

In celebration of 100 years of the Theory of Relativity

**NEPESH
THEATRE**



www.nepeshtheatre.co.il

EINSTEIN

"Einstein is a fascinating study of contradictions and paradoxes. Laced with humor yet managing to convey some of the complexities and difficulties with which he struggled."

Robert Crew - Toronto Star, Canada

"A simple, dynamic monologue by Gabriel Emanuel with subtle, riveting direction by Howard Ryppe"
Amir Orian, The City, Tel-Aviv

"Einstein is a theatrical portrait which is genuinely touching as his character is stripped bare in a way only a private encounter might provide."

Brad Bradley - The News, Argentina

"Einstein is both a hymn to peace and requiem for war."
Janet Wiseman
Guelph Daily Mercury, Canada

By Gabriel Emanuel

Starring Victor Attar Designed & Directed by Howard Ryppe Music by Ron Wiseman

On the eve of his 70th birthday, after receiving yet another award, this time from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Albert Einstein takes an accounting of his life with the audience. He examines the many conflicting aspects of his personality as physicist, pacifist, Jew and Zionist. The man of the century is revealed in all his greatness- his humanity, his morality, his simplicity. Nephesh Theatre produced the world premiere of "Einstein" in Canada over 20 years ago. Since then it has been translated into many languages and presented throughout the world. We now remount our production both in Hebrew and in English.



Ministry of Culture, Israel

Canada

Canadian Embassy in Israel



Municipality of Tel-Aviv-Yafo

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**From the Reviews of the productions of "EINSTEIN"
in Canada, South America and Israel**

"EINSTEIN is a fascinating study of contradictions and paradoxes. Laced with humor yet managing to convey some of the complexities and difficulties with which he struggled"

Robert Crew- Toronto Star- Canada

"EINSTEIN is a theatrical portrait which is genuinely touching as his character is stripped bare in a way only a private encounter might provide"

Brad Bradley- The News- Argentina

"The most interesting production in the current Habimah National Theatre repertory is the Nephesh Theatre's EINSTEIN... EINSTEIN is an excellent combination of a simple yet multidimensional monologue by Gabriel Emanuel with subtle and rivetting Direction by Howard Rypp"

Amir Orion- The City- Israel

"Dramaturge Gabriel Emanuel demystifies the seemingly unfathomable personality of Albert Einstein... We meet a man who is Every man who confides with us all the complexities of his life"

Gustavo Emilis Rosales- Teatro- Chile

"EINSTEIN is both a Hymn to Peace and Requim for War"

Janet Wiseman- Guelph Daily Mercury- Canada

"EINSTEIN speaks to us here and now. His worldly reflections as scientist, Pacifist, Jew and Zionist still ring true today!"

Boaz Evron- Yediot Achronot-

Israel

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New York Theatre Wiresm

Theatre Dance Performance Art Music
Alternative and International Theatre

Paulanne Simmons

"Einstein" Triumphs

"Einstein"

Directed by Howard Rypp

Presented by La MaMa E.T.C.

74A East Fourth St

Dec. 7 thru 11

Reviewed by Paulanne Simmons Dec. 10, 2005



Victor Attar as Einstein

It's been one hundred years since Albert Einstein first published his Theory of Relativity, and philosophers and scientists are still debating the consequences of that momentous event. Gabriel Emanuel's "Einstein," which premiered in Canada over twenty years ago, is certainly not the last word on this legendary figure, but it goes a long way towards bringing the man closer to those of us today who are badly in need of his wisdom.

Israeli actor Victor Attar reprises the role at La MaMa E.T.C Dec. 7 to 11 in the one-man-show directed by Howard Rypp. He looks, talks and moves so like Einstein, it's almost as if the possibility that time is not only relative but also cyclical were true and the great man has returned to earth. The only problem with the show is that it is running for such a short time.

The play takes place on the eve of Einstein's 70th birthday, before and after he receives an award from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The stage is set with two desks cluttered with books and a violin case, a blackboard covered with scribbled equations, a pair of shoes.

The great man enters, barefoot and clad in a long-sleeved undershirt and pants held up by suspenders. He slowly dons a shirt, tuxedo jacket and shoes, although he doesn't put on socks because "they produce only holes." As he dresses, he ruminates on his friends, his family and his career. Thus with humor, insight and some bewilderment, Attar takes the audience on a journey through Einstein's life and work.

Einstein recalls his problems in school: he was considered slow and expelled for asking too many questions. He remembers the time his father bought him a compass, which he found "the most magical gift in the world." Einstein talks of his love for music, even at an early age, but he does not play his violin for the audience because he cannot find the bow.

Soon Einstein talks about studying at the university where he met his first wife and working in the famous patent office where he developed the first part of his Theory of Relativity. But even his great fame cannot protect this man whose religious beliefs were centered on his desire "to know how God created the world and whether he had choices in the matter" from the Nazi who remind him that he is indeed a Jew. Einstein

flees to the United States where he is a celebrity besieged by newspaper reporters and manufacturers who want him to endorse their products.

Throughout the play Einstein explains his theories. He apologizes to Newton for replacing his belief that time and space remain when everything disappears with relativity which says that time and space disappear along with everything else, and for proposing that gravity is not a force but a field.

Of course there is Einstein's famous analogy of the two lights and the moving train and his conclusion that "Time is relative to the motion of the observer. One man's now is another man's then," his unsuccessful search for a unified field to explain how the universe works, and his belief, despite this failure, that "God does not play dice with the world."

Einstein is filled with wonderful irony. He says that since the mathematicians have started explaining his ideas he's been having trouble understanding them. He acknowledges that his successes came at the expense of his relationship with his wife and children. He comments that "The scientists are the only truly religious people in this materialistic time," "To punish me for my contempt for authority fate has made me an authority" and "The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible."

But perhaps the greatest irony in Einstein's life was that he, a pacifist, should have been the prime creator of the atomic bomb.

Einstein says "There is not one idea of which I can be certain." His most profound uncertainty may have been about the future of the world in the Atomic Age.

At the end of the play, Einstein predicts "The war after the next one will be fought with rocks."

"God does not play dice with the universe," says Einstein. "And neither should we."

"Einstein" triumphed at La MaMa, albeit briefly. At least we can see more of Mr. Attar. He returns to La MaMa December 14 to 21 in another one-man show, "Golgotha," a play about the Greek Holocaust that is presented with the assistance of the American Sephardi Federation. For more information, see www.lamama.org.

