



Peter Levine's New Play, APPLE, TABLE, PENNY, Headlines Emerging Artists Theatre's New Work Series

by BWW News Desk Sep. 3, 2019

Peter Levine's humorous and thought-provoking new play, *APPLE, TABLE, PENNY*, will headline Emerging Artist Theatre's Fall New Work Series. The limited run will play October 3 - 13 at TADA Theater and is directed by Jennifer Tuttle.

Emerging Artists Theatre previously produced Levine's one-act *The Gipper* and his full-length play, *The Kitchen Table*, which was originally developed at the Drama Bookshop with the help of Anthony Veneziale (co-founder of FreeStyle Love Supreme, along with Thomas Kail and Lin-Manuel Miranda). Levine has been a company member of Emerging Artist Theatre since 2003.

Max Gelman, a frustrated Borscht Belt comedian, often neglected his roles as husband and father to follow his dream. But now something's wrong. He's been acting strangely and his wife and children are concerned. So is he. Complete with jokes, the occasional song, and a cast of characters that includes Carmen Miranda and Jackie Gleason, *APPLE, TABLE, PENNY* showcases generational struggles, the special love between a grandfather and his granddaughter, and coming to terms with the inevitable that awaits us all.

The cast features Abraham McNeil Adams (*A Christmas Carol/A Contemporary Theatre*), Jerry Ferris (*Holy Child/Roy Arias*), Peter Levine (*The Madwoman of Chaillot/Neighborhood Playhouse*), Leslie Lynn Meeker (*NEXT FALL/Stomping Grounds Theatre Company*), Vivian Meisner (*Illegal Helpers/Austrian Cultural Center NY*), Laura Sametz (*New Amsterdam/NBC*) and Paula Shtein (*The Wall/The National Yiddish Theatre*).

The creative team includes lighting design by Brian Aldous, costume design by Joey Kovach and stage management by Emily Stine.

Performances take place at TADA Theatre, 15 W 28th Street (between Broadway & 5th Ave.), 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10001. Subways: R/W to 28th street, B/D/F/M/N/Q to 34th street, F to 23rd street.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4330947 or 1-800-838-3006, or at the box office the night of the performance. Running time: 95 minutes.

Performance dates:

Thursday, October 3 at 7 pm (Opening Night)

Friday, October 4 at 7 pm

Saturday, October 5 at 7 pm

Monday, October 7 at 7 pm

Saturday, October 12 at 7 pm

Sunday, October 13 at 2 pm

Peter Levine is a playwright and actor living in Brooklyn, New York. Emerging Artists Theatre has produced two of his plays – a full-length play, *The Kitchen Table*, and a one-act play, *The Gipper*. He has also performed his own one-man play, *Meditations on Brooklyn Childhoods*, in New York. As an actor, Peter's recent New York credits include *In the Car With Blossom and Len*, directed by Tony-award nominee Lynne Taylor-Corbett, at the Queens Theatre and as the lead character, Ben, in *Murmurs and Incantations*, winner of the best play award at FringeNYC. Select New York credits include *The Madwoman of Chaillot* (with Anne Jackson, Alvin Epstein, and Kim Hunter), and *The Power of Darkness* at the Mint, as well as numerous regional, and off-off & off Broadway productions. In his former life as an historian, Peter wrote numerous books including *A.G. Spalding and The Rise of Baseball*, *Ellis Island to Ebbets Field: Sport and the American Jewish Experience*, *Idols of the Game* (with Robert Lipsyte), and a novel, *The Rabbi of Swat*.

Jennifer Tuttle is a director, actor and teaching artist. Her recent projects include: devising and directing *Immigration Stories: A Celebration of the Individual and Collective Voice for The Culture Project's Women Center Stage*, directing a bilingual version of *Much Ado About Nothing called Much Ado Para Nada*, adapted by Bernardo Mazon, for Shakespeare in Detroit, and directing Lynn Nottage's *Ruined* at The City College of New York. She is a member of AEA and teaches Acting, Directing and Voice at CCNY.

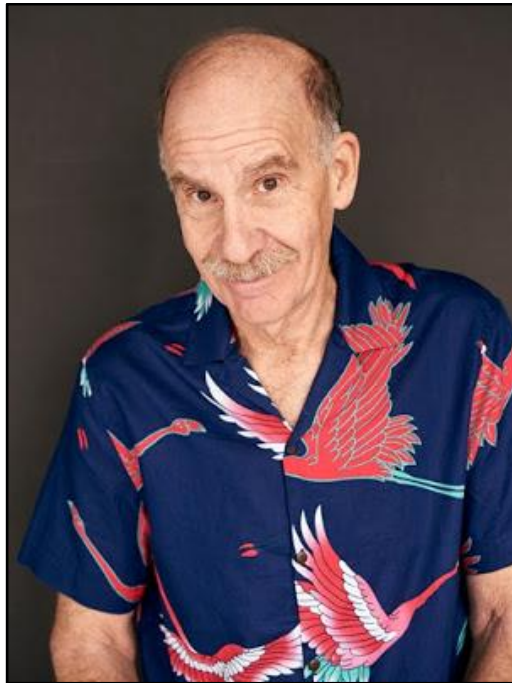
Emerging Artists New Works Series began in 2006 and focuses on new works, new talents, and new voices. Since its inception, numerous productions that were workshopped at the

series, have gone on to have full productions at the NYMF, FringeNYC & Encores, Edinburgh Fringe, off-Broadway, as well as National and International productions. More info is available at www.newworkseries.com.



Saturday, October 5, 2019

Spotlight On...Peter Levine



Name: Peter Levine

Hometown: Brooklyn

Education: B.A., M.A. in History, Columbia, Phd History, Rutgers

Favorite Credits: As an actor, Marc in *ART*, Willie Clark in *The Sunshine Boys*, Roy Cohn in *Angels in America*, and Max Gelman in my new play *Apple, Table Penny*

Why theater?: I had a first career as a professor of American History at Michigan State University- wrote a lot of books, loved teaching but started acting there with the Theatre Dept's MFA program and got hooked. I took an early retirement, moved back to Brooklyn with my wife, got my Equity card in 2002, and have been acting and writing plays ever since. For me it is a passion – something I crave to do.

Tell us about *Apple, Table, Penny*?: The play tells the story of Max Gelman, a frustrated Borscht Belt comedian, who often neglected his roles as husband and father to follow his dream. But now something's wrong. He's been acting strangely and his wife and children are concerned. So is he. Could it be Alzheimer's? Complete with jokes, the occasional song, and a cast of characters that includes Carmen Miranda and Jackie Gleason, *Apple, Table, Penny* showcases generational struggles, the special love between a grandfather and his granddaughter, and coming to terms with the inevitable that awaits us all.

What inspired you to write *Apple, Table, Penny*?: Who knows where inspiration comes from? I try to write what I know best with the hope that concentrating on the specific kinds of people and the worlds they inhabit that I most familiar with, still allows me speak to universal questions and themes.

What kind of theater speaks to you? What or who inspires you as an artist?: My tastes are eclectic. In terms of theatre, always Tony Kushner and Arthur Miller – Paul Simon has been with me since he first began to perform.

If you could work with anyone you've yet to work with, who would it be?: There are so many people I have yet to work with that I wouldn't know where to begin.

What show have you recommended to your friends?: *Angels in America*

Who would play you in a movie about yourself and what would it be called?: Gene Wilder, but alas he is dead!

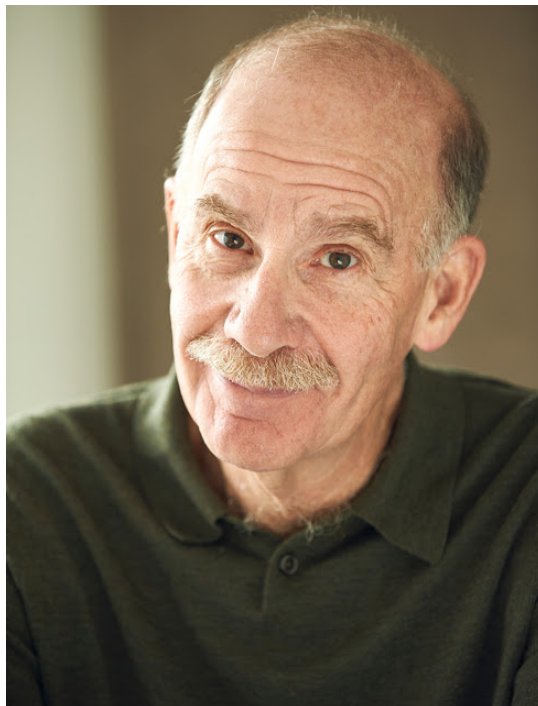
If you could go back in time and see any play or musical you missed, what would it be?:

The original production of *Death of a Salesman*

What's your biggest guilty pleasure?: I don't know about guilt, but spending time with my two grandchildren, Ben and Lily

Visible Soul The musings and diatribes of a New York actor and playwright.

People You Should Know . . . Peter Levine



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When did you know you wanted to be a writer?

I've have been a writer all of my adult life – first as an historian - the author of a number of books - then as a one-time novelist, and more recently as a playwright. I cannot recall any moment that inspired me - it is something that I do, no different than my passion for acting. It is a part of who I am.

Tell me about APPLE, TABLE, PENNY. How do you feel rehearsals are going? What do you love most about the show?

Both as the playwright and as an actor in the play(I play Max Gelman), I am thrilled with what is taking place. Jen and I cast a wonderful group of actors. Along with our stage manager, we have made rehearsal a collective and collaborative experience – full of new discoveries and understanding about the play and its characters. What I have loved most, is seeing how, in their hands, the play is much richer and poignant than I ever imagined when I first put pen to paper.

What kind of writing inspires you?

In terms of theatre, Arthur Miller and Tony Kushner are my touchstones and inspiration.

Who or what has been the biggest influence on your work as a writer thus far?

Without giving anything away, the end of *Apple, Table, Penny* is my homage to Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, still, to me, the greatest American play.

What else are you working on right now?

Right now, I am collaborating with a friend on a short play about making sure that Donald Trump is not re-elected president.

