

TOBY AND SAUL FELDBERG AND FAMILY PRESENT:

# DEAR JACK, DEAR LOUISE

STARRING Aris Athanopoulos and Amy Keating



MAY 27  
—JUN 11  
2023

WRITTEN BY Ken Ludwig DIRECTED BY David Eisner

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2022/2023

HAROLD GREEN  
JEWISH THEATRE COMPANY

15TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON



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# ARTISTIC DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

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The year was 1942. A young man of 23 years old from New York City went on a first date with a young lady of 20 years old from Toronto. She happened to be in NYC visiting her sister. The young couple went to the Paramount Theatre to see Frank Sinatra in concert. With a peck on the cheek they went their separate ways, he, drafted into the US Army and she, back to the 6th Avenue Garment district as a seamstress.

After one date and over 500 letters written during WWII, that couple got married. Their names were George and Pearl Saltzman. This was the start of their long and loving 60-year marriage, and this is what *Dear Jack, Dear Louise* is all about.

I know you'll love this play. It is so full of love, fear, anxiety, hope and the lost art of letter writing. Pen to paper, heart to page, fear in sealing the envelope and hope in mailing it out. The air palpable with young love. How beautifully romantic.

David and I hope this last show of our 15th Anniversary Season will transport you back to a more nostalgic era, when, despite war and strife, it was a time of innocence. Enjoy this show while sitting hand in hand with the partner next to you and afterward go out into the world a little lighter.



David Eisner & Avery Saltzman

**CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS**

Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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The HGJTC is pleased to welcome you into the enchanting world of *Dear Jack, Dear Louise*, a heartfelt play by Ken Ludwig set in the tumultuous era of World War II. Through their long-distance correspondence amidst the backdrop of war and turmoil, we witness the power of love and the unbreakable spirit of human connection, while also shining a light on the resilience of Jewish identity in the face of adversity. Join us on this transformative journey that intertwines romance, comedy, and drama, as it reminds us of the enduring nature of love and the importance of personal connection, especially in times of hardship.

Dene Cohen and Danny Webber

**CO-PRESIDENTS**

Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company

# CAST & CREW

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HAROLD GREEN  
JEWISH THEATRE COMPANY

15TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

PRESENTS

## DEAR JACK, DEAR LOUISE

WRITTEN BY

**KEN LUDWIG**

STARRING

**ARIS ATHANASOPOULOS AND AMY KEATING**

SET DESIGNER ..... BRIAN DUDKIEWICZ  
LIGHTING DESIGNER ..... STEVE LUCAS  
COSTUME DESIGNER ..... ALEX AMINI  
SOUND DESIGNER ..... LYON SMITH  
PRODUCTION MANAGER ..... BILL ZEILSTRA  
STAGE MANAGER ..... SEREN BROOKE LANNON  
APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER ..... EMILY CORNELIUS

DIRECTED BY

**DAVID EISNER**

*"Ken Ludwig's Dear Jack, Dear Louise" is presented by arrangement with  
Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)*

*Dear Jack, Dear Louise premiered at Arena Stage (Washington, DC)  
Molly Smith, Artistic Director and Edgar Dobie, Executive Producer  
November 21–December 29, 2019*

*Excerpt from ARSENIC AND OLD LACE by Joseph Kesserling, Original Broadway  
Production by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse, used with permission.*

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**DEAR JACK, DEAR LOUISE WILL HAVE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION**

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SPECIAL THANKS TO

Toby and Saul Feldberg and Family, Brampton Brick, Carmen Amini, Ian Arnold, Ryan Beale, Rich Caplan, Zoe Carpenter, Adrielle Chiesa,  
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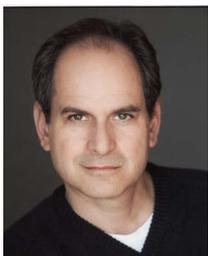
## ARIS ATHANASOPOULOS (Jack)

Aris is a Toronto based actor, writer, and teacher. He was born in Elliot Lake, Ontario and raised in Mississauga. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours, Acting) from York University's prestigious actors' conservatory. This is his second show with the Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company. He played Baruch de Spinoza in the production of *New Jerusalem*, directed by Mitchell Cushman, in the 2013/2014 season. Select theatre credits include: *Salt Baby* (Theatre Aquarius), *This Is It* (The Blood Project), *The Railway Children* (Mirvish), *Theatre of The Film Noir* (Atlas Stage), *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Classical Theatre Project). Select Film and Television credits include: *Saving Hope* (CTV), *The Strain* (FX), *Frankie Drake Mysteries* (CBC). He's very happy to be back working with Avery, David, Matt, and the *Dear Jack*, *Dear Louise* team.



## AMY KEATING (Louise)

Amy (she/her) is a Toronto-based actor originally hailing from Treaty 6 territory in the Prairies. She works in both theatre and film and is a three-time Dora Mavor Moore nominated actor. She was last seen at the Harold Green Jewish Theatre in *New Jerusalem* playing the role of Clara. She is a founding member and associate artist of Outside the March. OtM credits include: *Trojan Gurls*; *The Flick*; *Mr. Burns*; *Tomorrow Love*; *Passion Play*; *Mr. Marmalade*. Other fave theatre credits: Cathleen in *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (Stratford Festival); Laura in *The Glass Menagerie* (Grand Theatre); Jessica in *Hand to God* (Coal Mine Theatre); Lucille in *This is How We Got Here* (GreenLight Arts); Claudia in *I, Claudia* (Talk is Free); Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Capitol Theatre). Fave Film/TV credits: *Reacher* (Amazon); *Ginny & Georgia* (Netflix); *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC); *Killjoys* (SyFy); *PIGS* (short film); *SUCCULENT* (short film which she wrote and produced). Follow her online: @lil\_keats. Love to M.

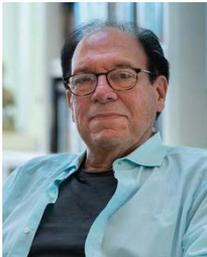


## DAVID EISNER (Director)

David is the co-founder and co-artistic director of the Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company, celebrating its 16th anniversary season. David Eisner is an accomplished actor 45-year veteran of the entertainment industry who has an impressive resume of more than 100 television, film and theatre credits over the span of his career. David has appeared in HGJTC productions of *Lost in Yonkers*, *New Jerusalem*, *Driving Miss Daisy* and *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and has directed *Rose* (2016) and *Becoming Dr. Ruth*. Most recently David appeared in the Hallmark movie *Hanukkah on Rye*. This spring David will be seen in Hannah Moscovitch's and Jennifer Podemski's mini-series *Little Bird* on Crave TV and the web series *Less Than Kosher*. David is blessed to have a beautiful wife and 3 great sons.

# BIO

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## **KEN LUDWIG** (Playwright)

Ken Ludwig has had six shows on Broadway, seven in London's West End, and many of his works have become a standard part of the American repertoire. His 32 plays and musicals have been performed in over 30 countries in more than 20 languages and are produced throughout the United States every night of the year. *Lend Me a Tenor* won two Tony Awards and was called "one of the classic comedies of the 20th century by *The Washington Post*. *Crazy For You* was on Broadway for 5 years and won the Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Musical. In addition, he has won the Edgar Award for Best Mystery of the Year, two Laurence Olivier Awards, two Helen Hayes Awards, and the Edwin Forrest Award for Contributions to the American Theater. His plays have starred, among others, Alec Baldwin, Carol Burnett, Tony Shaloub, Joan Collins and Hal Holbrook. His stage version of *Murder on the Orient Express* was written expressly at the request of the Agatha Christie Estate, and had its European premiere at the Chichester Festival Theatre in June of 2022. His play, *Dear Jack, Dear Louise*, won the 2020 Charles MacArthur Award for Best New Play of the Year. He is a graduate of Harvard and Cambridge and is a frequent guest speaker for groups as varied as The Oxford-Cambridge Society, The Jane Austen Society of North America, The Folger Shakespeare Library, and The Baker Street Irregulars. For more information, see his website at [www.kenludwig.com](http://www.kenludwig.com)



## **BRIAN DUDKIEWICZ** (Set Designer)

Brian is an award-winning designer whose work has been seen across Canada and the United States. Other credits include: *Bad Jews*, *The Great Divide* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre), *April Fools*, *Indecent*, *Million Dollar Quartet* (Segal Centre), *Kinky Boots*, *Newsies*, *Rocky* (Drayton), *The Last Five Years* (Neptune), *Titanic* (The Grand), *Never Not Once* (Theatre Aquarius), *Jukebox Hero* (Mirvish), *Into the Woods* (St. Petersburg Opera), *Hal&Bee*, *Room of my Own*, *Lifex3*, *Unseamly*, and many more (Off-Broadway). Brian holds a Bachelor in Architecture from McGill University, and an MFA in design from Yale University. [www.briandudkiewicz.com](http://www.briandudkiewicz.com)



## **STEVE LUCAS** (Lighting Designer)

Steve has designed award winning sets and lighting and projections for more than 500 productions of Theatre, Opera, Dance and Performance Art. His work has been seen all across Canada, the United States, UK, Europe, Scandinavia, Russia, Australia, and Asia. Steve's work in theatre has mainly been focused on new and original plays; he has designed the world premieres of literally hundreds of shows. Steve has received four Dora Awards for his set and lighting designs. He has also been nominated for several of Canada's most prestigious awards including 35 Dora Award nominations. For more info visit [stevelucasdesign.ca](http://stevelucasdesign.ca)

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# BIOS

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## LYON SMITH (Sound Designer)

Lyon is a Toronto based multidisciplinary theatre artist working as an actor, photographer and most notably as a sound designer. Select sound credits include: 5 seasons as the sound designer for Canadian Stage's Shakespeare in the Park as well as designing the productions *Venus in Fur*, *Liv Stein* and *Game of Love and Chance*, creator and composer for *the Last Donnelly Standing* at Blyth in addition to designing productions of *Mary's Wedding*, *in the Wake of Wettlaufer*, *Truth be Told* and *the Drawer Boy*. Lyon designed sound for clown duo Moro and Jasp with *9 to 5* and *Stupefaction*, *Venus' Daughter* for Obsidian theatre, *the Canadian* for Thousand Islands Playhouse, *Prairie Nurse* and *the Waltz* for Factory Theatre, *Pipeline* for Soulpepper, *The Great Divide* for Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company, *the Gig* for theatre Aquarius and *Stag and Doe* and *Shirley Valentine* for the Capitol Theatre.



## ALEX AMINI (Costume Designer)

Select theatre credits include: *Caroline or Change*, *The Wild Party* (Dora Nominee), *Grey Gardens* (Dora Nominee), *Onegin*, and *Next To Normal*, (Dora Nominee); *Musical Stage Co.*, *To Life*, *The Jazz Singer* and *Brighton Beach Memoirs*; *The Harold Green Jewish Theatre*, *Mary Poppins*, *Mamma Mia* and *Beauty and the Beast*, Port Hope Capitol Theatre. As always, thanks to Carmen for saving my life.



## SEREN BROOKE LANNON (Stage Manager)

Seren is so happy to be back at Harold Green for *Dear Jack*, *Dear Louise!* Select Theatre Credits include: For Harold Green; *Bar Mitzvah Boy*, *The Times They are a Changin'*, *25 Questions for a Jewish Mother*. Other: *Billie, Sarah, and Ella: Revolutionary Women in Jazz*, *Where the Blood Mixes*, *Little Menace: Pinter Plays*, *The Black Drum*, *La Bête*, *A Christmas Carol* (Soulpepper Theatre Company), *Every Brilliant Thing* (Thousand Islands Playhouse), *Girl From The North Country* (Mirvish Productions), *Bang Bang* (Factory Theatre). When not in the Theatre, Seren can be found wandering a bookstore with the largest cup of tea available. Enjoy the show!



## EMILY CORNELIUS (Apprentice Stage Manager)

Emily Cornelius is an emerging stage manager based in Toronto. She is a graduate of York Universities Devised Theatre program. Her most recent credits include; Production Assistant - *& Juliet* (Mirvish Productions), *Child Chaperone- Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* (Mirvish Productions), Apprentice Stage Manager - *The Hooves Belonged to the Deer* (Tarragon Theatre). Emily's upcoming production will be *Withdraw Park* (Tarragon Theatre). Thank you to this amazing company for this opportunity.



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All the world's a stage and all of us want to be players. Each of us shapes a unique role in the scripts we write for ourselves. As for Harold, his role was in building safe, family-friendly havens. In addition, his interest in Talmud as well as Shakespeare led him to making the world a better place in many ways. Whether it was the time and expertise he devoted to Mount Sinai Hospital, to the Jewish Community Centre or to the labourers who worked in his industry, he was fully engaged in improving lives. He enjoyed going to the theatre and we suspect that he would have liked to have been on a stage. Vicariously, he is now on one. He would want you to enjoy his legacy.

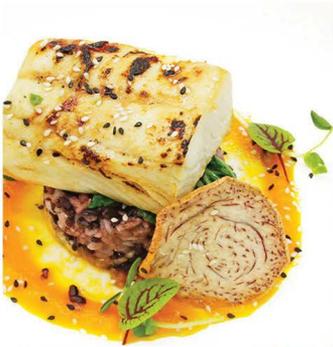
— *The Harold Green Family*

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2 Opening Night Subscriptions				X			
4 Opening Night Subscriptions					X	X	
6 Opening Night Subscriptions							X
Invitations for 10 to a dress rehearsal						X	X
Autographed posters						X	X

## SUPPORT THE HGJTC

We appreciate donations of ANY kind. For more information about how to donate or to make your donation today, please call Matt Birnbaum at 416.932.9995 x 223 or visit [www.hgjewishtheatre.com](http://www.hgjewishtheatre.com)

Charitable Registration number: 85639 8557 RR0001

*Have a Group or Want to Host a Fundraiser at a Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company Event?*

**CALL 416.932.9995 X 224 FOR MORE INFORMATION.  
GROUPS OF 10 + SAVE 15%.**



The Chai Society is an exclusive group of donors who, through their generosity, will breathe continuing life into the HGJTC. By becoming part of this initiative, you are contributing to the only professional Jewish Theatre Company in Toronto. You can help to support a medium that can educate – not simply our own, but the greater community – inspire and celebrate the arts across generations, while providing a positive spotlight on the Jewish story and reflecting pride in our heritage. Our theatre company has been made a reality by the Harold Green family. Now we invite you and your family to participate in building the Canadian voice of Jewish theatre.

### CHAI SALON EVENINGS

This exclusive group will have access to live performances in private homes with well-known celebrities from Toronto and beyond. Whether musical, dramatic or literary, the salon evenings promise to be a unique inside look at theatre. The first evening was a salon with the Jersey Boys and Theresa Tovah.

### IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT

- A portion of your gift will support the operating costs of theatre and allow us to build a bridge to sustainability. Ticket prices do not cover all the costs associated with creating live theatre.  
Examples: rising costs of venues, marketing for theatre and travel for artists.
- Our Jewish values of honouring our seniors and educating our children are hallmarks of our mission. With your gift, we will pilot exciting programs with schools, both public and private, and work to bring theatre to places such as Baycrest and other retirement homes. To date we have been able to supplement a number of tickets for these populations, but we would like to establish youth programs on a continuous basis that will allow the next generation to taste Jewish art and explore the potential of our culture through a personal connection with drama and live theatre. Through programs such as In the Beginning: A Jewish Playwright's Festival, we will encourage and discover new Jewish Canadian playwrights.
- Because we plan on being here for the long term, we also wish to strategically "save for tomorrow", to ensure that programs started today will endure.

Become part of the Chai Society and achieve lifetime recognition for your founding support.  
For more information, please contact General Manager Matt Birnbaum at 416.932.9995 x 223.

### CHAI SOCIETY MEMBERS AS OF TODAY

The Harold Green Family, Miriam,  
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Lindy Green and  
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The Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company would like to thank all of our generous donors. Your passion and commitment to our theatre company, especially over the past two years has been the inspiration that allows us to continue to present world class productions such as this.

If you would like to make a donation, please call Matt Birnbaum at 416.932.9995 x 223. This donor lists encompasses the period from November 1, 2021 – May 26, 2023. If we have missed your name, please accept our apologies and contact Matt Birnbaum at 416-932-9995 ext 223 with any corrections.

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THE MUSIC OF BETTE MIDLER AND BARRY MANILOW  
A FUNDRAISER FOR HAROLD GREEN JEWISH THEATRE COMPANY



JUNE 15  
2023  
7:30PM

CREATED & DIRECTED BY Avery Saltzman  
MUSICAL DIRECTION BY Mark Camilleri

GEORGE WESTON RECITAL HALL  
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HAROLD GREEN  
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15TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE OR CALL  
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WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:  KULTURA COLLECTIVE  
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GERALD SHEFF & SHANITHA KACHAN PRESENT:

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