



Holiday Memories

The Quarantine Edition

Directed by Maggie Mixsell



Group B

Joel Altschul, Allison Fradkin, Betty Fussell
& Laurie Lindop

recorded at Center Stage Theater
December 16-18, 2020

A benefit for Center Stage Theater,
help us survive until we can welcome you back in person!

A Note from the Executive Director Teri Ball

During these strange and challenging times, we may not be able to open our doors for live performances, but that doesn't mean we can't bring you wonderful entertainment from the artists of Santa Barbara. Since May we have produced several different digital offerings in our ongoing Digital Arts Festival. Visit our website to learn about the other [Holiday Memories Videos](#), our [Pianos on State Street Concert](#) and the other great events. We have some more fun surprises coming up. Your support of this series, and all these digital events, will help us survive this intermission and be ready to welcome all our artists and audiences back hopefully very soon! We are doing everything we can to keep our staff employed and the theater lights on, and we appreciate your help in making that possible. Enjoy the show, tell your friends, and please stay safe and healthy. (Don't forget to wash your hands, stay 6 feet apart and wear your mask!)

Don't Miss Out On Any Upcoming Events!

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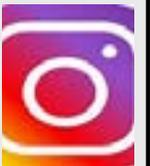
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We are celebrating our 30th Birthday this year and would love to see & hear about your memories of your Center Stage adventures. Share your photos and stories on Facebook or Instagram, or email them to us and we will share them. While we can't gather at least we can enjoy some fun shared memories!

[#centerstagetheatersb](#).

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**HOLIDAY MEMORIES
GROUP B**

A Christmas Navel

by Betty Fussell

Thanksgiving - It's No Big Deal

by Joel Altschul

'Twas An Explosive Christmas

by Laurie Lindop

Challah If You Queer Me

by Allison Fradkin

A Center Stage Theater Production

Directed by Maggie Mixsell

Lighting by Antonio Cruz Ventura

Video Editing by Kaede “Kai” Kogo

Production Consultant Vickie Scott

Performers



Joel Altschul retired to Santa Barbara from Chicago in 2007, but still lives in the Midwest in the summer and at Thanksgiving. He and his wife, Lynn, especially enjoy their four grandchildren, hiking, writing, golf, and bike riding. Up till Covid, travel was a regular part of their life. This is Joel's third time participating in *Personal Stories/Holiday Memories*, and he writes poetry along with personal essays. Professionally, Joel's career was in educational publishing with a specialty in media production and distribution. Joel's passion for storytelling comes from a love for reading for which he thanks his parents, and hopes he is passing along to his grandchildren.



Allison Fradkin has a gay old time applying her Women's & Gender Studies education to the creation of scintillating stories for the stage and the page. In California, her work has been presented by Dragon Productions, Echo Theater Company, Fuse Theatre, Jewish Women's Theatre, Logan Squared Productions, Los Angeles Female Playwrights Initiative, Ophelia's Jump Productions, Play Club West, Son of Semele, and Theatre Out. An enthusiast of inclusivity and accessibility, Allison freelances for her hometown of Chicago as Dramatist for Special Gifts Theatre, adapting scripts for actors of all abilities; and as Literary Manager for Violet Surprise Theatre, curating new works by queer women. Her

auxiliary activities include vintage shopping, volunteering, and tending to her thespian tendencies.



Betty Fussell: Best known for her book *The Story of Corn*, Betty Fussell is the author of twelve books, ranging from biography to cookbooks, food history and memoir. Her essays on food, travel and the arts have appeared in scholarly journals, national magazines and newspapers over the past 40 years. She has lectured throughout the country from New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art to Iowa's State Fair. Her many awards include the IACP's Jane Grigson Award, Food Arts' Silver Spoon Award, James Beard Foundation's Journalism Award, Who's Who in Food & Beverage, and Cookbook Hall of Fame, and the Heritage Radio Network Hall of Fame. She has taught food writing, food history and food preparation at universities, colleges, culinary schools and cooking stores across the United States and in Mexico. Her memoir, *My Kitchen Wars*, was performed in Hollywood and New York as a one-woman show by actress Dorothy Lyman. Her most recent book is *Eat, Live, Love, Die: Selected Essays*, published in 2016 by Counterpoint Press. She is completing a second memoir titled *How to Cook a Coyote*.



Laurie Lindop has published eight award-winning young adult books for Lerner Books and co-authored *The Starving Artist's Survival Guide* (Simon and Schuster). Her writing has appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies, including *Redbook*, *Writers Digest*, *The Young Reader's Guide to American History* (Houghton Mifflin), and *Before: Short Stories by America's Top Writers* (Overlook Press). She worked as a landscape designer before teaching writing at Boston College for eight years. She's currently finishing two novels and a memoir. For a few halcyon seasons, she played wide receiver on a women's football team. Now she spends too much time on tennis courts.

Maggie Mixsell, (Director) teaches performance and directing classes at SBCC. For seventeen years she was the Artistic Director & Director of Education Speaking of Stories. She previously taught in



the BFA Acting program and for the Orientation division at UCSB. She received her Masters Degree in Dramatic Art with a directing emphasis in 1995 from UCSB. Her most recent productions as a director include Kate Cortesi's *LOVE* at Center Stage, Sam Shepherd's *Back Bog Beast Bait* at UCSB, *Lady and the Clarinet*, *Burn This* and *Camping with Henry and Tom* for which Maggie won the Independent Theatre Award for Directing. Other local shows directed by Maggie include *Two Rooms*, *Keely and Du*, *Mark Twain: the Trouble Begins at Eight*, *Eleemosynary* and *The Glass Menagerie*. Before concentrating on directing, Maggie worked as a lighting designer having credits with Maverick Players, Dramatic Women and the Santa Barbara Shakespeare Festival. Maggie will be teaching two performance classes through SBCC Adult Education in the spring semester of 2021.



Thank you for joining us for this video and for supporting Center Stage Theater. Without the generous contributions from our donors Center Stage would not be here and looking forward to our 30th anniversary providing a home for the arts in Santa Barbara. Your support is critical and deeply appreciated and has never been more important than it is now!

While we are unable to welcome audiences back in person, we will continue to offer videos like these to bring you great entertainment and to help sustain the theater through this prolonged intermission. With your help we will be here for another 30 years!

If you enjoyed the performance please help us spread the word! Invite your friends to purchase this video through our website and stay tuned for more!

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