

June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## Segal Centre's Jewish Arts Mentorship (JAM) 2018-19 End-of-year showcase

JAM is a new 8-month program conceived to offer Segal resources to emerging Jewishly-identified/connected theatre artists under 40. Over the year artists develop and deepen their work with the guidance of Artistic Associate Caitlin Murphy and other Segal staff. JAM offers them an opportunity to expand their network and to engage with peers and special guests from theatre/Jewish spheres. What results is an ongoing discussion that explores the intersections of different identities, and how these may shape their work as theatre artists.

We are very excited to have completed our inaugural year with our first cohort:  
**Amanda Goldberg, Michelle Soicher and Maggie Winston.**

### ORDER OF PRESENTATIONS:

1. Opening remarks by Sivan Slapak, Jewish Programs Manager, and Caitlin Murphy, Artistic Associate.
2. Artist presentations, **followed by a brief Q & A.**



### **MAGGIE WINSTON:**

"OYFKUM" (To Rise) A puppet and music folktale told from a female perspective.

*Oyfkum* tells the story of two very different sisters, Rachel and Leah. A Shabbat ritual gone wrong forces each to dig down into the world of old stories to emerge into a new understanding of their modern Jewish identity. Separated by magical mishap, each finds herself on her own path, journeying into a mish-mash world of Jewish folklore. Rachel and Leah both strive to find what it means for each of them to be a young Jewish woman in today's world, and whether they can rise above society's expectations of them. *Oyfkum* is created by an all-female team, made from *bobe-mayses* (Yiddish: old wives tales) and sewn together by the thread of cutting edge physical theatre, innovative puppetry and live music drawn from klezmer tradition. Long time collaborators Maggie Winston, Kaeridwyn Eftelya, and director Jen Quinn invite you to journey with Leah and Rachel, and discover how you might *rise up* yourself.

This production has completed an initial research/development stage, is in the process of script writing, and is entering a design/build/rehearsal stage in the upcoming year. This works creation has been supported by the Jewish Arts Mentorship program at the Segal Centre.

Maggie Winston is puppeteer, community engaged artist, designer and theatre maker. She is the founder and artistic director of Lost & Found Puppet Co., based in Montreal, Canada. Lost & Found Puppet Co. is dedicated to promoting the art of puppetry as a unique and valued art form everyone can experience. Maggie strives to design bilingual and/or image and sound based productions for all ages. Themes such as family, cultural history, human relationships to objects, nature, and spirituality are the inspirations for performances. [www.lostandfoundpuppet.com](http://www.lostandfoundpuppet.com)



#### **MICHELLE SOICHER:**

Michelle Soicher has used the Jewish Artist Mentorship to develop an original performance piece alongside collaborators Joseph Glaser, Eli Gale and Maxine Segalowitz. *Games I Don't Want to Play* is a non-narrative piece of theatre combining elements of dance, music, and clowning to portray the current Jewish experience. We, as contemporary Jews, are often tasked with negotiating our surroundings and navigate social situations that force us to fragment our identities. From denying our identification with our Jewish heritage to fit in radical spaces to denying our politics and social identities to fit in explicitly Jewish spaces, *Games I Don't Want to Play*

makes real and explicit these games that we play with ourselves: Who are you? What do you know about Judaism? Are you Jewish enough? Is this space for you? Are you okay? Etc. With these games we spin out the consequences of navigating these spaces, successfully or not. Through movement, music, and metaphor, *Games I Don't Want to Play* is how we literally pick up the fragments of our identities in order to build something whole.



#### **AMANDA GOLDBERG:**

Amanda Goldberg is an honors graduate from Dawson College's Professional Theatre program and Concordia University's Theatre and Development program. She is the co-founder and artistic director of We Are One, a Montreal based feminist theatre company that aims to celebrate and empower womxn. In 2016, she was nominated for Outstanding Emerging Artist at the Montreal English Theatre Awards. Goldberg's most recent directing credits include *Yerma* (Concordia University), *City Boy* (Mainline Theatre), and the META nominated production, *Smackhead* (We Are One). Her latest

work was assistant directing Theatre Surreal SoReal's production of *Madame Catherine prépare sa classe de troisième à l'irréversible*, Imago Theatre's production of *Other People's Children*, and the Segal Centre's *Indecent*. Goldberg is grateful to have participated in the Segal Centre's first Jewish Artist Mentorship program. She is currently working as the assistant director on *Marion Bridge*, opening this August at the Hudson Village Theatre. Goldberg will be relocating this fall to complete her MFA in Directing at the University of Alberta.

#### **Portrait of an "emerging artist"**

In this informal presentation, Amanda Goldberg will reflect on her past year of work. She will speak to the projects she finished and those that she didn't. Amanda will share her thoughts on the importance of process and the unwritten role of the emerging artist.

Thank you for coming!

Please join us in the ArtLounge for some refreshments

