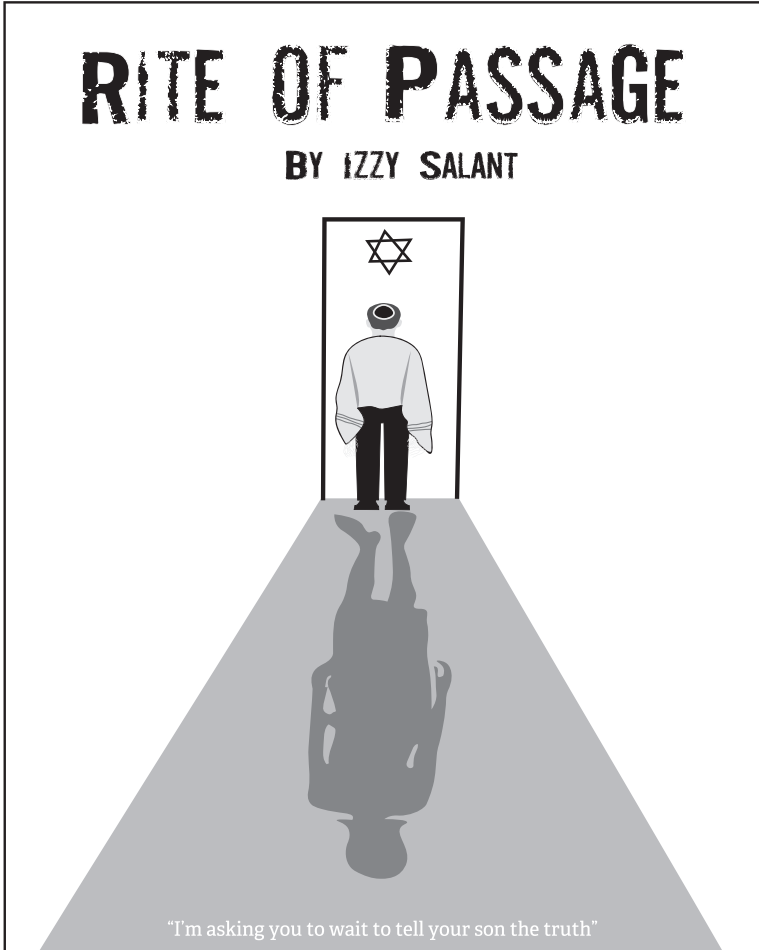


PRESENTS
A READING OF A NEW PLAY

RITE OF PASSAGE

BY IZZY SALANT



"I'm asking you to wait to tell your son the truth"

Monday, July 11, at 7:00 PM

B'nai Israel Congregation, Rockville, MD
www.bnaiisraelcong.org

NOTE FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Thank you for inviting us into your community and being so welcoming. It is a privilege and an honor and we are very excited to present a reading of Izzy's play in his home community.

This is a first outing in the region for Punctuate4 Productions whose mission is to create a place where theater, conversations, and ideas come together to tell stories that matter. Izzy's is one of those stories worth telling. Part of our mission is to discover and develop new talent and new works. Producing *Rite of Passage* allows us to help Izzy, an amazing young playwright, refine his craft and work and to bring this important story of one family and a community to the stage. The development process takes time and funding.

As a non-profit, we need to fundraise to bring new works the stage. The reality of art, is that ticket sales rarely cover the basic expenses. Post-pandemic, ticket sales have become less consistent and planning is an even greater challenge. Commercial sponsorship is nearly impossible when it comes to new works and authors.

Unlike other developmental organizations, we do not charge playwrights to produce. We do not ask actors to perform for free. We do apply for grants, encourage partnerships with other non-profits organizations, and depend on donations.

We hope you will be touched by *Rite of Passage* and how it brings a family's story to life, how we navigate grief and one of the most sensitive and delicate subject that so few of us understand. Izzy illuminates a difficult moment with amazing sensitivity and humor grounded in love and faith. We will appreciate any advice or suggestions on how to move the piece forward. We will appreciate donations. If you have connections that you think may help continue to move this project along, we are grateful in advance. Linda Greenstein and or will be happy to meet you to hear your ideas. Our goal is to raise 100k so that we can put on a full stage production in 2023. Please use the QR code below to make a donation. No amount is too small or big.

Shalom,

Myriam Cyr



SCAN ME

Punctuate4, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt, non profit organization
Donations are tax deductible.

SPECIAL THANKS

**B'nai Israel staff and community, Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz,
Rabbi Michael Safra, Rachel Hyman, B'nai Israel Men's Club, Jonathan Salant,
Noah Greenstein, and everyone that made this performance possible.**

NOTE FROM IZZY

Dear Friends,

Y'all, it's been 6 years. In 2016, I sat down in my dining room at 8 pm during Thanksgiving break from my sophomore year at UMass, and interviewed my father and aunt about what happened to our family after my mother died. From that interview, and a few others, 65 pages were written, creating a play titled, "From the Point of View of a Journalist," which would eventually become *Rite of Passage*. And now here we are.

I have more people to thank than I have room on the page, but I'll try my best. I want to thank the B'nai Israel community for all their love and support, and for being here today. I want to thank Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz, and the staff who helped make tonight happen, for without whom this event would not be possible, and I'd like to thank Rabbi Michael Safra for all the support and guidance through the years (I still remember our class in 10th grade Hebrew High School). I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer, who guided my father and I through the grieving process, led shivah, and was there for us during our time of need. Thank you to Lindsay Brenner, my fourth grade teacher, and mentor, for the staff softball game.

Thank you to Colleen Mcadory, for reinvigorating my love of theater. Thank you to Professor Harley Erdman, for taking me under your wing, and being the first to truly come on this theatrical journey with me. Thank you to Josh Cohen, David Carton, Harry Wandersman, and Aaron Stein, for being the best friends a 10-year-old could ask for, whether or not we're still in touch at 24 (by the way, Mazel Tov Josh!). Thank you to Eli Seeman, for housing me on mothers day and hiding your guinea pig so I wouldn't die of allergies. Thank you to Ryan Michael Dunn, for making UMass truly an unforgettable experience (if you stare at me during the show, don't make me break). Thank you to Sally Steinbach and Rebecca Steinbach Mullan, for being the big sisters I never had, for watching me play video games all weekend to keep me company, and thank you to my uncle, Mark Steinbach, for being an incredibly bouncy trampoline. Thank you to my Aunt Carol, for being one of my biggest cheerleaders, the best fishing partner, and an overall badass.

Thank you to my grandmother, Claire Salant, for schlepping down from New York at a moment's notice to watch me when we needed you, and for instilling recipes in me I still cook to this day. Thank you to Susan, Doug, Erin and Greg Tack for opening your home, your lives, and your arms to me, and for giving us the gift of Rocky. Thank you to Myriam Cyr and Punctuate 4 for bringing this piece to life, and finding life in the play. Thank you to this incredible cast for taking my words and giving them voice. Thank you to Noah Greenstein for staying late on a zoom call to talk about Jewish plays, and sending the script to Linda Greenstein, my surrogate Jewish mother in this process. And for my actual Jewish mother, thank you to Bonnie Cole for being the best thing to enter our lives over 10 years ago. To all my friends and family, I love you, and thank you for continuously making my life better each day.

To my father, Jonathan Salant, my greatest role model, writing out a thank you for all you have done would be longer than the play tonight, so I'll just say this: I wouldn't be who I am without you. Finally, to my late mother, Joan Friedenberg, I hope your soul is at rest, may your memory be a blessing. Thank you everyone, and enjoy the show.

THE CAST

Scott Morgan* (David Greenbaum)

Stage: Arena Stage; Washington Jewish Theatre; Ford's Theater; Washington Stage Guild; Helen Hayes Award 1991(nomination 1995).

Television: HGTV, NBC, ABC, Netflix *House of Cards*.

Film: *Species 2* (with Myriam Cyr) and several films with John Waters.

Current: President of The Morgan Group, a communication consultancy in Washington DC with clients ranging from NIH scientists to policy experts. He is a Senior Mentor at the Leadership Academy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and holds a master's degree in psychology from Columbia University. He authored the book *Speaking about Science* published by Cambridge University Press and created a mindfulness app for young adults called 3rdi.

Noah Greenstein (Harold Greenbaum)

Noah is an actor and artist. He originated the gaoler role in *Saltonstall's Trail* voted Best Ensemble by BroadwayWorld Boston. He appeared in the Equity production of *No Victors, No Vanquished* in Boston. Favorite roles include Leaf Coneybear in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Jan Warwick in Agatha Christie's *The Unexpected Guest* and *Oliver* in Puffs.

Jocelyn Dufour (Maura Greenbaum)

Jocelyn performs professionally as a musical theatre artist throughout New England and has recently begun work in the field of voice-over. She holds a Bachelor's in Theatre from Dartmouth College. Recent credits: "Meredith" (*First Night*); "Georgia" (*Georgia O'Keeffe Paints Paradise*). Favorite past roles: "Mary" (*Mary Poppins*) and "Kate Monster" (*Avenue Q*).

Myriam Cyr* (Sue Goldberg)

See The Team

Pamela Battin-Sacks (Lorraine Weinstock)

Pamela has performed throughout the New England area in a variety of venues. Previous productions include: Punctuate4: *Saltonstall's Trial*. The Actor's Studio of Newburyport: *And No More Shall We Part*, *Left Among Us*, *Twelve Angry Women* *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?*, *Last Summer at Blue Fish Cove*, *Picnic*, *Heidi* and a staged reading of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The Player's Ring: *Patience Boston* and *Death of A Salesman*. ActOne: *On A First Name Basis* and *Make Sure It's Me*. She has also performed new plays at The Boston Theatre Marathon, Playwrights Platform, York Readers Theatre and the New Works Festival of Newburyport. She has been a long standing member of a writers group (Group) helping give voice to writers' plays in development.

Steven Sacks (Rabbi Jacob Lebowitz)

Recent productions for Punctuate4 include *The Battle Not Begun*, *No Victors/No Vanquished* and *Saltonstall's Trial* and *An Act of Love* and *And No More Shall We Part* at The Actors Studio of Newburyport. At the Players Ring of Portsmouth, Steven has appeared in *Patience Boston*, *A Christmas Carol* (Scrooge) and *Death of a Salesman* (Charlie). He has performed in a variety of short plays and staged readings at The Actors Studio, The West End Theater in Portsmouth, The Boston Playwright's Platform and the Boston Theater Marathon.

THE TEAM

Myriam Cyr* (Director and Artistic Director, Punctuate4 Productions)

Canadian Poet Laureate Cyr, is a founding member of Punctuate4 Productions and serves as Artistic Director. She has had a long and varied career and has been honored for her work as a director, producer, actress and author. In 2021, she was recognized with the Best Director Award by BroadwayWorld voters for *Reparations* at Gloucester Stage. She was previously voted Best Director by BroadwayWorld in 2020 for *Saltonstall's Trial* for Punctuate4. In 2020 she directed *The Battle Not Begun*, by NPR's "On Point" Analyst Jack Beatty (Boston Globe Critics' Pick) a co-production of Gloucester Stage Company. She produced the album *Brûle sur me lèvres* which won Best Album of the year for French Canada in 2021. She is author of the critically-acclaimed book *Letter of a Portuguese Nun* and co-author of the multi award-winning play *Saltonstall's Trial*.

Cyr has extensive theatre experience in New York and London, highlighted by directing *Simon Says* (Lynn Redgrave Theatre) with Brian Murray hailed by NYTimes as "thrilling". As artistic director of Punctuate4, Cyr has also produced and directed *Wilber's War* (Hale Bradt), *No Victors, No Vanquished* (Paul Saba, Esq.), and *Rite of Passage* (Izzy Salant). Her award-winning actress stage credits include *Salome* opposite Al Pacino.

Currently Cyr is writing, with Lisa Forrell, the dramatic television series entitled *Seven Days in Rome*. She will direct her plays *Reparations* and *Saltonstall's Trial*, and *Moving Bodies*, the story of Emilie du Chatelet, in 2022. In a return to film, she is starring in *Pointe Noire*, a new film by Pat Mire opposite French Canadian actor Roy Dupuis which just wrapped up shooting in Louisiana.

Isaac "Izzy" Salant (Playwright)

Izzy is a native Marylander who, after traveling up the east coast to study theater and journalism at UMass Amherst, recently relocated to Los Angeles. A diagnosis of mild autism has never limited his achievement. His work has been featured by Punctuate4 Productions, Bema Productions, The Braid (Formerly Jewish Women's Theater), Arena Civic Theater, Ghost Light Theater, and The University of Massachusetts Amherst Department of Theater. He was a member of the Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive Class of 2019, and was a two-time NEXT artist fellow at The Braid in Santa Monica.

His father is nationally recognized journalist Jonathan Salant.

Linda Menzies Greenstein (Producer)

Linda is a founding member of Punctuate4 Productions, an award-winning journalist, and producer for media and stage. Tikkun olam guides her personal and work life. She works regularly with first-time playwrights providing them with the guidance, feedback, and encouragement necessary to bring their creative works to audiences big and small. As a volunteer, she oversees an art and theatre program for inner-city kids in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

*Member of Actor's Equity and SAG-AFTRA



Telling Stories That Matter

Punctuate4 Productions creates a place where theater, conversations, and ideas come together to contribute to a world where diverse ideas are shared and valued.

With a commitment to excellence, four professional women are dedicated to developing new work, and new ways of telling stories across a multitude of platforms.

Our team brings a depth and breadth of experience with decades spent in theater and film, nationally as well as internationally. They combine their passion with expertise in writing, design, branding, marketing, leadership, consulting, and fundraising. We invite you to join us on our adventures. Please visit our website www.punctate4.org for ways to support us and our work.

Artistic Director, Myriam Cyr

Producers: Patricia Jamison, Linda Greenstein and Cat Stramer

DONATE



PUNCTUATE4, Inc. is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.



PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

THE ABOLITIONIST'S REFRAIN

(Mass Cultural Council Supported)

by Michael Cormier, Dramaturgy and Directed by Logan Pitts
African American Poet Francis Watkins Harper and John Greenleaf Whittier
meet as Whittier questions his poetry and future following the Civil War.

Award-winning REPARATIONS

by James Sheldon, Directed by Myriam Cyr

5 Audelco Awards, 2021 BroadwayWorld Award for **Best Play** & **Best Director**
Malcolm Ingram, Elliot Norton Award for **Best Acting in a Supporting Role**
(London Production in association with Wild Yak Productions)

An Upper East side widow spends a night of passion with a younger black
man. Their lives are forever changed by the discovery of shared secrets.

Award-winning SALTONSTALL'S TRIAL

2020 BroadwayWorld Award for Best Play and **Myriam Cyr**, **Best Director**
(The Untold Story of the Salem Witch Trials)

by Michael Cormier and Myriam Cyr, Dramaturgy Jack Bradley
Punctuate4 prepares to take *Saltonstall's Trial* to Boston with the Ford Hall
Forum and beyond in a new iteration dramaturged by Jack Bradley
(Broadway's Harry Potters, Jerusalem, Mean Girls, The Ferryman)

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Stay connected with award-winning Punctuate4
Productions. Our living playwrights range from 24
to 91 years of age. **We tell stories that matter.**

www.punctuate4.org



FEEDBACK FORM

How likely are you to attend a future performance of *Rite of Passage*?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Possibly
- Unlikely

How likely are you to recommend the script?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Possibly
- Unlikely

How do you think a US audience would receive the play?

- Positive Reception
- Mixed Reception
- Indifferent Reception
- Negative Reception

What did you like about the piece?

What did you dislike about the piece or felt needed work?

Do you have any other comments or thoughts you would like to share?
