Celebrating Two Recent Books by Members of the Digital Yiddish Theatre Project

During World War I, a motley group of amateurs, refugees, and out-of-work actors revolutionized the Yiddish stage. Achieving unlikely success, the Vilna Troupe would go on to earn the attention of theatergoers worldwide. Yiddish Empire tells the story of how these performers became the interwar equivalent of a viral sensation.

The Rise of the Modern Yiddish Theater focuses on the life and work of Avrom Goldfaden, one of the most colorful figures in the history of the Yiddish stage. Quint explores how the actors who performed his plays absorbed theater into their everyday lives, and paints a vivid picture of Jewish religion, politics, and daily life in late Imperial Russia.

Debra Caplan is Assistant Professor of Theater at Baruch College, CUNY, and is also a director, dramaturg, and theater translator. With Joel Berkowitz, she co-founded the Digital Yiddish Theatre Project (yiddishstage.org), a research collective that applies digital humanities tools to the study of Yiddish theater. Her current book project is a new biography of Molly Picon.

Alyssa Quint is Senior Scholar at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York City. She is the co-editor of Arguing the Modern Jewish Canon and a forthcoming two-volume collection of plays, essays, and documents called Women on the Yiddish Stage. She is currently curating an online museum to be launched by YIVO in 2020.

April 4th, 7PM
Celebrating Two Recent Books by Members of the Digital Yiddish Theatre Project

Debra Caplan • Yiddish Empire
Alyssa Quint • The Rise of the Modern Yiddish Theater

in conversation with Joel Berkowitz & Debra Caplan

The Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies