



Who we are

Tahel Group

The **Tahel Theater** Group was founded in January 2011 by a group of graduates from the Beit Zvi Acting School (Avihud Tidhar, Gil Reshef, Gil Weiss, Sivane Kretchner, Tamar Gutman). The group was established by the initiative and encouragement of the legendary **Gary Bilu**, who was the director of Beit Zvi for 30 years.

Background

The group of actors started working on a single play (in search of lost times by Marcel Proust) in October 2010. During the rehearsals came the idea to found a new theatre and Tahel came to life, making this single play a first in a unique repertoire of plays and performances.

Tahel was established in order to give a voice to content that is inadequately represented in Israeli Repertory Theater. In addition Tahel would serve as a venue for new theater that gives voice to a group of minorities both as artists and in content. The majority of artists (creators, directors, lighting and sound) who have worked with Tahel have done so on a voluntary basis that derives from the mutual desire to further promote the Israeli theater and to create a new platform of art and expression.

Theater

We believe in the art form of theater and search daily for ways to renew and reinvent it. We aim to create a modern, Israeli theater language - An innovative, Israeli professional theater which targets veterans of the Israeli audience as well as newcomers. As students of Gary Bilu we do this with a true sense of love and devotion. Our goal is to create a fascinating and exciting theater which relates to the audience and moves them at eye level. In addition, we believe that in order for a theater to reach all different kinds of audiences it must be accessible. We try to keep the ticket prices at a reasonable level in order to allow every person the means to attend our performances.

Tahel Theater and the Lgbt Community

Tahel has made a goal of performing theater works rarely presented elsewhere and that are connected to the Gay community and other minority groups. At Tahel actors, playwrights, director, creators and more, from within and without the Gay community work together to create a cultural bridge between diverse elements of society and with the express purpose of creating a continuous dialog between the Gay community and the wider society. We are aware that many segments of Israeli society do not have adequate outlet for their sensibilities, dilemmas or their way of life. We, at Tahel, believe that theater can expose them to situations and characters, dilemmas and conflicts that they can identify with, connect to and most importantly, enjoy. At Tahel we have the aim of

enriching the cultural life of the Gay community and to be an enjoyable cultural meeting place. Nevertheless, our plays are not exclusively geared to the Gay community. We are interested in presenting our plays to as wide an audience as possible. It is only in this manner that we will be able to open a true dialog and foster deeper understanding, enabling the building of bridges and understanding the different groups that make up Israeli society in the 21st century.

Activity

Tahel began its journey at the "Suzan Dallal Center" which resides in the "Neve Tsedek" neighborhood in Tel Aviv. There the theater showcased a number of productions opening with a multi performers production and an Israeli premier of "In Search Of Lost Time" by Harold Pinter based on the classic novel by Marcel Proust. In time the activity naturally migrated towards the theater venue at the "Pride Center" which is in "Gan Meir" in Tel Aviv. To this day we work from within the Pride Center which acts as our home. In the center's theater hall we run with several different plays every month.

Tahel Presents/Tahel Unplugged

As part of the Israeli cultural world we founded "Tahel Presents" and "Tahel Unplugged" in which we host different performances not only in the realm of theater but music and dance as well. We wish to help and promote new artists from within the community and outside of it. We are happy to provide a stage and venue for new artists who are worthy of a stage and by doing so we are able to add more colors and layers to the current Israeli cultural life.

Goals for the Future

We have the aim of becoming a small but leading theater group in the Israeli cultural scene, to create a new theatrical language and to reach as wide as possible an audience. We are planning to participate in various international festivals and represent the State of Israel.



The Founders. Left: Tamar Gutman, Gil Reshef, Avihud Tidhar, Gil Weiss, Sivane Kretchner (2010)

Plays

All about my mother

Exciting and sweeping drama based on the masterpiece by Pedro Almodovar. Manuela is a single mother living in Madrid with her beloved son Esteban. On his 17th birthday, Esteban was killed in a car accident while chasing after the actress he admired - Huma Rojo, to get her autograph. To close circle and fulfill her son's last wish to know who his father is, Manuela travels to Barcelona to find the father - a transvestite whom she kept in secret from her son and never told her they had a son. On her way to the distant past, she meets old acquaintances and new characters who take her on a jolting journey between past and future.

"17 years ago I did the same way but in the opposite direction, from Barcelona to Madrid. Even then I ran away but I was not alone, I carried Esteban within me. So I ran away from his father, now I'm going to look for him".



Death trap

Premiered in Israel in the Tahel Theater.

A wild suspenseful comedy by the author and playwright Ira Levin ("Rosemary's Baby").

Sidney Bruhl, a successful playwright on Broadway, is struggling with "writer's block" and financial hardships. His luck begins to change when he receives a play written by a student of his from the university where he teaches. The received play, a thriller which has the potential to

become a certain success on Broadway, causes Sidney to invite the student to his home and together with his neurotic, week hearted wife, Myra, they try to convince him to publish the play under both their names. At the same time, Helga ten Dorp, a strange and famous psychic has just moved into the neighborhood, right next to the Bruhls. From this point the plot begins to rapidly change its direction which leads to moments of sheer suspense and witty humor which have made "Death Trap" to a successful Broadway play as well as a successful movie featuring Michael Caine and Christopher Reeve.

How far would you go for fame and fortune? Every character in the play seems to have a different answer to this question.



Cock

When John breaks up with his boyfriend of seven years he happens to meet the woman of his dreams. Eaten with confusion and guilt, he understands the time to decide has arrived and that there is only one way out. "The ultimate bitch fight". This play deals with the ambivalence of love and attraction beyond the vast array of emotions, relationships and choices. A direct



and uncompromising take on passion, sexuality and the hardships that arise when a person has the ability to choose. A daring and sexy drama, filled with humor, touching dialogues and fascinating characters that deal with the inability to choose, with the pressure society holds over the individual and with the question regarding sexual tendencies.

Winner of the "Olivier" award, 2010, is by playwright and screenwriter Mike Bartlet and is considered one of the most successful and talked about plays in London and New York.

Penetration Play

Premiered in Israel, in the Tahel Theater.

A daring, witty and sharp comedy about the despair of one sided love and the state that is so familiar to lesbians that fall in love with the straight girl. Rain is in love with her best friend – Ashley, which may feel the same but is busy dating Rich. Ashley's mother, Maggie, is all too happy with her daughter's choice. Maggie is suddenly confronted with the fact that her life

have passed her by, her husband and daughters are self involved and she who has given up on herself so many years ago has actually lost herself.

In one liquor saturated evening the three women experience the sweet and sour repercussions of desire and bring back the old saying: "If you can't get with her, try her mother"



All That Is left

Five actors of the Tahel theater embark on a journey following one murderer, a million questions and zero answers. It seems that after the crime was solved all that remains is silence. This is an invitation to a piece that has bared pain and that deals with questions that arise at the fear that this massacre will go by without anything that we have learned about ourselves.

"And to this day I fear that silence. Like white noise, the calm after the storm. But this means that it is only the beginning. That you haven't seen or smelt or heard or touched or felt anything."



Coming Clean

Tony and Greg are two men living together in an open relationship. Their plot begins to thicken when they hire a maid for their apartment – Robert, a young and handsome guy that dreams of becoming an actor. Together with their wild friend William and Jorgen – a foreign stranger, they find themselves at surprising and touching situations that hold in their base the pain of love and the fear of loneliness.



Last Summer At Blue Fish Cove

Seven gay women meet at the beach, like every year, to spend the summer together. Into this beach wanders Eva, a heterosexual woman which has just left her husband. Here begins a delicate, amusing and sad story that reveals the strengths and weaknesses of humanity.

The play deals with the search for love and friendship through the issue of life and death.

A play about women's friendship, love and comradeship.



Angels In America (Part A)

The year is 1985 in the city of New York. The Aids epidemic has reached its peak. This is the background of the fantastic, epic drama by playwright Tony Kushner. The play tells the tale of several characters that discover, confront and seduce one another, in a reality of hypocrisy, death and political turmoil. All this is accompanied by an angel - an apocalyptic prophet.

Kushnir creates a mosaic that embodies history, politics and the supernatural in a fascination drama. The play has won the Pulitzer Prize and has been adapted to an acclaimed miniseries.



Previous plays:

- ❖ In Search of Lost Time / Remembrance of Things Past (by Marcel Proust)
Premiere 24.2.2011
- ❖ When Did You Last See My Mother? (by Christopher Hampton)
Premiere 24.6.2011
- ❖ Torch Song Trilogy (by Harvey Fierstein)
Premiere 17.8.2011
- ❖ Revital Zaltsman sings Chava Alberstein songs (Unplugged)
Premiere 20.9.2012
- ❖ Now again in May (Host) (by Liat Fishman Leni)
Premiere 7.11.2012
- ❖ Bent (Reading Theatre) (by Martin Sherman)
Premiere 7.4.2013



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