



## Visual Story for the Relaxed Performance of

### *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story*



Photo by Louisa Adamson

**Thursday, August 26, 2021 | 8 p.m.**

Confederation Centre of the Arts  
Mainstage Theatre

145 Richmond Street Charlottetown, PE

## About *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story*

### Performance time

- There will be an introduction at **8 p.m.**
- The show will start right after this
- The performance is about 1 hour and 20 minutes long
- There is no intermission
- It will finish around 9:30 p.m.

### Lobby TVs & Calm Zone

- If you want to leave the Theatre at any time, you may do so
- An usher can help you find your way - look for the Relaxed Performance badge!
- There are TVs in the Lobby where you can watch the show
- There is a Calm Zone you can visit in Studio 1
- You can go back into the theatre any time

### What to expect

- The lights above you will always stay on
- It may be a bit dark sometimes, but **never all dark**
- There are two times where smoke/haze is used on the stage
- It is OK to move
- It is OK to make noise
- It is OK to react
- It is OK to use your electronic devices (on silent)
- It is not OK to take pictures or make calls



## The Set and the Performers

Here is a picture of the set (with all the performers)



Photo by Stoo Metz

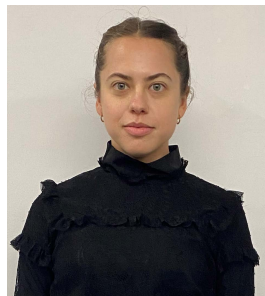
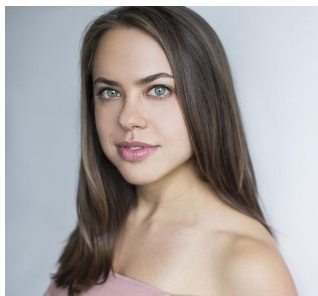
This photo of the set includes all performers and musicians. Starting from the left, you can see Chaim sitting and playing the clarinet, the drummer, the accordion/keyboard player, Chaya sitting and playing the violin, and The Wanderer standing and singing with his guitar.



# Here are pictures of all the performers



Ben Caplan plays "The Wanderer"



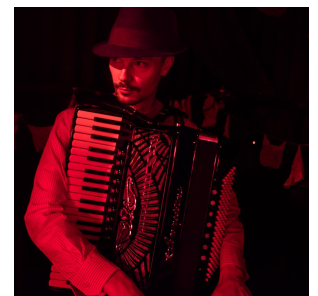
Shaina Silver-Baird plays "Chaya"



Eric Da Costa plays "Chaim"



Jamie Kronick plays the Drums



Graham Scott plays Keyboard & Accordion

Here are some other people you *might* see who work behind the scenes:



Christine Oakey  
Stage Manager



William Fallon  
Sound Engineer



Christian Barry  
Director/Co-Creator

## About the Story

### Short Synopsis

This Klezmer-folk music-theatre hybrid is inspired by the true stories of two Jewish Romanian refugees who came to Canada in 1908. After losing everything in their home country, Chaim and Chaya have been given a second chance in the "New World". This play is about how to love and find our shared humanity after facing the horrors of war. The story of Chaim and Chaya is told through a series of vignettes (short flashback scenes) woven together by music and The Wanderer's narration.

- **Violence**  
There will not be any physical acts of violence on the stage. You won't see people get hurt, but they will describe violent acts of war.
- **Intimacy**  
There will be some kissing and a shirt being removed to reveal an undershirt. There will be no nudity on stage. The music changes in these parts to help the audience imagine what Chaim and Chaya are doing and feeling.
- **Laughter**  
There will be moments where the audience might laugh. This could be because people think a part is funny, or because The Wanderer talks about sex, or sometimes because people feel uncomfortable and they laugh because they don't know how to react.

**At 8 p.m. before the show starts, there will be a short introduction where you will get a preview of some parts of the show!**



## Loud Sounds and Bright Lights

- There will be no flashing lights or fireworks
- The lights will not be too intense
- The show can be quite loud sometimes, and you are welcome to bring earplugs or headphones if you would like to use them
  - Instruments used are: keyboard, accordion, flute, saxophone, clarinet, drums, guitar, banjo, violin, and megaphone
  - Music builds, but there are no sudden increases in volume
  - The most intensely loud moment is when megaphone is used midway through the show during a song



Maybe you will like the play, and maybe not,  
and either way is fine.

You may feel happy or sad or scared or  
angry after seeing a show. Any reaction you  
have is OK!

At the end of the play, people in the  
audience may clap their hands. They might  
cheer or yell, "Bravo!"  
That is a way to say thank you to the people  
who made the show. It is also a way to say  
you like the show.

It's OK to cover your ears if the clapping is  
too loud. You can also wave your hands  
instead of clapping.





## Old Stock Visual Story

### **SPOILER ALERT :**

This visual story tells you everything that happens in the show.

At the beginning of the performance, the stage is empty except for twinkly lights and a shipping container. Beautiful and strange music plays.

A hatch opens in the top of the container and The Wanderer pops up. He starts singing the first song – "Traveller's Curse". During the song he pops back down and then he and a band member open the front of the container. The whole front is now open with a long door on each side, the inside of the doors become like walls. This is the only time Chaya comes out of the container. For the rest of the show, she and the other three performers stay in the container. The other three are Chaim, and two musicians. In this show everyone plays instruments.

When the first song is done, The Wanderer introduces himself. He tells the audience this a musical show about immigrants and Jewish refugees. The Wanderer sets the scene, saying it is 1908 in Halifax, in a room crammed with people who have just arrived on a boat.

Chaim and Chaya are standing in a line for medical inspections. They have just arrived from Romania. They introduce themselves. Chaya has come here with her large family. Chaim is alone and excited for his new home.

The Wanderer sings the song "You've Arrived".

The scene changes to Chaya's new home in Montreal. Chaim comes as tells her he would like to marry her.

The Wanderer tells the audience about Chaya's past in Romania and how she was in love. He speaks about the Bible, and how not all of the good things that God said were written down. He sings "Truth Doesn't Live in a Book".

Chaim and Chaya are getting married. She walks around him. They play their instruments. At the end, Chaim crushes a glass with his foot. Wedding music plays.

The scene changes, and Chaim and Chaya are onstage alone, now married. They are happy and excited. They kiss. Chaim accidentally offends Chaya by saying that her first husband actually wanted to marry her sister.

The Wanderer celebrates their wedding with wedding music. After the music plays, the Wanderer talks to the audience.

The scene changes, and Chaya and Chaim are in their home. He is talking about his new job while she is taking her hair down. She is still mad.

In the next scene, Chaya is doing dishes as Chaim comes in. Chaya doesn't look up at him, and she continues with her chores as if he's not there. Chaim holds a brown paper package - he always brings her sugar because she likes her tea very sweet. They talk about each of their days and suddenly, Chaya starts undressing him, telling him that she wants to have a baby.

The Wanderer sings "Minimum Intervals", a song about a husband's conjugal responsibilities to his wife according to Judaism. He repeats the song three times, and it's really fast during the last time, which helps the audience imagine what Chaim and Chaya are doing.

The lights shift, and the Wanderer tells the tragic story of Chaim's past to the audience. The story is about how back in Romania, Chaim's entire family was murdered in the Pogroms. He was the only survivor.

The Wanderer sings "Plow the Shit". He picks up a megaphone and speaks about Canadian values and identity, and how foreigners from other countries are treated by the government.

As music plays, Chaya holds a wrapped cloth - a sleeping baby - and rocks it. They sing a lullaby.

The Wanderer talks to the audience about an old Jewish lullaby he recalls. The Wanderer tells the sad story of how Chaya lost her first husband and baby while she was living in Romania and trying to escape.

The scene changes and Chaya is holding the baby. Chaim comes in and they talk about what name to give their newborn son. They decide to name him Samuel. Chaim holds his son and prays to him.

The Wanderer sings a song called "Fledgling". Then he tells the audience how Chaim, Chaya, and Sam finally become Canadian citizens.

The scene changes and Chaim is holding a package of sugar. The front room is empty. Chaya is holding their son and he is sick. They are worried about him. Chaya hands Chaim the baby and he whispers a prayer, then leaves to find a doctor.

The Wanderer explains that Sam reminds Chaim of his youngest brother, who had the same name (Samuel) and died in the hospital after the Polgroms. Once Chaim is gone, Chaya holds Sam in her arms. She rocks back and forth while she is praying. The Wanderer walks towards Chaya. She doesn't see him but as soon as the Wanderer is close to her, she feels his presence and speaks to him more directly from her heart.

The Wanderer takes off his Tallis and lays it around her shoulders. He looks towards her with great compassion. Though Chaya doesn't see him, she feels his warmth.

The Wanderer begins to talk to the audience about the show to emphasize that it's not just a show; it's something real. He sings a song in Hebrew.

The scene changes and Chaim is sleeping in a chair. Chaya comes down and kneels in front of him, waking him up to tell him that their son seems to be getting better. Chaim tells her that she is a good wife, but Chaya tells him that she doesn't agree. She avoids looking at him.

The Wanderer begins to sing "What Love Can Heartbreak Allow". Chaim begins to sing the song with him, then Chaya joins them.

The Wanderer tells a story about someone knocking on the door in the middle of the night, and receiving a note that is not written in English. He wonders: Should you open the door to a stranger?

Chaya gazes at her husband. There's a sexual charge to the gaze. Chaya makes a tiny motion towards him. Chaim goes to her and kisses her but then they don't know quite what to do: awkward. Then Chaya tells him he will be a father again. They are so happy.

The Wanderer tells the audience about Chaim and Chaya's four children. He explains what they did in their lives, their accomplishments, and how proud their parents were. We learn that Sam was awarded a Canadian Volunteer Medal for his service during World War II, who he got married to who, and how many children he had. We even find out about how Sam's children became successful!

The Wanderer talks to the audience about when Chaya and Chaim passed away and how many great-grandchildren they had. Then Chaya and Chaim turn and look directly at The Wanderer. The three of them smile at each other.

The Wanderer gives his final speech. He thanks the audience for coming to the show. He introduces the people who portrayed roles in the show. They dance and wave to the audience. The shipping container closes again and the show is over.

*NOTE: You can learn more about "Pogroms" in your house program.*

