

## Arts &amp; Travel



## Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

### HANNAH MOSCOVITCH PLAY EAST OF BERLIN RETURNS TO TARRAGON THEATRE

By popular demand, Tarragon Theatre is bringing back **Hannah Moscovitch's** *East of Berlin*, about a Paraguayan man who must confront the truth about his father's past as a Nazi doctor in the concentration camps.

Since Moscovitch first developed the play in Tarragon's playwright unit, it has had several successful productions. The remounted production previews Jan. 6 and runs Jan. 7 to Feb. 1. \$45 to \$20. 30 Bridgman Ave. 416-531-1827

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**Moonstruck at the ROM:** The Royal Ontario Museum showcases some dazzling specimens from its vast collection of minerals, gems, meteorites and rocks, reputed to be among the finest in

North America. The rarities include the world's largest known lunar meteorite, a 9.6-kilogram rock that is one of only 44 recognized lunar meteorites. It goes on display for three months only. The baubles are on view in the ROM's new Teck suite of galleries. [www.rom.on.ca](http://www.rom.on.ca)

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**Young, Jewish & Female:** *Jewish Girl Power* is a short film about growing up Jewish and female at the beginning of the 21st century. The 13-minute film features five 14-year-old girls from Toronto talking candidly and often humorously about their lives, including their experiences of anti-Semitism and sexism, and their thoughts on intermarriage. It was directed and produced by **Nora Gold** and is available online free of charge. [www.noragold.com](http://www.noragold.com)

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**From Germany to Hollywood:** Hear the heroic, often harrowing, tales of German artists in wartime Tinseltown in Cinema's *Exiles: From Hitler to Hollywood*, a two-hour documentary narrated by Sigourney Weaver.

The film recalls the experiences of the artists who fled to Hollywood after Hitler banned Jews from working in the German film industry. Some would change the face of American film by creating enduring classics such as *Sunset Boulevard*, *The Bride of Frankenstein*, *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, *Ninotchka*, *Double*

## Cellist mixes Old and New World sounds

By SHERRY SMITHER

Special to The C.J.N.

When cellist Kristina Reiko Cooper moved to Israel from the United States, she found inspiration for her latest CD in her new land.

"Stone and Steel is an album inspired by Israel. It's based on very old tunes and very old songs, such as baroque and Renaissance music – even some Gregorian chants and Elizabethan songs that we've interpreted in a modern esthetic with classical roots," said Reiko Cooper over the phone from her home in Tel Aviv.

"When I converted and married my husband, [investment banker Leonard Rosen] we could have continued working in New York, but we wanted to live in Israel to get the full Jewish experience. It's different than converting and staying in New York... In Israel, we are experiencing it full throttle," she said.

Stone and Steel features Reiko Cooper on her 1786 William Forster cello, with piano and percussion accompaniment. The CD, which includes works by 17th-century composers Henry Purcell

and John Dowland, has classical roots. The music, however, has been reworked with contemporary jazz arrangements by Kenji Bunch, who was heralded as "a composer to watch" by the New York Times, and award-winning composer and saxophonist Patrick Zimmerli.

Born into a family of musicians – her father, Rex Cooper, is a pianist and professor at Pacific University in Oregon; her mother, Mutsuko Tatman, is a violinist with the Phoenix Opera and the Tucson Symphony; her grandfather was a composer, and her grandmother was an opera singer – it was natural for her to start playing piano at five. She then learned the violin and flute at 10.

The following year, during her father's sabbatical in Paris, the cello became the focus of Reiko Cooper's life.

"We found a cello teacher who was incredible, and I improved so much that my parents wanted me to stay on when my father's sabbatical ended," she said.

When her living arrangements with a Parisian family fell through, Reiko Cooper lived on her own, went to school and continued her music studies in Paris.

"I wouldn't recommend it to others, but when I was 12, I thought I was much older and more mature. I think I lived on baguettes and Nutella that year," she said, laughing.

With a doctorate from Juilliard School, Reiko Cooper is a visiting professor at Jerusalem's Hebrew University and the co-music direc-

tor of the Israel Chamber Music Society. She plays with the eclectic trio Intersection and the contemporary music group Continuum.

Reiko Cooper has appeared all over the world and played with the Prague Chamber Orchestra, the Osaka Symphony and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, among others.

Reiko Cooper and klezmer clarinetist Giora Feidman will premiere a double concerto, written for them by Georgian Israeli composer Yosef Bardanashvili, in Israel and New York next season.

Has the country inspired her to play Israeli music? "That's my next album. I'm already talking to different composers and arrangers. There will be the same grouping – piano and percussion, and maybe we'll add some ethnic instruments. I run into a lot of fine musicians in Israel," she said.

Reiko Cooper will perform in Toronto on March 20, in the lobby of the Classical 96.3 building at 550 Queen St. E. and on March 21 at the Glenn Gould Studio, opening for Quartetto Gelato.

Stone and Steel is available through the Linus Record website, [Amazon.ca](http://Amazon.ca) and iTunes. Reiko Cooper's website address is [www.kristinareikocooper.com](http://www.kristinareikocooper.com).



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Indemnity, High Noon, Some Like It Hot and Casablanca.

The film features the stories of actors **Felix Bressart**, **Hedy Lamarr** and **Peter Lorre**; directors **Fritz Lang**, **Henry Koster**, **Billy Wilder** and **Fred Zinnemann**; composers **Frederick Hollander**, **Erich Wolfgang Korngold** and **Franz Waxman**; and cinematographer **Rudy Mate**, among others. It premieres on the American PBS television channel on Thursday, Jan. 1, 9:30 p.m.

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### Arts in Brief

• Comedian **Deb Filler** stars in *Well, I'll Tell Ya*, a one-woman show at the Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, Jan. 29, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. Tickets are \$25. 416-924-6211, ext. 0, [www.mnjcc.org](http://www.mnjcc.org) or [www.fillerup.ca](http://www.fillerup.ca)

• The Free Times Cafe recently marked the 25th anniversary of its weekly Monday evening open stage with a celebration featuring remarks by founder **Judy Perly** and performances by **Noah Zacharin**, **Peter Boyd**, **Brian Gladstone** and others. For details of the well-known Sunday "Bella! Did Ya Eat?" brunch and other activities, visit the website [www.freetimescafe.com](http://www.freetimescafe.com) or phone 416-967-1078.

• The National Film Board Mediatheque features a winter carnival with activities and animated holiday films for kids at bargain prices. Upcoming screenings include the feature film *Flipping Out* by Israeli director **Yoav Shamir**, which presents "a close-up look at former soldiers of the Israeli army as they follow a strange post-military odyssey." (Jan. 27 and 29). NFB Mediatheque, 150 John St. at Richmond. 416-973-3012. [www.nfb.ca/mediatheque](http://www.nfb.ca/mediatheque)

• Patrons of Soulpepper Theatre Company's production of *A Christmas Carol* have raised more than \$74,000 for the Daily Bread Food Bank since 2001, artistic director **Albert Schultz** has announced, adding that matching corporate donations have upped the figure to \$134,000. **Joseph Zeigler**, who plays Ebenezer Scrooge each year, ends each performance with a plea for donations. The young actors who play the Cratchit children accept the donations from patrons in the atrium as they exit.

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