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MJCCA Arts + Culture announces 2018-2019 season

The Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta (MJCCA) has announced its 2018-2019 Arts + Culture season, with programs taking place at the MJCCA (located at 5342 Tilly Mill Road, Dunwoody). For more information, visit atlantajcc.org/boxoffice or call 678-812-4002.

"This 2018-2019 season is one that I am particularly proud of, as it comprises musical performances, comedy, productions for the entire family, and even an illusionist," says Sandra Bass, MJCCA director of Arts + Culture. "Through this season's lineup, there truly will be a cultural offering for every age and interest."

—Music. Sandcatchers, September 15, 8:00 p.m. Tickets: \$15-\$20. A Middle-Eastern, Americana mash-up that grew out of Brooklyn, this dynamic quartet brings a variety of backgrounds, specialties, and improvisational music together to create a vibrant sound. Sandcatchers consists of Yoshie Fruchter on oud, Myk Freedman on lapsteel, Michael Bates on bass, and Tim Keiper on drums/percussion, with special guest Erik Friedlander on cello.

—Author Talk and Signing. Eli Saslow, *Rising Out of Hatred: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist*, September 20, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$13-\$18. A Prologue to the 27th Annual Book Festival of the MJCCA presents Pulitzer Prize-winning *Washington Post* reporter Eli Saslow, whose new book tells the powerful story of how Derek Black, a prominent white supremacist, changed his heart and mind. Black grew up at the epicenter of white nationalism. His father founded Stormfront, the largest racist community on the Internet. His godfather, David Duke, was a KKK Grand Wizard. By the time Black turned 19, he had his own daily radio show and was regarded as the leading light of the burgeoning white nationalist movement. *Rising Out of Hatred* tells the intensely personal saga of one man who eventually disavowed everything he was taught to believe, at tremendous personal cost.

—Theater. *The Ugly Duckling*, October 7, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Tickets: \$12-\$16. Lightwire Theater brings a classic tale to the modern stage in an unforgettable theatrical experience. With costume, puppets, and props embellished with electroluminescent wire, the beloved story of *The Ugly Duckling* plays out on stage through a cutting-edge blend of puppetry, technology, and dance. With dazzling visuals, poignant choreography, and the creative use of music, ranging from classical to pop, this production brings this story into a new and brilliant light.

—Comedy. Avi Liberman, October 14, 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$20-\$28. Avi Liberman's quirky style has made him a favorite in comedy clubs from Los Angeles to New York. Born in Israel and raised in Texas, Avi went to college in New York and now lives in Los Angeles. His style is a winning combination of life experiences and topical issues, told through a varied blend of characters and voices with worldwide expertise. Avi has performed stand-up comedy on CBS's "Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson," Comedy Central's "Premium Blend" and "Make Me Laugh," and NBC's *Friday Night!* His acting credits include "Dave's World" on CBS, "Boston Common" on NBC, and "Andytown U.S.A." on Comedy Central. Avi can be seen regularly on E! as a frequent guest on its popular countdown series. He has also guest starred on

"Movies at Our House" and shot a pilot titled "Through the Keyhole," both on AMC.

—Family Theater. *Little Raindrop Songs*, presented by the Alliance Theatre's Kathy & Ken Bernhardt Theatre for the Very Young, October 28, 10:30 a.m., 12 noon, and 4:00 p.m. Tickets: \$12-\$16. This whimsically theatrical and imaginative journey through an anything-but-normal day combines puppetry, a vibrantly colorful and transformative two-dimensional set design, comic performances, and catchy pajama-pop Lullatone. This fully interactive theatrical performance, written and directed by Michael Haverty, will connect with the very young and invite them in to the wonder of the artistic experience.

—Book Festival. 27th Edition of the Book Festival of the MJCCA, November 3-18, at the MJCCA. Event prices vary. For 26 years, the Book Festival of the MJCCA has provided the community with a literary extravaganza, featuring the year's most exceptional authors, celebrities, and influencers. Every year, thousands of book lovers gather to enjoy their favorite authors in a variety of forums, including author meet-and-greets, book signings, a community read, panel discussions, and more.

—Family Theater 2019. *La Tortuga and the Hare*, presented by the Alliance Theatre's Kathy & Ken Bernhardt Theatre for the Very Young, January 27, 2019, 10:30 a.m., 12 noon, and 4:00 p.m. Tickets: \$12-\$16. Join in the fun and excitement as the tortuga and the hare hit the starting line. Audience members are invited into the center of the racetrack to experience the action all around them. Through dance, movement, music, and bilingual storytelling, young children will engage in this classic folk tale in wholly imaginative and new ways. *La Tortuga and the Hare* is created and directed by Lauri Stallings and Rosemary Newcott.

Gimme Please, presented by the Alliance Theatre's Kathy & Ken Bernhardt Theatre for the Very Young, March 31, 10:30 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 4:00 p.m. Tickets: \$12-\$16. A play about the evolving nature of friendship, *Gimme Please* follows the journey of two friends from initial meeting to lasting connection. Audiences are invited to watch and explore as the two friends pretend, provoke, and persist in getting what they want and need from the world and each other. Through the use of live music, as well as light and magic, this story draws in audiences with its deep sense of play and honest exploration of growing up and finding one's path. This production is devised and directed by Megan Alrutz and conceived and commissioned in partnership with The PaperBoats.

—Comedy, Music, More. Sarge, April 7, 2019, 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$25-\$36. Sarge is an extraordinary entertainer who has performed worldwide to adoring audiences. A triple threat (piano savant, improvisational comedian, and singer), he is now an author, with the imminent release of *I'm Still Standing Up*, which traces his hilarious, inspirational life of twists, turns, ups, and downs. Sarge is a highly sought after motivational speaker; for the last seven years, he has been working in treatment centers and recovery residences, bringing a revolutionary and groundbreaking modality of comedy therapy to people suffering from addiction.

—Illusionist. Vitaly presents "An Evening of Wonders," February 9, 2019, 8:00 p.m., and February 10, 5:00 p.m. Tickets: \$20-\$28.



The Sandcatchers

Hailed as one of the most unique illusionists in the world, Vitaly Beckman brings his latest and most ambitious production to the stage. In this interactive experience, Vitaly blends art and illusion to illustrate the story of his transformation from a boy with a dream to a man with a vision—the vision of a world in which the rules of reality do not exist. In this world, paintings spring to life, photographs become mini-movies, and audience members see their faces vanish from their own driver's licenses. With illusions that often touch on tender topics such as love, loss, and growing old, "An Evening of Wonders" not only entertains; it also moves, inspires, and instills within all who experience it a fresh perspective on life and a greater realization that ours is a world of beauty and wonder.

—Dance. Ariel Rika Dance Company, March 23, 2019, 8:00 p.m., and March 24, 5:00 p.m. Tickets: \$15-\$36. Ariel Rivka Dance (ARD) is a critically acclaimed all-female contemporary dance company led by married couple Ariel Grossman (artistic director/choreographer) and David Homan (executive director/composer). Based in New York/New Jersey, ARD creates work with new music that explores emotionally driven movement with underlying currents of technique and structure.



Illusionist Vitaly Beckman

ARD shows incorporate various styles of dance and music, exposing audiences to quality artistry in an inviting way. In 2016, Grossman was named a Jersey (New) Moves Emerging Choreographer and was invited to the 2017 Jersey (New) Moves festival as standout past grant recipient.

—Culinary Arts. From sushi to Italian cuisine—children, adults, and families learn culinary techniques and create delicious dishes in a range of cooking classes, taught by experienced chefs. Learn more at atlantajcc.org/cook.

—Visual Arts. Classes for children and adults take place in one of two spacious art studios. Learn more at atlantajcc.org/art.



Ariel Rika Dance Company