



# Relaxed Performance Guide

*18 Jews Order Chinese Food*

by Jenna Berenbaum



**February 15, 2025 at 2:00 pm**

**100 Spadina Crescent East**

**Persephone Theatre, Rawlco Radio Hall**



**This is Persephone Theatre.**

**These doors are the entrance.**

**Enter these doors and you will be in the box office.**



**You can buy your tickets from the box office.**

**Don't forget to bring a mask with you if you need one. Audience members can wear masks if they want to. Wearing a mask is encouraged.**



**Once you have your ticket, you can enter the lobby.**

**There will be people handing out programme booklets with information about the show.**

**There is a QR code to scan with your phone to read a digital version of the programme.**

**You can go up the stairs or the ramp.**



**You can buy snacks and drinks from the concession stand.**



**If you want to go to the second floor, use the stairs or the elevator. This is the way to the chill out zone.**



**This is the elevator.**



**This is the way to the group washrooms.**

**There is a public washroom near the back of the main floor available for you to use. Signs will tell you where the entrance and exit to the washroom are.**

**There are three single room washrooms you can use. There are two on the second floor and one on the main floor.**

**All bathrooms are marked with a blue circle.**

**Like this - **



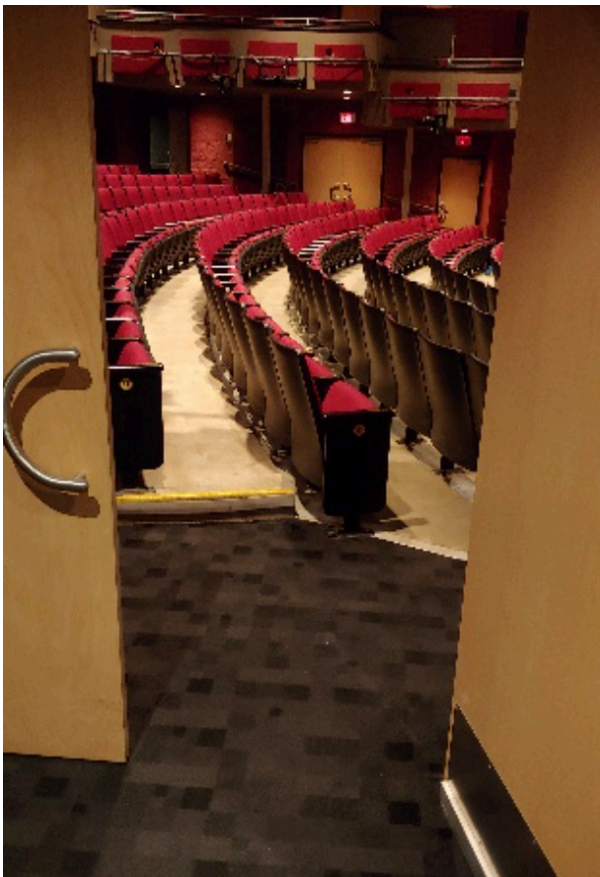
**These are the doors to enter the theatre to watch the performance.**

**These doors will remain open during the performance and you are free to leave and come back any time.**





**This is the hallway to the theatre.**



**This is the door to the main floor of the theatre.**



**These are the rows of seats. Each row has a letter and each seat has a number.**

**If you need help finding your seat, please ask any of the volunteers wearing black and white clothes.**

**You can leave the theatre through the same door you entered.**



**This is Melanie.**

**She is the Front of House Manger.**

**Melanie, concession staff, or volunteers can help you find the chill out area or the washrooms.**

## **About the Play**

The characters in the play are Chavi, Chavi's daughter, Sharon and her husband Lior, Chavi's granddaughters Kiva and Nami; and Ben, Nami's fiancée.

Chavi's husband Jack has passed away. Chavi's family comes to grieve with her and attend the funeral.

The family orders Chinese food before the funeral and disagree over what to order. Lior is concerned about ordering food that is not kosher. Ben is not Jewish and has lots of questions about where Jewish traditions come from and why they are practiced. Sharon and Chavi have difficulty talking to one another.

Nami, Ben, and Kiva walk to pick up the Chinese food. While Nami is in the restaurant, Ben reveals to Kiva that they are having a hard time conceiving a baby.

**Chavi, Sharon, and Lior realize that Passover will be right after the funeral. This is a problem because Jewish people are not supposed to sit Shiva (mourn) during Passover. Passover is meant to be a time to celebrate and appreciate life and freedom. Chavi says that she will do both.**

**A package of CDs arrives that is addressed to Jack. Chavi believes Jack sent them to her from the afterlife. Chavi is determined to listen to the CDs before the funeral. The family takes the Chinese food with them as they travel to the funeral. Sharon and Lior go in one car, and the rest of the family goes in the other car. Sharon is drinking while she and Lior have a fight in the car. Nami, Ben, Kiva, and Chavi listen to the CDs in the other car.**

**Right before the funeral, Nami tells Kiva that she cannot have a baby. Kiva says that Ben already told her and that it isn't a big deal. This upsets Nami.**

**During the funeral, Sharon is a bit drunk and says that Jack was not the best father. Chavi says that Jack did his best and that Jack's name will be passed down through the great grandchildren. Nami announces that she can't have children and won't adopt. Kiva says that she doesn't want children.**

**In Act Two, the family gathers for Passover. Jewish families celebrate Passover with an event called a Seder. Jack used to tell the Passover story, so Chavi does it. Chavi has not organized anything because of Jack's passing so they have to make up a Seder plate. Inevitably things go awry.**

**Chavi leaves to sit Shiva. Sharon and Kiva follow after her. Chavi, Sharon, and Kiva try to sit Shiva together but struggle to talk to each other.**

**Ben has many questions about Passover. Lior is torn that the family does not practice the**

traditions properly. He worries that it effects their Jewish-ness. Kiva insists that it is okay if they don't do everything perfectly. It brings up a discussion about what does make someone Jewish.

Nami admits to Sharon that she feels a great responsibility to keep the family line going. Sharon assures Nami that it is okay if she cannot have children. The family starts discussing the wedding plans. Chavi enters the room and sees the family singing and dancing.

Chavi starts the Seder again. The family plays a children's game where a piece of Matzo bread is hidden somewhere in the house. This piece of Matzo bread is called the Afikomen. This family always hides the afikomen in the piano bench.

When Chavi looks in the piano bench it is not there. Chavi gets upset that things have changed and sits Shiva.

**In the final scene of the play, Chavi gets the idea to her family practice for her funeral. Chavi tells them her wishes and asks them to tell her what they will say about her at her funeral. Everyone starts to talk about what they want for their own funeral. Sharon gets upset because she doesn't want to lose any of them. The family has a lovely moment of feeling connected to one another. Chavi announces she is going back to her room to sit Shiva, but that the family can go back to celebrating Passover, or whatever feels right for them.**

**We are left with the feeling that this family has grown closer together during this time they have spent together.**





**This is the stage during the show.**



**The lighting and sets on the stage will change during the show.**

**Sometimes it will be dark. Sometimes it will be bright. Sometimes it will be colourful.**

**At certain points of the show, the stage will rotate between different rooms in the house.**



**This is Aviva.**

**Aviva plays Sharon.**

**This is what Aviva looks like out of costume.**



**This is what Aviva looks like on stage during the show.**

**She is dressed in modern clothing.**



**This is Lisa.**

**Lisa plays Chavi.**

**This is what Lisa looks like  
out of costume.**



**This is what Lisa looks like  
on stage during the show.**

**She is dressed in modern  
clothing.**



**This is Miranda.**

**Miranda plays Nami.**

**This is what Miranda looks like out of costume.**



**This is what Miranda looks like on stage during the show.**

**She is dressed in modern clothing.**



**This is Brian.**

**Brian plays Lior.**

**This is what Brian looks like out of costume.**



**This is what Brian looks like on stage during the show.**

**He is dressed in modern clothing.**



**This is Katie.**

**Katie plays Kiva.**

**This is what Katie looks  
like out of costume**



**This is what Katie looks  
like on stage during the  
show.**

**She is dressed in modern  
clothing.**



**This is Andrew.**

**Andrew plays Ben.**

**This is what Andrew looks like out of costume.**



**This is what Andrew looks like on stage during the show.**

**He is dressed in modern clothing.**



**We would love to hear about your experience at  
Persephone Theatre and what you thought of the  
play.**

**Email us at [grahame.k@persephonetheatre.org](mailto:grahame.k@persephonetheatre.org).**

**Thank you for coming!**

## **During and After the Play**

**During the performance the house lights will be on and the doors will be open.**

**You are welcome to leave and come back to your seat whenever you like.**

**You can leave the theatre during the performance to go to the washroom or to the chill out zone.**

**The chill out zone will be in the lobby. It will be marked by a yellow square. Like this - **

**There will be soft furniture to sit on, books, and soft toys available.**

**The staff and volunteers will be happy to help you with directions to and from the chill out zone.**

**You will know the performance is over when the actors take a bow. After the performance you are free to go home.**