



A Century Songbook as wonderful as ever

Description

Four new scenes added in this enhanced remount

By **Byron Toben**

Popular demand resulted in a remount of the November 2017 spectacle by the **Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre** at the **Segal Centre** of ***A Century Songbook***.

I loved it when I saw it then and was equally charmed with the enhanced remount.

Written by **Edit Kuper** and directed by **Audrey Finkelstein**, the current version has lost only two of the original cast but added eight new adult performers for a total of 28. Another cute ten youngsters from the **YAYA** program (Young Actors for Young Audiences) also add to the crowd from time to time.

The show is now 85-minutes long with two scenes replaced by four new ones.



Among the new additions is a vibrant wedding between an Ashkenazi girl (**Veronica Schnitzler**) and a Sephardic Jew, while her new Sephardic sister-in-law (**Salome Assor**) had married an Ashkenazi man.

Armias Azariya sings a rousing Amharic song as he relates the rescue of thousands of Ethiopian Jews by Israel. This really grabbed me as I had once visited a “falasha” village there.

Violinist **David Peterman** speaks about his family’s immigration from Moscow to Montreal as **Daisy Sigal** sings *Nadezhda*.

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Ms. Kuper seems to have chosen many of the same songs I often chose to represent a decade at my mini benefits at the Atwater Library years ago. Here, **Sara Sinacore** renders *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*.



An onstage band of six was once again headed by pianist **Nick Burgess**, while new choreographer **holly Greco** kept the action flowing around new set designer **Sabrina Miller**'s backgrounds.

Readers might get a fuller "feel" for the project by viewing [my original review](#).

A Century Songbook closes at the Segal Centre on Sunday, June 30.

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segalcentre.org

Images: Leslie Schachter

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Byron Toben, a past president of *The Montreal Press Club*, has been *WestmountMag.ca*'s theatre reviewer since July 2015. Previously, he wrote for since terminated web sites *Rover Arts* and *Charlebois Post*, print weekly *The Downtowner* and print monthly *The Senior Times*. He also is an expert consultant on U.S. work permits for Canadians.



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