



PRESS RELEASE

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Catch the rhythm of the city during the spectacular 20th Singer's Warsaw Jewish Culture Festival!

A vibrant, energetic, and colorful explosion of Jewish culture will dominate Warsaw between 26 August and 3 September 2023. As always, two pillars of culture will reign music and theater, which means big outdoor concerts, intimate performances, and recitals.

Theatrical premieres and stagings of well-known plays, performance readings, and small theatrical forms. Altogether, they will animate the city, penetrating from its corners into the hearts of the audience. Detailed Festival's program is already available on the website www.shalom.pl. Ticket sales also start today.

"Singer's Warsaw Festival features the Jewish culture at its best. Not only do we discover amazing artists, writers, musicians, and their innovative projects for our audiences, but we also give the audience a chance to understand Jewish history, tradition, and customs. This Festival is a platform for discussion, exchange of views and knowledge," emphasizes Gołda Tencer, the founder, and director of the Festival, as well as director and actress of Warsaw's Jewish Theater.

Recalling this story, we go back to the moment when passionate and optimistic Gołda Tencer announced her colleagues: "Dear friends, I'm making a great festival! I'd love to listen to your ideas if you have any." It was the beginning of 2004, long before anyone could think that the Jewish Theater might be gone from Grzybowski Square... And already in mid-October of the same year, Grzybowski Square was filled with a colorful crowd of artists and guests of the 1st Jewish Culture Festival Singer's Warsaw. Over time, the four Festival days expanded into nine days, and instead of 60, each year we have about 150 events... Our Festival has attracted partners, patrons, sponsors, own artists, and a loyal audience. Our wonderful audience, artists, and institutions with whom we

cooperate have been creating Singer's Warsaw for the past 20 years!

Beginning of the Festival

This year, our Festival marathon will start at the National Opera House with a concert given by an extraordinary duo: both excellent vocalists and versatile artists, Achinoam Nini (Noa) from Israel with the guest appearance of Anna Maria Jopek. Both are talented composers, songwriters, and vocalists. Noa, whose roots are in Yemen and Israel, who lived in the United States, has produced almost 20 albums and spent more than 30 years on stage, during that time she has performed with such legends as Stevie Wonder, Andrea Bocelli, and Sting.

Theater

The theater is an important part of the Festival. This year's theater program is particularly diverse. The Jewish Theatre, the Summer Stage, and the Szymon Szurmiej Small Stage are located at 35 Senatorska Street, and they will offer the audience an opportunity to see small theatrical forms and performative reading. This year, we will include the following performances: "Rehab. All the Battles of Amy Winehouse" written and directed by Karolina Kirszt, "Travelers" by Paweł Mossakowski directed by Gosia Dębska and prepared for the 55th anniversary of the events of March '68 and "Ghetto Songs" based on a script written and directed by Gołda Tencer, prepared for the 80th anniversary of Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. In this location, we also scheduled performative reading of the works written by Irit Amiel directed by Karolina Kowalczyk, and the musical-cabaret show performed by the artists of the Jewish Theatre.

On the bigger stages of the Jewish Theater you will have a chance to see premiere performances (supporting events): "Dus buch fyn Gan Ejdn / The Book of Paradise" based on the work written by Icyk Manger, directed by Damian Josef Necia; a musical performance with original compositions created by Hadrian Filip Tabęcki, with live music, that is "Yentl" by Yitzchok Bashewis Singer and Leah Napolin, directed by Robert Talarczyk; inspired by the lives of famous Poles of Jewish origins, "Madagascar" based on the text written by Magdalena Drab and directed by Gosia Dębska, and "Circus Kafka" based on Remigiusz Grzela's book "Franz K's Luggage. The Journey That Never Happened," directed by Michał Walczak.

There will also be plenty of recitals, concerts, and meetings with the Festival's guests.

Music

The Festival will provide you with a rich musical experience with performances from artists such as Daniel Kahn (Germany), Christian Dawid (Germany), Jake Shulman-Ment (USA), Thomas Handzel (Germany), Izabela Szafrńska, Siostry Rajfer (Israel), Aleksandra Idkowska, Monika Chrzastowska, and Genady Iskchakov. The Summer Stage of the Jewish Theatre will also host artists from Italy: Paolo Quagliata and the band Fandujo featuring: Fruzsina László, Pierpaolo Palazzo, Germán Montes de Oca will present an original blend of Sephardi music, Arbëreshë, and traditional songs of southern Italy, all reinterpreted through different styles, from classical to jazz.

This stage will also host one of the Festival's most anticipated events, prepared by the Festival's director and creator, Gołda Tencer, "In Mama Sonia's Kitchen."

The Singer's Warsaw Festival will also be on the stage of the Kwadrat Theatre. This is where the music celebrities who need no introduction will perform. Concerts will be presented by the outstanding Polish jazz pianist Leszek Mozdzer and the one and only Aga Zaryan, who celebrated the 20th anniversary of her artistic career last year. The Festival will also feature Mark Eliyahu, a Dagestani-born Israeli musician, and a film music composer who plays the *kamancheh* instrument that derives from the Middle Eastern tradition.

An evening full of music and humor will be a treat prepared by Janusz Tencer, who this year will present a program entitled "A Mess in the Carpenter's Shop" together with his friends from the Mazl Tow group.

The Nożyk Synagogue will once again be the venue of the festive Havdalah and a cantorial concert; this year, for the first time, it will be closing the Festival. The finale concert will feature Israeli cantors Israel Nachman and Chaim Stern, well-known and popular with Festival audiences, accompanied by Eytan Sobol. In addition to events referring to the extraordinary atmosphere of the place, the last and only of Warsaw's synagogues that not only survived World War II but is still open and functioning today, you will also have the chance to enjoy concerts presenting secular music, including a chamber concert featuring an exceptional piece by **Piotr Moss**, "ELEGIA III for viola and piano," and compositions by **Max Bruch**, performed by pianist **Anna Prabucka-Firlej** and viola player **Krzysztof Komendarek-Tymendorf**. Jazz double bassist Paweł Pańta will present his first original album "Youth", it features his works juxtaposed with themes composed by John Williams (from the film "Schindler's List"), Kurylewicz, Chopin, or Moniuszko.

The synagogue will open its doors to visitors, and offer an opportunity to meet the rabbi and ask him "a hundred questions."

Exhibitions, meetings, lectures

The Austrian Cultural Forum, another popular Festival location, will invite the audience to Festival meetings, lectures (including the ones given by Andrzej Krakowski), exhibitions, and film screenings. Thanks to their cooperation with the Simon Wiesenthal Centre Europe, the audience will have the opportunity to watch two Oscar-winning productions that received the Academy Award for best documentary film: "Genocide" (Oscar 1981) and "The Long Way Home" (Oscar 1998). The Forum will also host the meetings of the Jewish Literary Salon held by Remigiusz Grzela, as well as meetings of the Jewish Culture Enthusiasts Club. During the meetings of the Masters Read, our audience will have a chance to listen to the best Jewish prose in the best interpretations of famous Polish actresses, Anna Seniuk and Ewa Ziętek. The Forum will also host meetings with important people from the world of Jewish culture and literature, including Anna Bando, Marian Kalwary, Marian Turski, and the prominent French historian specializing in World War II, Francois Kersaudy.

As part of this year's Festival, we will also organize a meeting with the renowned writer, publicist, playwright, and film scriptwriter Jozef Hen, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

The Festival audience will once again be invited to the Yiddish Cultural Center, a unique place on the cultural and educational map of Warsaw. Here, during many debates and academic sessions, the participants will have the opportunity to learn about the latest developments in Polish Yiddish studies and discover Yiddish sounds in contemporary electronic music and a performative radio play based on the classics of Jewish literature. The organizers invite everyone to take part in making *ajngemachts*, i.e. the plum jam, Yiddish zines, and three-dimensional paintings inspired by the fairy tales of Isaac Bashevis Singer.

Grzybowski Square

During the 20th anniversary edition of the Singer's Warsaw Festival, as every year, the organizers welcome the residents of Warsaw to participate in Festival Friday at Grzybowski Square. A Shabbat dinner at the big table will ensure a warm family-like mood, and after the Shabbat Shalom ceremonial evening, an open-air concert will take place on the square, featuring the unique Israeli group Light in Babylon. Members of the band: Metehan Ciftci, Michal Elia Kamal, Julien Demarque,

Priam Arnoux, and Stuart Dickson will take everyone on a journey to the world of East Mediterranean music. During this colorful and emotional night, Grzybowski Square will be transformed into a melting pot. With the beautiful music of the Eastern Mediterranean, with the sounds inspired by the cultural heritage of Istanbul and melodies characteristic of the musical tradition of Sephardic Jews, the audience will be able to experience the unique atmosphere of togetherness and joy. Because this is exactly what the Singer's Warsaw Jewish Culture Festival has been for 20 years.

Tickets

Purchases are available at: www.kicket.com/warszawa, www.teatr-zydowski.art.pl, in the Audience Office, phone no. +48 602 534 270; +48 22 850 64 50 or 51 and in the Jewish Theatre box offices at 35 Senatorska St., phone: +48 22 850 64 35 or in the Club of the Command of Garrison in Warsaw, at 141a Niepodległości Ave., phone no.: +48 22 850 56 56. (for details, please visit: www.teatr-zydowski.art.pl).

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