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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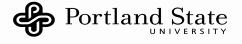
Israel Onstage: Israeli Society through Drama

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

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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

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?

JTC Thanks Oregon Children's Theatre, Miracle Theatre, Oregon Jewish Museum, Sam Mowry, Trent Turvey, Artist Repertory Theatre, Karin Magaldi and the Theatre Arts Department of Portland State University and our photographer Friderike Heuer.

^{*} Appear with the permission of Actor's Equity