Feature Series 2018-19 Season

presented by

WIESENTHAL
The True Story of Nazi-Hunter, Simon Wiesenthal

Saturday, October 20, 2018 – 8pm
Sunday, October 21, 2018 – 2pm

Written and Performed by
Tom Dugan

TIME: April, 2003

PLACE: The Jewish Documentation Center, Vienna, Austria

Produced by Orchard Street Productions; Jay Kholos, President

Please join us after the show for a thoughtful Q&A with writer/actor Tom Dugan and Alison Pure-Slovin, Midwest Director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Chicago, an international human rights NGO.

Special Thanks to
A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

Why Would an Irish Catholic Kid from New Jersey Write a Play About Simon?

When I was a kid, I wished my dad was a superhero racing out of the secret tunnel beneath our house every day to save the world. But alas, Frank Dugan was an ordinary man, a construction supervisor who drove into the Lincoln Tunnel every day to earn a living. My mother countered: “Your father may be an ordinary man, but he did extraordinary things!” I learned that my dad was awarded the Bronze Battle Star and Purple Heart for his service in World War II. As an Irish Catholic who grew up in the depths of the Depression, my dad didn’t talk about himself much. In time, however, I was able to pester him enough to share his war experiences. Of all of the stories, the one that impressed me the most was when his unit liberated the Langenstein concentration camp in Germany. Feeling the 35-year-old shrapnel under his skin, I said, “Boy, Dad, you must really hate Germans.” His answer surprised me. “Nope, there are all types of people, good and bad. I don’t judge them by what group they belong to. I judge them by how they behave.” It was that rejection of collective guilt that first drew me to Wiesenthal’s story.

Simon Wiesenthal brought 1,100 Nazi war criminals to justice. He also defended a few German and Austrian officers who refused to participate in “the final solution.” He fought for the rights of Jewish, Soviet, Polish, Gypsy, Jehovah’s Witness and homosexual Holocaust victims. However, for me, his greatest legacy is his teaching: he shared his message of tolerance with countless young visitors at his Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna. Simon Wiesenthal was truly an ordinary man who did extraordinary things.

ABOUT SIMON WIESENTHAL

Simon Wiesenthal (1908–2005) was an Austrian-Jewish Holocaust survivor and human rights activist who for over half a century tracked down and brought to justice more than 1,100 Nazi war criminals hiding around the world. The Simon Wiesenthal Center, located in Los Angeles, is named in his honor.

A NOTE FROM THE PRODUCER

My immediate thought when I was first granted certain North American touring rights to Wiesenthal, was to bring this New York production to Skokie. Skokie, where in 1977 one out of every six residents was a Holocaust survivor; some of whom are in our audience today. Skokie, where a neo-Nazi group had planned their despicable march complete with swastika arm bands. Skokie where the chant of “never again” reverberated throughout the village and the free world!...

So, on behalf of the star and writer of Wiesenthal, Tom Dugan, and the National Touring crew of Wiesenthal, we are deeply grateful to bring this award-winning production about “an ordinary man who did extraordinary things” to Skokie. Special thanks to Michael Pauken, general manager of the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie for his enthusiastic support, and to their superb marketing team of David Vish and Joseph Alaimo. As producer, I feel privileged to bring this compelling work to Skokie and the North Shore Center. As a Jew, I too am dedicated to “never again!”

Sincerely,
Jay Kholos
Tom Dugan (Playwright) Having been honored with nominations for the New York Drama Desk Award, New York Outer Critics Circle Award, Los Angeles Ovation Award, and winning the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for WIESENTHAL produced by Daryl Roth and directed by Jenny Sullivan, WIESENTHAL now enjoys productions throughout the world, and is currently being adapted into a film script for DreamWorks. Tom’s newest play JACKIE UNVEILED, which enjoyed and extended run last season at The Wallis Annenberg Theater in Beverly Hills, was hailed “a stunning accomplishment” by Entertainment weekly. Mr. Dugan is currently creating two new solo pieces; GHOSTS OF MARY LINCOLN, and A MAGNIFICENT ENTHUSIASM (The story of black abolitionist Frederick Douglass). For more information contact; Tom.dugan@outlook.com

Jenny Sullivan (Director) After directing the world premiere of WIESENTHAL with Tom Dugan, Jenny went on to direct three more critically acclaimed solo pieces TEA AT FIVE with Stephanie Zimbalist as Katherine Hepburn, THE MEMOIRS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN with Granville Van Dusen (Falcon Theatre) and SPIT LIKE A BIG GIRL with Clarinda Ross(Rubicon Theatre.) Ms. Sullivan’s extensive Theater credits include work at: The Wallis Annenberg Theatre, Geffen Playhouse, Royal Manitoba Theatre, The Acorn Off-Broadway, Long Wharf, Williamstown, Laguna Playhouse, Center Rep, Rubicon & Ensemble Theatre of SB. Jenny is most proud of the premiere of her play J for J starring opposite Jeff Kober and the late great John Ritter.

Jay Kholos (Producer) Jay has among his theatre credits, the writer of book, music and lyrics to the Off Broadway hit, A Stoop On Orchard Street, which, to date has been performed over 1000 times. His newest production, Jew Store (the musical), adapted from the best-selling book, “The Jew Store” will soon embark on a North American tour including an open ended New York engagement. In addition to producing Wiesenthal, Jay has also produced and directed Golda’s Balcony, Broadway’s longest running one woman show and the Off Broadway comedy, Old Jews Telling Jokes. In addition to his theatrical achievements as writer, producer and director, he has written and produced over 25 made-for-television musical packages including musical tributes to Nat King Cole, Loretta Lynn, Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons and numerous more. He also wrote and produced the award winning productions of History In The Company of Children, starring John Ritter, and History In The Company of Women. Jay received both the Ford Foundation and Vanguard Awards for these two series. He is a member of ASCAP and The New York Dramatist Guild.
A reflection by Sia Hertsberg

HOW I SURVIVED RUMBULA

On July 1, 1941 the Nazis entered Riga. In September, we were forced to move into a ghetto….so my father; Ruvin, my mother, Katja, my little sister, Margo, who was seven; and I carried our beds, a table, four chairs and our clothes to the neighborhood. I was fourteen years old.

“You will see, you will have a happy and fulfilling life, but everyday you will remember the painful memories of the Holocaust. You will keep it to yourself until one day your grandson changes everything-he encourages you to share your story with the world, and with him. And he, like you, will never forget. You must always do your best, no matter what.”

A reflection by Holocaust survivor Joe Koenig

IF YOU HAD TO ACT LIKE AN ANIMAL IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, YOU DID IT.

“You had to fight to survive the Holocaust. Nobody survived by chance. You had to survive by any means. You had to use your brain. You had to use every bit of knowledge you had. You had to work at it with every ounce of energy you possessed. Now when I look back, I wonder how all of this happened, and wonder how I survived. It took guts, perseverance, and a certain kind of genius to survive the Holocaust.

A reflection by Holocaust survivor Jannine Oberrotman

I CAN STILL HEAR THE SOUND OF THEIR STEPS ON THE COBBLESTONES OF GRODECKA STREET. IT REVERBERATES, EVEN NOW, IN MY EARS.

“A long, gray-blue column stretches forth, seemingly without end. They march with the goose step of conquerors. It is June 29, 1941, eleven o’clock in the morning, and the victorious German army is now entering Lvov. The Russians have fled. I stand alone on the balcony of the side street building and watch. I realize, in my inexperienced fifteen-year old soul, that my life, as it was lived until now, is over. It will never be the same.
A reflection by Holocaust survivor Ralph Rehbock

**NOVEMBER 9, 1938 IS KNOWN AS KRISTALLNACHT, “NIGHT OF THE BROKEN GLASS”**

“The Nazis broke the windows of thousands of Jewish-owned shops. They burned over 1000 synagogues. They picked up 30,000 men from their homes and sent them to concentration camps. Nazi rioters killed ninety-one men that night. My uncle, Salo Wahlhaus, was one of them. He was my mother’s sister’s husband…if I only knew what would be happening to our family when I was a child of four. If I only knew how the actions of my gutsy mother were going to save us from possible extermination. If I only knew that a cousin in America was going to make it possible for us to leave my country of birth and German language and happy early childhood.”

A reflection by Holocaust survivor Fela dogadko

**ANOTHER HORRIBLE DAY ON THE TRAIN, THEN, UNEXPLAINED STOP, ONE OF MANY.**

“My mom woke me and showed me, through a crack in the door flickering lights in the far distance. Lights were always a reason for elation and for hope. Noiselessly my mom tied the bundles of all our worldly possessions together and eased them out the door. Then she jumped out and motioned to me to jump into her outstretched arms.”
North Shore Center FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS IN SKOKIE

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www.NorthShoreCenter.org

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Saturday, Noon–5 p.m. or until curtain. Sunday: Open two hours prior to curtain (summer hours may vary)

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THE NORTH SHORE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN SKOKIE opened in 1996 and operates as part of the Village of Skokie’s plan to provide cultural, and educational programs, benefiting the citizens of Skokie and the surrounding communities.

IN CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PATRONS
• Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.
• Please turn off your cell phones and refrain from using them during the show. They are distracting to the performers and your fellow audience members.
• The North Shore Center features a ListenTech RF assistive listening system available for all shows on a first come / first served basis. We ask that patrons using these devices please leave a driver’s license, state ID card or credit card with the House Manager until the device is returned at the end of the performance.
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North Shore Center is owned by the Village of Skokie and opened in November 1996. Since it opened, the facility has been managed by Professional Facilities Management, Inc.

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THE NORTH SHORE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION was established to support the ongoing programming and capital needs of the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. The mission of the Foundation is to create and sustain the North Shore Center as a preeminent venue for the arts and as a major asset to the communities it serves.

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