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CUNY PRESENTS YOUNG TALENT PERFORMING IN YIDDISH

**UNIQUE CONCERT PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL YIDDISH THEATRE –
FOLKSBIENE BEGINS PERFORMANCES IN SEPTEMBER**

**5TH SEASON OF FOLKSBIENE AND CUNY PARTNERHIP WITH FREE SHOWS
AT QUEENS, LEHMAN, HUNTER & BROOKLYN COLLEGES**

(September 6, 2010) An ensemble of young theatre artists and musicians who perform regularly in the Yiddish language, are featured in a remarkable concert staged by New York's venerable National Yiddish Theatre – Folksbiene. Presented by City University of New York, "New Voices of the Yiddish Stage II," under the music direction of Zalmen Mlotek, includes new songs, and new interpretations of the classics of Yiddish's vast folk and theatre repertoires.

For the fifth year in a row CUNY hosts free, open-to-the-public performances at four CUNY campuses -- Brooklyn College, Hunter College, Lehman College and Queens College. Performances are on Tuesday September 14 at 7pm (at Queens College), Thursday September 16 at (at Lehman College), Tuesday September 21 at 12:30pm (at Brooklyn College) and Tuesday September 21 at 7pm (at Hunter College).

Representing the leading edge of a vanguard of artists who are embracing Yiddish and fueling its popular revival, the actors and musicians featured in the concert are all under 35 years in age. Among the actor-singers are Dani Marcus (leading roles in several Folksbiene break-out hits), Nimmy Weisbrod (with Marcus, a featured actor in last season's hit Off-Broadway musical "The Adventures of Hershele Ostropolyer"), and newcomers Avram Mlotek (an alumnus of the acclaimed "Kids & Yiddish") and Rachel Hirsch. The musicians include Taylor Bergren-Crisman (bass player with Golem), Annette Ezekiel Kogan (Golem's singer and accordionist), percussionist Matt Temkin, and Dmitri "Zisl-Yeysef" Slepovitch, the virtuoso clarinetist and noted ethnomusicologist from Belarus.

Zalmen Mlotek, the show's music director, is a composer, conductor, and internationally recognized authority on Yiddish folk and theatre music. Since 1998, he has served as Folksbiene's artistic director.

All shows are made fully accessible to non-Yiddish speakers through the use of simultaneous supertitles in both English & Russian.

All CUNY-Folksbiene shows are free to the public. Tickets are available in advance for the Hunter and Lehman College events by calling the below-listed phone numbers.

Campus addresses and box office phone numbers for the CUNY venues:

Hunter College, Kaye Playhouse, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 212-772-4448

Queens College, Colden Auditorium, 65-30 Kissena Blvd, Flushing, NY 718-793-8080

Brooklyn College, Whitman Theater, 2900 Bedford Ave, Brooklyn, NY 718-951-4500

Lehman College, Lovinger Theater, 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx NY 718-960-8025

The Drama Desk Award-winning National Yiddish Theatre – Folksbiene, now in its 96th consecutive season, is the longest continuously producing Yiddish theatre in the world, and America's sole-surviving professional Yiddish theatre. The CUNY-Folksbiene series, inaugurated under the auspices of CUNY's Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, not only brings the treasures of a rich cultural heritage to new and diverse audiences. It enables Folksbiene, which the NY Post called "one of the city's most remarkable cultural institutions," to fulfill its two-fold mission: to be the custodian of the Yiddish cultural legacy, while developing new works that add to this legacy. For more details call 212/213-2120 or visit www.folksbiene.org.

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