

The Mitzvah Project

A ONE-PERSON HOLOCAUST DRAMA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015 - 7:00 PM

STUDIO THEATRE

BASEMENT OF CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING

Starring: Roger Grunwald

Directed by: Annie McGreevey

Written by: Roger Grunwald &
Annie McGreevey



About the Performance and Discussion:

The Mitzvah Project is a combination of theater, history lesson and conversation in which actor and child of survivor, Roger Grunwald, explores one of the most shocking aspects of the Jewish experience during the Second World War. Through the story of Christoph Rosenberg, a German half-Jew, the one-person drama – created with director and co-author Annie McGreevey – reveals the surprising history of tens of thousands of German men known as "mischlinge" – the derogatory term the Nazis used to characterize those descended from one or two Jewish grandparents – who served in Hitler's army. Grunwald's lecture delves deeper into the history that produced these mischling-soldiers – men who were the product of two centuries of German-Jewish assimilation, intermarriage, conversion and the striving of a people committed to calling the German Fatherland their home. After the lecture, Mr. Grunwald leads a discussion with the audience.

About Roger Grunwald: He has been a professional performing artist for almost four decades. In 2013, he was honored with a grant from the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) for the development of The Mitzvah Project, which has been touring America since April 2014. The Mitzvah Project tour will be heading to the U.K. in the spring of 2016. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, Grunwald has appeared in over 70 stage productions in the United States and Europe. From the early 1980s through the mid 2000s, Grunwald was one of a handful of community organizers that founded the non-profit **All Stars Project (ASP)**, which has pioneered an innovative approach to youth development using theatrical performance. Today the All Stars Project has operations in six metropolitan areas around the country. During his 26-year tenure at the All Stars, Grunwald also co-founded the ASP's experimental Castillo Theatre where he starred in over 45 productions. In 2016, Roger will be featured in the pilot episode of **VINYL**, a new HBO series. The episode is directed by Martin Scorsese who, along with Mick Jagger, executive produces the series. **VINYL** chronicles the drug and sex-fueled rock 'n roll scene from the 1970s. www.rogergrunwald.com

For more information please contact:

The Jewish Studies Program at jsp@pitt.edu or

Professor Amy Colin, President of the City for the Cultures of Peace, at paxpeace@pitt.edu

SPONSORS:

The University of Pittsburgh: Department of German, Jewish Studies Program, Cultural Studies Program, the Theater Arts Department, the European Union Center of Excellence/European Studies, The Humanities Center, the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences; **Hillel-Jewish University Center;** the **City for the Cultures of Peace:** International Interdisciplinary Institute.



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
The DIETRICH School of
Arts & Sciences