



Presents



TRYmester: Jewish Fertility Journeys Out Loud

March 22, 2020

Sabes JCC, Minneapolis, MN

5:30pm Artists' Cocktail Reception

7pm Performance

8:15pm Talk Back Session

TRYmester is a response to the surprise, frustration, hope, grief, anger, and fear of those trying to grow their families. Fertility journeys are tumultuous and often leave their travelers feeling disoriented, spiritually altered and alone. TRYmester was born from dreams of people traveling alongside those trying to have a child; those trying to understand, trying to offer support and trying to embrace with love.

The arts offer an opportunity to deeply empathize with fertility strugglers by bearing witness to personal narratives expressed. Our collective responsibility at this performance is to learn more about their struggles and experience empathy, allowing ourselves to be moved in new ways, as we gather together to honor their journey and help break their isolation.

People to Know

Uprooted Executive Director



Becca Shimshak is a **co-founder of Uprooted**: A Jewish Response to Fertility Journey. Becca brings to Uprooted's leadership team her professional expertise working with the Jewish community in the field of non-profit education. Becca's experience as a Jewish communal professional is both national and pluralistic with organizations such as the Foundation for Jewish Camp and with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston.

On a personal level, Becca experienced the shame and isolation one can feel while on a fertility journey in the Jewish community and searched out support individual peer support. Becca believes her success in navigating such a challenging journey was in large part because of the connections she built in the Jewish community and she wants others to find that kind of support more easily than she did.

TRYmester Co-creators



Dalia Davis is **co-founder of Uprooted**: A Jewish Response to Fertility Journeys and serves as its Spiritual Director. Dalia holds a BA in Dance and Jewish History from Barnard College, a certificate in Talmud and Halacha from Yeshiva University, and an MA in Jewish Education.



Naomi Less - Brooklyn-based, internationally celebrated, Naomi Less is a singer, composer, ritualist, activist/educator, Jewish Rock radio host and **Vice President of Uprooted**: A Jewish Response to Fertility Journeys. She serves as Lab/Shul's Associate Director and Founding Ritual Leader as well as directs the Songleader Boot Camp teen track.



Chantal Pavageaux is an interdisciplinary artist working in performance and social practice. Chantal trained in experimental theatre at New York University and was awarded a Drama League Directing Fellowship in 2011. Her work has been produced in theaters nationally including the Guthrie Theater and Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, MN.



Jon Adam Ross has spent nearly 20 years making art with religious communities around the country as an actor, playwright, and teaching artist. He has served as an artist in residence at Union Theological Seminary, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and many other religious and educational institutions. Jon was a Spielberg Fellow in Jewish Theater Education with the Foundation for Jewish Camp and received a Fellowship from the Covenant Foundation to create the In[heir]tance Project in 2015.

Actors



Shawn Shafner is an artist, educator and activist. Creator of The People's Own Organic Power Project (www.thePOOPproject.org), he has catalyzed conversation about sustainable sanitation from NYC's largest wastewater treatment plant to the United Nations. Shawn teaches movement through the lineage of acclaimed choreographer Tamar Rogoff, sings with Marisa Michelson's Constellation Chor Ensemble, and develops arts-integrated curriculum for learners of all ages.



JessAnn Smith (she/her) is NYC-based performer, producer and teaching artist. Her passions include coffee, traveling internationally & fantasy novels. She sings with the National Chorale at Lincoln Center is also very active in developing work that serves her Jewish and LGBTQ+ communities. JessAnn has performed all over the country (and beyond!) with choirs, comedy troupes and one-person shows. She also plays piano and trombone. More @therealjessann.

TRYmester is made possible by the generosity of:

<p>Rimon</p>  <p>Rimon: The MN Jewish Arts Council</p> <hr/> <p>Nourishing Jewish life through the arts</p>	<p>Brin Jewish Arts Endowment</p> <p>THIS PROJECT WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM THE</p> <p>BRIN JEWISH ARTS </p> <p>E N D O W M E N T</p> <p>A FUND OF THE MINNEAPOLIS JEWISH FEDERATION'S FOUNDATION</p>
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Becoming a TRYmester Sponsor:

To become a sponsor of TRYmester, contributions of \$180 for two people or \$118 for individuals can be made which include access to an Artists Reception before the event, tickets to the performance, and recognition of their generosity. If you would like to become a sponsor, please follow this link to the Uprooted [donations page](#), and specify that your contribution is a “TRYmester Sponsorship” under the tribute question.