

## Marketing Kit - Singing Swallows

### **Press Release:**

Singing Swallows written and directed by Romi Kupfer is a new form of Holocaust Performance. Devised for her Honours in 2016, Romi has created a non-traumatic performance for young audiences between the ages of 9 and 18. Singing Swallows is a contemporary exploration, using a recyclable set featuring cardboard boxes, toilet paper rolls and muesli bar boxes.

Singing Swallows features headphones as the sound facilitator allowing "for an intimate storytelling experience" as well as "a useful way of engaging young audiences". In collaboration with Tammy Cohen (performer), Justin Gardam (sound designer) and John Collopy (lighting designer) they have created an accessible world featuring stories from Holocaust survivors, about their experiences.

Singing Swallows has successfully toured to three Jewish schools in April 2017 to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day. Images and more details can be found at [www.romikupfer.com/singing-swallows](http://www.romikupfer.com/singing-swallows).

### **Artistic Bios:**

#### **Romi Kupfer - *Writer / Director / Performer***

Romi is a Melbourne based contemporary director and theatremaker. She is passionate about creating work that starts meaningful conversation and examines the transmission of storytelling. Using live theatre and performance Romi aims to provoke, question and explore life as we know it. After finishing her Bachelor of Performing Arts with Honours at Monash University Romi concentrates on developing new contemporary performances and facilitating children's theatre and performance. As well as currently completing her Masters of Directing for Performance at the Victorian College of the Arts - University of Melbourne.

#### **Tammy Cohen - *Performer***

Tamara (Tammy) Cohen was born in Melbourne, Australia. She has been heavily involved in music, theatre and performing, as well as active in the Jewish community throughout her life, and is passionate about connecting these worlds. She has been involved in many Jewish community performances, events, including the Melbourne Yom Ha'Atzmaut Concerts. She was also involved in education and music programs at her synagogue, Temple Beth Israel, running a youth choir, and vocal coaching at The King David School. She was involved in as many performance opportunities as possible, in theatre, music and instrumental performances, including many Melbourne Amateur theatre productions. Tammy also sang on the Original Workshop recording of The Mapmaker's Opera in 2012. In 2014, Tammy completed a Bachelor of Arts (Musical Theatre) at The University of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, in 2014. During her studies, her credits included: Fraulein Schneider (Cabaret); Fraulein Knuppeldik (Spring Awakening); Josephina (understudy) / Ensemble (When Midnight Strikes); Ensemble (42nd Street). As part of her studies, she also wrote and performed her self-devised cabaret "A Bagel with Mama Tam," where she engaged audiences in what it means to be a Good Jewish Mama. Since completing her studies, Tammy has performed, director, vocal coached and vocal directed in many in many theatre, music, and film productions. She has worked at Temple Beth Israel, as an educator, musician and prayer leader, most recently in the position of Bnei Mitzvah Coordinator. Her credits during this time include: Musical Director and Performer in "Katz: The Musical Purim Spiel (Emunah Hillel, 2015)"; a featured extra in the short film Flora (Sine Qua Non & A Fellow Filmmaker, 2015); performing with Jewish musicians Charlie Kramer and Patrick Prunster at the 2016 In One Voice Concert; Musical Director of The Lambshank Redemption Purim Spiel with Emunah Hillel (2016); and Relatively Speaking (Salt Pillar, 2016). In 2016 and 2017, Tammy was involved in Singing Swallows, a Holocaust Education performance piece, written and devised by Romi Kupfer, sharing Holocaust stories through innovative theatre mediums

### **Justin Gardam - Audio Engineer**

Justin Gardam is a sound designer, composer, and graduate of Monash University's Bachelor of Performing Arts. His audio work includes Catherine: the body politic (La Mama), Hurlyburly (Q44 Theatre), In the Mens (La Mama), The Other Place, (Fortyfivedownstairs), True West (Matchstick), Slaughterhouse Five (MUST), Welcome to Nowhere (Monash/Malthouse), and Julius Caesar (Essential Theatre), which is currently touring to Edinburgh Fringe after successful seasons in Melbourne and Adelaide.

### **John Collopy - Lighting Designer**

John Collopy is a lighting designer, set designer, and theatre technician. Lighting credits include Next to Normal, Slaughterhouse Five, Bare: A Pop Opera, The Handmaid's Tale, Them Aspies (MUST), Hurlyburly, Sister Cities, Sex with Strangers, Shining City (Q44), UPRISING (MAPA/Malthouse), Pinocchio Restrung (A\_tistic), Black is the Colour (Deafferent Theatre). He has worked with directors such as Susie Dee, Suzanne Heywood, Yvonne Virsik, and Fleur Kilpatrick, and has seconded Emma Valente on JOAN (THE RABBLE), and Little Emperors (Malthouse); Govin Ruben on Come Away with Me to the End of the World (Malthouse); and assisted Katie Sfetkidis on Dracula and Merciless Gods (Little Ones Theatre), and The Moors (Red Stitch).

### **Production Images:**

*Please visit [www.romikupfer.com/singing-swallows](http://www.romikupfer.com/singing-swallows) for more production images*

Hero Image:



Additional Images:





**Previous Poster / Poster Template:**

**Singing Swallows**

In my Honours' thesis, the driving question has been whether live theatrical performance can recreate the telling and transmission of Holocaust experiences for young audiences. My enquiry stems from an awareness that in the near future there will no longer be opportunity to experience Holocaust storytelling from the primary source.

'Singing Swallows' is the outcome of this question. The stories you will hear have been taken from Holocaust survivors who experienced the war as children and young adults. The scripts were then recorded by Jewish children currently in primary school.

Written and Directed by Romi Kupfer

I hope that by passing these stories on, future generations will never forget those that were lost and continue on the positive messages of tolerance and togetherness for the future.

Special thanks to MAPA and Centre of Theatre and Performance at Monash University

Singing Swallows is dedicated to all the lives that were lost during the Holocaust.

**Design**  
 Sound Design Justin Gardam  
 Lighting Design John Collopy  
 Set Design Romi Kupfer  
 Marketing Design Edden Yemini

**Cast**  
**Voices**  
 Ellie Goldenberg  
 Noah Goldenberg  
 Jasmine Filer  
 Zac Maidenberg  
 Raymond Kupfer  
**Actors**  
 Romi Kupfer  
 Tammy Cohen

**Glossary**  
 Shule - Synagogue  
 Hashem - G-d  
 Shabbat - Sabbath  
 Brocha - Blessing

Stories based on experiences of Raymond Kupfer, Henri Korn, Cesia Goldberg and Abe Goldberg. I am grateful for the gifts of their stories.

**Production Website:**

[www.romikupfer.com/singing-swallows](http://www.romikupfer.com/singing-swallows)

**Reviews:**

*"I have felt there is a void to sharing these days with younger children, in terms of availing age appropriate, emotionally sensitive material... Romi and her team were able to help us fill that void this year"* Rivka Measey Leibler  
 Yavneh College Primary Coordinator of Informal Jewish Education

*"In 2016 Romi developed an original and quite stunning performance piece titled Singing Swallows. Part of a University program, Romi easily rose above course-work requirements and created a work that was intimate, insightful and quietly profound. The production was presented at Monash University in October 2016 and was enthusiastically received by an audience ranging in ages, backgrounds, and experiences. Romi approached every stage of her development with a deep sense of cultural awareness and ethical sensibility. She assembled a strong artistic team who responded well to her clear vision and to her direction. As a performer, Romi demonstrated skill and insight and I was deeply impressed by the generous and ensemble nature of this layered and nuanced performance work."* Dr Felix Nobis, Deputy Director, Centre for Theatre and Performance Monash University.