

The Detroit News

January 6, 2021

Holocaust Memorial Center hosts 'Soap Myth' online reading and discussion

A Zoom conversation with playwright Jeff Cohen and Detroit News film critic Adam Graham is set for 2 p.m. Sunday

By Melody Baetens

Award-winning playwright Jeff Cohen is heralding the importance of listening to Holocaust survivors while they're still living.

Well-known stage and screen actors Ed Asner and Tovah Feldshuh star in a PBS concert reading of his play, "The Soap Myth," hosted by the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus. It was filmed last January in New York and is viewable online now.

This Sunday, watch a Zoom conversation between playwright Jeff Cohen and Detroit News film critic Adam Graham.



Actor Ed Asner stars in "The Soap Myth." *Burke-Cohen Entertainment*

"The Soap Myth" is set 50 years after the end of World War II and tells the story of an elderly Holocaust survivor, Milton Saltzman, who believes the Nazis turned the fat of murdered Jewish people into soap.

He teams up with a young investigative journalist in hopes that historians and museums recognize his eyewitness account. The play also delves into the evils of antisemitism and Holocaust denial in present day.



"The Soap Myth" reading at B'nai Jeshurun, New York in January 2019, starring Ed Asner and Tovah Feldshuh. *Burke-Cohen Entertainment*

"In the power of live theater lives a certain immortality," said Cohen in a press release about the virtual performance. "Five years from now, 50 years from now, 150 years from now — when an actor portrays Milton Saltzman, Milton is alive. For those 90 minutes, Milton lives in all his rage and all his sorrow and all his stubborn refusal to be silenced. And when Milton lives, rest assured, he will not let the audience forget the Holocaust."

The play's reading is viewable to watch online now at bit.ly/TheSoapMyth-play-on-PBS.

Register in advance for the 2 p.m. Sunday Zoom webinar with Cohen and Graham at bit.ly/TheSoapMyth-HMC-event. Those with questions for Cohen or Graham can submit them by noon Tuesday at holocaustcenter.org/questions.

'The Soap Myth'

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2 p.m. Sunday

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Concert reading of the play online now: bit.ly/TheSoapMyth-play-on-PBS