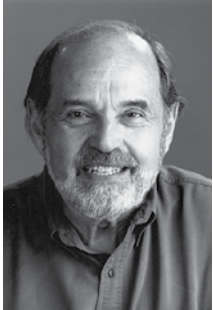


*Exquisite Potential*

**By Stephen Kaplan**

APRIL 8 - 28, 2021



**FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Welcome to the Jewish Repertory Theatre's 18th season, a significant number associated with the word Chai, or Life, in Hebrew.

Like everyone in the performing arts community we are longing to see you in our theatre but given our current situation we are pleased to have you join us online as we offer professional video productions of staged readings, presenting of the sort of plays you have come to expect from us.

Each production will be available for you to enjoy online for 21 days. Enjoy from the comfort of your own home in Western New York, or remarkably, any place else. Subscribers and ticket holders will be sent links to performances upon purchasing and before opening nights. We are continuing with our online conversations with playwrights – a fascinating opportunity to gain insights and behind the scene stories. Check our website and Facebook page for links and details.

Thank you for your support of the Jewish Repertory Theatre. We look forward to enjoying this season and many others, together with you. To life to life, L'Chaim.

- Saul Elkin, Co-Founder & Artistic Director

*Starring*



*Brittany Bassett*



*Jordan Levin*



*David Lundy*



*Ricky Needham*

**DIRECTOR'S NOTES:**

One fateful afternoon, while searching for plays that would fit into a digital season and would also engage and excite our audience, Stephen Kaplan's Exquisite Potential found its way to me. On the surface, this play seems like a classic modern Jewish romp with a simple yet engaging hook: What if your child was actually the Messiah? As I read Mr. Kaplan's sharp and poignant script, I was intrigued by the important questions this play asks and the challenging themes it dares to tackle. How do children manage the expectations that parents place on them? As we age, what lasting effects do our parent's expectations have on us? What do we do when our expectations for ourselves differ from that of society? All these questions and many more are thoughtfully explored in this play.

A special thank you to the amazing actors who with little rehearsal crafted beautifully real and engaging performances. My gratitude to Steve Vaughan and Keelin Higgins whose knowledge, support and dedication made this production a reality. It has been a pleasure working with our immensely talented design team and Full Circle Studios, many thanks to them for making this show look as wonderful as it does. A huge and heartfelt thank you to the JRT team, Committee, and Artistic Director Saul Elkin for the countless hours of work they put into making this digital season a reality. I am forever grateful. During these strange times, making theater is more important than ever and thanks to your generous support, we have been able to do just that. I hope that you find this production engaging and thought provoking but that it also makes you laugh. Get comfortable, grab some popcorn and enjoy the show!

- Adam Yellen, Director

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Stephen attended Northwestern and New York University where he earned his BFA in Theatre from Tisch and the Playwrights Horizons Theatre School. He received his MFA in Writing for Screen and Stage at Point Park University, MA in Theatre Studies from Montclair State University, and his MS in Education Leadership from Mercy College. He is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and currently serves on DG Council as the Northeastern Regional Representative.

Read more about Stephen at [bystephenkaplan.com](http://bystephenkaplan.com)

**Crew**

Director: Adam Yellen

Founding Artistic Director: Saul Elkin  
 Founding Producer: David Bunis  
 Asst. Director: Steve Vaughan

Administrative Associate: Adam Yellen  
 Stage Manager: Keelin Higgins  
 Asst. Stage Manager: Steve Vaughan

Audio Technician: Tyler Furniss  
 Lighting Director: Nicholas Quinn  
 Sound Director: Nicholas Quinn

*Thank you for sponsoring and supporting JRT's 18th season:*

