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SHOTGUN PLAYERS  
& JONATHAN REINIS PRODUCTIONS  
PRESENT

# *SEA OF REEDS*

Written & Performed by Josh Kornbluth  
Directed by David Dower

**Berkeley**— Why would a lifelong atheist decide to get bar-mitzvahed, in Israel, at the age of 52? What does playing the oboe have to do with the Book of Exodus? And how might a monologist deal with having a bunch of other people on stage with him? These questions -- and more -- will be answered in Josh Kornbluth's brand-new comedy. Catch it before it goes on Torah! *Sea of Reeds* begins performances **July 2nd and runs through August 18th at The Ashby Stage.**

It all began with the oboe - an instrument Kornbluth played with some success as a young man but then quit out of frustration. Now in his 50s, Kornbluth has returned to the oboe, and also embarked on a deeper exploration of Judaism. In reading the Book of Exodus, he found that the literal translation of the “Red Sea” is actually the “reed sea” - where the Jews are faced with a seemingly insurmountable obstacle. In his own experience, an oboist spends years learning how to breathe—learning how to surpass the obstacle of the reed in order to create harmony. Mr. Kornbluth was inspired.

In a departure from his work as a solo artist, *Sea of Reeds* will also feature actor Amy Resnick, and the work of four musicians on violin, cello, piano, stand-up base and percussion. The show is a provocative exploration of faith, politics and the human heart, commissioned by the Shotgun Players and developed over the course of salons and other improvised performance events.

Kornbluth has that uncanny ability to tackle subjects that appear to have very “black and white” perspectives, and to find the innumerable shades of gray - the truth - that exists between them. With disarming humor and a razor sharp intelligence, he charms audiences into seeing the world through a different lens. For this master of paradox, the challenge of playing the oboe reflects the challenge of political change. If you are continually blocked by either your own inabilities - or the limitations of any instrument – how do you resolve to keep going? Weaving musical metaphors together with the discordant elements of culture, individuals and politicians, *Sea of Reeds* creates an opportunity to explore how contradictions can ultimately work together to create harmony.

Kornbluth comments: "With *Sea of Reeds* I will explore how Judaism and music both address, with great beauty, the deepest conflicts within ourselves and with each other. My hope is that, in taking on difficult subjects, such as the role of Israel in the contemporary world, we can use elements of both spiritual and musical practice to bring audiences on an unexpected journey - one that, with empathy and humor, engages with painful contradictions and opens doors, rather than slamming them shut."

*By & By* features Set Design by **Nina Ball**, Costume Design by **Alexae Visel**, Original Music by **Marco D'Ambrosio**, Light Design by **Steve Mannshardt**, & Properties Design by **Jessie Chaffin**.

The cast of *Sea of Reeds* features **Josh Kornbluth & Amy Resnick\***, with live musical performances by **EI Beh, Jonathan Krapke, Olive Mitra & Eli Wirschafter**.

(\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.)

## CALENDAR LISTING

**WHAT:** Why would a lifelong atheist decide to get bar-mitzvahed, in Israel, at the age of 52? What does playing the oboe have to do with the Book of Exodus? And how might a monologist deal with having a bunch of other people on stage with him? These questions -- and more -- will be answered in Josh Kornbluth's brand-new comedy. Catch it before it goes on Torah!

**WHEN:** *Sea of Reeds* Previews July 2 – 4<sup>th</sup>. Opens Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Runs Wednesday and Thursday at 7PM, Friday and Saturday at 8PM, Sunday at 5PM through August 18<sup>th</sup>.

**WHERE:** The Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley

**TICKET PRICES:** July 2 - 4 are Pay-What-You-Can. Regular performance nights \$20 - \$35. Advance reservations strongly advised.

For more information go to [www.shotgunplayers.org](http://www.shotgunplayers.org) or call 510.841.6500