

THE JEWISH ARTS

Comedy writer **Hal Kanter** will be master of ceremonies for a lineup of comedy and musical celebrities in "Music, Comedy and Yiddishkeit IV," a benefit show for the **West Coast Jewish Theater**, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 29, at the Gindi Auditorium of the **University of Judaism**.

Joining Kanter will be comedy veteran **Shelley Berman**, actress-singer **Bonnie Franklin**, **Charles Fleischer** (the voice of **Roger Rabbit**), singer and film star **Mike Burstyn**, comedians **Steve Mittleman**, **Wendy Kamenoff** and **Alan Murray**, Yiddish humorist **Archie Barkan**, singer **Lisa Wanamaker**, "Seinfeld" guest star **Len Lesser** performing an excerpt from **Ira Levin's** play **Cantorial**, and a klezmer band.

Known for presenting staged readings, the nonprofit West Coast Jewish Theater will begin mounting fully-produced works at a Westside venue this fall. Its producing director is **Judy Arnold** and its new executive and artistic director is **Jeremiah Morris**. General seating costs \$50; for preferred



FATEFUL TRIP — Children of the *Kindertransport* put on a show in a scene from documentary, *Into the Arms of Strangers*.

seating, tickets cost \$100. Tickets are tax-deductible. For reservations, call (310) 476-9777, Ext. 201.

On Sunday, April 29, the **L.A. Jewish Symphony** concludes its season with an inspirational concert honoring survivors of the Holocaust at 7 p.m., at **Valley Beth Shalom**, Encino.

The concert, "Remembrances, Reflections of the Holocaust," will feature two world premiere compositions, suites from the Oscar-nominated film *Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport* and **Wladyslaw Szpilman's Piano Concerto**.

Robert Ellman, a 20-year-old sophomore at USC, wrote the award-winning work *And We Will Tell Them* after being inspired by a visit to a death camp when he was 16 years old. To the question of how the Holocaust should be taught to Jewish children, Jewish Symphony conductor **Noreen Green** says: "The answer may lie in music composed during the Holocaust or inspired by it."

Valley Beth Shalom is at 15739 Ventura Blvd. Tickets: \$25, \$36, \$45. (818) 753-6681.

An emerging ensemble of USC students, called the **L'Chaim Theater Ensemble** and the five-year-old **Blue Sphere Alliance**, serving as a mentoring company, are collaborating to stage eight performances of the play *The Weiback*, debuting Tuesday at 8 p.m. The theater **Blue Sphere Alliance** at the **Lex**, 6760 Lexington Ave., one block north of Santa Monica Boulevard and east of Highland Avenue, hosts the production, set in San Ysidro in 1976.

The play by **Myia Lichtman-Fields**, directed by **Anthony Gross**, spotlights L'Chaim's three Trojan founders, **Cindy Gross**, **Jiovanna Jurado** and **Sarah Chang**.

A world premiere translation of **Chekhov's** drama *The Cherry Orchard* opens a five-performance run Wednesday at 8 at the **Skirball Cultural Center**.

Buttressed by a high-powered cast that includes **Marsha Mason**, **Hector Elizondo** and **Charles Durning**, it is in the L.A. Theater Works' "The Play's The Thing" series that will be broadcast later on public radio station **KCRW** (89.9). Curtain rises at 8 on the first three performances, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

VBS concert to trace emergence from Holocaust to redemption

From Darkness into Light," a choral concert of musical themes spanning the dark days of the Holocaust until Israel's independence, will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25, at **Valley Beth Shalom** in Encino.

Conductor **Nick Strimble**, an authority on Shoah (Holocaust) music, will lead the **Los Angeles-based** choral chamber group **Lavie**.

The concert will be presented by the **Jewish Music Commission of Los Angeles** and the **Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust** in cooperation with **Mount Sinai Memorial Park** and **Hillside Memorial Park**.

In addition to performing Strimble's *Psalm 133*, **Lavie** will present the world premiere of **David Cutler's Chestnut Branches in the Court**, based on poems from the Terezin concentration camp. **Cutler's** work won the 2000 international competition for composition sponsored by the **Jewish Music Commission**.

The concert also will include **Aminadav Aloni's Halle**, a composition that has become a part of services for synagogues across the continent and in Israel. Other works on the program include *Cain and Abel*, by Israeli composer **Abaron Harlap**, which won the 1991 International Jewish Music Commission Competition, and *Two Hebrew Folksongs* by **Viktor Ullmann**, an inmate of Terezin who died in Auschwitz.

Tickets for the performance cost \$10 and may be purchased by calling **Valley Beth Shalom** at (818) 788-6000.

and the final two are on Sunday, at 4 and 7:30. Tickets: \$34 and \$38, with \$10, \$20 rush tickets. (310) 827-0889.

"Starad In My Heart: Ladino Culture in Texts and Images" is a new exhibition in the **Frances-Henry Library** at **Hebrew Union College**, open Monday through Friday at 8 a.m., and on Sundays at noon. (213) 749-3424, Ext. 4225.

On Saturday night at 7, the **South Bay Singles Initiative of the Jewish Federation-South Bay Council**, in concert with five synagogues, is sponsoring dinner, **Havdalah** and the unique entertainment of the musician **Rebbesouli at Tifereth Jacob**, 1829 Sepulveda, Manhattan Beach. **B'nai Tikvah, Ner Tamid, Temple Beth El, Temple Menorah** and **Tifereth Jacob** are cosponsoring the unusual evening.

Tickets are \$18 for members of the singles group, \$25 for others. Call (310) 689-3617 or e-mail Lseltzer@jewishla.org.

The work of six culturally diverse painters, who explore **Dreams & Reality**, will be presented by the **Fine Arts Council of the University of Judaism**, opening Sunday, April 29, 3 p.m., in the **U.J.'s Platt Gallery** and **Borstein Gallery**.

Featured are the artwork of **Linda Vallejo**, an L.A. Chicana, in a series on **Heaven**; **Denise Satter** of Santa Clara, surrealist; **Thea Robertshaw** of L.A. on wartime Holland; **Hiroko Momii**, exploring the opposition of the conscious and unconscious; **Theodore Svenningreen**, with industrial

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WEST COAST JEWISH THEATRE
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Hal Kanter, Master of Ceremonies, **Shelley Berman**, **Paul Kreppel**, **Archie Barkan**, **Wendy Kamenoff**, **Lisa Wanamaker**, **Bonnie Franklin**, **Mike Burstyn**, **Alan Murray**, **Steve Mittleman**, **Lenn Lesser**, **Hollywood Klezmer Band**

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