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"KIDS & YIDDISH: ODE TO OY!"

**9TH EDITION OF FOLKSBIENE'S POPULAR HOLIDAY TREAT FOR FAMILIES BEGINS
DECEMBER 2**

(November 9, 2007) Renewing a holiday tradition for the ninth year in a row, the Drama Desk Award-winning National Yiddish Theatre – Folksbiene presents its highly acclaimed bi-lingual musical funfest for families, this year entitled "Kids & Yiddish: Ode to Oy!" The '07 edition of the multi-media holiday show that gleefully mixes Jewish folk traditions with popular culture, introduces new characters, new songs, up-to-the minute satire of the latest fads on TV, and some of the long-running series' greatest hits.

Directed by **Joanne Borts** and co-written by Ms. Borts, **Michael Fox** and **Zalmen Mlotek** (who is the music director) "Kids & Yiddish: Ode to Oy!" performs on five consecutive Sundays, December 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at The JCC in Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Avenue. All shows are at 11am. For tickets, which are \$20 for adults and \$17 for children 12 and under, call Ticket Central at (212) 279-4200 or visit www.ticketcentral.com. For more information visit www.folksbiene.org.

Featuring returning ensemble members **Lily Shoretz** and **Aaron Mayer**, both 13, Kids & Yiddish welcomes 9-year-old **Sarah Mlotek**, **Josh Berk**, aged 12. The adult cast members are the performer and puppeteer **Jenny Romaine** (Circus Amok and the Obie-winning Great Small Works), returning for her ninth season; founding member **Joanne Borts** ("Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh" "Fiddler on the Roof" on Broadway with Topol and guest appearances with The Klezmatics and Neil Sedaka), and the world-recognized Yiddish music expert and conductor **Zalmen Mlotek**.

In this year's exciting cultural escapade, we meet, among many other characters, the great Leybele Von Beethoven, singing in Yiddish, and a sweet-natured ventriloquist's puppet who decides to break things off with her longtime partner (who's a bit too controlling). While she travels the world, meeting lots of cool people from different cultures and walks of life -- and after learning a traditional Eastern European dance, playing *Are You Smarter than a Shule Studentr?* appearing on *American Aydl-Didl-Daydl*, learning about colors on *Gray's Anatomy*, and being interviewed on *Tsvantsik/Tsvantsik* -- she returns to her old friend to renew their partnership, but this time as equals!

Mixing a rich tapestry of musical styles -- everything from Beethoven and the blues, klezmer and calypso -- "Kids & Yiddish: Ode to Oy!" warmly celebrates the classical and contemporary, the old and the new. 90% English and 10% Yiddish, it is a perfectly silly and enriching family tradition that has been hailed for introducing youngsters to the special joys of the Yiddish language and to the culture's rich and still relevant theatrical traditions.

Last season's Kids & Yiddish was rated "hilarious!" by The New York Times, which also observed that "the show is like a wacky borscht belt-style revue, but much hipper than anything your grandmother might have enjoyed."

Now in its 93rd consecutive season, the National Yiddish Theatre – Folksbiene is America's sole-surviving professional Yiddish theatre and the longest-continuously producing Yiddish theatre company in the world. Kids & Yiddish, central to the company's outreach, emphasizes making the legacy of the Yiddish theatre accessible and enjoyable to a new generation.

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