



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem **AF | HU** AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY

Research engine for the world. Engine of growth for a nation.

See gift annuity rates

[sys.com/BurstingPipe/adServer.bs?cn=brd&FlightID=9183432&Page=6PluID=0&Pos=1292045648](http://bs.serving-sys.com/BurstingPipe/adServer.bs?cn=brd&FlightID=9183432&Page=6PluID=0&Pos=1292045648)

“Jewish Is Hard”

07/07/2014 - 17:13
Emily Snyder

Tweet 0 Like 24 Share 24 +1

There are two things you should never discuss: politics and religion.

However, those are really the only two things worth talking about.

“The Religion Thing,” a new play by [Renee Calarco](#) (<http://www.reneecalarco.com/>) and directed by Douglas Hall, tackles the politics and lasting impact of faith.



[\(/blogs/well-versed/jewish-hard\)](#)
Katharine McLeod and Jamie Geiger in “The Religion Thing.”
Photo by Jimmy Ryan

Focusing on two Washington, D.C. couples: Mo (Katherine McLeod) and Brian (Jamie Geiger) —an intermarried Catholic-Jewish duo -- and Mo’s best friend Patti (Danielle O’Farrell) who has been “born-again” to please her new boyfriend, Jeff (Andrew W. Smith).

As with any good character study, secrets come tumbling out within the first few minutes: Patti used to be a party girl; she and Jeff were secretly married at a mega-church; she’s quitting her high-powered job to have children—and much more that we won’t spoil here. But as each piece of the quartet is revealed, what comes to the fore is the importance of faith—and the impact of faith upon our most important life decisions.

Brian, whose Judaism has been non-observant at best, finds that as he and Mo discuss having children, the idea of a bris, a bar mitzvah, attending Kol Nidre, actually do mean something to him. However, as an act two spectral visitation from his orthodox grandfather reminds him (Curran Connor, pulling quadruple duty in various roles): “Jewish is hard.”

“Jewish is hard,” but Calarco’s script is tight, funny, honest and painful by turns. Complimented by Hall’s direction (greatly assisted by Kevin Judge’s clever mobile set), the quintet of actors revel in the uncomfortable intimacy that grappling with faith requires. This particular presentation is further heightened by a gallery display from Israeli photographer, Yael Ben-Zion from her new book, “Intermarried.”

Society’s pervasive message remains: “You can have it all.” But “The Religion Thing”

Recent Posts

[The Dizzying Heights Of Genius \(/blogs/well-versed/dizzying-heights-genius\)](#)
07/07/2014 - 13:38

[Other People’s Memories \(/blogs/well-versed/other-peoples-memories\)](#)
07/01/2014 - 18:27

[From Yiddish Melodrama To American Comedy \(/blogs/well-versed/yiddish-melodrama-american-comedy\)](#)
06/18/2014 - 12:03

[This Jew Hath Eyes \(/blogs/well-versed/jew-hath-eyes\)](#)
06/13/2014 - 10:04

[Painting By Letter \(/blogs/well-versed/painting-letter-0\)](#)
06/11/2014 - 23:00

BARDSSUMMERSCAPE 2014
JUNE 27 – AUGUST 17

Presenting seven weeks of opera, theater, music, dance, film, cabaret, and the 25th anniversary of Bard Music Festival **SCHUBERT AND HIS WORLD**

SUMMERSCAPE COACH
\$20 Round-Trip Between Manhattan and the Fisher Center

[fishercenter.bard.edu](http://www.fishercenter.bard.edu) | 845-758-7900

<http://www.thejewishweek.com/ad/redirect/41618/t31994?url=node/41957>

“A wise, candid, and inspiring true story about rediscovering your passion.”
— Publishers Weekly

<http://www.thejewishweek.com/ad/redirect/41852/t36351?url=node/41957>

reminds us that faith is more than fuzzy feelings: true faith is hard.

“*The Religion Thing*,” produced by [Project Y Theatre Company](#), (<https://www.facebook.com/ProjectYTheatre>) is playing at [The Cell Theatre](#) (<http://www.thecelltheatre.org/>), 338 West 23rd Street, New York City through August 1st. Tickets available through [brownpapertickets.com](#). (<http://brownpapertickets.com>)

Emily C. A. Snyder is an internationally published and produced playwright, as well as the Artistic Director of Turn to Flesh Productions. Her original five-act iambic pentameter play, “*Cupid and Psyche*,” premiered at The Barrow Group Theatre for Valentine’s 2014. She is a member of the staff of *The Jewish Week*.

More Blogs

- [The New Normal \(/sections/blogs/new-normal\)](#)
- [Well-Versed \(/sections/blogs/well-versed\)](#)
- [Political Insider \(/sections/blogs/political-insider\)](#)
- [Jewish Techs \(/blogs/jewish-techs\)](#)

Subscribe to this blog feed

Well Versed

<http://www.thejewishweek.com/rss/blogs/well-versed>

Related & Recommended

- [What Religion Will The Kid Be? \(/arts/theater/what-religion-will-kid-be\)](#)
- [Your weekly guide to what’s hot in New York area arts. \(/arts/arts-guide/your-weekly-guide-whats-hot-new-york-area-arts\)](#)
- [Wearing Her Judaism On Her Wrist \(/news/short_takes/wearing_her_judaism_her_wrist\)](#)

Comment Guidelines

The Jewish Week feels comments create a valuable conversation and wants to feature your thoughts on our website. To make everyone feel welcome, we won’t publish comments that are profane, irrelevant, promotional or make personal attacks.

Add comment

Your name: *

E-mail: *

The content of this field is kept private and will not be shown publicly.

Comment: *

By submitting this form, you accept the [Mollom privacy policy \(/mollom.com/web-service-privacy-policy\)](#).

The Jewish Week | Featured Sites of Interest

- [ALLEN & COMPANY LLC](#) (http://www.hoovers.com/company-information/cs/company-profile/allen_company_llc.bcc9945575c3b533.html)
- [CAR POWER ADAPTER](#) (<http://www.dinodirect.com/car-power-adapter/>)
- [VOGUE FRANCE](#) (http://www.abercrombiefitch.fr/catalog/seo_sitemap/category)
- [RAISER & KENNIFF, PC. - CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS](#) (<http://www.nyccriminallawyers.com/>)
- [GREAT JERUSALEM HOTELS](#) (<http://www.danhotels.com/jerusalemhotels/>)
- [CHINA SUPPLIERS](#) (<http://www.globalmarket.com/>)
- [LIMO SERVICE NJ](#) (<http://5starlimorental.com>)
- [INSPIRATIONAL SUCCESS QUOTES & SAYINGS](#) (<http://www.keepinspiring.me/famous-quotes-about-success/>)
- [ELECTRIC CIGARETTES](#) (<http://www.electriccigaretttetree.com>)
- [DISSERTATION WRITING SERVICE](#) (<http://getdissertation.com/>)
- [BAD CREDIT LOANS](#) (<http://badcreditleans.freeforums.org/bad-credit-loans-direct-lenders-only-bad-credit-payday-loans-t3.html>)
- [NAPLESBAYCOLONYPROPERTIES.COM](#) (<http://naplesbaycolonyproperties.com>)
- [LOS ANGELES CAR ACCIDENT LAWYER](#) (<http://www.faralaw.org>)