If the Whole Body Dies: Raphael Lemkin and the Treaty Against Genocide

A staged reading of the one-act play by Robert Skloot, followed by a discussion with the playwright

Wednesday, April 30, 2014, 7pm; Durham Studio Theater, UC Berkeley

Marking the week of Yom Ha-Shoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and Genocide Awareness Month

Sponsored by: the Center for Jewish Studies, UC Berkeley; the Jewish Student Union, UC Berkeley; the Berkeley Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies

With special thanks to the Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies
THE PLAY

This is a play about Raphael Lemkin, a man who died in obscurity but whose achievements were extraordinary. Lemkin coined the word “genocide” in 1944, and then used it in the name of the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, ratified in 1948 and known widely today as the U.N. Genocide Convention.

In his author’s note, Robert Skloot writes, “The play I have written approaches the subject of genocide from the perspective of the man, not the treaty.” As such, If the Whole Body Dies has three objectives: to recognize the extraordinary achievements of Raphael Lemkin for a new generation, to contribute to the body of anti-genocide materials in the arts and add to the public historical record, and to use the medium of play and performance to create human connections, hope, and empathy in that visceral way that only a play can move people.

PROGRAM
7 pm: Staged reading of the play followed by a discussion with the author

GREETINGS
Catherine Cole, Chair, Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies, UC Berkeley
Sharon Aronson-Lehavi, Lisa and Douglas Goldman Visiting Israeli Professor, UC Berkeley

CAST
Raphael Lemkin: Robert Skloot
Girl: Shir Davidovicz
Narrator: Joel Grebel
Man: Cristhian Ayvar
Woman: Sharlee Taylor
Other Occasional Voices: Sander Lutz, Samantha Hyde
Slides and Sound: Andrei Dubinsky, Nir Maoz

SPECIAL THANKS
Rebecca Golbert, Executive Director, Berkeley Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies
Joshua Hesslein, Marketing and Development Director, Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies, UC Berkeley
Wil Leggett, Production Manager, Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies, UC Berkeley
Nir Maoz, Fellow, Berkeley Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies