



## S. ASHER GELMAN DIRECTOR

One of the founding members of The Stage, Asher holds a BA in both Dance and Theater from Bard College in New York, and a MFA in Dance from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. American by birth, he has been living in Tel Aviv since 2006. He has been dancing professionally in Israel since 2007. This production is his directorial debut in Israel.

## HILA GRAF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Born & raised in Kiryat Ono, Hila has recently graduated from the Honors Program for the Arts & Humanities at Tel Aviv University. She has been practicing singing, acting and performing for many years, worked as an A.D. for different fringe plays, and produced shows in Hebrew & English. After traveling around the world and working with international students, it was natural for her to join The Stage's community.

## MORAN BROZA PRODUCER

Moran has a long history in the performing arts including musicals, improvisational acting and singing. She has produced events & projects in various fields ranging from catering to fundraising and the music industry. As a trained & experienced chef, she is a business manager and consultant in the food & beverage industry and while studying psychology, she has started an eco-educational project aimed at positively influencing future generations of Israeli society.

## JESSICA FASS PRODUCER

Jessica hails from Los Angeles, CA, where she worked as a script and production assistant on the hit TV sitcoms, "The Suite Life of Zack & Cody," "Two and a Half Men," and "The Big Bang Theory." Jessica is a freelance producer, writer, and stand-up comedian and even started her own matchmaking service for English-speakers living in Israel: Fass Pass to Love! If you are looking for love yourself (whether an international or Israeli), check out FassPasstoLove.com.



THE STAGE IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
BEIT YAD LABANIM TLV PRESENTS:



מונולוגים מהאגינה מאת איב אנסלר

**February 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Beit Yad Labanim TLV**

בית יד לבנים תל אביב

Proceeds to benefit the Tel Aviv Sexual Assault Crisis Center

Directed by **S. Asher Gelman** | Assistant Director **Hila Graf**  
Produced by **Jessica Fass & Moran Broza**



# CAST

**BIANCA AMBROSIO**

**DEVORAH BARENHOLTZ**

**YEDIDA BERNSTEIN GOREN**

**MA'AYAN DEKEL**

**SHIRA DICKLER**

**SUE FIELD**

**SHOSHANA FRIEDMAN**

**SHARON KIRSCHNER**

**RENANA LEV-OREN**

**CARSON REINERS**

**ADAYA TURKIA**

**JADE WEPENER**

**LISA ZIGEL**

## SHOSHANA FRIEDMAN

Hailing from Chicago, IL Shoshana Friedman has been living in Tel Aviv for the past six years where she works as the deputy editor for the website Goodnet. She is delighted to be in the show and in her spare time you can find her practicing her tennis skills.

## SHARON KIRSCHNER

Sharon, aka Shaz, comes from Melbourne, Australia, where she regularly performed, including her one woman comedy cabaret shows, which had its Tel Aviv debut this year. Kirschner is also a psychologist and performance coach, and recently featured in the documentary film narrated by Eric Bana, 'Tempest at the Drop-In.'

## RENANA LEV-OREN

Renana is a 27-year-old Israeli native and actor by soul, who has just finished her B.A. in Behavioral Science and does improv theater in her spare time. Renana is known for her smiles, fluff and dog impressions.

## CARSON REINERS

Carson is an artist specializing in the field of dance, originally from New Jersey. She has worked internationally as a dancer/choreographer/movement educator in Europe, South Africa, Peru, India and Israel. She studied at CODARTS(NL) and received her BFA at Anton Bruckner Universitat(AU).

## ADAYA TURKIA

Hailing from Down Under, Adaya has many years of improvisational acting experience and has performed in two other productions of 'The Vagina Monologues' in Jerusalem. By day she is a neuroscientist but her not-so-secret passion is performing on stage.

## JADE WEPENER

Jade is an actress and artist from South Africa, where she completed a B.A. in Dramatic Arts. She is also a Biodanza facilitator and teacher with passion for creativity, expression, dance and group work. In 2010 she moved to Israel to open the first weekly Biodanza group in the country. She currently gives weekly classes in Tel Aviv as well as workshops around Israel and internationally.

## LISA ZIGEL

Originally from South Africa, Lisa has lived in Israel for 20 years. She works as a Product Marketing Manager at Wix, and lives in Hod Hasharon with her husband and two daughters. This is her first time performing in a theater production.





## CAST BIOS

### BIANCA AMBROSIO

Bianca was born and raised in Milan, where she attended a humanistic school, drama school and was an active member of Hashomer Hatzair. In Israel since age 19 in order to study the ongoing conflict, today she works for the Meretz party and she is extremely excited to be back on stage.

### DEVORAH BARENHOLTZ

Devorah has been involved in English-speaking theater in Israel since moving here from San Diego, CA in 1999, performing in such plays as "Carousel" with LOGON, "Blithe Spirit" and "Happy Hour" with TACT, and most recently in "Calendar Girls" with The Sharon Players. When not participating in theater, Devorah devotes her time and energy to being an English teacher at Thelma Yellin High School of Arts in Givatayim.

### YEDIDA BERNSTEIN GOREN

Brooklyn bred, Jerusalem spiced, Tel Aviv inspired Yedida has been acting on the world stage since memory and is exhilarated to take part in this poignant production!

### MA'AYAN DEKEL

Ma'ayan grew up in Chicago and Tel Aviv, where she is currently living - high tech by day, theater by night. She loves travel, dance and neuroscience. Australia has always been her dream vacation, and soon it will become a reality!

### SHIRA DICKLER

Shira is a recent transplant to Tel Aviv, fresh off a multi-year stint in Beer Sheva where she earned both her MA in Sustainability and Environmental Policy and the license to call herself a southerner. Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, she now fills her days by freelance researching, baking vegan goodies for her business (Be'teva'on Bakery), and finding new creative outlets.

### SUE FIELD

Sue made Aliyah 7 years ago and is originally from Leeds England. While in the UK, she worked as a teacher and also made appearances in numerous theater productions, including "Turn of the Screw" and "Macbeth". Since arriving in Tel Aviv, she has appeared in several productions with the TACT, including "Mikve" in the role of Hindi.



## CREW

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>S. Asher Gelman</b>       | Director   |
| <b>Hila Graf</b>             | Assistant Director                                     |
| <b>Jessica Fass</b>          | Producer   |
| <b>Moran Broza</b>           | Producer   |
| <b>Giora Spiro</b>           | Director of Beit Yad LaBanim TLV                       |
| <b>Sharon Jacobsen Weiss</b> | Cultural Events Coordinator at Beit<br>Yad LaBanim TLV |
| <b>Guy Seemann</b>           | Marketing & Strategy Advisor                           |
| <b>Daliah Dombrowski</b>     | Marketing Associate / Ticket Sales Manager             |
| <b>Allison Freedenfeld</b>   | Head of Online Marketing & Strategy                    |
| <b>Maya Hagoel</b>           | Production Advisor                                     |
| <b>Ita Obara</b>             | Head of Guerilla Marketing / Marketing Video Producer  |
| <b>Alex Fass</b>             | Marketing Video Producer & Editor                      |
| <b>Melanie Wolfson</b>       | Head of Wardrobe / Props / Set Design                  |
| <b>Patricia Franquesa</b>    | Playbill Designer / Videographer                       |
| <b>Ashley Shapiro</b>        | Producers' Assistant                                   |
| <b>Paul Berkowitz</b>        | Head of Sound / Props                                  |
| <b>Yonit Olshan</b>          | Stage Manager / Wardrobe Associate                     |
| <b>Odellia Firebird</b>      | Marketing Video Director / Performance Videographer    |
| <b>Anat Penini</b>           | Make-up Artist   |
| <b>Tova Esserman</b>         | Make-up Artist   |
| <b>Jeremy Merklinger</b>     | Hair Stylist / American Hair Care                      |
| <b>Ossie Kishlanski</b>      | Production Assistant                                   |
| <b>Ady Zelter</b>            | Production Assistant                                   |
| <b>Steven Winston</b>        | Photographer / Steven Winston Photography              |
| <b>Balint Seres</b>          | Sound & Production Assistant                           |
| <b>Luca Seres</b>            | Performance Videographer                               |
| <b>Daniel Gindis</b>         | Production Assistant                                   |
| <b>Elsa Benaiche</b>         | Marketing Assitant / Interviewer                       |
| <b>George Schneider</b>      | Marketing Assitant                                     |
| <b>Lior Elkarif</b>          | Lighting & Sound Rental                                |





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## ABOUT THE SHOW

The Stage, Tel Aviv's brand new English language performing arts community, in association with Beit Yad LaBanim TLV, is proud to present a unique twist on the cult classic 'The Vagina Monologues'. This provocative and inspirational play by Eve Ensler gets a fresh and bold interpretation by director and choreographer, S. Asher Gelman. The vastly diverse cast delivers a spectacular performance. The play, which first premiered in 1996, was initially written by Ensler to 'celebrate the vagina'. Based on interviews she conducted with 200 women about their views on sex, relationships, and violence against women, Ensler managed to create a beautifully compiled series of funny, profound, and touching monologues. Every V-Day, thousands of local benefit productions are staged to raise funds for local groups, shelters, and crisis centers working to end violence against women. The Stage, in association with Beit Yad LaBanim TLV, have the privilege and honor to donate a portion of our proceeds to the Tel Aviv Sexual Assault Crisis Center.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"The Vagina Monologues" is a play I have wanted to direct for a long time. I remember the first time I saw the show in college, and how moved I was by its depth and breadth. What strikes me the most about this show is just how passionately people feel about it, due to its subject matter. The sad truth is that even though the play is nearly two decades old, almost all of its issues are still current. However, "The Vagina Monologues" is so much more than just a play about "women's issues;" it's a play about the human condition, as told through the experiences of women. While it is a feminist play, it is not a play about feminism. While many may question why a gay man would be interested in telling these stories, I see it as no different from any other play. Directing this show has been an incredible experience. There are so many people who came together to make this happen, donating their time and energy to make this performance possible, and to them, I am eternally grateful; the cast, the crew, and everyone involved with The Stage. Lastly, I want to thank my incredible husband, Mati, whose love and support are invaluable to me.

## ABOUT THE STAGE

The Stage was created after a group of us got together for several meetings with the purpose of creating an English-language performing arts community here in Tel Aviv. Although our first production is a play, we are interested in all performing arts, not just theater. Our aim is to reach out into the community as much as possible to create unique productions and experiences. We are actively seeking any and all people who want to get involved, regardless of background or experience. We encourage anyone with the drive and passion for the performing arts (whether onstage, offstage, or backstage) to get involved with The Stage. We are currently partnering with Beit Yad Labanim TLV, where we hope to make a permanent home for ourselves.



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