



25 QUESTIONS FOR A JEWISH MOTHER

Written by **JUDY GOLD &
KATE MOIRA RYAN**

Directed by **KAREN KOHLHAAS**

Performed by **JUDY GOLD**

PRIMARY STAGES

Artistic Director Executive Director
Andrew Leynse **Shane D. Hudson**

Founder **Casey Childs**

presents

25 QUESTIONS FOR A JEWISH MOTHER

by **Judy Gold & Kate Moira Ryan**

performed by **Judy Gold**

Production Stage Manager **Jessica R. Aguilar**
General Press Representative **Matt Ross Public Relations**
Light & Sound Board Operator **Nina Tendency**

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Associate Artistic Director **Erin Daley**
Production Manager **Will Duty**
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Director of ESPA **Sarah Matteucci**
Assistant General Manager **Claudia McCoy**
Director of Development **Erica Raven-Scorza**
Marketing Manager **Veronica Shea**

Directed by **Karen Kohlhaas**



The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

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Primary Stages is a member of the Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York, the service organization for NYC's non-profit Off- and Off-Off-Broadway theatres.



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Initial New York Production presented by Ars Nova in association with Jewcy.

Originally produced in 2002 by The Empty Space Theater, Seattle, Washington.

Primary Stages season support generously provided by Daniel and Rosele Frishwasser.

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE CHERRY LANE THEATRE

25 Questions for a Jewish Mother is not a production of Cherry Lane Alternative.

Cherry Lane Alternative is a not-for-profit corporation.

Revenue derived from the rental of the theatre is used to further the work of the Cherry Lane Alternative.

WHO'S WHO



JUDY GOLD (*Playwright/ Performer*) has had stand-up specials on HBO, Comedy Central, and LOGO. She has written and

starred in two critically acclaimed, Off-Broadway hit shows: *The Judy Show – My Life as a Sitcom* (Outer Critics Circle Nomination) and *25 Questions for a Jewish Mother* (GLAAD Media Award – Outstanding NY Theater, Drama Desk Nomination – Actor).

Judy received rave reviews as Gremio in The Public Theater's all female production of *The Taming of The Shrew* for Shakespeare in the Park. She also co-starred in Off-Broadway's *Clinton! The Musical* and *Disaster! The Musical*.

Judy recently guest starred on CBS' "Madame Secretary" and has a recurring role on the upcoming season of FX's "Better Things." She has also had recurring roles Netflix's "Friends from College" and TBS' "Search Party," and appeared on the Showtime series "I'm Dying Up Here." Judy was featured in Woody Allen's series "Crisis in Six Scenes" on Amazon, and also on the hit web-series "The Other F Word" on Amazon Prime. She has also appeared on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" and is a regular on Comedy Central's new series "This Week at The Comedy Cellar." Other more recent TV appearances include guest-starring roles on the reboot of "Murphy Brown," "Broad City," "Louie," "The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," among others. From 1999-2010, Judy was the host of HBO's "At the Multiplex with Judy Gold." Judy also won two Emmy awards for writing and producing "The Rosie O'Donnell Show."

Judy has made numerous appearances on "The Wendy Williams Show," "The View," "The Today Show," and "The Steve

Harvey Show." She often pops up on The Food Network, but please do not mention "Chopped All Stars" to her; or "Rachel vs. Guy" for that matter.

Judy Gold is the author of "YES I CAN SAY THAT – When They Come for the Comedians We're All in Trouble," forthcoming from Dey Street Books.

She has written for *The New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, CNN.com. She is also a talking head on MSNBC, CNN, and anywhere else that'll have her. She is the host of the hit podcast *Kill Me Now* on iTunes. You can find her at JudyGold.com or follow her at @jewdygold on Twitter & Instagram.

Judy's new comedy album *Conduct Unbecoming* drops this January and her previous albums, *Kill Me Now* and *Judith's Roommate Had a Baby*, are available wherever you get your music.

KATE MOIRA RYAN (*Playwright*). Selected work: *The Beebo Brinker Chronicles*, written with Linda S. Chapman and based on Ann Bannon's Lesbian Pulp novels from the 1950s, produced Off-Broadway by Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner (Winner: GLAAD Award and published by DPS); *Cavedweller*, based on the New York Times bestselling novel by Dorothy Allison, produced by New York Theatre Workshop, directed by Michael Greif, and published by DPS. Other work (selected) includes *25 Questions for a Jewish Mother*, written with and for Judy Gold, which ran for a year and a half Off-Broadway and had a three year national tour (Winner: GLAAD Award; a book based on the play was published by Hyperion and nominated for the Quill Award); *The Judy Show*, also written with and for Judy Gold, was produced at Theater J, Williamstown, DR2 (Union Square), and the Geffen Playhouse; *OTMA* was produced by the Atlantic Theater, Yakertinburg Young People's Theatre, as

WHO'S WHO

well as nationally and internationally. It is published by Playscripts. She was a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn prize for her play *Hadley's Mistake*.

Kate has received numerous fellowships, including the Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship to EST, Sundance Institute, the Trust for Mutual Understanding (Russia), MacDowell, Yaddo, Edward Albee, the Center for International Theatre (Russia), New York Foundation for the Arts, Brooks Atkinson New Dramatists Exchange to the Royal National Theater, Sumner Locke Elliott Fellowship to the Australian National Playwrights Conference, and the Van Lier to the Women's Project and Productions.

An alumna of New Dramatists, she received her MFA in Playwriting from Columbia University and started her career with the Young Playwright's Festival. She is on faculty at the Primary Stages Einhorn School of Performing Arts and is an instructor for the New York Theatre Workshop Master Class program.

KAREN KOHLHAAS (*Director*) is a founding member of the Atlantic Theater Company where credits include the world premiere of Annie Baker's play *Body Awareness*; Harold Pinter's *The Hothouse*, *A Kind of Alaska*, and *The Collection*; David Mamet's *The Water Engine* and *Mr. Happiness*; *An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein*; Keith Reddin's *Frame 312*; Kate Moira Ryan's *OTMA*; and one act plays by Jeff Whitty, Kia Corthron, Hilary Bell, Joe Penhall, David Mamet, and many others. She has also directed at the New York Shakespeare Festival/ Public Theater; *Naked Angels*; *The Culture Project*; *Ensemble Studio Theatre*; *The 24 Hour Plays on Broadway*; *New Dramatists*; *The Alley Theatre*, Houston; *The Practical Theatre Company*, Sydney; and *Menagerie Theatre*, Cambridge, UK. She directed *25 Questions for a Jewish Mother*, starring Judy Gold, by Kate Moira Ryan with Ms. Gold, for the Montreal Comedy Festival, New York's *Ars Nova*, Off-Broadway at St. Luke's Theatre, and national tour. Her

short films include *The Palace of the End* and *If You See Something, Say Something* with Taylor Mac; *The Babies Got the Blues*; *It's Not About Film*; and *Watermelon Slim*, which have played in festivals in the US and internationally. Karen is a Tennessee Williams scholar focusing on the Mississippi Delta; the curator of the Tennessee Williams Rectory Museum in Clarksdale, Mississippi (tennesseewilliamsrectorymuseum.com); a presenter and panelist at the Mississippi Delta and New Orleans Tennessee Williams Festivals; and is finishing her feature documentary, *Tennessee Williams in the Mississippi Delta: The Love of Things Irreconcilable*. She is a senior teacher at the Atlantic Acting School and teaches her own classes in acting, directing, and auditioning. She is the author of "The Monologue Audition: A Practical Guide for Actors," and "How to Choose a Monologue for Any Audition." She guest teaches at universities around the country and in the UK.

JESSICA R. AGUILAR (*Production Stage Manager*) is delighted to return to Primary Stages following her Off-Broadway debut with *God Said This*. Select credits include: National Tour: *A Night with Janis Joplin*. Regional: *Significant Other* (Geffen Playhouse); *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Shout Sister Shout!* (Pasadena Playhouse); *Jazz, Fences* (Marin Theatre Company). Many thanks to SA2-HW-PA-HV-QH-ML-MA-JK2-F&F. Mi corazón a Chris.

PRIMARY STAGES

PRIMARY STAGES is an Off-Broadway not-for-profit theater company dedicated to inspiring, supporting, and sharing the art of playwriting. We operate on the strongly held belief that the future of American theater relies on nurturing playwrights and giving them the artistic support needed to create new work. Since our founding in 1984, we have produced more than 135 new plays. Our productions and artists have received critical acclaim, including numerous Tony, Obie, Lortel, Off-Broadway Alliance, AUDELCO, Outer Critics' Circle, Drama League, and Drama Desk awards and nominations. Primary Stages supports playwrights and develops new works through commissions, workshops, readings, and our education and engagement programs: the Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group, Marvin and Anne Einhorn School of Performing Arts (ESPA), Teenwrights, Primary Plus Developmental Reading Series, our Free Student Matinee Program, TixTeen, and the Primary Stages Off-Broadway Oral History Project. Through these programs, Primary Stages advocates for our artists, helping them make important—and often transformative—connections within the theater community. For more information on Primary Stages and our various programs, please visit us at primarystages.org.

ANDREW LEYNSE (Artistic Director) is currently in his 16th season as Artistic Director of Primary Stages. Andrew is a director and founding member of the Primary Stages Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group (now in its 24th

year); teaches for Primary Stages ESPA (Einhorn School of Performing Arts) and The Tepper Semester for Syracuse University; and is the Artistic Director of the Colorado New Play Festival in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Andrew is a proud Board Member of A.R.T./New York and is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon's Directing Program.

SHANE D. HUDSON (Executive Director) is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama and Emerson College. Shane has served as Director of Development at Elevator Repair Service, Managing Director of the Yale Cabaret, Associate Director of Development at PlayMakers Repertory Company, General Manager/Marketing Director for Blue Man Group, Theater Manager of the Charles Playhouse, and Executive Director of StageSource. He is an adjunct professor at Marymount Manhattan College.

CASEY CHILDS (Founder) founded Primary Stages in 1984 and has directed many productions for the company. He served as the Artistic Program Director for the New Dramatists from 1981-1985 and was the recipient of the Carnegie Mellon Commitment to New Playwrights Award, as well as two Emmy Awards and many nominations for his extensive work in television. He is a past Vice President of the Directors' Guild of America and a past trustee of The National Association of Television Arts and Sciences. Casey has a BFA in acting and an MFA in directing from Carnegie Mellon University.

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UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ANGELINA FIORELLISI

CHERRY LANE THEATRE. In 1924, colleagues of Edna St. Vincent Millay opened the Cherry Lane Playhouse, establishing a future home for the seminal voices of the American stage, among them F. Scott Fitzgerald, Elmer Rice, O'Neill, O'Casey, Odets, Auden, Gertrude Stein, T.S. Eliot, William Saroyan, Beckett, Albee, Pinter, Ionesco, LeRoi Jones, Sam Shepard, Lanford Wilson, Joe Orton, and David Mamet. For a comprehensive look at our history, please visit cherrylanetheatre.org.

ANGELINA FIORELLISI. Proprietor of Cherry Lane Theatre since 1996, Fiordellisi has served over 3,700 artists and countless non-profit theater companies. She founded Cherry Lane Alternative in 1997, creating a number of new play development programs including the Obie

Award-winning Mentor Project which she co-founded with Edward Albee, Charles Fuller, A. R. Gurney, Tony Kushner, Wendy Wasserstein, Michael Weller and Susann Brinkley. She has produced over 100 plays at Cherry Lane. As co-producer on Broadway she won the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Drama League Awards for Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and a Drama Desk Award for *The Realistic Joneses* by Will Eno. Acting Credits include Broadway, Off-Broadway, National Tours, Regional Theaters, Film, and Television. Professional training: Jose Quintero, Sanford Meisner, Stella Adler.

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Interested in honing your craft and creating new artistic relationships? Primary Stages ESPA offers classes in Acting, Writing, and Directing for all artists, in all stages of their careers. Our focus is on nurturing, honoring, and advocating for emerging artists by providing them countless developmental opportunities, space to write and rehearse, and a family of collaborators.

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For over 12 years, we've offered classes for playwrights, actors, and directors in all stages of their careers.



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supporting, and sharing the art of playwriting. We believe that theater relies on nurturing playwrights and giving them the support they need to thrive. This is your Off-Broadway Home.



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Regardless of financial means or the availability of comprehensive arts education, Primary Stages is for everyone.

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Established in 1995, we serve over 1,400 NYC public high school students each year.

- **OFF-BROADWAY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

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- **TEENWRIGHTS PLAYWRITING PROGRAM**

A free after-school playwriting program offered at high schools throughout New York City.



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It's simple. You love theater. You want to see new work and new perspectives on stage. You think training the next generation of theater artists is important. You believe all New Yorkers should have access to art regardless of financial means. You know that experiencing a diverse range of plays that represent all voices is significant in the creation of empathy and understanding in the world. You understand that producing theater is expensive, but definitely worth the investment. You are eager to help.

As a **PRIMARY PARTNER**, you are guaranteed the best seats in the house. You receive concierge ticketing services with our patron hotline. You are granted access to private readings, rehearsals, Opening Nights, and other intimate events with our artists. You meet others who value and share the same love for theater as you do. **You become a true collaborator in our mission to inspire, support, and share the art of playwriting.**

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NURTURE

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Join our family of partners, playwrights, directors, and performers.
Membership starts at \$500.

To join, and for benefits levels, visit primarystages.org/partners, call 212.594.2125, or email julia@primarystages.org.

WE'VE DONE QUITE A LOT IN 35 YEARS.

Over 135 new plays and musicals have premiered on our stage. More than 150 new works have been created in our Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group, and over 3,500 aspiring artists have honed their skills at our Einhorn School of Performing Arts (ESPA). This year, the 20,000th public school student—yes, you read that right—attended one of our Free Student Matinees.

All of this, and more, has happened because of people like you.

The **35TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE OF PRIMARY STAGES** is a \$5 million initiative that will provide the growth funds necessary for our artistic and educational programs to prosper for years to come.

Only through this support can the next great American play be written, the next great performance be given, and the next young artist be inspired to create.

To learn more about the **35TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE OF PRIMARY STAGES** and how you can become involved, please contact Executive Director Shane D. Hudson at 212.840.9705 ext. 201 or shane@primarystages.org.

PRIMARYSTAGES.ORG/35YEARS

BELOW: Emma Kikue and Satomi Blair in
God Said This

PHOTO: James Leynse



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