



Press Release - 26 February 2024

***MACHLOKET* - A BRAND NEW PODCAST SERIES INTERVIEWING HUNDREDS OF JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE UK- EXPLORES WHAT IT MEANS TO BE JEWISH TODAY**

In February, Jewish theatre makers **Tash Hyman** and **Nick Cassenbaum**, working with community storytelling company **Take Stock Exchange**, will launch the first two episodes of a brand new podcast series ***Machloket - a disagreement for a greater good***. Initially announced in March 2023 the nationwide project has been created with Jewish community groups to offer both a broad and intricate picture of what it means to be Jewish in the UK today. The interview-led podcast, presented by Tash and Nick will launch at the end of February.

Formed out of conversations with 30 different Jewish community groups, and over 200 people from all over England - from London to Manchester, from Bradford to Truro and Liverpool to Norwich - each of the episodes in the series will feature fascinating human stories and engaging accounts of Jewish life from a wide range of perspectives.

The groups interviewed by the creative team for the first two episodes include a group of golfers, a revived rural community, a Queer Talmud study group, year 10 students from a Jewish School, a group of people who don't think they're Jewish enough, and a group of 'ex-Egyptian' refugees. The team delivered workshops between January and August 2023 with these groups, and others, to share stories, explore, and celebrate what life is like for all sorts of Jewish people in the UK today.

Each episode features a selection of groups and looks at themes like exclusion and community, memory and migration, ritual and legacy, and hope, belonging and joy.

Longer term, a theatrical performance will be developed from this process to tour to community spaces across the country. For each event a bespoke collection of stories will be told, with live music and a community meal in partnership with local arts/community organisations. A digital archive will also be created for audiences to delve deeper into specific stories and locations.

Tash Hyman said: *'It's thrilling to be undertaking this project. I am so excited by the breadth and diversity of British Jewish communities - it has been a privilege and a joy to meet with community groups from all over the country - to be invited in, to listen to their stories and to be able to share them with a wider audience. We have been surprised, moved, educated and entertained on this journey - and we hope that others will be too.'*

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The project is ongoing and will continue to reach and represent more and more

communities.

Machloket translates as a halachic or religious dispute or disagreement which would bring people closer to God. We like the translation - a disagreement for a greater good because we knew that all these groups were not going to have the same opinions. Jewish communities and Jewish people are vastly different, exist in different places, meet in different ways and for different reasons.

So what you will hear in each podcast are extracts from the facilitated conversations we had with three of the groups and also us talking a bit about why we have put them together.

***Machloket - a disagreement for the greater good* is a Take Stock Exchange production with theatre makers Tash Hyman and Nick Cassenbaum, created in partnership with The Royal Court.**

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IMAGES:

Artwork can be downloaded [here](#).

LISTINGS:

Release dates to be announced shortly.

BIOGRAPHIES:

Tash Hyman

Tash Hyman is a director, dramaturg and facilitator for stage and audio, and a lecturer at Central Saint Martins. They were last year's runner up for the JMK directors prize. They are co-founder of award-winning company *no more superheroes*. Credits include *BENEATH OUR FEET* (audio, 2022) *LAND SKEINS* (audio, 2021, OnComm Innovation Award Winner) and *IN MY LUNGS THE OCEAN SWELLS* (VAULT Festival, Origin Award Winner, 2020).

Nick Cassenbaum

Nick Cassenbaum is a theatre maker whose work asks audiences to think about how they engage with spaces, places and people. Aside from his work with take stock exchange, Nick's work has toured internationally, selling out venues around the world. He has written plays, created and performed solo work and run community projects in collaboration with some of the country's most celebrated venues, including The Royal Court, Soho Theatre and Battersea Arts Centre.

take stock exchange

take stock exchange, run by Anna Smith, Nick Cassenbaum and Olly Hawes, has been using storytelling and conversation to build stronger communities across London and beyond since 2013. The company works with arts organisations, community groups, housing associations and workplaces to deliver unique creative projects that enable people to express, connect, imagine, empathise and see their everyday surroundings in a new light, creating a dialogue through difference - whatever that difference might be.