

BUBBY'S KITCHEN

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Bubby's Kitchen in the Press

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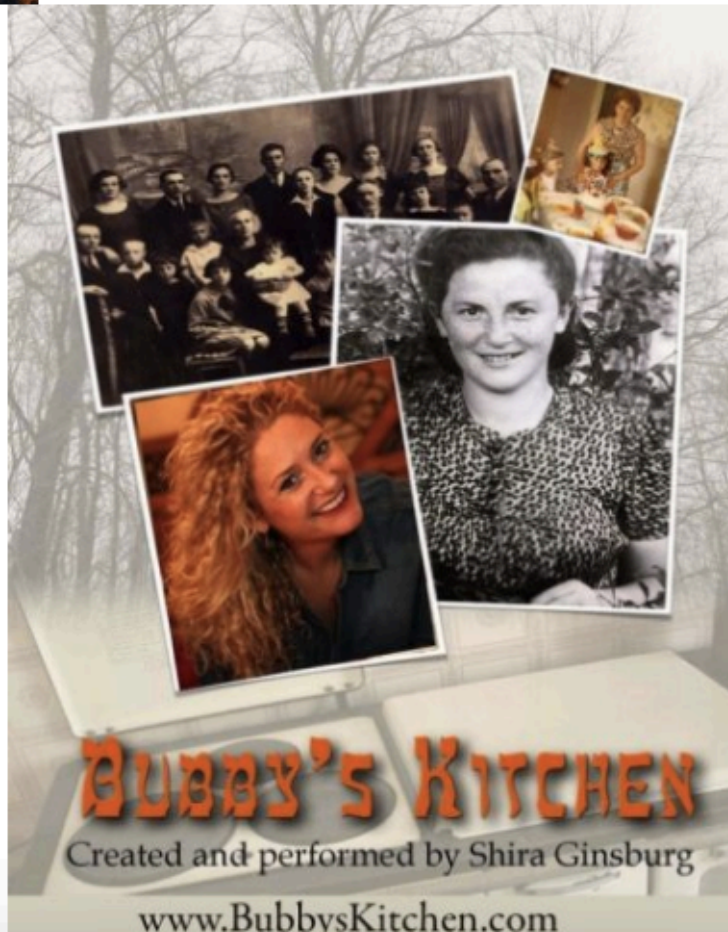
News

Theatre Review: 'Bubby's Kitchen' at JCC Manhattan

Posted By: Jacquelyn Claire on: May 01, 2016

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Bubby's Kitchen is an autobiographical one-woman musical main course by Shira Ginsburg. Shira invites us into her home where she's cooking a Shabbat feast and we are welcome at the table. Over the next 90 minutes she will share stories of her family and how they have navigated the world as the descendants of two Holocaust survivors. Her Bubby and Zayde managed to escape the clutches of the Nazi's and joined the Partisan resistance fighters finally making their way to the U.S. four years after the war ended. This hearty dish pays homage to their indomitable spirits and the love they fed their offspring through the power of good food and soulful wisdom.

“ . . . a mouth watering rugelach of familiarity and nostalgia.

We are introduced to seven different family members through the piece and Shira excavates their stories with tenderness and deep reverence. Shira sings them into being. Each song really epitomizing the essence of each individual in her family tree. The style of the song and the vocal quality used are totally different for each person. We meet the grandparents, the ambitious/high flying aunt, the super efficient/to-do list/maternal aunt, her mischievous actress aunt and her history teacher/farm manager/formidable father. As she introduces us to her lifelines she also weaves in her own narrative of how her life evolved through the guidance of this support system.

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Ginsberg studied to become an actor and musical theatre performer and was a struggling artist in New York. Her absolutely brilliant song, *"Broadway is just around the corner,"* that charts her journey as a jobbing actress, was hilarious and sensationally executed. It is quite obvious why she chose a career in the arts. However, through a chance encounter, she started on a path towards becoming a Cantor, earning her Masters, Cantorial degrees, and ordination from the Hebrew Union College. At the end of the piece we hear an exquisite religious song that shows her mammoth skill in this regard.
