



# TRANSITION

2019-2020 SEASON

MICHAEL J. BOBBITT  
artistic director

HARRIET SHEETS  
managing director

MOSESIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
321 Arsenal Street  
Watertown, MA 02472  
617-923-8487 BOX OFFICE  
newrep.org

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
400 Talcott Ave  
Building 131  
Watertown, MA 02472  
617-923-7060 BUSINESS  
617-923-7625 FACSIMILE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Tuesday, September 3, 2019**

MEDIA CONTACT – Jaclyn Dentino | 617-923-7060 xt. 8205 | jaclyndentino@newrep.org

## NEW REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS

The New England Premiere of

# *Trayf*

By Lindsay Joelle  
Directed by Celine Rosenthal

October 12 – November 3, 2019

**[WATERTOWN, MA]** New Repertory Theatre presents *Trayf*, a contemporary coming-of-age comedy by Lindsay Joelle about two young Chasidic men grappling with their friendship, identities, and assimilation in 1990s New York City. Directed by Celine Rosenthal, the production runs October 12 through November 3, 2019 in the MainStage Theater at the Mosesian Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA. Tickets are \$25-\$67 and may be purchased by calling the New Rep Box Office at 617-923-8487 or visiting newrep.org. Student, senior, and group discounts are available, as well as free tickets for WIC/EBT cardholders.

**The press performance is Monday, October 14 at 7:30pm.**

“Lindsay Joelle’s *Trayf* is full of heart and I cannot wait to be a part of its New England premiere with New Rep,” says director Celine Rosenthal. “I am eager to share and explore the culture of the Chasidic community through the eyes of young people navigating a society faced with both secular and non-secular issues.”

“The Washington Post named *Trayf* an ‘excellent adventure’ and I could not agree more,” shares New Rep Artistic Director Michael J. Bobbitt. “This piece beautifully encompasses so many aspects of young adulthood - friendship, faith, identity, and more. Joelle’s fresh and innovative piece will surely provoke laughter and conversation long after you leave the theatre.”

### **About *Trayf***

Best friends Zalmy and Shmuel spend their days as the Rebbe’s loyal foot soldiers, driving their “Mitzvah Tank” through 1990s Manhattan, performing good deeds. The two young men soon

find themselves at odds, as a newcomer wishing to learn more about their Chasidic ways creates discord between them. Juxtaposing the secular and the sacred, the familiar and the unknown, the accepted and the forbidden, Zalmy and Shmuel are forced to reexamine the core of their faith and their relationship. Rich in humor, emerging playwright Lindsay Joelle's *Trayf* is a moving new play that explores identity, assimilation, and friendship.

### **About NEW REPERTORY THEATRE**

New Repertory Theatre is the award-winning, professional theatre company in residence at the Mosesian Center for the Arts in Watertown, MA. For 35 years, New Rep has been a leader of self-produced theatre in greater Boston, producing contemporary and classic dramas, comedies, and musicals in the 340-seat MainStage Theater. New Rep is also dedicated to the development of new plays by producing regional and world premieres each season. New Rep produces its Classic Repertory Company, Page to Stage, Insider Experiences, and Spotlight Symposium Series. Annually, New Rep serves over 30,000 patrons, including 1,600 season subscribers.

### **New Rep's Mission**

New Repertory Theatre produces plays that speak powerfully to the vital ideas of our time.

### **What we do:**

- Through the passion and electricity of live theater performed to the highest standards of excellence, New Rep seeks to spark community conversations on crucial contemporary issues.
- Our work expands and challenges the human spirit of both artists and audiences. We present world premieres, contemporary plays, and classic works in several intimate settings. Our productions are designed to be accessible to all. We are committed to education and enrichment for learners of all ages, with a special dedication to the creation of innovative in-school programming and outreach to underserved audiences. We embrace theater as the basis for enduring connections with our community and as a springboard for meaningful civic engagement.
- New Rep is an active advocate for the arts and a major voice in the national dialogue defining the role of theater in our culture.

### **Artistic Bios**

**Lindsay Joelle (playwright)** is a New York-based playwright, screenwriter, and lyricist. Her plays include *Trayf* (Theater J, Penguin Rep), *The Garbologists* (EST/Sloan Commission, dev: PlayPenn, Playwrights Foundation, City Theatre), *The Princess of Riverside Drive* (libretto, Vital Theater), and *A Small History of Amal, Age 7* (Forward Flux & Pratidhwani). She has received an Audible Emerging Playwright Commission, Ensemble Studio Theatre/Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Science & Technology Commission, NNPN collaboration grant, Irving Zarkower Award, Rita Goldberg MFA Playwriting Prize, and has developed and presented work with

TADA! Youth Theater, PlayPenn New Play Development Conference, The Great Plains Theatre Conference, City Theatre, Playwrights Foundation, and the Lark. Her plays have been finalists for the Eugene O'Neill NPC (*Trayf*, *A Small History of Amal*), The Bay Area Playwrights Festival (*The Garbologists*, *A Small History of Amal* - with honorable mention), American Blues Theatre's Blue Ink Award, Jaw Festival, Jewish Plays Project, SPACE on Ryder Farm, BRIClab Residency, UMass New Play Lab, Soho Rep Lab, Yale School of Drama, and received honorable mentions from Leah Ryan's FEWW and the Kilroys List (*Trayf* & *The Garbologists*). Proud member of the New Georges Jam, Nashville Rep's 2019 Ingram New Works Lab, 2017-18 National New Play Network Writer-in-Residence at Curious Theatre, alumna of the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop, The American Theatre Wing's Springboard, Columbia University (BA), and Hunter (MFA).

**Celine Rosenthal (Director)** is a theatrical director who specializes in new plays and musical adaptations, and is currently serving as Associate Artistic Director at Asolo Repertory Theatre. She is an NYU Tisch alumna, New Georges Jammer, Tony Nominated Producer (*Leap of Faith\**, Seminar), and a founding member of The Neela Theatre Project for at-risk youth in Mumbai. Her work has been seen at the Tristan Bates Theatre in London, NYMF, New York City Center, MMAC, 54 Below, 59E59, Abingdon Theatre and in the Broadway's Future Songbook Series at Lincoln Center. Celine received her MFA in Directing from The New School for Drama, where she directed *Little Man* by Bekah Brunstetter, Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, and a musical adaptation of David Greig's *Yellow Moon*, among others. Recent projects include Adam Elsayigh's *Drowning in Cairo* (National Queer Theatre, Criminal Queerness Festival), *Chicago* at Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, multiple productions of Shivali Bhammer's *Borders in a Bedroom* (Awarded Best Production at The Tamasha Festival), *Motherf\*\*ker With The Hat* (Asolo/FSU), and Asolo Rep's 2019 touring production of *The Tempest*. She is the recipient of Directing Fellowships at Manhattan Theatre Club and Asolo Repertory Theatre, as well as an SDCF Observership.

**Ben Swimmer\* (Zalmy)** makes his New Repertory Theatre debut with this production of *Trayf*. Regional credits include *Beowulf: A Thousand Years of Baggage*, *Lobby Hero*, *Our Town*, *The Honey Trap* (Boston Playwrights Theatre), and *Camelot* (Goodspeed Opera House). Ben holds a BFA in Acting from Boston University. Originally from Madison, CT, he now resides in New York City.

**David Picariello (Shmuel)** returns to New Rep after his tour with the 2018-2019 Classic Repertory Company. Regional credits include *Little Shop of Horrors* (Firehouse Center for the Arts), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Apollinaire Theater Company), and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Theatre Company of Saugus). David holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from Salem State University. Originally from, Saugus, MA, he now resides in Wakefield.



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**Nile Scott Hawver\* (Jonathan)** returns to New Rep after most recently being seen in *Man of La Mancha*. Regional credits include *Million Dollar Quartet* (Greater Boston Stage Company), *Breath and Imagination* (Lyric Stage Company), *The Edge of Peace* (Central Square Theater), *Once* and *Mothers and Sons* (Speakeasy Stage), *Etherdome* (Huntington Theatre Company), *Twelfth Night* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company), *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (The Wilbury Theatre Group), and *Rent* (Ocean State Theatre Company), among others. Nationally, he's toured twice with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks and has worked with The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey and Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Nile holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, and a BFA in Acting from the University of Rhode Island. When he's not on stage, he's taking pictures of people who are. [www.nilescottshots.com](http://www.nilescottshots.com). [www.nilehawver.com](http://www.nilehawver.com)

**Kimberly Gaughan (Leah)** is Boston-based theatre artist and educator. She holds an MFA in Acting from the University of South Carolina and a BA in Film, Television and Theatre from the University of Notre Dame, where she served as an adjunct faculty member and acted with the Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival. Recent acting credits include Judith in *Equivocation* (Actors' Shakespeare Project), Nina in *The Seagull*, Sophie in *Flight* and Henrietta Leavitt in *Silent Sky* (Center for Performance Experiment). Kimberly regularly trains in Suzuki and Slow Tempo with the Pacific Performance Project/East and in Noh with Theatre Nohgaku and the Kita School. [www.kimberlygaughan.com](http://www.kimberlygaughan.com)

All creative bios will soon be available at [www.newrep.org](http://www.newrep.org).

## Trayf at a Glance

Company:	New Repertory Theatre
Artistic Director:	Michael J. Bobbitt
Production:	<i>Trayf</i>
Venue:	MainStage Theater   Mosesian Center for the Arts 321 Arsenal Street   Watertown, MA 02472
Playwright:	Lindsay Joelle
Director:	Celine Rosenthal◊
Assistant Director:	N/A
Stage Manager:	Jenna Worden



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### Cast:

Ben Swimmer  
David Picariello  
Nile Scott Hawver  
Kimberly Gaughan

Zalmy  
Shmuel  
Jonathan  
Leah

### Production Team:

Hannah Huling  
Grace Laubacher<sup>o</sup>  
Becca Jewett  
Marcella Barbeau  
Aubrey Dube  
Sam Martin  
Katie Hoolsema Lamm  
Lucas Dixon  
Rachel Corning

Production Manager  
Scenic Designer  
Costume Designer  
Lighting Designer  
Sound Designer  
Properties  
Master Electrician  
Production Assistant  
Production Assistant

\* Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA)

◇ Denotes member of Stage Directors & Choreographers Society

° Denotes member of USA/IATSE

### Performance Schedule:

Saturday, October 12, 8:00pm  
Sunday, October 13, 4:00pm  
**Monday, October 14, 7:30PM**

Preview 1; Open Cap  
Preview 2  
**Press Opening**

Thursday, October 17, 7:30PM

Talk-About

Friday, October 18, 8:00PM

Saturday, October 19, 3:00PM

Spotlight Symposium

Saturday, October 19, 8:00PM

Sunday, October 20, 2:00 PM

Talk-About; Open Cap

Thursday, October 24, 1:00PM

Talk-About

Thursday, October 24, 7:00PM

Friday, October 25, 8:00PM

Talk-About

Saturday, October 26, 3:00PM

Saturday, October 26, 8:00PM

Sunday, October 27, 2:00PM

Talk-About

Wednesday, October 30, 7:30PM

Thursday, October 31, 7:30PM

Friday, November 1, 8:00PM

Saturday, November 2, 3:00PM

Saturday, November 2, 8:00PM

Sunday, November 3, 2:00PM

Talk-About



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- Tickets: \$25-\$67. Student, senior, and group discounts available.  
Telephone: 617-923-8487, Online: [newrep.org](http://newrep.org)  
In Person: 12pm to 5pm, Tuesdays through Saturdays  
Mosesian Center for the Arts  
321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA 02472
- Parking: Free, six-level parking garage next to the  
Mosesian Center for the Arts
- Public Transportation: #70 or #70A bus to the School Street stop from  
Central Square Station, Red Line
- Accessibility: Wheelchair Accessible, T-Coil/Hearing Loop, Open  
Caption performances, Large-Print and Braille Programs  
Available
- Season Sponsors: WGBH  
Massachusetts Cultural Council  
Northlight IT  
The Shubert Foundation  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Branch Line
- For Media Inquiries: Jaclyn Dentino | Communications Director, New Repertory  
Theatre | [jaclyndentino@newrep.org](mailto:jaclyndentino@newrep.org) | 617-923-7060 xt.  
8205

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