

JFEST (Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival) 2021 celebrates 28 years of performances exploring Jewish history, people and ideas in virtuoso music, theatre, dance, and fine arts! Each year we create new programs and collaborations which start in the Festival and are then subsequently performed in venues throughout San Diego and the country. JFEST partners with arts, jewish, and social organizations to presents events in theatres, libraries, and schools throughout San Diego and North County. As part of the 28th annual San Diego Repertory Theatre's Lipinsky Family Jewish Festival, the San Diego Rep will present "The Whole Megillah". This inaugural play reading series will be May 30, 31 2021.

*All rehearsal and reading time will be **online** and no more than 12 hours. Rehearsals will take place over the week before the scheduled reading of each respective play, and will be scheduled according to artist availability.*

We are seeking both AEA and non-AEA actors.

Jews are a many cultured and diverse group and we are looking to represent the diverse range of communities within the Jewish faith. Each of these plays is quintessentially Jewish, and we would love for actors to be able to relate to the cultural experiences in these plays.

If you would like to submit to The Whole Megillah, please submit a headshot and resume to Rebecca Myers at rmyers@sdrep.org by FRIDAY, APRIL 30. In your submission, please specify WHICH ROLES you would like to be considered for.

What We Found by Molly Olis Krost

DANIEL and GISELLE are cousins facing the daunting task of cleaning out the garage of their grandparent's home. When their estranged cousin MAGGIE arrives, desperate for insight into the Jewish ancestry she never knew their family had, DANIEL and GISELLE must go to great lengths to hide their true purpose of searching the garage. A play about mixed-raced identity and how we choose to define "family."

Daniel: 20's. Black and biracial. Giselle and Maggie's cousin. Has lived in St. Louis all his life. Loves his family. Wants to trust his family. Fearful for his family. The peacemaker.

Giselle: 20's. Asian and biracial. Daniel and Maggie's cousin. Has lived on the West Coast all of her life. Loves some of her family. Trusts some of her family. Concerned about all of her family. The fighter.

Maggie: 20's. Caucasian. Daniel and Giselle's cousin. Has lived somewhere not here all of her life. Doesn't know her family. Doesn't seem to know anything. The stranger.

Jerry: Their Great uncle who is probably real.

A Play About A Baby Carrot by Juliet Roll

Shiva, the Jewish festival of grief, lasts 7 days, and Karen is alone - save a funeral-hopping stranger, and her father, who wants to help but keeps inexplicably digging holes in the garden. It is not out of nowhere, then, that Karen starts to believe that her child's soul may be appearing to her in a carrot - and as the 7 days wear on, it looks like she might very well be right. A Play about a Baby Carrot is a comedy about three people finding each other in the aftermath of a tragedy - and learning what it looks like to rebuild faith in a world that has let them down.

Karen: 27. A little lost. Hebrew school teacher. Doesn't sit much.

Stan: 56. Karen's father. Religious. Never stopped mourning his wife.

Heather: 24. Believes most things. The type of person who would accidentally join a cult and then become its leader.

Why This Night (A Typical 19th Century Queer Shtetl Seder Murder Mystery)

by Dan Kitrosser

It's 1881 and Motke, the neerdowell alcoholic jewish homosexual novelist who can't quite finish his novel, returns to his parents' shtetl on the eve of a passover seder unlike any other. For on this very night, right in the middle of the fekakte seder, there's a murder! What's more, the guests keep dropping like flies...or shall we say locusts? WHY THIS NIGHT is your typical queer jewish shtetl mad-cap murder mystery, that scratches at the gray area between this world and the world to come. As we say every year during the seder, come for the matzah, stay for the constipation.

The play is expressly Jewish—as are most of the characters—but having a multicultural cast can only lift the play from the dusty past to the ever important present. We are all descendants from a small village somewhere, as Aunt Rivka says early on in the play: Tonight, Bubbelahs, you're all gonna be Jews!

3 Male identifying actors,

3 female identifying actors,

1 trans/nonbinary actor presenting female and,

1 trans/nonbinary actor presenting male.

The Berlin Diaries by Andrea Stolowitz

The great-grandfather of Oregon Book Award-winning playwright Andrea Stolowitz kept a journal for his descendants after escaping to New York City in 1939 as a German Jew. Following the complicated lure of genealogy, Stolowitz goes back to Berlin to bring the story of her unknown ancestors out of the archives into the light. The record keeps as many secrets as it shares; how do people become verschollen, lost, like library books?

Female, 20-30s. The playwright. We are looking for someone who can find emotional truth, while also taking on heightened characterization, is a great listener/plays strongly off of/with other actors, is comfortable in non-naturalistic worlds/styles, has a sense of comedy/timing, and is brave about diving in. And we would love for her to be Jewish/to be able to relate to some of the cultural experience in the play. Facility with accents and dialects is a definite plus as well.