

2011-2012 Season

IMAGINING MADOFF

By Deb Margolin

August 31–September 25

Press Night: Tuesday, September 6 at 7:30

PARADE

A co-production with Ford's Theatre
By Alfred Uhry & Jason Robert Brown

September 23–October 30

At Ford's Theatre

AFTER THE FALL

By Arthur Miller

October 26–November 27

Press Night: Tuesday, November 1 at 7:30

THE RELIGION THING

By Renee Calarco

January 4–29

Press Night: Monday, January 9 at 7:30

ELECTILE DYSFUNCTION:

THE KINSEY SICKS

FOR PRESIDENT!

February 4–19

Press Night: Sunday, February 5 at 7:30

NEW JERUSALEM:

THE INTERROGATION OF BARUCH DE SPINOZA

By David Ives

February 29–April 1

Press Night: Sunday, March 4 at 7:30

THE WHIPPING MAN

By Matthew Lopez

April 18–May 20

Press Night: Monday, April 23 at 7:30

THE HISTORY OF INVULNERABILITY

By David Bar Katz

June 6–July 8

Press Night: Monday, June 11 at 7:30

Theater J

Washington DCJCC
1529 16th Street NW

Aaron & Cecile Goldman Theater

Tickets: (800) 494-TIXS

Info: (202) 777-3230

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theaterj.org



DEB MARGOLIN'S *IMAGINING MADOFF* OPENS THEATER J'S 2011 SEASON OF "BRILLIANT FICTIONS—SHATTERING FACTS"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, July 20, 2011

PRESS NIGHT: Tuesday, September 6 at 7:30 pm

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(Washington, DC) – Theater J kicks off its season of “**Brilliant Fictions—Shattering Facts**” with a play that is both ripped from the headlines and making headlines. **Deb Margolin's *IMAGINING MADOFF*, directed by Alexandra Aron**, makes its long-awaited arrival on the Theater J stage, heralding a season full of playwrights drawing from real stories to create a dynamic marriage of fact and fabulation. In Margolin's brilliantly imagined drama, **unrepentant Ponzi-schemer Bernard Madoff** sets the record straight from his prison cell, recounting an all-night study session with Holocaust survivor, poet, and investment client, **Solomon Galkin**. With testimony from Madoff's personal **Secretary** before the **Securities and Exchange Commission**, we delve into the minds of two towering men, as their mutual will to confide and confess accelerates through the night.

IMAGINING MADOFF runs August 31–September 25, 2011 at Theater J in the Washington DCJCC's Aaron & Cecile Goldman Theater. Performances on Wednesday, August 31 and Thursday, September 1 at 7:30 pm are **Pay-What-You-Can previews**. Performances on September 3, September 4 and September 5 at 7:30 pm are **\$30 previews**. **Press night** is Tuesday, September 6 at 7:30 pm. On Thursday, September 15 at 7:30 pm the show will have open captioning for the hearing impaired. Tickets are available for \$35–\$60 at theaterj.org or **(800) 494-TIXS**. Limited tickets for patrons 35 and under are discounted for all performances!

In 2008, the scandal of Bernie Madoff shook the financial world, Jewish community, and American economic landscape. In Deb Margolin's fictionalized account of the man behind one of the biggest scams in history, **Bernie Madoff (DC favorite Rick Foucheux)** addresses an unseen biographer, reliving the night he spent in the warmly-lit library of **Solomon Galkin (beloved Chicago icon Mike Nussbaum)**. As Galkin implores Madoff to take him on as a client, their conversation traverses **theology, sex, morality and the New York Mets**. As the whiskey soaked night creeps towards morning, Galkin confides the brutish evils he faced while imprisoned in a concentration camp, never imagining the more elegant evil threatening him in his own study. Meanwhile, Madoff's **Secretary (Theater J Associate Artist-In-Residence Jennifer Mendenhall)** gives testimony both against and about him in court and struggles with her own questions about her unknowable employer and her own culpability. This riveting piece, praised as “**a great work of theater**” by *Tablet Magazine* throws into sharp relief the complicated, sometimes charming, deeply dangerous character at the center of the biggest economic maelstrom of our time.

“In writing the play *IMAGINING MADOFF*,” Margolin remarks, “I gave myself permission to enter the mind of a man considered the avatar of depraved indifference; to ask myself: If I were keeping a secret for 35 years that had the power to ruin hundreds, thousands of lives, what kind of relationship would I need to have with myself? I've always believed that, if we're all different points at which the entire universe expresses itself, I should be able to look to my own humanity to determine what went wrong in Madoff's, or anyone else's. My love of theater comes partly from the redemptive power derived from both acting and writing for the theater: we are forced to enter the mind and body of another human being, and thus the humanity of the simple, the mean, the historical figure and the extant one, the great and terrible alike, becomes visible, comprehensible to us. We cannot transcend what we will not acknowledge, and it is this transcendent element, I think, from which theater derives its powerful social agency.”

Theater J Artistic Director Ari Roth expands on Margolin's ability to give voice not only to Madoff, but to his victims, noting, "In reimagining a hypothetical encounter with a fictional poet, Holocaust survivor, synagogue treasurer and honored member of the Jewish community, Deb Margolin has given voice to a heart-breaking personal and collective sense of loss, as audiences will experience and remember that shared trauma of discovering that so much assumed wealth that had been amassed by individuals and foundations had, because of Madoff's chicanery, vanished into thin air, leaving very real, and sometimes devastating consequences. I'm proud to be involved in the launching of this important play and salute the playwright on her tenacity, her ingenuity, her creative flexibility, and her resolute will to speak from the heart."

Deb Margolin is a playwright, performance artist and founding member of Split Britches Theater Company. She is the author of nine full-length solo performance pieces which have toured throughout the US, and numerous plays, including *Three Seconds in the Key*, *Time is the Mercy of Eternity* and *Bringing the Fishermen Home*. Deb is the recipient of a 1999–2000 OBIE Award for Sustained Excellence of Performance, the 2005 Kesselring Playwriting Award for *Three Seconds in the Key*, and the 2008 Helen Merrill Distinguished Playwright Award. In May of 2007 she traveled on a Fulbright Senior Specialist grant to the University of Tel Aviv to present her play *Critical Mass* in a Hebrew translation. Deb has enjoyed commissions from the Jewish Museum of New York, the Joseph Papp Public Theater, the Actor's Theater of Louisville and more. She is currently an Associate Professor in Yale University's undergraduate Theater Studies Program.

Alexandra Aron is a New York-based director who collaborated with Ms. Margolin on the New George's production of *Three Seconds in the Key*. Other productions include *A Night in the Old Marketplace* with music by Frank London and book and lyrics by Glen Berger, *Great Men of Science No. 's 21 & 22* by Glen Berger, *Out From Under It* by Susan Bernfield at the Vital Theater, *Karaoke at the Suicide Shack* by Rob Urbinati at the Queens Theater in the Park and *Eloise and Ray* by Stephanie Fleishmann at New Georges.

Rick Foucheux, last season's Artist-In-Residence, returns to Theater J to play the eponymous scoundrel. In his residency last season, Mr. Foucheux graced Theater J's stage as Eugene Biddle in *Something You Did*, Oscar Madison in *The Odd Couple*, and Reb Saunders in *The Chosen*. He also appeared on the Theater J stage in the repertory production of Ari Roth's *Born Guilty* and *Peter and The Wolf*, Lanford Wilson's *Talley's Folley*, for which he received a Helen Hayes Award nomination for Outstanding Lead Actor, and the Theater J/Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company collaboration of Tony Kushner's *Homebody/Kabul*. Several other recent roles include Buckminster Fuller in *Buckminster Fuller: The History (and Mystery) of The Universe* and Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman* at Arena Stage. He has been nominated for ten Helen Hayes Awards, and is a two-time recipient of the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lead Actor.

Playing opposite Mr. Foucheux is **Mike Nussbaum**, this year's Fisher Family Visiting Artist, portraying Solomon Galkin. Mr. Nussbaum has appeared in numerous David Mamet films including *House of Games* and *Things Change*. He also appeared in a number of Mamet's plays on and off Broadway, including the original production of *American Buffalo*. In 1997, he received the prestigious Chicago Jeff Award for his performance in David Hare's *Racing Demon*. He received a Drama Desk Award in 1984 for his performance in *Glengarry Glen Ross*. In 2002, he directed *Where Have You Gone, Jimmy Stewart*, by Art Shay. Mr. Nussbaum has also appeared in a number of films including *Field of Dreams* and *Men in Black*.

The acting triumvirate is completed with Theater J's 2011–2012 Associate Artist-In-Residence **Jennifer Mendenhall** as Madoff's guilt-ridden Secretary. Ms. Mendenhall last appeared at Theater J in the 2011 *Voices from a Changing Middle East Festival*, performing in staged readings of *A Railway to Damascus*, *I'm Speaking to you Chinese* and *The Admission*. Other recent appearances include Hillel Mitelpunkt's *The Accident*, the 2002 production of *Born Guilty* and *Peter and the Wolf* by Ari Roth, and her 2003 performance as Mahala in the Theater J/Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company co-production of Tony Kushner's *Homebody/Kabul*. One of the most beloved actresses in Washington, DC, she has been a company member at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company since 1988. At Woolly Mammoth, she has acted in over a dozen plays, most recently appearing in *Clybourne Park* for which she received a Helen Hayes nomination. She has also appeared in the DC area at Arena Stage, Metro Stage, Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Studio Theatre, Forum Theatre and Theatre Alliance. Ms. Mendenhall is a recipient of the Helen Hayes Award, for which she has been nominated thirteen times, The Washington Theatre Lobby Award, and a grant from the Boomerang Fund for Artists. Her most recent projects include *The New Electric Ballroom* and *Circle Mirror Transformation* at The Studio Theatre.

The design team unites Theater J veterans with Washington, DC newcomer **Lauren Halpern**. A New York-based designer, Ms. Halpern worked with Alexandra Aron on the New Georges production of Deb Margolin's *Three Seconds in the Key*. **Dan Covey** (*The Moscows of Nantucket*, *Photograph 51*, *Mikveh*) will design lights. Costume design will be done by **Debra Kim Sivigny**, (*The Moscows of Nantucket*, *The Rise and Fall of Annie Hall*, *Mikveh*) and **Klyph Stanford** (*Return to Haifa*, *Mikveh*) will design projections.

Mr. Nussbaum's appearance in this production is made possible in part by support from the **Fisher Family Visiting Artists Endowment**.

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***IMAGINING MADOFF* Fact Sheet**

WRITTEN BY: Deb Margolin
DIRECTED BY: Alexandra Aron
SCENIC DESIGNER: Lauren Helpert
LIGHTING DESIGNER: Daniel Covey
COSTUME DESIGNER: Debra Kim Sivigny
PROJECTION DESIGNER: Klyph Stanford
STAGE MANAGER: Karen Currie

WITH: Rick Foucheux, Jennifer Mendenhall and Mike Nussbaum

PRESS NIGHT: Tuesday, September 6 at 7:30 pm

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: August 31, 2011– September 25, 2011

Regular Schedule: Wednesdays & Thursdays at 7:30pm, Saturdays at 8:00 pm, Sundays at 3:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Pay-What-You-Can Previews: Wednesday, August 31 at 7:30 pm and Thursday, September 1 at 7:30 pm

\$30 Previews: Saturday, September 3 at 8:00 pm; Sunday, September 4 at 3:00 pm and Monday, September 5 at 7:30 pm

Special Matinees: Wednesday, September 14, Noon

Please note: On Thursday, September 15 at 7:30 pm, open-captioning will be provided for the hearing-impaired.

LOCATION: The Washington DC Jewish Community Center's Aaron & Cecile Goldman Theater at 1529 16th Street NW in Washington, DC, 4 blocks east of Dupont Circle.

PARKING & METRO: Limited parking in the Washington DCJCC lot; additional parking available at Colonial Parking, 1616 P Street NW; limited street parking. Dupont Circle Station red line.

TICKETS: \$35–\$60. Box Office Tickets (800) 494-TIXS or boxofficetickets.com.

For groups of 10+ call (202) 777-3214 or email becky@theaterj.org

Tickets for patrons 35 and under are \$15 (limited number)

Theater J is handicapped accessible and offers assisted listening devices for interested patrons.

High resolution digital images are available upon request. More information about this production is available at (202) 777-3230 or theaterj.org.

Theater J, a program of the Washington DCJCC, produces thought-provoking, publicly engaged, personal, passionate and entertaining plays and musicals that celebrate the distinctive urban voice and social vision that are part of the Jewish cultural legacy. Acclaimed as one of the nation's premiere playwrights theaters, Theater J presents cutting edge contemporary work alongside spirited revivals and is a nurturing home for the development and production of new work by major writers and emerging artists exploring many of the pressing moral and political issues of our time. Dedicated above all to a pursuit of artistic excellence, Theater J takes its dialogues beyond the stage, offering an array of innovative public discussion forums and outreach programs which explore the theatrical, psychological and social elements of our art. We frequently partner with those of other faiths and communities, stressing the importance of interchange among a great variety of people wishing to take part in frank, humane conversations about conflict and culture.