



MUSEUM
OF JEWISH
HERITAGE

A LIVING
MEMORIAL
TO THE
HOLOCAUST

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**THIRD ANNUAL NEW YORK'S BEST EMERGING JEWISH ARTISTS
TO BE HOSTED BY COMEDIAN CATIE LAZARUS
INCLUDES MUSICIANS, FASHION DESIGNER, AND STORYTELLER
*at the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust***

NEW YORK, NY — After two years of sold-out shows which the *Downtown Express* called “authentic, funny — and yes, subversive...,” this year’s event will feature host **Catie Lazarus**, whom comedian Lewis Black calls “more brilliant than she will ever know,” and a new line-up of promising performers. Up-and-coming local Jewish artists will take the stage for a dynamic evening of comedy, music, and fashion at the **Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust on Wednesday, July 9 at 7 p.m.** The festivities will continue with an after-party and open bar on the Museum’s third floor terrace overlooking New York Harbor.

Previous emerging artists who have performed as part of this showcase include: musicians Y-Love, Rachel Sage, and Chana Rothman; filmmaker Gayle Kirschenbaum; comedian Lenny Marcus; spoken word artist Vanessa Hiday; and musical comedy duo What I Like About Jew.

Comedian **Catie Lazarus** will host the third annual showcase. Performers will include: world-music DJ **Diwon**; storyteller **Eve Lederman**; klezmer punk band **Luminescent Orchestrïi**; singer/songwriter **Or Matias**; and fashion designer **Levi Okunov**. *A Trip to Prague*, A short film by Brooklyn-born filmmaker **Neil Ira Needleman**, will also be shown.

Tickets to this event are \$20 non-members, \$15 members and include an open bar. Tickets may be purchased online at www.mjhnyc.org or by calling 646-437-4202.

This event is co-sponsored by the Young Friends of the Museum. Beverages are courtesy of Manhattan Beer Distributors.

About the Artists

Emerging Comics of New York awarded **Catie Lazarus** “Best Comedy Writer” and *The New York Resident* selected her as a “Top 100 New Yorker” for comedy. Her writing has appeared in various media outlets, among them: *Howl: A Collection of the Best Contemporary Dog Wit*; *Nobody Rein*; *The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Jokes*; *Rejected*; *The Jerusalem Report*; *The New York Post*; *Time Out New York*; *Forward*; *Gawker.com*; *Tangomag.com*; *BarelyPolitical.com*; and *Heeb Magazine*, where she was an editor for two years.

Diwon (formerly known as DJ Handler) is the founder and director of Modular Mood Records, Barzilai Productions, and The Sephardic Music Festival. He is also the associate producer of the Oyhoo Festival. He has performed with Lou Reed, Matisyahu, DJ Spooky, and others.

Eve Lederman is a freelance writer, film producer, and author of *Shag’s Zodiac: Offbeat Adventures in Astrology* and *Letters from My Sister: On Love, Life and Hair Removal*. Her films include *A Good Uplift*, a short documentary about a bra shop on the Lower East Side. The film premiered on the PBS series Reel New York in July 2004 and has been screened at more than 25 film festivals around the country including the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival and Lincoln Center’s New York Jewish Film Festival.

Neil Ira Needleman is a Brooklyn-born filmmaker whose short films include *Red Ribbons*, featuring Quentin Crisp, *Wedding Nigun for Boruch & Menucha*, *Unfocused*, and *Reasonable Explanations*. His work has been shown and celebrated in film festivals all over the country.

Levi Okunov grew up in the Hassidic neighborhood of Crown Heights. Inspired by his aunt, a dress maker, he would sneak away from yeshivah to her small shop where he apprenticed, studied, and watched. At the age of nineteen, Okunov presented his first collection to the delight of critics. He has been featured in the *The New York Times* and *Women's Wear Daily*.

Luminescent Orchestrïi is made up of Rima Fand (violin), Sxip Shirey (resophonic guitar), Benjy Fox Rosen (bass), and Sarah Alden (violin). They combine Romanian gypsy melodies, punk, tangos, klezmer, hip-hop, Appalachian fiddle, and Balkan harmonies into a unique blend that has been heard in England, Scotland, Romania, Turkey, and beyond. Local venues have included Joe's Pub, The Knitting Factory, The DUMBO Arts Festival, and the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

Or Matias was born and raised in Israel and is now a piano major at The Juilliard School. In addition to classical piano, he composes, sings, and writes popular music. He is currently working on several projects, including scores for independent movies.

About the Young Friends of the Museum

The mission of the Young Friends of the Museum is to inspire and involve the young professional community (ages 21-40) of the metropolitan area through social, educational, and philanthropic programming, to celebrate Jewish heritage, to carry the torch of remembrance of the Holocaust, and to shape the next generation of Jewish leadership.

About the Museum

The Museum's three-floor Core Exhibition educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the rich tapestry of Jewish life over the past century--before, during, and after the Holocaust. Special exhibitions include *Daring to Resist: Jewish Defiance in the Holocaust* (through September 1) and *Sosúa: A Refuge for Jews in the Dominican Republic* (through August 5). The Museum offers visitors a vibrant public program schedule in its Edmond J. Safra Hall. It is also home to Andy Goldsworthy's memorial *Garden of Stones*, as well as James Carpenter's *Reflection Passage*, Gift of The Gruss Lipper Foundation. The Museum receives general operating support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and is a founding member of the *Museums of Lower Manhattan*.

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