomenstheatre.org. Performances include a dessert buffet plus Q and A with actors, writers and JWT’s production staff after the show.

JWT’s The Braid, voted one of the “Best Live Theaters on the Westside” two years in a row by *The Argonaut*, stages original dramatic performances, contemporary art exhibits, classes, and other events showcasing the diverse community of writers, artists and creators who celebrate Jewish life, one story at a time.

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Contact: maureen@jewishwomenstheatre.org for tickets, interviews or additional information.

Calendar Listing

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True Colors, a new salon show that tells disparate and riveting stories about Jews of Color, will premiere at The Braid, Jewish Women’s Theatre’s (JWT) performance and art space on May 4 and will travel to The Westside, The San Fernando Valley, the Fairfax District and the South Bay until May 16. While all people face challenges and struggles, Jews of Color have many touching and unique stories to tell about resilience, self-respect, and celebrating the many colors and voices in our community. The stories in *True Colors*, ostensibly about Jews who feel “different,” actually remind us how very much alike we are. Pre-sale tickets are \$45, \$50 at the door and available at: www.jewishwomenstheatre.org.