

ROSALIE AND ISADORE SHARP PRESENT

VITALY: AN EVENING OF WONDERS

"YOU FOOLED US!"

— PENN AND TELLER

"BRINGS ART TO LIFE"

— THE HUFFINGTON POST

"YOU FOOLED US!"

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**JUN 7—
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CREATED BY AND STARRING Vitaly Beckman

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ARTISTIC DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

3 years ago, we walked into the Daryl Roth Theatre off-Broadway to see *Vitaly: An Evening of Wonders* and witnessed a magical evening of theatre. Literally, an evening of magic and illusion. For close to 90 minutes Vitaly Beckman had the entire audience spellbound with feats of awe and wonderment.

We looked at each other and said "HOW DID HE DO THAT? And this is for our audience. A pure evening of illusion that will keep our patrons spellbound."



David Eisner & Avery Saltzman

CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a delight to return to the theatre! It is all about the experience—being in an audience and feeling the emotion in the room. These are the experiences we are appreciating again in a whole new way and we will never again take theatre for granted. So what better way to partake in the magic of theatre than to witness magic in the theatre. Tonight we will be awed by the illusionary mastery of Vitaly. We all deserve to have a moment in time away from the stresses of everyday life and a chance to immerse ourselves in wonder. Enjoy. And as always, thank you for your support.

Dene Cohen and Danny Webber

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Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company

CAST & CREW

H A R O L D G R E E N
J E W I S H T H E A T R E C O M P A N Y

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VITALY: AN EVENING OF WONDERS

Created by and Starring

VITALY BECKMAN

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VITALY: AN EVENING OF WONDERS IS PERFORMED WITHOUT AN INTERMISSION.

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VITALY BECKMAN

World-class illusionist Vitaly has lit up Times Square and mystified fans from all over the world, including Las Vegas superstars Penn & Teller whom he has successfully fooled in their hit TV show, *Fool Us*, not once but twice, over two appearances on the show, becoming one of the few in the world to do so. From bringing photographs and paintings to life to making audience members disappear from their own driver's licenses, even the most jaded illusionists have declared Vitaly's *An Evening of Wonders* as containing some of the most incredible and impossible magic ever witnessed. Most recently, Vitaly's show was produced off-Broadway by Daryl Roth, who's producing credits include Tony winners such as *Kinky Boots* and *Indecent*. Vitaly was booked for a limited, 16-week run at the prestigious Westside Theatre, the same venue where Penn & Teller have started their careers in the 1980s. Vitaly's creativity and talents have taken him from his native home of Belarus to perform internationally in theaters, at corporate events and on TV shows, before settling in Vancouver, BC. His fascination with the artistic potential of magic was stirred by a David Copperfield special at age 14. After wowing friends and family with his seemingly impossible illusions, Vitaly's ability to create new and imaginative illusions led him to realize that he could conjure up a stage-show like no other illusionist performing today. Departing from his family home and leaving behind a career in engineering, Vitaly focused on rebuilding people's childlike sense of wonder and bridging the gap between dreams and reality. Now famed as "one of the most captivating and enjoyable illusionists performing in the world" (*Chicago Tribune*), Vitaly has gained a reputation as a mind-blowing performer who "breaks down boundaries to let his audiences imaginations roam into the realm of the impossible." (Broadway World)



KEVIN BOWERS (Production Coordinator)

Kevin Bowers is thrilled to be a part of *Vitaly: An Evening of Wonders*. During his 40+ year career in Theatre and Live Events, Kevin has been fortunate to work alongside a diverse group of incredibly talented artists in all areas of Performing Arts. For Mirvish Productions: *Piaf/Dietrich*, *Kinky Boots*, *Once*, *Strictly Ballroom*, *Oliver!* *Racing Demon*, *Crazy for You*, *The Good Times Are Killing Me* and the Canadian national tour of *Les Miserables*. Opera credits include *Madama Butterfly*, *Carmen*, *Aida*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *La Boheme*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *The Barber of Seville*, *The Magic Flute*, *Tosca* and *Eugene Onegin*. Other memorable credits include *Follies in Concert*, *All is Love*, *Obeah Opera*, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Annie*, *Merrily We Roll Along* and *Chicago* – shows from long ago include *Gigi*, *South Pacific*, *Mame*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Hollywood Opera*, *I Love My Wife*, *Run For Your Wife*, *Move Over Mrs Markham*, *Peter Pan* and *Carousel*. Kevin holds a Masters degree from the University of Essex in England specializing in British theatre history.



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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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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 January 1, 2020 to April 19, 2022. If we have missed your name, please accept our apologies and contact Matt Birnbaum at 416-932-9995 ext 223 with any corrections.



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.

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- 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.
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- 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.

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