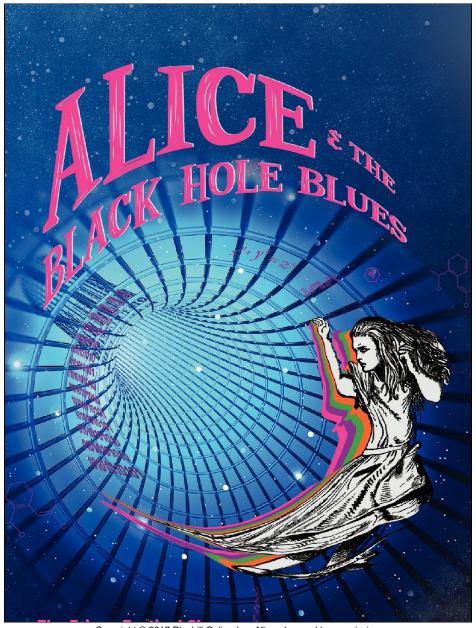
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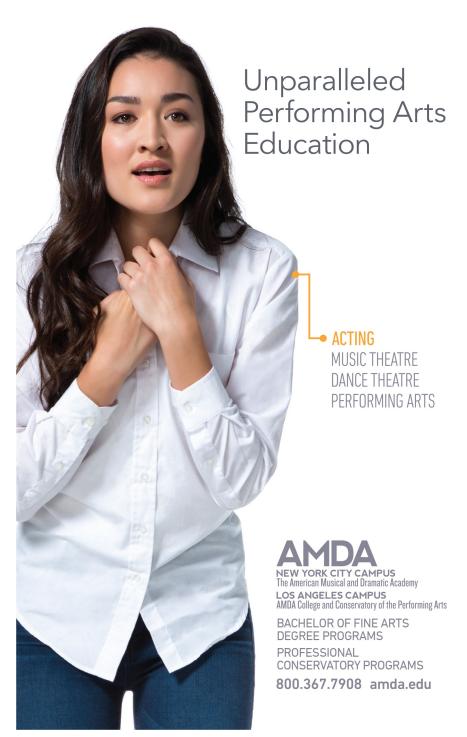
Jewish Community High School Of The Bay

San Francisco, CA



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PRESENTS

ALICE AND THE BLACK HOLE BLUES

with

Marty Cohen Evelyn Inker Eli Moldavsky Avram Rosenzweig Ellie Grintsaig Jeremy Mackles Sara Moss Sophia Salesky Becky Grintsaig Maya Menachem Ben Robinow Tessa Zitter

<u>Sound Design</u> Avima Aniela Zuliani Projection Design
Olive Fox

Lighting Design Nathan Magid

Assistant Director
Amy Prosser

Directed by Dylan Russell

THE SCOTLAND COMPANY

Marty Cohen ('19)

Ensemble	Marty Cohen ('19)
	Ellie Grintsaig ('19)
	Becky Grintsaig ('17)
	Evelyn Inker ('18)
	Jeremy Mackles ('18)
	Nathan Magid ('19)
	Maya Menachem ('19)
	Eli Moldavsky ('19)
	Sara Moss ('19)
	Ben Robinow ('19)
	Avram Rosenzweig ('19)
	Sophia Salesky ('18)
	Tessa Zitter ('17)
	Avima Aniala Zuliani ('10)

For Your Information

"Alice and the Black Hole Blues" will be performed without an intermission. The show's only live vocal performance will come in the penultimate moment and features five female voices.

CREATIVE

Director	Dylan Russell*
Technical Director	Joe McDonald*
Assistant Director	Amy Prosser**
Teaching Artist	Valerie Weak**
Projection Design	Olive Fox ('19)
Lighting Design	Nathan Magid ('19)
Sound Design	Avima Aniela Zuliani ('19)
Costume Design Assistant	Jocelyn Herndon**
Marketing / Promotions	Mary Ellen Hunt*
Photographer	Brian Dean*
Projectionist / Hang Crew	Daisy Shuper ('20)
Crew	Aaron Gilbert ('20)

* denotes a JCHS Professional Community Member

** denotes a Guest Artist

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the following people and organizations who have assisted us in our production of "Alice and the Black Hole Blues."

Michael Shapero and the JCHS kitchen professionals for snacks and dinners to keep us energized; Brian Dean for his asistance in the Cheshire Cat sequence; John Lewis and Larry Jeane from Douglas Morrison Theatre for costume and prop rentals; Lieva Whitbeck, Cecily Burrill and Marta Fuentes-Filp for science advising; Officers Rudy Dumandan, Nate Green and Mitch Schlachterman for helping us on late nights - Rudy please get well soon! We all miss you; Flying Moose Video for all they do, and the entire JCHS community for their support and consideration of our production of "Alice and the Black Hole Blues."

Martin Pike for his constant and boundless support.

And lastly we would like to acknowledge Yael Homa who originated the role of Victorian Alice, we wish you were here with us!

WHO'S WHO



Marty Cohen ('19)

as Ensemble

Marty is elated to be taking part in his fourth JCHS production. He thinks being a part of "Alice and the Black Hole Blues" has been an incredible and possibly life-changing experience, and because of that he would like to thank all the amazing people who poured their hearts and souls into it. Marty is also very excited to be in a foreign country where men wear skirts. You're welcome.



Ellie Grintsaig ('19)

Ellie is so excited to participate in her fifth show at JCHS and can't wait to travel with the company to Scotland! She'd like to thank her parents for paying a lot of money to support her life decisions, and Netflix for being there for her. She doesn't know what else to say because she was given five minutes to write this, and Mr. McDonald wants her to hurry.



Becky Grintsaig ('17)

Becky is extremely thrilled to be participating in her 11th show at JCHS. She was particularly excited about this show for the unique opportunity that it provides her. Becky will also be taking part in the Fringe Festival drama production traveling to Scotland this summer.



Yael Homa ('20)

Yael is thrilled to be a part of the Scotland company. This is her second show at JCHS and is very proud of how far she has grown as an actress. She wants to give thanks to everyone who made this production possible. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Evelyn Inker ('18)

Evelyn is extremely excited to be a part of this production! She wants to thank everyone who made the show possible. The eighthour rehearsals helped distract her from horrors such as the SAT and AP Tests, while consequently giving her a good reason not to study for them! This has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Evelyn and she will be forever grateful! Enjoy the show!

WHO'S WHO



Jeremy Mackles ('18)

Jeremy is ecstatic about performing in this show as a member of the cast of "Alice." He hopes he can entertain you. Jeremy previously appeared as Mercutio in "Be All My Sins Remeber'd." Jeremy transferred to JCHS his junior year and is very happy here.



Nathan Magid ('19)

Nathan is excited to be in his fifth show at JCHS. Previously he has had a range of roles from the sliding bookcase operator in "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" to lighting designer for "Nu Wurks III."



Maya Menachem ('19)

Maya is very excited to be part of this production. She would like to thank everyone who made this production possible. Special thanks to Ms. Russell, Mr. McDonald, Amy, and Valerie for their hard work and dedication. She would also like to thank the incredible cast for always making rehearsals fun and sharing many laughs. Maya hopes you enjoy the show!



Eli Moldavsky ('19)

Eli is so excited for everyone to see the show that he and the cast have worked on throughout the course of this year. He wants everyone to know how hard they worked to make this show great. Eli wants to thank his family for always providing money to get food when he forgets to bring it. Eli is so excited to go to Scotland with the company to perform at the EDINBURGH FRINGE FESTIVAL!



Sara Moss ('19)

Sara Is so excited to be in her first production at JCHS. She has enjoyed getting the opportunity to be part of the cast in this year's Spring show. She would like to thank the cast for making her feel so welcomed and being so supportive throughout the whole process. She would also like to thank Ms. Russell and Mr. McDonald for making this show happen.

WHO'S WHO



Ben Robinow ('19)

Ben is thrilled to be a part of his fourth production at JCHS. Previously he has been in "Cinderella" as Jean-Michel, "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" as Eddie, and multiple characters in "Nu Wurks III." He would like to thank all of the adults involved in this production for helping him through this whole process. He also thanks his fellow cast members for making every rehearsal a party.



Avram Rosenzweig ('19)

My name is Avram, I like to do stuff in theater, hobbies, past shows blah blah stuff everyone always writes. I thought I was going to be moving boxes and messing with lights and other tech stuff, but apparently, instead of moving tables, I actually am a table and a caterpillar that is only 3 inches tall. Tips are welcome!



Sophia Salesky ('18)

Sophia is beyond ecstatic to be performing in this piece, "Alice and the Black Hole Blues!" Playing Marie Curie and working with this ensemble has been a great opportunity for her, and she is so thankful for this experience. She has been in numerous past shows as an actor, choreographer, and director and was excited to take on a show that was something out of her comfort zone.



Tessa Zitter ('17)

Tessa is proud and sad to be performing in her 12th and final show at JCHS. Throughout her four years here, she has truly found her home in the JCHS theater department, literally spending more hours in the theater than in her own house. She is so proud of her family and so thankful to her mom and dad, Dylan and Joe (now that she's graduating she can call them that) for always being there.



Avima Aniela Zuliani ('19)

Avima and her pet skull Yorick are overjoyed to be a part of "Alice & the Black Hole Blues" for their fifth production, this time as the sound goddess. After many late nights, Avima has sworn to never do this again, while clearing space in her calendar for the next show. She would like to thank "her mother, her dog, and clowns." Enjoy the show!

CREW WHO'S WHO



Olive Fox ('19)

Projection Design

Olive is excited to join the cast and crew of "Alice and the Black Hole Blues" for her third show. She wants to thank her cats, and her family for being supportive during the stress and long hours this production required. She hopes you enjoy the show.



Daisy Shuper ('20)

Projectionist / Hang Crew

This is Daisy's second show on tech crew. She would like to thank her parents for driving her home late, and her fellow crew members for making the whole process far more enjoyable than it should be!



Aaron Gilbert ('20)

Crew

Aaron is proud to be the all around, jack of all trades and understudy of all of tech. For "Alice and the Black Hole Blues," he is hanging lights and painting the set. For "Cinderella," he helped with costume changes and was House Manager and worked on sound. For "Nu Wurks III," he was on running crew and house managed.

Drama at JCHS

JCHS drama students explore every aspect of the dramatic arts including acting, playwriting, improvisation, directing, technical theatre training, and lighting, sound, set and costume design.

JCHS drama students have been accepted to prestigious BFA programs including NYU Tisch (both acting and playwriting programs), UCLA, Emerson, and Syracuse University.

EARLIER THIS YEAR









EARLIER THIS YEAR





WORD FOR WORD



Founded in 1993 by Susan Harloe and JoAnne Winter, Word for Word is a professional theater company that stages short stories, performing every word written by the author. Its mission is to tell great stories with elegant theatricality, staging performances of classic and contemporary fiction. Word for Word brings tales from diverse cultures to diverse communities, and develops love for the printed and spoken word.

Through its Youth Arts workshops and residencies, Word for Word brings the performance creation methods of a professional company into the classroom, allowing students to spark new connections with literature and reading, think creatively, work as a team, and express their own voices through the performance of stories and poems.





This fall, Word for Word presents a performance for young people and their families: How A Mountain Was Made by Greg Sarris. Sarris—who, in addition to being a celebrated author, is the Chairman of The Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria—has created a collection of stories inspired by the creation myths of California's Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo

peoples, the sacred site of Sonoma Mountain, the plain of Santa Rosa, and Copeland Creek. Young people will delight in Word for Word's performance of these stories about Coyote, Warm Wind, Centipede, Lizard, Frog Woman, and more. At Z Space November 7 - 12.

More information about Word for Word: www.zspace.org/youtharts.htm. For Youth Arts contact Amy Prosser, Youth Arts Program Administrator, at aprosser@zspace.org

The Scientists



Physicist and chemist Marie Skłodowska Curie codiscovered the elements radium and polonium with her husband Pierre. In recognition of her work on radiation she became the first woman to receive a Nobel Prize.



During World War II, movie star and inventor Hedy Lamarr developed a torpedo guidance system using principles still employed today in modern wi-fi and bluetooth technologies.

Hypatia, a fifth century

mathematician and teacher, was the designer of an astronomical device known as the astrolabe.



Though generally unacknowledged for her work in x-ray crystallography during her lifetime, **Rosalind Franklin's** research work and insights were critical to the understanding of the double helix structure of DNA.

Astronomer Vera
Rubin's observations
and study of the
rotation of galaxies
led to the first
evidence of "dark
matter," prompting
a transformation in
our conception of
the universe.



JCHS

DIRECTOR'S NOTES



For several years, I've dreamt of creating a play about the importance of women in science. Then I read Maria Popova's review of *Black Hole Blues: And Other Songs From Outer Space*, a book by the astrophysicist and novelist Janna Levin chronicling a small community of scientists who embarked on the decades-long development of "an apparatus that would detect sonic messages of the cosmos as it made contact with us via gravitational waves – ripples in the fabric of space time, first envisioned by Einstein in his pioneering 1915 paper on General Relativity."^[1]

Popova's description of Levin's book was intoxicating. I began to investigate the idea of the black holes and asking a lot of questions. Ideas began to bump into one another in my mind: black holes, *Alice in Wonderland*, the Keystone project of Olivia Rudd '16 on the challenges for women pursuing careers in STEM, *Photograph 51* by Anna Ziegler, and discussions with Mary Ellen Hunt about women scientists who have made significant contributions but have remained under or unrecognized. I began to learn about Hypatia, Vera Rubin, Marie Curie, Hedy Lamarr, Rosalind Franklin, Mileva Einstein, and Mary Ellen's own story. In addition to begin an amazing member of our professional community, Mary Ellen is a ballet dancer, astrophysicist and arts critic. Maria & Mary Ellen posited the question in my mind: Why are these women less known than their male counterparts, and how do we learn to believe in truths we cannot see, like the inside of a black hole?

Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* began to haunt me once again. A young girl drops into a world where people insist she obey rules that keep changing, she doubts herself and her knowledge, she is questioned and others insist that she is wrong, but nevertheless, she persists. The voice of Alice is one that I hear reflected in my students' daily conversations: feeling like they are falling down a hole, feeling like they are two people – neither of whom has the right answer, feeling like people in authority positions are always yelling "off with her/his head!" and feeling otherwise diminished and dismissed.

How can we give voice to those who feel lessened by others' actions and words?

JCHS

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Then I was introduced to the story of Zelophehad's daughters who petitioned Moses, Eleazar the priest, the chieftains, and the whole assembly, at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting for their right to inherit his property rights in the Land of Israel. Zelophehad's daughters argued that were they not to inherit, then Zelophehad's name would be lost to his clan. Moses took their case to God, God told Moses that the plea of Zelophehad's daughters was just, and that they should be granted their father's hereditary holding. [2] What does it take to be an heir to something that is riahtfully yours?

These three catalysts began to collide in my right brain and form a story.

What does it take for women to be allowed to become heirs to their rightful place in science? These women struggle to persist in a world that discourages their efforts – just like Alice. They inhabit a world where they might encounter a righteous man (who works alongside them to make shared discoveries), but are more often thwarted by male counterparts. What would it take to show Alice, the young scientist, that she does know things, that her contribution is valuable, and that when she (and others around her) believes in herself, she will be unstoppable?

This is true – not just of women – but of all of us. Carroll wrote the original story because he saw injustice in the treatment of children in Victorian society. A mathematician and academic, he saw how the Liddell sisters' natural curiosity and adventurous spirit was dampened by societal convention. He wished for a world where they were empowered to explore and discover, writing a story where the heroine does just that. We achieve our best selves when others believe in us but more importantly, when we deeply believe in ourselves.

--Dylan Russell

We would like to dedicate this play to Mary Ellen Hunt, for inspiring this theatre piece and all she has done for us.



^[1] https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/24/books/review/ maria-popova-reviews-janna-levins-black-hole-blues.html

^[2]https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Daughters_of_ Zelophehad#/citenote5

IN APPRECIATION

To contribute toward its trip to the Fringe Festival, the JCHS Scotland Company made a commitment to raise \$2,500. The Company actively solicited friends and family and is grateful to the following for their generosity and support:





Lisa Bennett Audrey Browne Lauren Cook Nancy & Arnie Davis Ellen & Barry Finestone Michael Fitch Jim Gilbert Rita Goldman Robert Goldman Cathy Dobbs Goldstein & Phil Goldstein Jennifer & Eitan Homa Irina & Aleksandr Inker Anna Katz Charlotte Krasnoff Robinn & Dan Magid Michelle & Doug Chodor-Mandler Deirdre McHugh Laurie R. Nussbaum **Judith Paseltiner** Kris Pettersen Denise Rekem Ami Raz Alissa & Joseph Robinow Carole & Norman Robinow Wendy Robinow Brett Singer Deborah & Larry Stadtner Diane & Sheldon Whitten-Vile Carole Wittman Frances Wittman-Rosenzweig & Carl Rosenzweig Sophie Yoakum Sherry J. Zitter

-as of May 13, 2017

The JCHS Scotland Company is also grateful to the generous donors solicited by the JCHS Development team for their support, which is making it possible to travel to Scotland.



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