

# Te-Amim

Music Theatre

*The producer of the acclaimed drama 'The Secret of Gabi's Dresser'  
is proud to present the Canadian premiere of*

## The Shop on Main Street

A musical drama with  
book and lyrics by Bernard Spiro  
and music by David Nagy

Based on the novel by Ladislav Grosman  
The 1965 film adaptation was awarded an Oscar for  
Best Foreign Film

Directed by Mark Cassidy



A drama about an innocent carpenter Brtko who is forced by circumstances into a role he doesn't know how to play and the Jewish widow, the kind and deaf Mrs. Lautman who is pushed by fate into a situation she doesn't understand. The two lives intersect and the story culminates in an unforeseen, tragic flow of events on the background of the massive deportation of the town's Jews.

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**WHEN:** NOVEMBER 8\* – 16, 2007 - 10.00 AM & 1.00 PM DAILY  
\* NOV 8 AND NOV 15 - 1.00PM SHOW ONLY  
**WHERE:** AL GREEN THEATRE, MILES NADAL JCC, BLOOR AND SPADINA  
**TICKETS:** \$9 PER STUDENT OR EDUCATOR

Suitable for Grades 8\* – 12 (\*mature grade 8 students only)  
Holocaust survivors will participate during post-performance Q&A  
Performance running time - 1 hour and 15 minutes (1 hour 30 minutes including Q&A)

TEACHER'S GUIDE will be available to download at [www.te-amim.com](http://www.te-amim.com)

POST-PERFORMANCE ARTIST-LED WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS - Nov 15 and 16 only - contact Te-Amim for details

SNEAK PREVIEW TEACHER'S WORKSHOP ON OCT 24, 4:30 – 6:00PM – contact Te-Amim for details

SUBSIDIES: Some subsidies will be available to groups over 100 students – please enquire

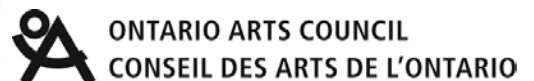
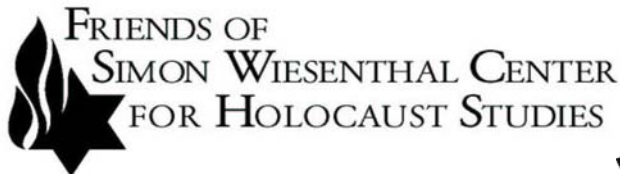
SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY for high school students to participate in a 1-day Tools for Tolerance® for Teens workshop at the New York Tolerance Center. Contact Susan Kendal, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center, [skendal@fswc.ca](mailto:skendal@fswc.ca) Priority given to schools attending the Shop on Main Street.

TICKET ORDER FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT [WWW.TE-AMIM.COM](http://WWW.TE-AMIM.COM) FOR ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION

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Major Educational and Outreach Sponsor

Venue Partner



# The Shop On Main Street

## SYNOPSIS

Tono, a good-natured carpenter living in a Slovak town in 1942, unwittingly becomes a player in the gathering moral crisis involving the abuse and persecution of the Jews in his town when he is assigned to run a dry goods shop owned by Rosalie, an elderly Jewess. The two develop a friendly and caring relationship. Tono maintains an appearance that he is in charge while allowing Rosalie to run the shop. When Tono learns that the Jews are being deported, he hides Rosalie from authorities. The story ends in tragedy as the intense stress of the situation causes Rosalie to suffer a fatal heart attack.

## THE BACKGROUND

The new musical is based on the story by Ladislav Grosman, a former Czechoslovakian Jew who was in hiding during WWII. Grosman lived in Prague during the 1950s and 60s, publishing stories in magazines. One particular story, *The Shop on Main Street*, was adapted for film and won the 1965 Academy Award for Best Foreign Film. His widow Edith and son George now live in Toronto.

## ABOUT TE-AMIM

Te-amim is a not-for-profit arts organization, unique in this country in its focus on the Holocaust as a route to understanding anti-racist issues. Te-Amim, aims to nurture an understanding in the community at large of cultural differences through music, theatre productions, creative arts education programs, knowledge-building workshops for teachers and educational resource materials. For 18 years, it has contributed to arts expression reaching over 70,000 students from over 250 schools in the GTA. The most recent work, the acclaimed first Canadian Holocaust drama for young people: *The Secret of Gabi's Dresser*, has been seen by over 20,000 students in all since the 2004 premiere.

## TESTIMONIALS

*"...I learned a great deal about how destructive the Nazis were to the Jews. I also saw a deeper message inside the play that was, 'Do not blame someone else for your own problems', like when the Nazis blamed the Jews for all their problems."*

*Student*

*"At a time when incidents of racism are on the rise in Canada, the message of this play for our diverse student body is a timely reminder that they can make a difference, one student at a time, by standing up to hate and intolerance."*

*Educator*

*"...What makes this particular show so potent [is]...the slow insidious and chilling way that racial intolerance spreads through a school, then a community, then a country."*

*Richard Ouzounian, \*\*\*\* Toronto Star*

## CONTACT US

For information about our programs contact us by phone at 416-642-0430, email [Philippa@te-amim.com](mailto:Philippa@te-amim.com) or visit [www.te-amim.com](http://www.te-amim.com).

## PUBLIC SHOWS

For information about public performances visit our website [www.te-amim.com](http://www.te-amim.com).