

**SHMUEL HASFARI (Playwright)** is one of Israel's leading playwrights, honored four times with the Israel Theatre Academy Award for Best Play (1986, 1995, 1996 and 2003). He was born in 1954 in Tel Aviv, Israel, and began to study theater at Tel Aviv University, but left the university along with a group of fellow students who, in 1981, performed at the Alternative Theatre Festival in Acre. The next year they received first prize. Hasfari's work is controversial, due to the harsh image of Israeli society reflected in his 25 plays, which include: Kiddush, Shivah, Hametz, Accordions, Tashmad and Milano. Hasfari also directed the film Schur, which was honored as Best Film in Israel and earned him the Berlin Film Festival Special Award for Directing. He is married to actress Hanna Azulai Hasfari and they are parents of three sons.

### Post Show Forum

#### **Karin Magaldi (Facilitator)**

Karin Magaldi is an Associate Professor in Theater Arts at Portland State University and is director of the new play development program for the department. Professionally, Karin works as a dramaturg and director, serves on the A.R.T. and Miracle Theatre Group artistic advisory boards and is also a current member of Portland's Drammy Committee.

#### **Dr. Aart Lovenstein, Psy.D, LPC (Guest Speaker)**

Dr. Aart Lovenstein received his master's degree in psychology from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and his doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Denver. Born to Dutch Holocaust survivors, he grew up in Holland and immigrated to Israel as a teenager. He served as a psychologist in the Israeli Army for five years treating combat and stress reactions in soldiers, most notably in the Lebanon War. Upon receiving his doctorate he treated first and second-generation Holocaust survivors in Israel, and victims of terror and abuse for many years. He returned to the USA in 1994, working in private practice and as a mental health consultant and clinical supervisor for Washington County Community Corrections. He is an advanced level EMDR practitioner and have given workshops and taught on the treatment of trauma in Portland and Tel-Aviv.

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

## Israel Onstage: Israeli Society through Drama



## The Master of the House

By Shmuel Hasfari

Translated from the Hebrew by Anthony Berris

Directed by

Mary MacDonald-Lewis

July 1, 2008

Studio Theatre, Lincoln Hall

Portland, Oregon

 Portland State  
UNIVERSITY

# Master of the House

## By Shmuel Hasfari

*Tel Aviv*

|        |                      |
|--------|----------------------|
| Joel   | David Berkson*       |
| Nava   | Elizabeth Garrett    |
| Motti  | Todd Tolces          |
| Naomi  | Wendy Wilcox         |
| Tsippa | Suzanne Owens-Duval* |
| Shayeh | Richard Garfield     |
| Kadosh | Mark Loring          |
| Roi    | Andy Hillstrom       |
| Yuval  | Lato Buchanan        |

\* Appears with the permission of Actor's Equity

*Master of the House* appears with permission of  
Institute of Israeli Drama.

### The Company

|               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Director      | Mary MacDonald-Lewis |
| Sound         | Sacha Reich          |
| Stage Manager | Hannah Martin        |
| House Manager | Ben Sheragy          |

THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE was originally produced by the Cameri Theatre of Tel Aviv, where it opened on February 20, 2003. The play received the Israel Theatre Academy Award for Best Play of 2003. All rights reserved by the Institute of Israeli Drama. THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE received its American Premiere production at the Laguna Playhouse, Richard Stein, Executive Director, Andrew Barnicle, Artistic Director, March 27, 2007, directed by Richard Stein.

### Director's Notes

Take anything over time, and entropy sets in. Systems slow, and fail. Heat and water no longer work in predictable ways. Blockages occur. Eventually, from the outside in and the inside out, collapse is inevitable. This immutable law applies equally to countries, houses, and marriages -- to say nothing of the individual man, or woman. Preventing this takes energy, imagination, courage, and love... and though it seems the logical thing to do, rescuing a beloved land, or home, or marriage from destruction is sometimes impossible. We lack the heart, or the guts, or the faith. In "The Master of the House" husbands and wives... fathers and sons... brothers and sisters-in-law... Each of them is wrestling with entropy, and all of them struggle with their response to it. Playwright Shmuel Hasfari places these rich characters in the center of a demolished Tel Aviv apartment and asks them, "What shall you do now?" Tonight we watch these flawed, fully-formed people, not so different than you and I, try, and fail, and try again. And as we watch, I hope we ask ourselves, "What shall I do now?" for this creeping entropy, it is upon us at all times, and should we do nothing about it, eventual destruction is our sure inheritance.

Sometimes, despite our best intentions, a dear thing cannot be saved. Sometimes, saving it is not the wisest choice. The challenge is, knowing the difference.

-- Mary McDonald-Lewis

### Israel Onstage made possible with support from

The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies, Consulate General of Israel San Francisco, the Institute for Judaic Studies in the Northwest, The Institute of Israeli Drama, the Oregon Israel Fund of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation and Portland State University

### Special Thanks to

Michael Weingrad, Ben Sheragy, Miracle Theatre Group, Richard Stein, Oregon Children's Theatre, Integrity Productions and Mary MacDonald-Lewis