

Press release

## 27<sup>th</sup> Jewish Culture Days

15 - 25 August 2013

From old to new, forgotten to remembered, joyful to contemplative. From East and West, young and old, encounters and togetherness. Like no other festival in Germany, the 10-day festival of the 27<sup>th</sup> Jewish Culture Days provides a wonderful opportunity to dive deep into Jewish Culture: with music, literature, stories and history, speeches, children's tours, an exhibition, public synagogue services, a large festival and even live cooking.

### The Music

The "Golden Twenties" were the heyday of Hebrew and Yiddish culture in Berlin. Sophisticated pieces of new Jewish music and Jewish folk songs could be heard in the city's concert halls and on the radio. Today, Berlin's Jewish music scene is once again diverse and vibrant. Classical music stars such as the Israeli soprano **Tehila Nini Goldstein** make music with the world-famous Klezmer Trio and clarinetist **Michael Winograd** or the young Ukrainian Yiddish singer **Sveta Kundish**. **Alan Bern** and **Jascha Nemtsov** are the creative directors of the opening concert "**Ost und West**" (East and West) of the Jewish Culture Days.

"We experienced an oratorical hurricane that made our hearts and ears quiver." – This was how it was described by an enthusiastic FAZ newspaper critic after the Sing Academy reproduced this hitherto forgotten work **Mose** of **Adolph Bernhard Marx**, a Berlin composer of Jewish descent, for the first time. To mark the Wagner Year 2013, the Sing Academy has chosen to once again perform Marx' main work in a historically fitting context. Richard Wagner was well acquainted with the oratorio partition; he studied this in depth, adopting not just musical citations, but also the entire form of the composition in his operas. It is certainly ironic that a decidedly Jewish oratorio was to serve as a new form of German, music drama, which was later misused by the National Socialists – a constellation which people prefer to remain silent about today.

Worldmusic star **Giora Feidman** and the unmistakable actor **Ben Becker** will, for the first time ever, be on stage together to perform "**Zusammen – Hommage an Paul Celan**" (**Together - A homage to Paul Celan**). Becker reads from Celan's poetry book **Mohn und Gedächtnis** ("Poppy and Memory"); Feidman and his strong ensemble enter into a musical dialogue with the spoken word. Read by Becker and beautifully translated into music by Feidman, it soon becomes clear what makes Celan's poems so special: not just the melancholy you might expect based on his life, but humanity in an intensity that inspires the listener.

How inspiring an encounter of two worlds can be becomes particularly apparent when **Avi Avital** and **Omer Avital** come together in a musical rendezvous. The former is considered to be one of the leading mandolin virtuosos of our time and the latter is one of the most popular bassists and oud players of his generation. The programme is a kaleidoscope of their musical roots and careers: classical music, music from the Middle East and Near East, African rhythms and jazz. Original compositions as well as arrangements of traditional works – a blend of written and improvised music. Also performing: **Itamar Doari** (percussion) and pianist **Omer Klein**.



Simple and magical – simply magical! This is how thousands of delighted visitors describe a concert evening with **Shlomo Artzi**. In Israel he sells out the large arenas, and visitors of all ages sing his lyrics out loud – Shlomo Artzi is THE Israeli superstar. He never intended to sing in Germany. So we are delighted that he is making an exception for the Jewish Culture Days and playing his first-ever public concert in Berlin. We could not have imagined a better way to round off this year's festival!

### Livecooking

Until now, the Jewish Culture Days were mainly dedicated to providing a feast for the eyes, ears and spirit – but this year there's more for the other senses too: In the open kitchen of Brasserie Desbrosses at The Ritz-Carlton, Berlin, master chefs **Martin Lisson** and **Israel Aharoni** will be preparing Jewish ethnic food. Hardly any other cuisine is so heavily shaped by so many different influences from all over the world as Jewish cuisine. Aharoni and Lisson will be speaking and cooking with and for each other. They will tell of their special discoveries and let visitors in on the secrets of a cuisine that is largely unknown in Germany. An event that will not only smell delicious – visitors will of course also be able to taste the food.

### Theatre and the spoken word

**Arye Sharuz Shalicar**, the son of Iranian Jews, was born in 1977 in Germany and had a secular upbringing. For a long time, he doesn't even know he is a Jew. The problems start when his parents settle down in the Berlin district of Wedding. His parents only tell him about his origins when he is 13, and his Muslim friends do not take well to this. Shalicar experiences the hate and anti-Semitism of the Muslim immigrants. Yet thanks to a Kurdish friend, he does end up 'getting somewhere' in a Turkish gang. How he manages to get out of this situation and study, to emigrate to Israel and become the spokesperson of the Israeli Army – all this is explained in Shalicar's autobiography "**Ein nasser Hund ist besser als ein trockener Jude**" (**A wet dog is better than a dry Jew**), excerpts of which are being read by **Dominique Horwitz**.

The Hamburg-based journalist Emanuel Goldfarb, the only son of Shoah survivors, is invited by a teacher to join a class and to answer pupils' questions about Judaism. Goldfarb wants to decline, but his letter of refusal turns into a monologue, in which he is made to confront his identity and his life as a Jew and German in Germany – and in which he is compelled to address the question of whether there is such a thing as a "just an ordinary Jew" in Germany. The exciting theatrical monologue "**Ein ganz gewöhnlicher Jude**" (**Just an ordinary Jew**) by Charles Lewinsky, in a production by the N.N. Theatre from Hamburg.

There is an incredible power contained in stories. They not only create an understanding of other cultures, but also connect those listening to one another. **Peninnah Schram** is a master of this discipline: When she tells a story, it is said that "even the leaves on the trees stop rustling to listen to her". With her elegant yet moving storytelling style, she tells Jewish stories that are full of wisdom and humour. She can be heard on two evenings during the Jewish Culture Days, together with **Gerard Edery** and artist **Maha Alusi** from Iraq.

**Judaism means learning.** This year, the Jewish Culture Days will once again be dedicated to an aspect that is an intricate part of Jewish culture: learning and teaching. By conveying the basics and also specialist knowledge, it is easier to understand Jewish culture, traditions and their effects. On two evenings during the festival, visitors will be able to listen to and discuss with the founder and director of the Institute of Psychology and Judaism in Tel Aviv, **Dr. Yair Caspi** – an event organised in cooperation with the Heinrich Böll Foundation and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.



### The exhibition

#### **Bleiben?! Juden im befreiten Berlin (Staying! Jews in Berlin after the liberation)**

In May 1945, some 8000 survivors of the National Socialist persecution were liberated in Berlin. They created soup kitchens out of the former community buildings, endeavoured to help each other and organised religious services. Later, several thousand displaced Jews arrived for a short time in Berlin, and several hundred of which were to remain. Who would have thought that even one of these liberated Jews would have stayed in the city from where the mass murder of millions was ordered. Spanning 15 sections, the exhibition uses photos, documents and objects to recount the situation of the survivors and their attempts to start life over again. People are introduced whose lives reveal how their personal experiences and possibilities influenced their decision to stay in or leave Berlin.

### Children's programme

Why does the Jewish New Year already begin in autumn? Why are you supposed to eat sweet things on Rosh ha-Schana and what is the shofar about? This year, the Jewish Culture Days are offering a **programme run by children for children** for the first time. We are inviting Jewish and non-Jewish children, aged 5-13 years, to find out more about Jewish history in Berlin, as well as Jewish festivals and traditions. On two afternoons, before the Shabbat, children will explain how they see "their synagogue".

### Street Festival

Following the immense popularity in recent years, we are bringing **Shuk Ha' Carmel**, in all its diversity, back to Berlin: A mesmerising aroma of exotic spices and fresh bread, a sea of colours as far as the eye can see, and rousing music – Shuk Ha' Carmel is the largest market in Tel Aviv. This is where fruit and vegetables are traded, along with clothes, art and Judaica. This is also where people eat and drink, meet friends and exchange news. We're putting on a fantastic party and inviting everyone to join us!

### Open doors

On the **Long Night of Synagogues**, Berliners and their guests are warmly invited to become acquainted with religious life in the synagogues, to take part in a Hawdala ceremony at the end of Shabbat, and to enjoy a diverse programme. Guided tours, concerts and discussions with community members provide interesting opportunities to gain an insight into the everyday lives of practising Jews in Berlin. This year, this popular event will take place for the first time as part of the **Long Night of Religions**.

Berlin's synagogues are also extending an open invitation to everyone who wishes to take part in a **Shabbat service** on 23 August.

The entire programme, along with press releases and photos, can be downloaded at:  
[www.juedische-kulturtage.org](http://www.juedische-kulturtage.org)

Visit us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Juedische.Kulturtage>



### Programme Overview of the Jewish Culture Days

#### Thursday | 15.8.2013

Ryke Street Synagogue

8 p.m. | Opening Concert | *OST und WEST – Jüdische Musikwelten (EAST and WEST – Jewish Worlds of Music)*

#### Friday | 16.8.2013

Centrum Judaicum

3 p.m. | Guided tour by children for children | *Schau in meine Welt! (Take a look at my World!)*

#### Saturday | 17.8.2013

Various Synagogues

From 7 p.m. | *Long Night of the Synagogues* in combination with the *Long Night of Religions*

Jewish Museum Berlin

9 p.m. | Storytelling | *Peninnah Schram & Maha Alusi*

Centrum Judaicum

9.30 p.m. | Vernissage | *Bleiben?! Juden im befreuten Berlin (Staying?! Jews in Berlin after liberation)*

#### Sunday | 18.8.2013

In front of the parish hall, Fasanenstraße

12 a.m.-7 p.m. | Festival | *Shuk Ha' Carmel in Berlin*

Ryke Street Synagogue

8 p.m. | Storytelling | *Peninnah Schram & Gerard Edery*

#### Monday | 19.8.2013

Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation

6 p.m. | Lecture & Talk | *Judentum bedeutet Lernen 1 (Judaism means learning 1) | Von dem Menschen, der versuchte, G'tt zu sein und als Tier lebte (From the person who tried to be G'd and lived like an animal), with Dr. Yair Caspi*

#### Tuesday | 20.8.2013

Werkstatt der Kulturen

6 p.m. | Lecture & Talk | *Judentum bedeutet Lernen 2 (Judaism means learning 2) | Das Fundament jüdischer Psychologie – Leiden = Prüfung oder Strafe? The foundation of Jewish psychology – suffering = test or punishment?*

Renaissance Theatre Berlin

8 p.m. | Reading | *Dominique Horwitz reading of "Ein nasser Hund ist besser als ein trockener Jude" ("A wet dog is better than a dry Jew") by Arye Sharuz Shalicar*

#### Wednesday | 21.8.2013

Centrum Judaicum

8 p.m. | Theatre | *Ein ganz gewöhnlicher Jude (Just an ordinary Jew)*

Ryke Street Synagogue

8 p.m. | Concert | *Moses with the Berlin Sing Academy*

#### Thursday | 22.8.2013

Ryke Street Synagogue

8 p.m. | Concert & Reading | *Giora Feidman & Ben Becker: In two voices – A homage to Paul Celan*

#### Friday | 23.8.2013

From 7 p.m. | *Public Shabbat Services at the Berlin Synagogues*

#### Saturday | 24.8.2013

Ryke Street Synagogue

9 p.m. | Concert | *Avital meets Avital*

#### Sunday | 25.8.2013

Brasserie Desbrosses | The Ritz-Carlton, Berlin

5 p.m. | Live cooking | *Jewish Ethnic Food with Israel Aharoni (Israel) & Martin Lisson (Germany)*

Ryke Street Synagogue

8 p.m. | Closing concert | *Shlomo Artzi (Israel) & Band*

## Tickets and Information

**Central Ticket Hotline +49 (0)30-841 089 09**

### Booking office

Tickets are available at the usual booking offices as well as at the  
Literaturhandlung Berlin  
Joachimstalerstraße 13 | 10719 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 - 882 42 50

[www.juedische-kulturtage.org](http://www.juedische-kulturtage.org)

[www.facebook.com/Juedische.Kulturtage](https://www.facebook.com/Juedische.Kulturtage)

Box office opens one hour before showtime.

Reduced ticket prices upon presentation of appropriate identification for  
students, seniors, the unemployed, disabled guests, and welfare recipients.

Tickets purchased cannot be returned. There will be no replacement for missed events.

### Admission

We request your early arrival and your understanding that special security controls will be in place, which  
can take some time.

Admittance after the start of the event is only possible if the event is not disturbed.

### Organiser

Jewish Community of Berlin

Jewish Culture Days

Oranienburger Straße 28-30 | 10117 Berlin

phone +49(0)30 - 88 02 82 54 | fax +49(0)30 - 88 02 82 59

organisation@jg-berlin.org | [www.juedische-kulturtage.org](http://www.juedische-kulturtage.org)

Dr. Gideon Joffe – Chair, Jewish Community of Berlin

Martin Kranz – Director, Jewish Culture Days

Dr. Hermann Simon – Artistic Director, Jewish Culture Days

Alexandra Shula Babes – Head of Culture Affairs, Jewish Community of Berlin

Festival Direction: kulturdienst: GmbH | [www.kulturdienst.com](http://www.kulturdienst.com)

**For their generous support, we thank the State of Berlin, all promoters, sponsors, and media  
partners:**

**rbb Fernsehen, rbb kulturradio, tip Berlin, Berliner\_Morgenpost, Landau Media, AVIVA-Berlin,  
Embassy of the State of Israel, Derag Hotel Living, Mercedes Benz**

# JÜDISCHE KULTURTAGE

ימי תרבות יהודית



Opening concert

## **East and West**

**Jewish Music Worlds – Meeting place Berlin**

15. August 2013

8 p.m.

Synagoge Rykestraße

Tehila Nini Goldstein (Israel) – Vocals  
Simone Drescher (Germany) – Violoncello  
Jascha Nemtsov (Russia / Germany) – Artistic direction, piano  
Alan Bern (USA / Germany) – Artistic direction, piano, accordion  
Michael Winograd (USA) – Clarinet  
Patrick Farrell (USA) – Accordion, piano  
Benjy Fox-Rosen (USA) – Double bass, vocals  
Mark Kovnatskiy (Russia / Germany) – Violin  
Svetlana Kundish (Israel) – Vocals, guitar  
Sasha Lurje (Latvia) – Vocals

Since the beginning of the 20th century, Berlin has been an important centre of all styles of Jewish music. The first pan-European concerts of Yiddish folklore music were organised by the Berlin-based Yiddish Culture magazine "Ost und West" (East and West). This magazine tried to unite the different movements in Jewish culture – in a city that even then was a magnet for many Jews from eastern Europe. For many of them, Berlin was just a transit point, but others chose to stay in the city.

The "Golden Twenties" were the heyday of Hebrew and Yiddish culture in Berlin. Sophisticated pieces of new Jewish music and Jewish folk songs could be heard in the city's concert halls and on the radio; many records with Jewish music were produced.

The opening concert of this year's Jewish Culture Days connects with this tradition. Today, Berlin's Jewish music scene is once again diverse and vibrant. The concert is an encounter between musicians of different backgrounds and with different interests, purposefully conceived as a musical experiment with an open ending: world-famous classical musicians such as German cellist Simone Drescher and Israeli soprano Tehila Nini Goldstein meet with the world-famous Klezmer Trio, including clarinetist Michael Winograd, and the young Ukrainian Yiddish singer Sveta Kundish.

The founder of the "Yiddish Summer Weimar" and the protagonist of the Klezmer Revival, Alan Bern ("Brave Old World", "The Other Europeans") as well as the internationally renowned pianist and professor for Jewish music at the Franz Liszt Weimar University of Music, Jascha Nemtsov, are responsible for the creative direction of the programme .

Admission fees:

PC I €25 | concs. €20

PC II €20 | concs. €15

Venue:

Synagoge Rykestraße

Rykestraße 53

10405 Berlin-Prenzlauer Berg

# JÜDISCHE KULTURTAGE

ימי תרבות יהודית



Childrens' workshop

## **Schau in meine Welt! (Take a look at my world!)**

16. & 23. August 2013

3-5 p.m.

Centrum Judaicum

Why does the Jewish New Year already begin in autumn? Why are you supposed to eat sweet things on Rosh ha-Schana and what is the shofar about?

This year, the Jewish Culture Days are offering a programme run by children for children for the first time. We are inviting Jewish and non-Jewish children aged 5-13 years to find out more about Jewish history in Berlin, as well as Jewish festivals and traditions.

Inaugurated on Rosh ha-Schana (the Jewish New Year) in September 1866, the New Synagogue Berlin was once Germany's largest synagogue with space for 3200 worshippers. Even today, it remains an important landmark of the city with its golden cupola that is clearly visible from afar, and is at least as famous as the Berlin bear. This afternoons before the Shabbat, children will explain how they see "their synagogue".

You will not only become experts in our workshop, but also create beautiful New Year's cards to be sent and given as presents, and at the end we will invite you to enjoy a delicious "Oneg" with apples and honey.

Admission: free

Registration required by phone: +49 (0)30-88028-316

Venue:

Centrum Judaicum

Oranienburger Straße 28-30

10117 Berlin-Mitte



Storytelling

**Peninnah Schram**

"Since storytelling is a dialogue, the stories shared serve to gain a better understanding of one another; help people to become more of a community; serve as a thread to connect hearts to one another. (And I believe that the universe consists of such connections.)"

Peninnah Schram

There is an incredible power contained in stories told. They not only create an understanding of other cultures, but also connect those listening to one another. Peninnah Schram is a master of this discipline: When she tells a story, it is said that "even the leaves on the trees stop rustling to listen to her". With her elegant yet moving storytelling style, she tells Jewish stories that are full of wisdom and humour. Schram is Professor for Speech and Drama at the Stern College in New York and travels around the whole world to tell stories and teach storytellers. She can be heard on two evenings during the Jewish Culture Days.

**Peninnah Schram & Maha Alusi**

**Back-to-back and face-to-face:**

**A night of Jewish and Arabic storytelling and music**

17. August 2013

9 p.m.

Jüdisches Museum Berlin

Are there any two peoples that share such a rich and complex, overlapping history as the Jews and the Arabs? On this evening, Iraqi Maha Alusi, who lives in Berlin, and the two New Yorkers Peninnah Schram and Gerard Edery, will enjoy a seldom seen dialogue between Jewish and Arab stories and lives. In this event, the similarities and also the differences of these two big storytelling traditions will merge to create a very intimate and diverse evening.

Admission fee:

€15 | concs. €10

Venue:

Jüdisches Museum Berlin

Lindenstraße 9-14

10969 Berlin-Kreuzberg



**Peninnah Schram & Gerard Edery**  
**Jewish Stories – One Generation Tells Another**

18. August 2013  
8 p.m.  
Synagoge Rykestraße

Of clever innkeepers' daughters, wooden swords and magical pomegranates – this evening Peninnah Schram will lead her listeners through a wonderful world of Jewish folk tales. The spoken word is complemented and enhanced in a dialogue with Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jewish music. Thus, stories full of wit and wisdom are interwoven with the graceful sounds of the guitarist and singer Gerard Edery.

Admission fees:  
PC I €20 | concs. €15  
PC II €15 | concs. €10

Venue:  
Synagoge Rykestraße  
Rykestraße 53  
10405 Berlin-Prenzlauer Berg

**Both evenings in English!**

## **Long Night of the Synagogues**

17. August 2013  
from 7 p.m.

This year, the popular Long Night of the Synagogues will take place for the first time within the scope of the Long Night of Religions. Berlin's synagogues are once again opening their doors – and Berliners and their guests are warmly invited to become acquainted with religious life in the synagogues, to take part in a Hawdala ceremony at the end of Shabbat and to enjoy a diverse programme. The Berliner Einheitsgemeinde (Berlin Unity Community) is offering various rites in their synagogues. Allow yourself to go from venue to venue and discover how diverse the synagogues of this city are – from Ashkenazi-orthodox, Sephardic-orthodox, liberal-egalitarian to conservative.

Music and speeches, discussions, guided tours and plenty of food – each synagogue will find its own personal way of presenting itself and its history. There is an opportunity for questions and answers, for exchanges and discoveries. And so this is a rare chance to gain an insight into the everyday lives of practising Jews in Berlin.

The full programme can soon be found at [www.juedische-kulturtage.org](http://www.juedische-kulturtage.org) & [www.lndr.de](http://www.lndr.de)

Admission: free

Exhibition opening

### **bleiben?! Juden im befreiten Berlin (Staying ?! Jews in Berlin after the liberation)**

17. August 2013  
9.30 p.m.  
Centrum Judaicum

In May 1945, some 8000 survivors of the National Socialist persecution were liberated in Berlin. The most important thing for them was to find food and shelter. The survivors set up soup kitchens in former community buildings and endeavoured to help each other. Just a few days after the liberation many people came together at various places to hold religious services. As a result of these initiatives, the Jewish Community of Berlin came into being at the end of September 1945, with its headquarters in Oranienburger Straße 28. Later, several thousand displaced Jews arrived for a short time in Berlin, and several hundred of which were to remain.

Who would have thought that even one of these liberated Jews would have stayed in the city from where the mass murder of millions was ordered. Every single Jewish survivor had lost relatives and friends, many were the only surviving members of their families.

Spanning 15 sections, the exhibition uses photos, documents and objects to recount the situation of the survivors and their attempts to start life over again. People are introduced whose lives reveal how their personal experiences and possibilities influenced their decision to stay in or leave Berlin.

As part of the Berlin theme year “Zerstörte Vielfalt” (Destroyed Diversity).

Exhibition opening:  
Admission: free

Exhibition:  
From 18 August to 27 October 2013  
Admission fee: €3 | concs. €2.50  
Open: Sun-Mon 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Tue-Thu 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fri 10 a.m.-5 p.m.,  
Closed Saturdays and at High Jewish Holy Days

Venue:  
Centrum Judaicum  
Oranienburger Straße 28-30  
10117 Berlin-Mitte

# JÜDISCHE KULTURTAGE

ימי תרבות יהודית



Street festival

## **Shuk Ha' Carmel**

18. August 2013

12 - 7 p.m.

Fasanenstraße

A mesmerising aroma of exotic spices, meet and fresh bread, a sea of colours and rousing music – the Shuk Ha' Carmel is the largest market in Tel Aviv.

Fruit and vegetables are on sale at countless stands, along with Israeli specialities, clothing, art and Judaica (Jewish ceremonial art). However, the market is not only a trading place; it is also a place where people dance, eat and drink, where friends meet and news is exchanged.

Following the immense popularity in recent years, we are bringing the Shuk Ha' Carmel, in all its diversity, back to Berlin. The historic parish house in Fasanen Street is opening its doors and offering exciting tours to inquisitive visitors. Enjoy bagels and pita to the sound of klezmer tunes, as well as a broad music and dance programme by various groups of artists from the Jewish community. A traditional community day is thus quickly turned into a huge street festival –enabling all visitors to spend an afternoon getting a feel for the pulsating heart of Tel Aviv.

In cooperation with bellaZ. events

Admission fee: €1

Children up to 12 years| free admission

Lectures

**Judentum bedeutet Lernen (Judaism means learning)**

Who is wise? He who learns from all people." (Ps. 119:99)

19. & 20. August 2013

For the third time, the Jewish Culture Days will be dedicated to an aspect that is an intricate part of Jewish culture: learning and teaching. By conveying the basics but also specialist knowledge, it is easier to understand Jewish culture, traditions and their effects. This year, Dr. Yair Caspi will be holding a speech and discussions with visitors of the Jewish Culture Days on two evenings.

Dr. Caspi is the founder and director of the Institute of Psychology and Judaism in Tel Aviv (founded at the Tel Aviv University fifteen years ago). His best-selling book "Inquiring of God" has become a personal guidebook for many Israelis. Before this, Dr. Caspi served as the director of the Programme for the Treatment of Addiction and Eating Disorders at the Authority for Drug Prevention and at Hadassah Hospital, as well as working at several mental health institutions. He is married, the father of three children and lives near Jerusalem.

19. August 2013

6 p.m.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

**From the person who tried to be G'd and lived like an animal: A short story about humankind**

According to the Bible, the history of mankind begins with an invitation to humanity to participate in the work of G'd. After having little success in accomplishing this task, people started to believe that they could replace G'd. When people fail to be "g'dly", they tend to give themselves up altogether and live like animals. And yet in this process lies the actual task – specific to Jewish understanding – of being human.

The events will be simultaneously interpreted from English into German. After the lectures, guests will have the opportunity to ask questions.

In cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation

Admission: free

Venue:

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Tiergartenstraße 35

10785 Berlin-Tiergarten

### **The foundation of Jewish psychology – Suffering = test or punishment?**

20. August 2013

6 p.m.

Werkstatt der Kulturen

Do I suffer due to a sin that I committed? Or is my suffering rather a test imposed on me? If I have caused my own suffering, I have to find the cause for my misery – for only that way can I leave it behind. If, however, my suffering is a test, then I have to face the challenge. Distinguishing these two is crucial for ones own development.

The events will be simultaneously interpreted from English into German. After the lectures, guests will have the opportunity to ask questions.

In cooperation with the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation

Admission: free

Venue:

Werkstatt der Kulturen

Wissmannstraße 32

12049 Berlin-Neukölln



Reading

**Arye Sharuz Shalicar**

### **A wet dog is better than a dry Jew**

**Dominique Horwitz reads from the autobiography of a German-Iranian, who became an Israeli**

20. August 2013

8 p.m.

Renaissance-Theater Berlin

Arye Sharuz Shalicar, the son of Iranian Jews who fled from the anti-Semitism in Persia, was born in 1977 in Germany. He has a secular upbringing. For a long time, he doesn't even know he is a Jew. This doesn't change, even after regular visits to relatives in Israel. Only when his parents settle down in the Berlin district of Wedding do the problems start. A key ring with a Star of David given to him by his grandmother gives him away as a Jew. The 13-year-old boy hears from his parents about his family's background, and his Muslim friends in Wedding do not take well to this: "I would recognise a Jew immediately, in the first instance. There aren't any good Jews anyway, and you are my friend. There is no way you are a Jew!", exclaims Mahavir. It is then that Shalicar experiences the hate and anti-Semitism of the Muslim immigrants. Yet thanks to a Kurdish friend, he does end up 'getting somewhere' in a Turkish gang. "At the height of my gangster existence, I sold marijuana, went out almost every night to spray graffiti, got into fights with other gangs every weekend, and planned raids and burglaries", the author explains in an interview given following the publication of his autobiography in 2010.

Only with great effort does he manage to leave this world behind him. He completes his Abitur (equivalent to British A-levels). But it is only when serving as a paramedic at the German Armed Forces that he becomes conscious of being a German. "I hardly knew any Germans." At the Free University (FU) of Berlin he starts to study Judaism and to come to terms with his Jewish roots. His parents tell him of the persecution Jews were exposed to in Iran, where a "a wet dog" is more highly valued than a "dry Jew". After staying at a kibbutz, he only eats kosher – and there he also finds a new home. On returning to Berlin, "I didn't feel like I was coming home." The feeling of not belonging grows. Finally, Arye emigrates to Israel in 2001 to start a new life: a life of belonging, a life without sideways looks, life as a Jew.

In 2006, he completes his Bachelor degree in International Relations, Middle East history and politics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem., followed by a Master's degree in European Studies in 2009. From 2006 until 2009, he works as a correspondent for The Jewish Agency for Israel and from 2007 until 2009 for the German public broadcasting station ARD's Middle East Studio in Tel Aviv. He becomes the voluntary chair of the organisation for young German-speaking immigrants in Israel (NOAM) and press spokesperson of the Israeli Army (IDF) in October 2009.

"From a petty criminal to a respected academic, from an alleged Muslim to a real Jew, from a Berlin boy to the spokesperson of the Israeli army, from one without a homeland to one with deep roots: Arye Sharuz Shalicar's story is an example of tolerance and reconciliation."

*Andrea Seeger, Evangelische Sonntagszeitung, 29 July 2012*

In cooperation with the Renaissance-Theatre Berlin



# JÜDISCHE KULTURTAGE

ימי תרבות יהודית



קהילת ברלין

JÜDISCHE GEMEINDE ZU BERLIN

Admission fee:

€16 | concs. €12

Tickets can only be purchased at the Renaissance Theatre Berlin.

Ticket line: +49 (0)30-312 42 02

*Please visit the website to obtain information about special ticket office opening hours during summer play break (15 July until 12 August 2013) at [www.renaissance-theater.de](http://www.renaissance-theater.de)*

Venue:

Renaissance-Theater Berlin

Knesebeckstraße 100

10623 Berlin-Charlottenburg

Theatre

### **Ein ganz gewöhnlicher Jude (Just an ordinary Jew)**

**Monologue on a reckoning**

by Charles Lewinsky

in a version of „Theater N.N.“

21. August 2013

8 p.m.

Centrum Judaicum

With: Jan Katzenberger as Emanuel Goldfarb

Director: Dieter Seidel

The Hamburg-based journalist Emanuel Goldfarb, the only son of Shoah survivors, is invited by a teacher to join a class and to answer pupils' questions about Judaism. Goldfarb wants to decline, but his letter of refusal turns into a monologue, in which he is made to confront his identity and his life as a Jew and German in Germany – and in which he is compelled to address the question of whether there is such a thing as a "just an ordinary Jew" in Germany?

"You would like to teach your pupils tolerance, and that is honourable and admirable. But I would like to live in a Germany in which you can be a Jew without people around you seeing it as necessary to automatically have to show tolerance. And here I see the meaning of tolerance to stem from the Latin: tolerare – meaning to endure, put up with."

Charles Lewinsky was born in Zurich in 1946. He studied German Studies and Theatre in Zurich and Berlin, and then worked as an assistant director for Fritz Kortner, and subsequently as a dramaturg and director at various theatres, as well as being director and head of division of the programme "Wort-Unterhaltung" for the Swiss television. Since 1980, he has been working as a freelance author and writing audioplays, novels and theatre pieces. Lewinsky is currently living in Switzerland.

With the kind support of the Ilse and Dr. Horst Rusch Foundation.

Admission fee:

€20 | concs. €15

Venue:

Centrum Judaicum

Oranienburger Straße 28-30

10117 Berlin-Mitte

Concert

**Mose**

**Oratorio by Adolph Bernhard Marx**

21. August 2013

8 p.m.

Synagoge Rykestraße

Sing Academy of Berlin  
State and Cathedral Choir Berlin  
Chamber Symphony Berlin

Julia Giebel, Sophie Klußmann - Soprano  
Vanessa Barkowski - Alto  
Jörg Dürmüller, Volker Nietzke - Tenor  
Johannes Weisser, Sebastian Noack, Ludwig Obst – Baritone

The immense power of Adolf Bernhard Marx's "Mose" Oratorio triggers shock and fascination in the listener. "We experienced an oratorical hurricane that made our hearts and ears quiver." - This was how it was described by an enthusiastic FAZ newspaper critic after the Sing Academy reproduced this hitherto forgotten work of Marx, a Berlin composer of Jewish descent, for the first time in 2009.

Marx lived from 1795 until 1866 and, even today, is still considered to be an important musical theorist. His books on Beethoven, Gluck and Handel significantly influenced the canon of classical music. Together with Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, he was largely responsible for the revival of Bach's works. As a composer, however, much still remains to be discovered about Marx.

The performance of "Mose" at Ryke Street Synagogue is a revival of German-Jewish history, the rediscovery of one of the most important choir pieces of the 19th century and an event being held at a historical site that is only rarely the setting of any events.

In collaboration with the Berlin Sing Academy

Admission fees:

PC I €25 | concs. €20

PC II €20 | concs. €15

Venue:

Synagoge Rykestraße  
Rykestraße 53  
10405 Berlin-Prenzlauer Berg



Concert & Reading

### **Giora Feidman & Ben Becker: Zweistimmig (In two voices)**

**Eine Hommage an Paul Celan**

Berlin premiere

22. August 2013

8 p.m.

Synagoge Rykestraße

Worldmusic star Giora Feidman and the unmistakeable actor and singer Ben Becker – for the first time ever will they be on stage with a joint programme. Becker reads Paul Celan, Feidman and his strong ensemble enter into a musical dialogue with the spoken word. Both artists have known each other for years and value each other's talent. Although they could be father and son in terms of their age difference, they have long shared the idea of performing together – and there could hardly be a better occasion to do this than at this evening's Berlin premiere of the Jewish Culture Days.

Born in Argentina in 1936, Giora Feidman is undoubtedly one of the best-known and most popular artists outside of pop. Nobody plays the clarinet as devotedly as he does. After many years of being a member of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, he discovered Klezmer, the music of the eastern European Jews. The "Jewish Soul" he has shaped and made famous world-wide, is a synthesis of brilliant instrument control and intensive emotionality. This combination makes each one of his performances an unforgettable experience.

Born in Bremen in 1964, Ben Becker was already involved in audio plays as a child and also landed his first small film roles then. After taking acting classes, he received his first theatre roles in 1987 in Hamburg, followed by stints at the Stuttgart State Theatre and the Düsseldorf Theatre. He made his breakthrough as an actor with the lead roles in Joseph Vilsmaier's *Schlafes Bruder* and in *Comedian Harmonists* (1997). In 2006, Becker received widespread recognition for the film version of the monologue piece "Just an ordinary Jew". He also made a name for himself as an impressive speaker on his reading tour in 2008, when he quoted Bible texts from the Old and New Testament.

Paul Celan was born as the son of a German-speaking Jew in Chernivtsi / Bucovina in 1920. He briefly studied medicine in France, and then Romance Languages in Romania. In 1942, his parents were deported before being killed in the same year. Celan was made to do forced labour in several Romanian labour camps before he managed to flee to Bucharest. There, he worked as a proofreader and translator, and published his first poems. In Germany, he became famous after the publication of his poetry book "Mohn und Gedächtnis" ("Poppy and Memory") in 1952, from which Ben Becker will be reading. In 1948, Paul Celan moved to Paris. He lived there until he committed suicide on 20 April 1970. „Mohn und Gedächtnis“ is considered to be one of the most important anthologies of German post-war poetry. His world-famous poem "Todesfuge" ("Death Fugue") is seen as a pivotal poem of the 20th century.

Read by Becker and beautifully translated into music by Feidman, it soon becomes clear what makes Celan's poems so special: not just the melancholy you might expect based on his life, but humanity in an intensity that inspires the listener.

Besetzung:

Ben Becker – Speaker

Giora Feidman – Clarinet

Reentko Dirks – Guitar & Percussion

Guido Jäger – Double bass

Admission fees:

PC I €50 | concs. €45

PC II €30 | concs. €25

PC III €20 | concs. €15

Venue:

Synagoge Rykestraße

Rykestraße 53

10405 Berlin-Prenzlauer Berg

## Shabbat services

23. August 2013  
from 7 p.m.

Again this year, all Berliners are welcome to join the Shabbat services at Berlin's synagogues.  
Admission is free. No reservation required.

6 p.m. | Herbart Street Synagogue  
Herbartstraße 26 | 14057 Berlin (liberal)

7 p.m. | Fraenkelufer Synagogue  
Fraenkelufer 10-12 | 10999 Berlin (conservative)

7 p.m. | Ryke Street Synagogue  
Rykestraße 53 | 10405 Berlin (liberal-conservative)

7.30 p.m. | Joachimstaler Street Synagogue  
Joachimstalerstraße 13 | 10719 Berlin (ashkenazic-orthodox)

7.30 p.m. | Sukkat Schalom Synagogue  
Hüttenweg 46 | 14195 Berlin (reformist-egalitarian)

7.30 p.m. | Tiferet Israel Synagogue  
Passauerstraße 4, 3. floor | 10789 Berlin (sephardic-orthodox)

For further information, please contact the service point of the Jewish Community of Berlin at:  
Phone: +49 (0)30- 880 28 - 0 | Fax: +49 (0)30-880 28 - 2679 | [service@jg-berlin.org](mailto:service@jg-berlin.org)  
Office hours: Mon-Thu 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

# JÜDISCHE KULTURTAGE

ימי תרבות יהודית



Concert

## **Avital meets Avital**

24. August 2013

9 p.m.

Synagoge Rykestraße

Avi Avital (Israel/Germany) – Mandolin

Omer Avital (Israel/USA) – Bass und Oud

Omer Klein (Israel/Germany) – Piano

Itamar Doari (Israel) – Oriental percussion

How inspiring an encounter of two worlds can be becomes particularly apparent when Avi Avital and Omer Avital come together in a musical rendezvous. The former is considered to be one of the leading mandolin virtuosos of our time and the latter is one of the most popular bassists and oud players of his generation.

Although they are not related, an invisible bond has connected both musicians since childhood. Both were born in Moroccan families who immigrated to Israel in the 1960s. The musical universe of both artists has the same roots – North African music, Sephardic religious music, modern Israeli music and jazz, combined with a classical music education. They only met after studying at the same music academy in Jerusalem for ten years; one had focused on classical music, the other on jazz. After completing his studies, Avi Avital left Israel to go to Italy, while Omer Avital moved to New York.

The programme is a kaleidoscope of their musical roots and careers: classical music, music from the Middle East and Near East, African rhythms and jazz. Original compositions as well as arrangements of traditional works – a blend of written and improvised music.

Admission fees:

PC I €25 | concs. €20

PC II €20 | concs. €15

Venue:

Synagoge Rykestraße

Rykestraße 53

10405 Berlin-Prenzlauer Berg



Livetraining

### **Jewish Ethnic Food**

25. August 2013

5 p.m.

Brasserie Desbrosses | The Ritz-Carlton, Berlin

Israel Aharoni (Israel)

Martin Lisson (Germany)

Until now, the Jewish Culture Days were mainly dedicated to providing a feast for the eyes, ears and spirit – but this year there's more for the other senses too: In the open kitchen of Brasserie Desbrosses at Potsdamer Platz, master chefs Martin Lisson and Israel Aharoni will be preparing Jewish ethnic food. Hardly any other cuisine combines as many different influences from all over the world as Jewish cuisine. Aharoni and Lisson will be speaking and cooking with and for each other. They will tell of their special discoveries and let visitors in on the secrets of a cuisine that is largely unknown in Germany. An event that will not only smell delicious – visitors will of course also be able to taste the food.

Israel Aharoni is not only Israel's most popular TV chef, he is also a head chef, author, columnist and DJ. Aged sixty, he travels the world wearing his trademark red glasses, in search of new inspiration for his creations and to learn from the world's great chefs. His unmistakable style of presenting his cooking and food is extremely popular in Israel. The TV format he developed, which showcases the food eaten by the different ethnic groups living in Israel in a series of 32 episodes, has gained cult status. This will be the first time Aharoni has appeared in Germany.

After previously working at the Four Seasons in Florence, then on the Bahamas, in Vancouver, Whistler and Washington, and cooking for the Dalai Lama, he returned from his position as head chef at Josef Laggner's Gendarmerie to Berlin – and has been working as head chef for the five-star-superior hotel The Ritz-Carlton, Berlin since 2011. In keeping with the interior design of Brasserie Desbrosses, Lisson and his team cook relatively light French cuisine, but they also offer regional specialties.

A culinary encounter of the special kind – bon appétit!

In collaboration with The Ritz-Carlton, Berlin

With the kind support of Omanim Booking & Events and bellaZ. events.

Admission fee:

€40 | concs. €35

### **In English**

Venue:

The Ritz-Carlton, Berlin

Brasserie Desbrosses

Potsdamer Platz 3

10785 Berlin-Tiergarten

# JÜDISCHE KULTURTAGE

ימי תרבות יהודית



Closing concert

## **Shlomo Artzi & Band**

25. August 2013

8 p.m.

Synagoge Rykestraße

*It was such an era  
that happiness came through anger,  
we laughed about everything,  
we burnt whatever went in our hands,  
there was nothing left  
but to embrace the trouble,  
to say "yesterday was good  
and (so) it will be tomorrow too."*

From: Yare'ach (Moon)

Simple and magical – simply magical! This is how thousands of delighted visitors describe a concert evening with Shlomo Artzi. In Israel he sells out the large arenas, and visitors of all ages sing his lyrics out loud – Shlomo Artzi is THE Israeli superstar.

From a stylistic point of view, there is hardly a musical direction Artzi has not taken in his almost 50-year career - folklore, prog rock, children's songs, bossa nova, disco and chansons. Since the 80s he has mainly been drawn to pop and rock, belting out ballads and energy-laden rock songs. In the last few decades, he hasn't produced a single album that didn't go platinum within a very short space of time.

Artzi was born in a kibbutz in 1949, and grew up in Tel Aviv. His father, Yitzhak, survived the Shoah in the Zionist underground in Romania. Artzi has been known to address "second generation" issues in his later songs, especially "In Germany Before the War" and "Like a Large Yard".

He never intended to sing in Germany. So we are delighted that he is making an exception for the Jewish Culture Days and playing his first-ever public concert in Berlin. We could not have imagined a better way to round off this year's festival!

With the kind support of CROWN PLAZA Berlin City Center.  
In cooperation with Omanim Booking & Events.

Admission fees:

PC I €60 | concs. €55

PC II €40 | concs. €35

PC III €20 | concs. €15

Venue:

Synagoge Rykestraße

Rykestraße 53

10405 Berlin-Prenzlauer Berg