

ABRONS
ARTS HENRY STREET
CENTER SETTLEMENT

June 27, 2018

GHETTO SHERIFF

A Production of Örkény Theatre, Hungary

GHETTO SHERIFF

A production of Örkény Theatre,
Hungary

Runtime: 90 minutes
In English

Creators
Márton Kovács and **János Mohácsi**

Creator-Performers
**Eszter Bánfalvi, Csilla Radnay,
Ádám Lábodi, Anna Boros, Tamás
Keresztény, Máté Lakatos, Bálint
Formán, Árpád Némedi, Nóra Rainer-
Micsinyei, Nóra Diána Takács,** and
Hella Tolnai

**How can we talk about the biggest
trauma of the 20th century, the
Holocaust?**

According to the renowned director
János Mohácsi and his former students,
we can do so with the help of Jewish
jokes and songs, documents from the
30s and 40s, and by reciting them – in
pitch darkness.

The texts were selected by János
Mohácsi and the actors together,
predominantly from personal
reminiscences. Texts from the film
Shoah by Claude Lanzmann as well as
many other sources were used, such
as case studies, survivor testimonies,
literary works, diary notes, historical
sources, official reports and personal
collections to evoke the historical period
and the mood of the time. The piece was
produced in 2012 as a coproduction of
Faculty of Arts of Kaposvár University
and FÜGE, one of the leading production
houses in Budapest for independent
performing arts. In 2013, the piece
received an award by the Hungarian
Association of Theatre Critics for Best
Independent Performance and Best
Music, and in the same year it was
programmed in the Hungarian Theatre
Showcase 2013. FÜGE took care of its
distribution until 2016, since then it
has been regularly presented in Örkény
István Theatre. The play was performed
in many locations, both in Budapest and
the countryside.

"When there is the end of the *Ghetto
Sheriff* performance, we quietly stand up
and leave the space. János Mohácsi did a
brilliant job again. But now we don't clap,
because its not possible to say thanks
for what have heard."

"For the darkness of the history János
Mohácsi and his cast had to create
the darkness of the theatre. Darkness
without interval – this is the genre of the
Ghetto Sheriff."

"I feel that I can't describe this show;
you must see and live through it. I would
make this show part of the official
education for all high schools."

"Then the girls there ran in masses into
the high voltage wires. And then one of
my girlfriends from Jászapáti told me,
"Come, run with me into the wires!" And
then I say: "Are you stupid? I won't run!"
Then she: "Why not?" I say: "Listen! If I run
into the wires, and then these tomorrow
lose the war, I'll be really pissed in the
kingdom come!" Those around me
hearing what I've said, they all started
to guffaw. That day no suicide was
committed. For one guffaw.

- Ágnes Moller

HUNGARY IN FOCUS

Panel Discussion

June 25, 2018, 7pm

On June 25th the Hungary Live Festival will present an evening of discussion on the similarities, differences and challenges of today's contemporary Hungarian and American theatre scene. By hearing the experiences of leading theater professionals from both Hungary and the United States we will get a closer look on structural differences, the trials and tribulations of art financing and the life of a theater artist in both countries.

ABOUT ABRONS

Abrons Arts Center is a home for contemporary interdisciplinary arts in Manhattan's Lower East Side neighborhood. A core program of the Henry Street Settlement, Abrons believes that access to the arts is essential to a free and healthy society. Through performance presentations, exhibitions, education programs and residencies, Abrons mobilizes communities with the transformative power of art.

Abrons values freedom of expression and creativity, ever striving to provide creative communities with a space that celebrates diversity of thought and experience. Abrons aims to be an anti-oppressive home to people from all backgrounds and does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, citizen status, ancestry, age, religion, disability, sex or gender, gender identity and/or expression (including a transgender identity), sexual orientation or any other characteristic.

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

Abrons Arts Center is situated on the Lenape island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta) in Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland. We pay respect to Lenape peoples, past, present, and future and their continuing presence in the homeland and throughout the Lenape diaspora. We offer our care and gratitude to the land, water and air of Lenapehoking, and are committed to resisting colonialism and imbalance with Mother Earth through the support of Indigenous-led programming and Indigenous artistic practices.

Nulelìntàmuhëna èli paèkw Lenapehoking
Kulawsihëmo ènta ahpìèkw.

Nooleelundamuneeen eeli payeekw Lunaapeewahkiing.
Wulaawsiikw neeli apiiyeeekw.

We are glad because you people came to Lenapehoking.
Live well when you are here.

Thank you to the Lenape Center and Emily Johnson for their partnership in developing Abrons Arts Center's Indigenous Land Acknowledgment.

You are welcome here.

For tickets and showtimes:
abronsartscenter.org



**HENRY STREET
SETTLEMENT**

Abrons Arts Center Henry Street Settlement

466 Grand Street
New York City 10002
212.598.0400
abronsartscenter.org

 @abronsartscenter
 @abronsartsctr
 @abronsartscenter

ABRONS FUNDING

The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Inc.
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts
The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes
The Barker Welfare Foundation
British Council
The Bulova Stetson Fund
Daniel J. and Edith A. Ehrlich Family Foundation
The Diller-von Furstenberg Family Foundation
Emily Davie & Joseph S. Kornfeld Foundation
Exploring the Arts
The Harkness Foundation for Dance, Inc.
The Harold & Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust
Howard Gilman Foundation, Inc.
Jacques and Natasha Gelman Foundation
Jerome Foundation
Jerome Robbins Foundation
Louis and Anne Abrons Foundation, Inc.
Mertz Gilmore Foundation
Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation
Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation
Stavros Niarchos Foundation
Tita Cahn Trust
Trust for Mutual Understanding
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
National Endowment for the Arts
New York City Councilmember Margaret Chin
New York City Councilmember Rosie Mendez
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
New York City Department of Education
New York State Council on the Arts
As well as our numerous individual supporters

Support neighborhood businesses! As a thank you for supporting our programming, we're offering discounts to some of our favorite Lower East Side hangouts. For more information, click on

abronsartscenter.org/plan-your-trip/dining-and-attractions

and get a discount when you bring this program!

