

NEWS

NEW YORK

Significant Jewish presence behind Broadway revival of Pippin



The Broadway cast of Pippin

One of the true success stories on Broadway these days is the revival of *Pippin* (www.pippintheatrical.com) at the Music Box Theatre, 239 West 45th St. It captured four Tony Awards last year.

There is a significant Jewish presence behind this show. Music and lyrics are from composer Stephen Schwartz of *Wicked* fame. Barry and Fran Weissler are the lead producers, joined by the likes of Howard and Janet Kagan, Lisa Matlin, Ilen Spivak, Rebecca Gold, Joshua Goodman, Bryan and Margie Weingarten, Philip Hagemann, Murray Rosenthal, Myla Lerner, Ben Feldman, Wendy Federman and Michael Rubenstein.

This is an extraordinary production, which theatre-goers will no doubt want to see more than once. It revolves around a travelling troupe of players putting on a show about the son of Charlemagne, Pippin, and the perils of his pursuit of happiness. He wages war, plots revolutions and tries out domestic life before finally being led toward an 'extraordinary' ending crafted by the demonic Leading Player played

by rising female Broadway star Patina Miller. But the gender of the Leading Player isn't the only thing flipped around in this revival by Paulus. Now the players are a circus troupe.

If you are going to New York City, there are special packages available at the Sofitel New York (www.sofitel.com). This elegant 30-storey midtown Manhattan hotel is just a stone's throw from Fifth Avenue. There are 398 spacious rooms on 30 floors, including 52 suites and one presidential suite all featuring Sofitel's luxurious feather-top and duvet sleep system, SoBed. Situated between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, on West 44th Street, it is a short walk to Times Square and features the very popular Gaby, a traditional French brasserie and bar named for a Parisian model who made a name and career for herself in New York in the 1920s.

While Gaby is an excellent preshow choice for dinner, so is TAO Uptown at 42 East 58th St. (www.taorestaurant.com), the pioneers of the Pan-Asian trend that swept New York City more than a decade ago. TAO

Uptown has 300 seats, a sushi bar, lounge and two bars. There are a number of Jewish partners at TAO, including Rich Wolf, Noah Tepperberg, Jason Strauss, as well as managing partners Paul Goldstein and Andrew Goldberg.

"We've spent more than 10 years perfecting what Tao represents," said partner Wolf, whose team has now introduced TAO downtown and another in Las Vegas.

— Mike Cohen

CJPME to sue TTC for refusing to place ads

TORONTO – The group trying to place the controversial 'Disappearing Palestine' ads in Calgary and Toronto said it plans to sue the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) for refusing to carry them.

Pro-Israel groups and individuals protested vigorously last September after the ads went up in Vancouver's public transit system under the auspices of an umbrella group called the Palestine Awareness Coalition. Subsequent attempts by the group Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) to purchase space for the ads on the transit systems in Toronto and Calgary were turned down.

CJPME issued an email appeal on March 4 asking for donations to bankroll its intended lawsuit against the TTC.

"We targetted the Toronto subway (TTC) and the Calgary LRT to be the intended locations of the map ad campaign," stated the email. "Unfortunately, the management of each of these public transit agencies has been intimidated by the pro-Israel lobby, and has created obstacles to the publishing of the ads. As a result, CJPME has decided to take the TTC to court."

According to the email,



Ad banned in Calgary and Toronto

"CJPME is confident that the case can be won," based on a 2009 Supreme Court of Canada decision regarding advertising content on public transit.

The group is fast approaching its fundraising goal of \$50,000. According to its online donation page, it had received just over \$45,000 as of last Friday.

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Israeli pharmaceutical giant Teva partners with UK on dementia research

(JNS.org) – Israeli pharmaceutical giant Teva has announced a joint \$21 million deal with the United Kingdom to fund research on dementia. The announcement of the deal came on a tour of the company's facilities by British Prime Minister David Cameron. Teva will team with the UK's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) on the project. The Israeli pharmaceutical company will contribute the lion's share of funding, \$20 million.