

APRIL – JUNE 2024

# PROLOGUE



**FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP**

LINDA & GARY GREENBERG and ANDREA & DR. EDWARD HERZIG present

**THE CHOSEN**

Adapted by AARON POSNER and CHAIM POTOK  
From the Novel by CHAIM POTOK

This thought-provoking adaptation of the classic novel is a heartfelt exploration of Jewish culture and the human ability to reach out across differences.



**FALL IN LOVE**

ELLEN AND RAY van der HORST present

**VIETGONE**

By QUI NGUYEN

This all-American love story about two very new Americans reinvents the romantic comedy genre and captures your heart.

## SCENE BY SCENE

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 4

### 2 CONNECTING THROUGH PHILANTHROPY

*The Chosen* presenting sponsors talk about the production.

### 3 2024-25 SEASON

Welcome to a lineup that will entertain and inspire.

### 4 THE CHOSEN

A heartfelt exploration of Jewish culture and friendship.

### 6 VIETGONE

An all-American love story about two very new Americans.

### 8 SPECIAL EVENTS FOR *THE CHOSEN*

Dive deeper into the themes of the play.

## ABOUT PROLOGUE

PROLOGUE is the pre-show publication of Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. It is published as a service to Playhouse season subscribers, donors and others.

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2023-24 Rosenthal Shelterhouse Theatre Season presented by

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Andrea and Dr. Edward Herzig



Linda and Gary Greenberg

# BUILDING CONNECTION THROUGH PHILANTHROPY

By Sneja H. Tomassian

There are different ways and many reasons to underwrite a production at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. Chief Philanthropy Officer, Sneja Tomassian, sat down with two couples, long-term supporters and volunteer leaders — Andrea and Edward Herzig and Linda and Gary Greenberg — who have combined their philanthropic interests and resources to become the above-title sponsors for *The Chosen*. They talked about why this production and why now.

## Why did you decide to support the Playhouse's production of *The Chosen*?

**Edward Herzig:** We have been season ticket holders of Playhouse in the Park for over 40 years, with Andi recently completing a term on the Board of Trustees. We believe it is our turn to help provide the experience of great live theatre to others. We were honored when Blake asked us to co-sponsor *The Chosen* for this season.

**Linda Greenberg:** *The Chosen* is meaningful to us as American Jews and as human beings. The beautiful script brings to life a particular time and place that reminds us of our parents and grandparents but also resonates with anyone interested in a remarkable story about friendship, relationships between fathers and sons, and the tension between family and cultural expectations and personal motivation. As a trustee of the Playhouse, I am excited that *The Chosen* will be presented this season, and Gary and I are thrilled to be co-sponsors with Andi and Ed.

## The source material for the play is Chaim Potok's 1967 book of the same name. What themes in the book spoke to you and could serve as universal lessons in today's world?

**Andrea Herzig:** Ed and I read Potok's *The Chosen*, the material the play is based on, at different times in our lives — Ed recently, and I read it back in school. For us, two main themes stand out: Human relationships between fathers and sons and peoples' relationship to religion. The two fathers' practice of Judaism and the boys' evolving relationship with their religion will be interesting to see acted out on stage.

**Gary Greenberg:** In *The Chosen*, the author used conflict within the Jewish community in the 1940s to illuminate the challenges of dogma and tribalism. When they first meet, teenagers Reuven and Danny despise each other because of their differences despite all they have in common. Their fathers look past those differences to encourage a friendship that is a model for Americans today, divided, as we are, into warring political tribes. Like Reuven and Danny, we can look past our differences to maintain relationships based on compassion, empathy, and an understanding of our common humanity.

As we look forward to the opening of *The Chosen*, we are grateful that Gary, Linda, Andrea, and Edward remind us that, even in a fractured world, art persists, revealing our common humanity and bringing us closer together.

# WELCOME TO THE PLAYHOUSE'S 2024-25 SEASON!

Our 2024-25 season is full of variety that showcases the best of American theatre to entertain and inspire you. The lineup truly embodies the Playhouse's mission to bring diverse, engaging works of great artistry to our community and to put Cincinnati's artistic excellence in the national spotlight.

"We're thrilled to produce every one of the plays in the new season for Cincinnati audiences," says Blake Robison, Osborn Family Producing Artistic Director. "In particular, I want to highlight *Rutka*, which uniquely fulfills a promise to our community. The production will take maximum advantage of the new capabilities in Moe and Jack's Place — The Rouse Theatre, enabling the work we create to gain national attention on the industry's largest stages."

## MOE AND JACK'S PLACE — THE ROUSE THEATRE

Season presented by SCHUELER GROUP Season Design Sponsor: KERRY AUTOMOTIVE

### DIAL M for MURDER

By FREDERICK KNOTT | Adapted by JEFFREY HATCHER

**AUG. 17 – SEPT. 15, 2024**

Sponsored by U.S. BANK

Murder and malice take center stage! It's midcentury London, and Margot has ended her affair with Maxine and returned to life with her husband, Tony — or so she thinks. Tony, in fact, knows everything, and he spins a web of deception that sets into motion a series of deadly twists. This iconic thriller receives a clever and fast-paced new treatment for the stage.

MC & TOM BRENNAN,  
LINDA & GARY GREENBERG and THE LEMMERMAN FAMILY present

### RUTKA: A NEW MUSICAL

Based on the diary of RUTKA LASKIER, as published in *Rutka's Notebook: A Voice from the Holocaust*

Music and Lyrics by JOCELYN MACKENZIE and JEREMY LLOYD-STYLES

Book by NEENA BEBER

**OCT. 13 – NOV. 10, 2024**

You'll never forget her name. A powerful indie-rock musical makes its world premiere to launch its path to Broadway. Rutka's world is consumed by usual teen concerns. But the world is far from usual in war-torn 1943 Poland, as Rutka and her friends reach for hope, resilience and resistance in the Jewish Ghetto. This unforgettable musical experience and true story is brought to life by extraordinary young performers and a raw and emotional musical sound.

**FIRST** first financial bank presents

### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By CHARLES DICKENS | Adapted by BLAKE ROBISON

**NOV. 22 – DEC. 29, 2024**

The holiday story you love unfolds in spectacular fashion in Moe and Jack's Place — The Rouse Theatre! Charles Dickens' classic tale of the curmudgeon Ebenezer Scrooge combines with dazzling set, costume and lighting designs for a magical holiday experience.

MOE & JACK ROUSE and RANDOLPH WADSWORTH present

### PRIMARY TRUST

By EBONI BOOTH

**FEB. 1 – 23, 2025**

Written with profound affection, this off-Broadway hit is an achingly beautiful tale that will restore your faith in others. Meet Kenneth, a shy, Black 38-year-old man who sells books by day and drinks mai tais with his best friend Bert by night. But when Kenneth is suddenly laid off, the walls of his life start to crumble until he finds kindness and friendship in unlikely places.

LEADING Ladies presents

### THE BOOK CLUB PLAY

By KAREN ZACARÍAS

**MARCH 22 – APRIL 20, 2025**

Sponsored by JOHNSON INVESTMENT COUNSEL and CLARK SCHAEFER HACKETT

A comedy about books and the people who love them. When the members of a devoted book club become the subjects of a documentary filmmaker and accept a provocative new member, their long-standing group dynamics take a hilarious turn. A sold-out hit at theatres across the country! Sprinkled with wit, joy and novels galore.

## ROSENTHAL SHELTERHOUSE THEATRE

Season presented by THE VONTZ FAMILY

### MR. PARENT

By MELINDA LOPEZ with MAURICE EMMANUEL PARENT

Conceived with MEGAN SANDBERG-ZAKIAN

**SEPT. 7 – OCT. 6, 2024**

Sponsored by DIGI AND MIKE SCHUELER

You're never too old to learn a thing or two. A struggling actor turns to teaching in an urban public school, thinking "how hard could it be?" Based on personal stories, writer-performer Maurice Emmanuel Parent takes the stage in a deeply felt, hilarious solo performance about crushingly inequitable systems, the brilliance of every kid and how we might all find the space to be ourselves.

### THE SECOND CITY 65TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

**OCT. 24 – DEC. 22, 2024**

Sponsored by SANDY AND DICK MANTEUFFEL

Having sold out with every outing at the Playhouse, The Second City returns! The 65th Anniversary Tour features some of the best sketch comedy and songs from the comedy vaults, updated for the modern era. Experience some of The Second City's newest classics, along with their trademark improvisation, performed by the next generation of comedy superstars.

### ENGLISH

By SANAZ TOOSSI

**MARCH 1 – 30, 2025**

The 2023 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama takes the Playhouse stage! Four Iranian adults gather to learn English. As they navigate the mechanics of the language through humor, word games and cultural touchstones like Shakira and Coca-Cola, questions about identity seep into their minds and hearts. Both touching and funny, *English* offers a revelatory glimpse into the human desire to belong.

### BIRTHDAY CANDLES

By NOAH HAIDLE

**APRIL 19 – MAY 18, 2025**

The ingredients are simple — but look closer and you'll see the essence of life itself. Every year, Ernestine bakes a cake and celebrates with her family on her birthday — a delicious ritual that unfolds onstage through glimpses of her life across 90 birthdays. *Birthday Candles* will warm the soul as it tenderly explores motherhood, family, love, loss and finding your place in the universe.

For season tickets, visit  
**CINCYPLAY.COM.**

Season ticket holders get first access to *A Christmas Carol*, but it is not part of any season ticket packages.

LINDA & GARY GREENBERG and ANDREA & DR. EDWARD HERZIG present

# THE CHOSEN

Adapted by AARON POSNER and CHAIM POTOK

Based on the novel by CHAIM POTOK

Directed by AARON POSNER

Moe and Jack's Place — The Rouse Theatre

**APRIL 13 – MAY 12, 2024**

Co-production with Milwaukee Repertory Theater

Photo on this page and on the cover of Hillel Rosenshine and Eli Mayer in the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park/Milwaukee Repertory Theater co-production of *The Chosen*. Photo from Milwaukee Repertory Theater by Mark Frohna.



## BUILDING A FRIENDSHIP

*The Chosen* began its life in the city of Jerusalem, as author Chaim Potok worked on his PhD dissertation. He wrote academic research part of the time, and the fictional story of two Jewish boys growing up in 1940s Brooklyn the rest of the time. When Potok returned stateside, his novel returned with him and his family. The book was a bestseller when it was published in 1967, received great critical praise, and led Potok's authorial star to rise.

When Potok decided to adapt the novel for the stage, he looked to playwright Aaron Posner to co-write the script. The play was published in 1999 and has seen many productions over the past 25 years, capturing the essence and spirit of the original text.

Chaim Potok (born Herman Harold Potok) was born in 1929 in Brooklyn, NY. He was the son of Polish immigrants and was raised in a Jewish Orthodox home. His mother had Hasidic roots and his father was a Hasid, so he had experience with the cultures he represents in many of his works like *The Chosen*. As a teenager, Potok decided to become a writer and like Danny in the play, spent a large amount of his time reading many of the "great works" of the English literary canon.

During this time, he became interested in less restrictive Jewish doctrines, specifically the Conservative movement. After attending Yeshiva University and obtaining his degree in English Literature, he attended the Jewish

"Of all the stories I've told on stage during a 30-something year career, this is the one I'm most proud of bringing to the stage."

— Aaron Posner

Theological Seminary of America and was ordained a Conservative rabbi. He served as a combat chaplain in Korea, taught at several Jewish colleges, and served as an editor of several Jewish publications. In the play, the character Danny is Hasidic, and the character Reuven

belongs to a Conservative Jewish tradition, reflecting Potok's evolution in his faith, going from a Hasidic upbringing to becoming a Conservative rabbi.

*The Chosen* was Potok's first published novel and was the first book from a major publisher to portray Orthodox Judaism in the United States. The book met critical acclaim and became a commercial success. Potok followed it with a sequel, *The Promise*, that picks up a year after *The Chosen* left off with Danny and Reuven's stories. His next book series followed a young Hasidic artist as he struggles with family and community: *My Name is Asher Lev* and *The Gift of Asher Lev*, published in 1972 and 1990, respectively.

Aaron Posner has made a prolific career in regional theatre, directing across the country, and seeing his plays produced hundreds of times, both here and abroad. A skilled adapter, most of Posner's plays are based on novels, novellas, short stories, or plays. He not only adapted *The Chosen* with author Chaim Potok, but also wrote a stage adaptation of *My Name is Asher Lev*.

During a 2006 production of *The Chosen* in Chicago, Posner offered the production's director, Shade Murray, some thoughts on the inspiration for the adaptation.

PRESENTING SPONSOR **LINDA AND GARY GREENBERG  
ANDREA AND DR. EDWARD HERZIG**

PRODUCTION SPONSOR  **Jewish Foundation  
of Cincinnati**  
INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

HONORARY PRODUCER **EDDIE AND PAT SHEPPARD**

DESIGN SPONSOR **DIANE AND CARL ISEMAN**

ARTIST SPONSORS **FRED AND PATTI HELDMAN  
MARK AND ROSEMARY SCHLACHTER**

RUNNING TIME 2 hours and 15 minutes with a 20 minute intermission.

CONTENT ADVISORY *The Chosen* is recommended for teenage and adult audiences. As Reuven and Danny navigate adolescence and young adulthood, they and their fathers discuss complex themes and ideas regarding the Jewish faith, world affairs of the 1940s and other mature issues.

"Like many young Jews, I read *The Chosen* at some point in high school, or maybe even junior high. Years later, all I really remembered was the baseball game. In my early 30s I was asking myself all kinds of questions about what I meant when I referred to myself as Jewish — which I tended to do on a fairly regular



Aaron Posner

basis, but I am not a person of faith or an observant Jew. I began to think a lot about what I meant, and, since I have the good fortune to have a career that allows me to explore the things that fascinate me through my work, I began reading plays and books by Jewish authors with a mind to both learn about myself, and also to find something for the stage.

I met Chaim on a few occasions. I had my longest conversation with him initially in the lobby of The Goodman Theatre when we were both there seeing *Mirror of the Invisible World*, in which Chaim's daughter Namma acted. We had a nice talk and I resolved to call him when I got back to Philadelphia and ask his advice on books by Jewish authors I might think about adapting. But I thought that I should read some of his work before I did, books I had not read since high school. I started with *The Chosen* and knew I needn't look any further, I loved it. I knew almost instantly that I wanted to put it on stage.

Chaim was a wonderful collaborator on the process. I did the lion's share of the adapting work, and then he would edit and suggest and tell me when I was horribly off track. In many places, I wanted to expand moments that were only suggested in the book. Some of these I could do myself, but when it came to Talmudic disputation or Reb Saunders' response to the Holocaust, for instance, there was no way I could tackle it. Chaim wrote those new sections, easily and quickly I might add. He obviously knew his material backwards and forwards. His generosity to me was amazing. The play is not the book. It is totally his story, but there are reflections of me in there, and of the way the world had changed since he wrote it originally in the mid '60s. It is very much the same story, with the same core, but Chaim was a great, great artist, and he knew that these things must be held lightly and allowed to evolve and grow and change. Working with him is one of the great joys of my career."

Posner continued to work on the script over the years, reducing the number of characters and updating the language to resonate with today's audiences. In an introduction to the show recorded by Milwaukee Rep, our co-producers of *The Chosen*, Posner reflected on the power of this enduring story.

"Of all the stories I've told on stage during a 30-something year career, this is the one I'm most proud of bringing to the stage. Chaim uses the word *worthwhile* a lot, both in this book and in other books, and it's one that's certainly become a part of my personal lexicon. I believe in doing things on stage that are worthwhile, that are worth people's time, that have the capacity to connect deeply. And this story is a beautiful and worthwhile story about how we find meaning in our lives, how we live in relation to a complicated world, and it's about coming together across difference. How do you reconcile differences? How do you actually engage with things that seem impossibly difficult? I don't think there's anything more important for us to be talking about in the world right now than how do we respect other people's opinions. How do we operate when we're in passionate disagreement?"

This is a play about faith. And they're not a lot of plays that engage deeply with faith, whatever that faith is. When it has been done around the country, one of the things I've been really proud about is that it brings in Christian schools [and] it brings in Muslim audiences. Even though it's a very Jewish story, it is a story that has the power to go deep for everyone. I don't believe this play is going to change the whole world, but it is the kind of story that we need to be telling right now if we're hoping to make a difference."

Thank you to our co-producer, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, for generously providing resources for this article.



Photo of Eli Mayer, Ron Orbach and Hillel Rosenshine in the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park/Milwaukee Repertory Theater co-production of *The Chosen*. Photo from Milwaukee Repertory Theater by Mark Frohna.

## SPECIAL EVENTS: ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE OF *THE CHOSEN*

How can two directly opposing ideas exist together? Chaim Potok's classic novel intimately explores such complex and thought-provoking questions in a moving adaptation for the stage. The story of two Jewish boys in 1940s Brooklyn is a heartfelt exploration of Jewish culture and the human ability to reach out across differences.

The Playhouse is partnering with organizations and representatives from Cincinnati's Jewish community to dive deeper into the themes of the play. **Please see the listing of special events on the back page.**

ELLEN AND RAY van der HORST present

# VIETGONE

By QUI NGUYEN

Directed by JOANIE SCHULTZ

Rosenthal Shelterhouse Theatre

**APRIL 27 – JUNE 2, 2024**

Photo of Hyunmin Rhee and Sami Ma on this page and on the cover by Tony Arrasmith/Arrasmith & Associates.

## AN AMERICAN LOVE STORY

By Russell Florence Jr.



Qui Nguyen's autobiographical dramatic comedy *Vietgone* is an engaging, insightful and irreverent portal to the past centered on the sheer resilience of starting over. Nguyen structures the play around the true story of how his parents, Quang and Tong, met in a refugee relocation camp in 1975 Arkansas during the Vietnam War. As they seek to grow accustomed to their new lives in a new country while poignantly reflecting on those they left behind in Saigon, *Vietgone* blossoms into a charming love story that is deeply relevant and undeniably universal.

In *The New York Times* review of *Vietgone*'s 2016 off-Broadway premiere, critic Charles Isherwood wrote, "Mr. Nguyen nails, rather smartly, the dissonance of immigration, which runs both ways — the Americans and the Vietnamese in the play are almost always misunderstanding one another."

Assimilation is a recurring driving force in the play, but Nguyen says the desire for connection is equally critical to understanding the play's essential foundation.

"No matter what we look like, no matter how different our customs or histories may be, down deep we are all very much the same than we are different," Nguyen says. "This is a theme I'm always pursuing in my plays. The exterior circumstances in *Vietgone* feel very unique — a Vietnamese couple escape Vietnam and reestablish a new life in America but they don't speak English — but the core value is the same. We all long to be connected."

The Playhouse's production is staged by Joanie Schultz, who serves as the Playhouse's Associate Artistic Director. She views acceptance as a particularly palpable theme fueling the play's relatable potency. "The story of *Vietgone* is the most human of stories in that the characters are fighting their situation and rebelling against it. Once they accept what's happening and where they are and what their life is, they are able to start finding happiness," Schultz says. "I relate deeply to that. While I haven't ever lived in a country that is torn apart by war and been thrust into a new country, I have had times in my life that I've been in a situation that I wish I wasn't and fought it to my own detriment. Like many rom-coms, when they stop fighting it, our heroes are able to see the opportunity that they could lose if they keep pushing back."

As Schultz evaluates the artistic possibilities within the script, she anticipates finding ways to clearly communicate Nguyen's cinematic-inspired landscape full of heightened storytelling devices. "Qui writes his plays in a fast-paced way, and using the language of film he says 'cut to' a lot in the script, signifying that we make a fast transition and are somewhere else suddenly," she says. "This is a thrilling challenge as a director, especially in the Rosenthal Shelterhouse Theatre, to make fulfilling, clear and fast jumps from one place and time to another."

One of the most entertaining aspects of *Vietgone* is its clever use of hip-hop. Choosing to elevate Quang and Tong's inner thoughts with terrifically introspective rhymes was a natural fit for Nguyen, who grew up a huge fan of such hip-hop icons as LL Cool J, Run-D.M.C., The Fat Boys and Kool Moe Dee.

"The music I listened to the most was hip-hop," he says. "I love rap, but I don't have the tongue dexterity to spit rhymes really fast. When I sat down to write *Vietgone*, because it is a story about my family screened through a youthful version of myself, I wanted to make sure the things I loved are there such as random martial art fights and hip-hop as a means of telling interior monologues."

Schultz echoes this idea. "The fact that our two lead characters express their most emotional moments in rap music is wonderful — it's not a musical, but music is important to the piece," she says. "I feel like the songs work more like arias in an opera, they give the characters an opportunity to explore an emotional state but using contemporary pop music styles they are even more relatable to us as a modern audience."

Above all, Schultz hopes audiences find the experience of seeing *Vietgone* personable and inspiring. "I hope they have a great time and fall as in love with these characters, rooting for them, like I do, and I hope they feel the same uplift I do about the human experience and our ability to persevere in the most unlikely of circumstances," she says. "As Rhianna sang, 'we found love in a hopeless place.'"

PRESENTING SPONSOR **ELLEN AND RAY van der HORST**

PRODUCTION SPONSOR **ROTO-ROOTER.**  
PLUMBING & WATER CLEANUP

DESIGN SPONSOR **GEIER**

MEDIA SPONSOR **Warm98.5**  
80s, 90s, Now.

RUNNING TIME An accurate running time will be posted on our website on April 26.

CONTENT ADVISORY *Vietgone* is recommended for older teenage and adult audiences. In this hopeful, funny and irreverent story about love, the characters sometimes express their emotions through rap music, use very strong language and make sexual references. The play includes descriptions of violence, discrimination, and the aftermath of the war in Vietnam.



## A PERSONAL JOURNEY WITH UNIVERSAL PURPOSE

By Russell Florence Jr.

Qui Nguyen's *Vietgone* vividly explores his parents' budding romance while at a refugee relocation camp in Arkansas during the Vietnam War. Here, Nguyen shares his reflections on the play, including his use of comedy to examine dramatic themes and the importance of Asian American representation in the arts.

### In what ways did your family's revelations affect you as a son and playwright?

This is my origin story not only as a human being but as an artist as well. I don't think I would have become a writer if it wasn't for my grandmother, who told me when I was very young, maybe 8 or 9, why she told me so many stories. She said when she escaped Vietnam, she left very fast without packing her bags, carrying jewelry or money, or (bringing) photos from home. All she had was her stories. And honestly, I think stories are the only thing anyone has of value. So, telling stories are a core value of mine, and I knew I wanted to spend the rest of my life telling my family's stories, my own stories, and new stories for my kids and kids everywhere. And for my kids, it's important they will always have this document of their grandparents that reflects who they actually were and not the monolith of what the Vietnam War was.

### Due to the overarching subject of the Vietnam War, did you find it challenging to balance the comedy and drama within *Vietgone*? Or did you naturally approach this story with an intentional use of comedy as an invitation for the audience to go deeper?

I use comedy to take down your guard so I can sucker punch you with some emotions. I always find that the easiest way to get to a tear is through laughter. The goal was to tell my family's story and there's no way to not (incorporate) the Vietnam War when that was the reason why they came to America. The fall of Saigon was the catalyst of getting them to America, but my parents have always told me they are more than that war and more than just that war story.

### The Vietnam War will always provoke differing opinions but what are your hopes for the audience after seeing *Vietgone*?

I'm a person who grew up in America and sees myself as 100 percent American. I've always lived in the crossroads of how my parents felt about the Vietnam War versus the massive public opinion of the war. When you (think) of the Vietnam War, I'm pretty sure you're thinking of people in war-torn clothes and suffering. *Vietgone* is the opposite of that. It's not a story about victims. It's a story about triumph. It's about how people go past tragedy into building their new lives.

### What do you feel are the biggest takeaways from *Vietgone*?

First and foremost, I hope people just enjoy a good love story. I hope they long for Quang and Tong to get together. And I hope in the final scene they get a new perspective on what being American and being Vietnamese means.

### Why is it important for there to be continual Asian American representation within the national theatre scene?

It's important for me to tell my family's story for my own kids, my own family, to honor the sacrifices they made for me. But it's also important that I get to tell, and people get to see, especially those who identify as Asian American, to see themselves depicted on stage. Whether you're Black, white, LGBTQ, Asian or Native American, everyone deserves a chance to see themselves as a heroic figure on stage. That has been my goal with my work since *Day One*. And because I'm Vietnamese, and as I've gotten older, I know people are looking to me for representation, especially in a time where America feels so divided. It's important we see stories of and the humanity of other people different than ourselves.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS:

### ENHANCE YOUR VIETGONE EXPERIENCE

#### ART TALKS

Stay after the performance for a behind-the-scenes discussion with members of the artistic team.

Sunday, May 5 at 2 p.m.

Sunday, May 12 at 2 p.m.

Wednesday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 23 at 7:30 p.m.



## SPECIAL EVENTS: ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE OF *THE CHOSEN*

### PLAYHOUSE PERSPECTIVES EVENTS

#### POST-SHOW DISCUSSIONS

Following all performances of *The Chosen* beginning Friday, April 19, members of the artistic team invite audience members to have in-depth discussion about the themes and ideas represented in the play. These will be facilitated by Playhouse staff who will be joined by an expert on the content of the play. Such experts include Dr. Gary P. Zola, Dr. Jordan Finkin and Rabbi Dr. Richard Sarason. These discussions provide an opportunity for patrons to dive deeper into the show's subject matter and connect with other audience members about their interpretations.

#### PAGE TO STAGE BOOK CLUB and TOUR

**Monday, April 29 | Book Discussion: 6 – 7 p.m. | Optional Tour: 7 – 8 p.m. | The Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center in Cincinnati Union Terminal**

Our production of *The Chosen* is adapted from the popular novel by Chaim Potok. Join us for an in-depth discussion about the book and how it has been adapted for the stage. Following the book club, you'll have the option to take a custom, guided tour of The Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center. Many Holocaust survivors arrived by train at Cincinnati's historic Union Terminal to rebuild their lives. This tour experience will immerse visitors in a learning environment that reveals stories of local Holocaust survivors through carefully curated artifacts, rare documents, interactive survivor testimonies and poignant films. This event is FREE, and reservations are required.

#### TEEN DAY in collaboration with ish

**Sunday, May 5 | Pre-Show Panel Discussion for Teens: 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. | Performance of *The Chosen*: 2 p.m. at a special \$20 price for teens**

Invite the teen in your life to a panel discussion featuring Jewish teens talking about friendship, self-discovery, and navigating the journey of growing up. From history to stereotypes, they'll explore intersectionality and identity and how we can understand each other better. Doors for the discussion open at noon with refreshment available for the teens.

ish is a Cincinnati-based community engagement organization centering Jewish arts and cultural traditions as a platform for connecting artists with communities to create new experiences, inspire pride in Jewish and intersectional identity, and foster appreciation of Cincinnati history and Jewish peoplehood.

Playhouse Perspectives is made possible thanks to a generous grant from BARBARA AND RODERICK BARR.

Visit [CINCYPLAY.COM](https://www.cincyplay.com) for tickets and to RSVP for these events.