

The Dead Man by Sholem Asch
Translated by Caraid O'Brien
Presented by the Yiddish Book Center
As part of Carnegie Hall's *Voices of Hope*

Introduction

Announcer

A Madwoman

Reb Khonen, a community leader

Dina, his daughter, 18

Reb Nehemiah, an elderly Jew

Reb Barukh-Leybush, a local man

Reb Chaim, a once prosperous man

The First Foreigner

The Second Foreigner

The First Jew

The Second Jew

The Third Jew

The First Woman

The Second Woman

The Third Woman

The Abandoned Wife

The Widow, Brakha

The Widow's children, ages 3,6,9

The First Merchant

The Second Merchant

The Third Merchant

The First boy, Yosele, age 14

The Second Boy, age 13

The Third Boy, age 12

Yosef, a soldier returning from the war

Mother, Yosef's widowed mother

Villagers

Angels Singing

David Mazower

Shay Saul Guttman

Caraid O'Brien

Hal Robinson

Caraid O'Brien

Shane Baker

Mark Greenfield

Timothy Tanner

Corey Carthew

Shahar Fineberg

Laura Zambrano

Corey Carthew

Mark Greenfield

Rachel Botchan

Andrea Darriau

Vered Hankin

Tara Bahna-James

Rachel Botchan

Miriam Tanner

Nicholas Tanner

Oliver Tanner

Shahar Fineberg

Corey Carthew

Mark Greenfield

Mannix MacCumhail

Elijah Bahna-Outman

Jonah Kaufman

Aaron Beall

Laura Simms

Sally Atkinson, Lisa Newman

Kate O'Brien & Cordelia James

**Directed by
Beall O'Brien**

**Supervising Sound Engineer
Shahar Fineberg**

Musical Selections

Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov's **Extracts from the Ballet-Suite Scherazada, Pt. 1** by American Concert Orchestra, 1925

George Frideric Handel's **Israel in Egypt**, conducted by August Manns, 1888

Ludwig van Beethoven's **Moonlight Sonata** by Bellini Ensemble Unique, 1924

Claude Debussy's **Clair de Lune** by Hotel Commodore Ensemble, 1927

Tibetan Singing Bowls

The Dead Man was recorded at Studio 51 in Hell's Kitchen during March of 2021

The Dead Man was first performed in Yiddish by the Chicago Yiddish Dramatic Society at Glickman's Palace Theater in 1922 where it garnered a rave review from future Hollywood screenwriter Ben Hecht in The Chicago Daily News. It was directed by the Polish-Jewish theater artist Avram Teitelbaum who also played the title role.

Sholem Asch (playwright) From radical ex-yeshiva student to provocative dramatist, best-selling novelist, and embattled prophet, Sholem Asch (1880-1957) was born in Kutnow, Poland. He abandoned his religious studies as a young man to become a Yiddish writer. He penned *The Dead Man* in New York City while also writing serialized novels for the Forward newspaper. The play's premiere in 1922 coincided with a 12 volume publication of Asch's complete works, which included plays, novels and short stories. A global artist, Asch's plays have been performed in many languages throughout the world. The Vilna Troupe started their very first season with Asch's play *The Landsman*. Maurice Schwartz's 2000 seat Yiddish Art Theater produced more plays by Asch than by any other writer, adapting his novels *Three Cities*, *The Witch of Castille*, *The Sanctity of God's Name* and *Uncle Moses* for the stage as well. Asch's plays were originally championed by the world theater scene, however. *On the Road to Zion*, Asch's first full length drama was produced in Polish and then in Russia by actress-producer Vera Komissarzhevskaya before Jacob Adler debuted it in Yiddish in New York City in 1906. Director Max Reinhardt premiered *God of Vengeance* in German in 1910 to great acclaim. Its English language Broadway cast was famously arrested for indecency in 1923, the subject of Paula Vogel's recent hit Broadway play *Indecent*. Throughout his lifetime, Asch wrote over two dozen plays, many of them hits. Legendary actors who starred in Asch's works include Paul Muni, Rudolph Schildkraut, Joseph Buloff, Celia Adler, Stella Adler, Sara Adler, Luba Kadison, David Kessler, Jacob Ben-Ami, Paul Baratov and many others. In addition to *God of Vengeance*, Asch is also remembered for his much-translated novels – *The Nazarene*, *Mary* and *The Apostle* examining the Jewish roots of Christianity.

Sally Atkinson (Villager) A Hell's Kitchen resident, this is Sally's radio play debut.

Elijah Bahna-Outman (Second Boy) is a middle school student in Northern Westchester, where he is an active member on his local lacrosse, flag football, basketball and soccer teams. He has been a participant in TADA! Youth Theater's 1-Day Musical Theater Camp and studies piano with Keith Robellard and guitar with Korey Brodsky. This is Elijah's broadcast debut. <https://linktr.ee/JahFN>

Tara Bahna-James (Abandoned Woman) is delighted to be performing alongside her son, Elijah, in Caraid O'Brien's groundbreaking translation. A native New Yorker, Tara is also a singer, songwriter, playwright, and essayist. She performs regularly with The Yellow Finch Project and is a graduate of Yale College and of NYU's Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program. <https://linktr.ee/tarabahnajames>

Shane Baker (Reb Nehemiah) has appeared Off-Broadway and internationally in his own Yiddish translation of Samuel Beckett's WAITING FOR GODOT. As Executive Director of the Congress for Jewish Culture, he has produced and performed Yiddish theater on 6 continents, in venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to the Tel Aviv Central Bus Station.

Aaron Beall (Yosef) an Obie award winner, Aaron cocreated the New York International Fringe Festival and served as its artistic director for two years. For 14 years, he ran his storefront theater Todo con Nada on Ludlow street, presenting 2500 different productions on a 7, 10 and midnight show schedule. He also transformed Show World in Times Square into a series of 99 seat theaters, opening with Sholem Asch's *God of Vengeance* (translated by COB) on the go-go stage in 1999. He has acted off Broadway in shows directed by Julie Taymor and Jim Simpson and appears in Larry Fessenden's films *Habit* and the *ABCs of Death*. He most recently directed *God of Vengeance* in Yiddish at the Theatre at Saint Clements for a sold-out run. He recommends you watch the Yiddish Theatre Ensemble's GOV online this May.

Beall O'Brien (Director) is the over two decades of artistic collaboration between Aaron Beall and Caraid O'Brien.

Rachel Botchan (Widowed Mother, First Woman) Off Broadway: over 40 productions with the Drama Desk and Obie Award winning Pearl Theatre Co.; National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene, and New Yiddish Rep. Selected Regional: Two River, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Milwaukee Rep., Virginia Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Rachel is an award-winning audiobook narrator.

Corey Carthew (First Foreigner, Second Jew, Second Merchant) originally auditioned for the role of Older Brother but was cast instead by his parents for the role of Youngest of three boys. He's been in therapy ever since. Corey has been a voice artist for over 20 years narrating documentaries for History Channel, Discovery, A&E, Travel Channel, Nat Geo, Animal Planet and more. He has represented many products on tv and radio; Johnnie Walker, Porsche, Macy's, Huntington Bank, Charles Schwab, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer and Astra Zeneca to name a few. He also narrates audio books. Some titles are, *Lost and the Midnight Club* by James Patterson, *End Times* by Brian Walsh, *Can't Slow Down* by Michelangelo Matos, and *Cry Havoc* by Michael Signer. Corey is an avid cyclist and can often be found on one of his bikes with a smile on his face.

Andrea Darriau (Second Woman) originated the role of Soreh in Caraid's translation of *God of Vengeance* at Show World. She studied Mime in Paris, performed in Holland with devised theatre groups and created a solo show subsidized by the Dutch Ministry of Culture. Recipient of the Franklin Furnace Fund for Performance Art. Notable roles: Andy Warhol for Tina Landau's *Stonewall*; various characters in Jeff Weiss plays. TV: *The Deuce*, others.

Shahar Fineberg (Second Foreigner, Second Merchant, Supervising Sound Engineer) a native of Jerusalem, Shahar is the host of *Yiddish Haynt*, a radio program on Jewish culture based in

Paris. He recently completed his translation fellowship at the Yiddish Book Center on the poems of Avrom Lutsky and also writes for film and television.

Mark Greenfield (Reb Baruch-Leybush, Third Jew, Third Merchant) is the Artistic Director of the Faux-Real Theatre and teaches theatre at Fordham University. He played Yankl in Caraid O'Brien's and Aaron Beall's production of *God of Vengeance* at Show World and is happy to be working with them again.

Shay "Saul" Guttman (Announcer) first appeared onstage in Caraid's production of *God of Vengeance* at Show World. He grew up in a Yiddish speaking family in Brooklyn and currently lives in Austin, Texas. He brought his Yiddishkeit to Texas and helped found the klezmer band Klezmerica, for which he is the bassist.

Vered Hankin (Third woman) Hailed as "the leading storyteller of her generation" (New York Jewish Week), Vered Hankin is an internationally acclaimed actor and storyteller. She is so happy to be working on another of Caraid O'Brien's magical Sholem Asch translations after having appeared as Rivkeleh in the infamous NY Show World production of Caraid's Asch translation of *God of Vengeance* (Dir. Aaron Beall). Her storytelling audio-CD's received National Parenting Publication's Gold Award and Film Advisory Board's Award of Excellence. Theatre credits include *Whore from Ohio* (New Yiddish Rep, Off Broadway), *Hot Keys* (PS 122), *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Prague Shakespeare), *Blood Wedding* (Lookingglass Theatre) and *Totalitarians* (Chimera Ensemble).

Cordelia James (Angel Singing) is a fourth grader and the oldest of four girls. She plans to be a director and enjoys swimming, reading, writing, and singing with her family.

Jonah Kaufman (Third boy) is in sixth grade at Science and Arts Academy in Chicago. He made his professional theater debut in 2017 in Prague Shakespeare Company's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, followed by a recurring role at Artistic Home in Chicago's *Miracle on 34th street*. Most recently, Jonah starred in Raven Theatre's *Cold Town//Hotline*. Jonah is one of the youngest members of Lookingglass Theatre's Young Ensemble. A piano student since age 4, Jonah performs locally in orchestral concerts.

Mannix MacCumhail (First boy) played an urchin in Sholem Asch's *God of Vengeance* at Theater at Saint Clements in 2017. He first appeared on WBAI at age 5 in Radio Bloomsday. He is a freshman in high school.

David Mazower (Introduction) is the bibliographer and editorial director at the Yiddish Book Center. He is also Sholem Asch's great grandson.

Lisa Newman (Villager) Lisa is the Director of Publishing and Public Programs at the Yiddish Book Center.

Caraid O'Brien (Madwoman, Dina, translator) O'Brien's translation of Sholem Asch's *God of Vengeance* "set Show World aflame" according to the Village Voice and was also produced by Theater J and the Rorschach Theater in DC and can be seen online in a production by The Yiddish Theatre Ensemble this May @ www.klezcalifornia.org/yiddish-theatre-ensemble For ten years, she studied Yiddish theater and performance with legendary actors Luba Kadison (The Vilna Troupe) and Seymour Rechtzeit, one of the greatest tenors of the twentieth century. She received three new play commissions from the Foundation for Jewish Culture and was a

2019 translation fellow at the Yiddish Book Center where she first began learning Yiddish as an intern in 1994. She has directed numerous Bloomsday broadcasts celebrating James Joyce's *Ulysses* for Pacifica Radio and her performance of the 3 hour Molly monologue is available at completeulysses.com. You can read her work on [amazon](http://amazon.com), or watch a short film based on her translation of Asch's *On the Road to Zion* starring Hal Robinson on [youtube](http://youtube.com). Other Asch plays she has translated include *Motke Thief* (University Settlement, 2005), *Our Faith* and *A String of Pearls*. caraidobrien.com.

Kate O'Brien (Angel singing) has sung for many Bloomsday productions throughout the years and sings weekly in a choir. She sang with the a cappella group The LowKeys while an undergrad at Harvard. She lives in Georgia with her husband and four daughters.

Hal Robinson (Reb Khonen) *THE PRICE* (U/S Gregory Solomon); *THE OLD BOY* (Dexter) Jonathan Silverstein, dir.; *CABARET* (Herr Schultz) Sam Mendes, dir.; *OLD WICKED SONGS* (Prof. Mashkan) Seth Barrish, dir.; *GRAND HOTEL* (Zinnowitz) Tommy Tune, dir.; *BROADWAY* (Scar Edwards) George Abbott, dir.; *PERSONALS* (Typesetter) Paul Lazarus, dir.; *LIFE IS A DREAM* (Clotaldo) Jay Indik, dir.; *NICK & NORA* (Selznik) Arthur Laurents, dir.; *THE FANTASTICKS* (El Gallo) Word Baker, dir.; Regional: *BLOOD WEDDING* (Father) Old Globe-Gerald Freedman/Graciella Danielle, dirs.; *MAN AND SUPERMAN* (Roebuck Ramsden) Great Lakes Theatre Festival-Amy Saltz, dir.; *HEDDA GABBLER* (Judge Brack) GLTF-Richard Hamburger, dir.; *SHE LOVES ME* (Mr. Maraczek) Arena Stage-Kyle Donnelly, dir.; *LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST* (Boyet) GLTF-Gerald Freedman, dir.; *UP FROM PARADISE* (God) GLTF-Kent Paul, dir.; *ROMEO AND JULIET* (Capulet) GLTF-Gerald Freedman, dir.; *ANIMAL CRACKERS* (Roscoe W. Chandler) Papermill Playhouse, Goodspeed Opera House-Charles Repole, dir.; *ROSEMARY AND I*, (Papa) Passage Theatre-Blair Brown, dir.; *FOLLIES* (Ben) Cain Park Starlight Amph.-Victoria Bussert, dir.; *ANNIE* (FDR) K.C. Starlight-Jack Allison, dir.; *ACTOR, LAWYER, INDIAN CHIEF* (Benjamin Gurney) Goodspeed Opera House-David Bell, dir.; *A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC* (Fredrik Egerman) Candlewood Playhouse-Paula Kalustian, dir. **Television and Film:** *THE PRACTICE* (Judge Callahan) recurring, ABC; *BUFFY, THE VAMPIRE SLAYER* (Dr. Frank) Graduation I, FOX; *THE NANNY* (Yetta's Lettas) ABC; *LAW AND ORDER*- Martha Mitchell, dir. NBC; *PAULIE* (Grandfather) Dreamworks-John Roberts, dir.; *PLANTING MELVIN* (Melvin) Junebug Films-Kari Neville, dir.

Laura Simms (Yosef's Mother) Laura is an internationally acclaimed storyteller, recording artist, coach and writer. She combines traditional stories with personal narrative. Her performances are profoundly uncanny and riveting and her teaching is "legendary". She is a contributing editor for Parabola Magazine and is the artistic director of the Hans Christian Andersen Storytelling Center, NY. She won the Oracle Award and A Lifetime Achievement Award from NSN. Laura served as a Senior Research Fellow at Rutgers University Peace Center under the auspices of UNESCO. She won the Sesame Street SUNNY DAYS AWARD for her work with children worldwide, and has appeared at: Nobel Peace Festival in Oslo, in theaters and festivals worldwide. Laura's recording Four Legged Tales was a runner up Grammy. She has written five books and saved a zoo in Romania. Her most recent books are *OUR SECRET TERRITORY* and *THE ROBE OF LOVE*. www.laurasimms.com

Timothy Tanner (Reb Chaim) Writer, editor, college essay writing coach, recovering attorney. To all the aspiring Yiddish theatre goyishe noobchiks out there: practice, practice, practice! www.tangotanner.com

Oliver Tanner (The widow's oldest child) Multi-talented third grader, performed the role of Seryozha in Eifman Ballet's *Anna Karenina* at Lincoln Center, had his artwork displayed at MoMA as a winner of NYC public schools Manhattan Borough Arts Festival, and now Carnegie Hall debut thanks to good neighbor/mensch Caraid O'Brien.

Nicholas Tanner (The widow's middle child) First grader with a will of iron and a heart of gold. The kind of kid who gives his Halloween candy to homeless people on the street, unprompted, and would gladly give his door or window to reconstruct a synagogue.

Miriam Tanner (The widow's youngest child) Carnegie Hall debut before starting Pre-K! Easily holds her own with two older brothers.

Laura Zambrano (First Jew) A *Todo con Nada* veteran, Laura was part of the original one act adaptation of *The Dead Man* at the historic Eldridge Street Synagogue in 2003 (that's her in the photo!) and is very happy to be part of this new radio play and to be working with Caraid and Aaron again.