

**MOSHE SHAMIR (Playwright)** (1921-2004) was born in Safed, Israel, and spent most of his life in Tel Aviv. He was a prolific novelist, journalist, playwright, children's author, literary critic and political figure. *He Walked Through the Fields* is based on his own 1947 novel, which was awarded the Ussishkin Prize. Shamir was a member of Kibbutz Mishmar HaEmek from 1944 to 1946. A member of the Palmach, in 1948, he founded the soldiers' weekly, *Bamahaneh*, and was its first editor. He edited it until he was dismissed at the request of David Ben-Gurion for publishing an article about a celebration of the disbanding of Palmach. He served on the editorial board of the daily *Maariv* in the 50s. Shamir was a member of Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, from 1977 to 1981, his politics shifting from Mapam (labor) to Likud to participating in the founding of Tehiya, after the Camp David Treaty of 1979. The most prominent representative of his generation of writers Shamir was awarded the Bialik Prize (1955), the Israel Prize (1988) and the ACUM Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2002). His best known historical novels include *The King of Flesh and Blood* and *David's Stranger*. His best known topical works are *He Walked through the Fields*, *With His Own Hands*, and *For Naked Thou Art*. His books generally deal with contemporary problems of Israel as seen from the viewpoint of the younger generation.

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2510 SE 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Portland, 97206

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Greater Portland Innovation Impact Fund

*Jewish Theatre Collaborative & The Harold Schnitzer  
Family Program in Judaic Studies present:*

**Israel Onstage: Israeli Society through Drama**

# **He Walked Through the Fields**

**By Moshe Shamir**



**Directed by Sacha Reich**  
**June 29, 2010**  
**Morrison Stage, Artists Repertory Theatre**  
**Portland, Oregon**



# He Walked Through the Fields

By Moshe Shamir

## Company:

Director	Sacha Reich
SM & Lighting	Alexzz Eccles
Sound	Sam Mowry
Production Manager	Jamie M. Rea
Dialect	Mary McDonald-Lewis

## Actors: Primary Character/s

URI	Sam Dinkowitz
KIBBUTZNIK	Sam Mowry
RUTHKA	Luisa Sermol*
WILLIE	Rick Sanders
AVRAHAM	Tod Tolces
MIKA	Heidi Hunter
GITA/others	Wendy Wilcox
ILANA/DINALE	Cristi Miles*
BIBERMAN	Mark Loring
PESACH/DANDE	Cory Huff
ALBERT/RAFI	Jake Rossman
GINGI	Gavin Hoffman
MOTKE/SEMYON	Matt Dieckman

\* Appear with the permission of Actor's Equity

**Israel Onstage made possible with support from** The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at PSU, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, the Oregon Israel Fund of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, the Consulate General of Israel in San Francisco and the Institute of Israeli Drama. JTC & PSU appreciate the participation of Sylvia Frankel, Elaine Friedman, David Fuks, Sondra Pearlman and Barbara Slader reviewing and selecting the Israel Onstage slate of plays.

**Jewish Theatre Collaborative** engages people in Jewish stories from the past and present exploring values, traditions, and history, in order to better comprehend the diversity of contemporary human experience.

## JTC Notes

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This play is an historical landmark: anchored completely in the new generation. For the first time, Kibbutz born pioneers of the struggle for independence and identity could see their world on the stage as it really was. On the day of the opening, newspaper headlines read: "Tulkarem, Jenin Bombed," "France Will Take Strong Measures Against Arabs For Damaging French Property In Jerusalem," "Victims Of Gas Attacks In Jerusalem Hospitals," and there were columns of death announcements. The subject of the play, plus the timing, made the play a symbol of the War of Independence, a morale booster for the troops who jokingly called it a "secret weapon". Performances were held in army camps, in places where the mortar fire and explosions occasionally drowned out the voice of the actors. The play was performed 171 times reaching an estimated 170,000 people.

### Questions for thought:

- **How does the new generation depict itself?**
- **Where do its commitments lie?**
- **What are its values?**
- **What does Heroism look like?**
- **What is at the core of the tension between the Kibbutzniks and survivor Mika?**

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