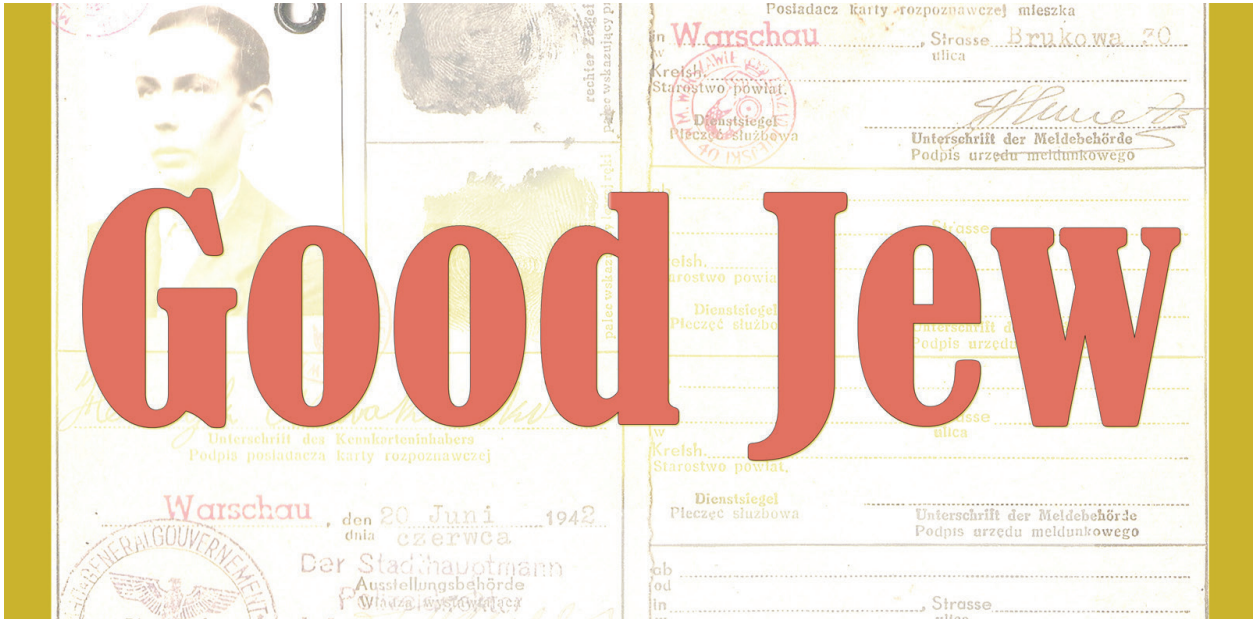


The Museum of Jewish Heritage presents a Peculiar Works Project



**Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

**The Museum of Jewish Heritage  
Edmond J. Safra Hall  
36 Battery Place, NYC**

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*Good Jew* is a highly thought-provoking drama of identity, morality, cultural heritage and the complexities of faith. The poignant script by Frank Blocker was created with the hope of bringing to life the struggles, hopes, and transformations of the life of Holocaust Survivor Henry Changar and thus helping to ensure that he will not be forgotten.

The play is also meant to be both impactful and memorable. But it is also meant to challenge the audience to reflect on their own beliefs and the complexities of identity.

Telling the story of a Holocaust survivor at this time is more than just about preserving history; it's about shaping a better future. Every story of a person who lived during the Holocaust can be a vital tool for education, empathy, and resistance against hatred. These stories should remind people not only of the profound consequences of prejudice, but many also demonstrate the enduring strength of the human spirit. In an era where history risks being forgotten, distorted, or denied, telling the story of a Holocaust survivor remains crucial.

I am grateful to be a part of this production, a story of a Holocaust survivor. Though not famous, he had a unique and important story. I often reflect on the words of author, professor, activist, Nobel Laureate and Holocaust Survivor Eli Weisel who said "To forget the dead would be akin to killing them a second time." Thank you for coming and helping to remember Henry Changar.

—Jamibeth Margolis

## THANK YOU!

Peculiar Works Project would like to specially thank our District 1 NYC City Council Member Christopher Marte for making this production possible.

We would also like to thank everyone at the Museum of Jewish Heritage for their support of this production, especially Josh, Sydney, and Nora.

And special thanks to AG Contemporary Art/Manhattan, Betsy Bennett, The Changar Family, Ted de Clercq, Judy Cohn Copeland, Matt Hanley, Terry Libby, Julianne Mabey, Jeffrey A. Margolis for his research and projections, Gina Palencia, The Shoah Foundation, Annette Trossbach, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Robin & Youngja White, Barbara Yoshida.



**Council on  
the Arts**



Our Peculiar Works projects are made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council, and from New York City Council member Christopher Marte; and with private funds from the Mental Insight Foundation, as well as our many, wonderful, individual donors.

Museum of Jewish Heritage  
presents  
a Peculiar Works Project

# Good Jew

written by  
**MURRAY SCOTT CHANGAR and FRANK BLOCKER**

based on the true stories of  
**HENRYK ALTMAN**

featuring  
**FRANK BLOCKER**

directed by  
**JAMIBETH MARGOLIS**

music  
**SPENCER KATZMAN**

stage manager  
**ALEXA SACKS-WILNER**

lighting  
**DAVID CASTANEDA**

sounds  
**FIONA HANSEN**

senior public programs producer  
**SYDNEY YAEGER**

vice president of marketing  
**JOSH MACK**

projections  
**JEFFREY A. MARGOLIS**

operations manager  
**NORA AGUIAR**

videotaping  
**DAN LANE WILLIAMS**

produced by  
**PECULIAR WORKS PROJECT**  
**Ralph Lewis, Catherine Porter, and Barry Rowell**

Developed through readings and workshops thanks to: The Salon Series at University Settlement along with LiveArts Collaboration, East Village, NY; AG Contemporary Art, NYC; Moe Auditorium & Film Center, FL; The Jewish Congregation of Marco Island, FL; as well as benefit performances at Center for Performing Arts, Bonita Springs, FL, and Beth Tikvah Synagogue (for Hurricane Ian Helpers), and the 2022 United Solo Festival, Theatre Row, NYC.

## BIOS

**FRANK BLOCKER** began working on *Good Jew* with his late partner, Murray Scott Changar after the passing of Murray's father, Henry. Through development work at AG Contemporary Arts, University Settlement and Peculiar Works Project, the play comes to fruition here at the Museum of Jewish Heritage. He is best known for solo works including *Southern Gothic Novel* (Drama Desk Award nomination) and *Stabilized Not Controlled* both running two years each at Manhattan's Stage Left Studio, and the adaptation HP Lovecraft's *The Call of Cthulhu* (The Visceral Company, Los Angeles). Off-Broadway plays include *Eula Mae's Beauty*, *Bait & Tackle* (the former Jose Quintero Theatre under Signature Theatre Company) and *Suite Atlanta* (78th Street Studio). He first worked with Jamibeth Margolis when she directed developmental readings of the musical *Alice* with composer William Wade (York Theatre Development Series, Emerging Artists Theatre). He has edited ten volumes of short plays (*Stage THIS!* and *Stage It! 10-Minute Plays*), honoring the works of other playwrights. He is a member of The Dramatists Guild as well as Actors' Equity Association and SAG/AFTRA. New York stage credits include Roderick Usher in Steven Berkoff's *Fall of the House of Usher*, Mr. Peachum in *The Beggar's Opera* (Dixon Place), *Edward II* (The Paradox-West Village), *The Don Quixote Project*, Obie-winning *West Village/East Village Fragments*, and the infamous *The Deep Throat Sex Scandal* at Bleecker Street Theatre. Regional credits include *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Me and My Girl* and *Amadeus*. He begins a two-week run of *Southern Gothic*... next week in Ottawa. An ordained minister and working pastor, he lives in Naples with his partner, artist/thinker Ted de Clercq, and their retired greyhound racer, Razmus, in their tropical paradise of a yard.

**JAMIBETH MARGOLIS** (Director) Theatrical directing credits include *Do I Hear a Waltz?* and *Jekyll and Hyde* at the Arvada Center Theater in Denver. Recent Staged Readings: *Stalled*, *Bonjour Mon Amour*, and *Good Jew*. Jamibeth served as assistant director to Tony Award winner Jerry Zaks on *The Caine Mutiny Court Martial* (Broadway) and also on Jules Feiffer's *A Bad Friend* (Lincoln Center Theatre). She has also helmed developmental productions of the following new musical works: *Winesday* (currently running in NYC), *Save The Palace*, *Owl Creek*, *Great Googly Moo*, and *Warsaw*. Opera directing credits include *Tosca* and *Pirates of Penzance* (Boheme Opera NJ). She was the recipient of the SDCF Directing Observership on Mark Lamos' production of *Tosca* at New York City Opera. Casting credits include the Broadway and National Touring Companies of such hits as *Les Miserables*, *The Phantom Of The Opera*, *Miss Saigon*, *Cats*, and *Jane Eyre* as well as two dozen other shows on Broadway, as well as tours and regional theater. Jamibeth won an Artios Award for her casting of *Fiddler On The Roof* In Yiddish (directed by Joel Grey). She cast Harmony on Broadway this season. Member: SDC, CSA. She is thrilled to be working with Frank and this team again! MFA in Directing from University of Idaho. [www.jamibetharts.com](http://www.jamibetharts.com)

**SPENCER KATZMAN** has contributed original music for several Peculiar Works productions (including *A Quick Nutbread While He's Away*, *Son of Cockstrong*, *Androboros*, and *Unprecedented*) and was delighted to have the opportunity to contribute klezmer-inspired music so soon after his first performance with his local synagogue's klezmer ensemble. He also recently participated in the New York Mandolin Orchestra's 100th Anniversary concert and regularly plays guitar with several groups in the New York area.

**DAVID CASTANEDA** (Lighting Design) has shed light on more than 500 productions around the country. Some bright moments in NYC: Broadway: *Irena's Vow* (Tovah Feldshuh), Helen Hayes: *Marvin's Room* (T.R. Knight), The Directors Company: *Murder in the First* (Chad Kimball), Peculiar Works Project: *Manna-Hata*, Public Theatre, Abingdon Theatre, NY Fringe Festival, Hofstra University. Regional illuminations include Albany/Berkshire Ballet (NY/VT), Cape Fear Regional Theatre (NC), Theatre Winter Haven (FL), Round Barn Theatre (IN), Temple Theatre (NC), Carousel Dinner Theatre (OH), Merrimack Rep (MA), Seacoast Rep (NH), Millbrook Playhouse (PA), New Stage Theatre (MS) and many musicals in Spanish by 'Misi' in Bogota, Colombia. David radiates from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts where he learned to change almost any light bulb imaginable.

**ALEXA SACKS-WILNER** (Stage Manager) is a freelance Stage Manager, recent graduate of Pace University's Stage Management Program. Select Professional: *Women on Fire: Fair is Foul* (PSM), *Kinderkrankenhaus* (PSM), *Wasted* (PSM), *Bullet Points* (PSM), *Finding Madame Curie* (ASM), *The Trial on the Potomac* (ASM), *The Importance of Being Earnestly LGBTQ+* (ASM), *The Housewives of Secaucus* (ASM). She would like to thank the entire company for their hard work and Jamibeth for the opportunity.

**FIONA HANSEN** (Sound Board Operator) is a Brooklyn-based technician, writer, and occasional performer from Groveport, OH. They have recently worked with Flux Theatre Ensemble on the *Portal Project* (Writer, Performer) as well as at the 2024 NYC Fringe Festival (Technician) and they also work at Dixon Place (Technical Intern). Their work includes *The Importance of Being Earnest* directed by Janani Sreenivasan (Stage Manager), *Television* by Cameron Bossert (Assistant Stage Manager), *Jane's Return (2023)* (Stage Manager), and *Harmony Hall* by Duncan Pflaster (Stage Manager).

**RALPH LEWIS** (Producer) is a producer, director, and writer who creates multi-disciplinary performances as a co-founder of Peculiar Works Project. Current projects include *The Hare Trilogy* (Wild Project, Frankel Theater); *Astor Place Riots* (Under St. Marks); *Railroad Christmas* (Episcopal Actors' Guild); *Origins of Broadway* (BroadwayCon 2022, NY Adventure Club, ongoing); *Good Jew* (2022 United Solo Festival); and *Jane Jacobs Project* (Jane's Walk 2021, 2022, 2023). During the pandemic, he shot the short films *Language Games*, *Animal Magnetism* and *Intuitive Leap*; and his virtual work was presented by Municipal Art Society, Episcopal Actors' Guild, Untapped Cities, Ego Actus, and Lower Eastside Preservation Initiative, among others. Pre-pandemic creations include *AFTERPARTY: The Rothko Studio* in the landmarked 222 Bowery; *2 Jane Jacobs* for Village Preservation (Cherry Lane Theater); Planet X for the 2018 [Re]Happening Festival (Black Mountain College, NC). Other directing includes 3 Robert Heide Plays (Howl! Happening); two Climate Change Theater Actions (Artichoke Arts); and America's first play, *Androboros* (Fraunces Tavern Museum; Overthrow Boxing Ring); as well as terrific plays by William M. Hoffman, Megan Terry, Paul Foster, Marina Shron, John Patrick Shanley, Hallie Flanagan, Dostoevsky, Aristophanes, and Dr. Seuss, among others. AEA, SAG/AFTRA, NYU-TSOA..

**THE MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust is New York's contribution to the global responsibility to never forget.** The Museum is committed to the crucial mission of educating diverse visitors about Jewish life before, during, and after the Holocaust. As a place of memory, the Museum enables Holocaust survivors to speak through recorded testimony and draws on rich collections to illuminate Jewish history and experience. As a public history institution, it offers intellectually rigorous and engaging exhibitions, programs, and educational resources. The Museum protects the historical record and promotes understanding of Jewish heritage. It mobilizes memory to teach the dangers of intolerance and challenges visitors—including more than 60,000 schoolchildren a year—to let the painful lessons of the past guide them to envision a world worthy of their futures.

**PECULIAR WORKS PROJECT** (Producer) creates, develops and presents original multi-disciplinary performances that are accessible and fun for diverse audiences. Since 1993, we have challenged the conventions of medium, structure, and process in an alternative theatre context. We encourage collaboration, experimentation and a rebel spirit in artists by providing them with the tools and opportunities necessary for artistic growth. We perform in unconventional spaces, because we believe unique sites impact our work, this work in turn impacts the site, and audiences then experience both in surprising new ways. We have taken work directly into local communities by presenting site-specific productions in the streets of Greenwich Village and the East Village, in landmark buildings, gutted storefronts and other peculiar sites throughout NYC. PWP continues to bring unusual work to new audiences by building partnerships with other organizations. We have produced in conjunction with HERE Arts Center, the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, Judson Memorial Church, The Drama League of New York, Art Office (Bulgaria), New Bulgarian University, and Dixon Place, among many others.

## PWP BOARD OF ADVOCATES

Christopher Burney, Ellie Covan, Karen E. Etcoff, John Herndon, Jeffrey Kazin, Kristin Marting, Nello McDaniel, Howard F. Seligman, Nomi Tichman, Dan Lane Williams, Barbara Yoshida

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## NEXT UP FOR PECULIAR WORKS

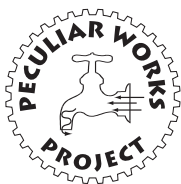
### THE MANNA-HATTA PROJECT

Two Work-in-Progress Staged Readings

**SUNDAY, JUNE 23 @ 7pm:** Governors Island, near Castle Williams

**MONDAY, JUNE 24 @ 7pm:** Chess at the Boardwalk, Hudson Tower Park

We're rebooting the sold out 2013 production with a team of writers creating entirely new material to celebrate NYC history—with all of its highs and lows! Don't miss out on this first peek at the new direction for this project in two unique locations around the New York Harbor! For more info and directions, visit our website at [https://peculiarworks.org/mannahata\\_2024.php](https://peculiarworks.org/mannahata_2024.php)



Donations to Peculiar Works are always welcome and completely tax-deductible. If you'd like to support our work, send your check, made out to **Peculiar Works Project, Inc.** Or, if you'd prefer to donate with a credit card, you can scan the QR code on the right to make a donation through **Network for Good** at [peculiarworks.org](https://peculiarworks.org) or visit our website, [peculiarworks.org](https://peculiarworks.org).

