

LOCAL PLAYWRIGHT PREMIERES NEW INTERGENERATIONAL PLAY IN BUFFALO

Thought-Provoking Journey Interweaves Art, Science, Spirituality—and Love

Wynnewood playwright Michael Bihovsky premiered his new play, *Without End* – which documents a uniquely spiritual and loving journey shared by a grandson and his grandparents – in Buffalo, New York. The play was the closing event of the JCC Book

Featured actors in the recent performance of Michael Bihovsky's play, "Without End," from left – Noah Kotzin, Michael Bihovsky, Darleen Pickering Hummert and Mike Frisch.



and Arts Fair at the Seller Theatre, home of the Jewish Repertory Company of Western New York, and co-sponsored by Congregation Shir Shalom. Bihovsky directed and starred in the production, which also featured Darleen Pickering Hummert, Mike Frisch, and Noah Kotzin.

This autobiographical play follows intergenerational relationships over the course of 21 years, and explores a variety of themes such as growing up, career choices, political activism, and grief – all explored from a variety of artistic, scientific, and spiritual perspectives. *Without End* attempts to bridge the gap between these perspectives through the lens of interdenominational Jewish philosophies, as well as a universal exploration of religion and God.

Bihovsky, 28, wrote this dramatic – and often humorous – play soon after his grandmother's death, to help document the prolific lives of his grandparents, Marty and Esther Bates. The Bateses were among the earliest and most fervent members of the Reconstructionist Jewish movement. They were also pillars of the Buffalo community, which prompted Bihovsky's decision to premiere the piece there.

Bihovsky himself grew up attending the Conservative movement's Perelman Jewish Day School in Wynnewood, followed by the pluralistic Akiba Hebrew Academy (now the Jack Barrack Hebrew Academy) for middle and high school. He later graduated from New York University with a degree in musical theater and astrophysics—a duality that fuels both conflict and growth in the play.

"My family has always been split between artists and scientists," says Bihovsky. "I've always strongly identified with both. There's a tendency to build walls around different types of identities and philosophies, when really every philosophy has something to learn from each of the others."

"I'm especially interested in unifying the worlds of art, science, and spirituality, each of which influences the others considerably throughout the play. But above all, this is a story about the unique bond between a grandson and his grandparents. That relationship was so formative in my life, and is in so many lives, but it's stunningly underrepresented in the theater."

While it was important to him to premiere the play in the community in which his grandparents were widely known and loved as active, philanthropic members, his next goal is to have it produced in the Philadelphia area, and he hopes it will be picked up around the country.

Jordana Halpern, managing director of the Jewish Repertory Theatre of Western New York and executive board member of the Association for Jewish Theatre, notes, "Michael Bihovsky is a talented writer/actor/director who has a rare skill for telling a story and an ability to touch audiences deeply. In *Without End*, his attention to language, universal themes of relationships, families and personal growth culminate in a production that will provoke audiences to look into their own lives and appreciate the complexity of being human and evolving through shared experiences."

For more information or to view a five-minute highlight reel from the recent performance, visit <http://www.michaelbihovsky.com/without-end>.

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FASTSIGNS® of Main Line to Host Ribbon Cutting and Open House at Its New Location

Local sign and visual graphics provider FASTSIGNS® of Main Line will host a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house event at its new facility located at 50 Greenfield Avenue in Ardmore. The business's previous location was destroyed by a fire in December 2014.

Local organizations, businesses, residents and anyone who is interested in attending are welcome to attend.

The event is Thursday, **January 29** from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. FASTSIGNS® of Main Line is located at 50 Greenfield Ave., Suite 58, Ardmore, PA 19003. For directions, call 610-642-7446 or visit www.fastsigns.com/549.

Join Lou Silverblank, owner of FASTSIGNS® of Main Line, and his team for an open house reception and ribbon cutting event at their new location in Ardmore. The event is open to the public and guests will be treated with complimentary refreshments and a tour of the facility. To learn more, visit www.fastsigns.com/549 or call 610-642-7446.

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