

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: REBECCA! Mother of Two Dynasties of
Raise Your Spirits Theatre (www.raiseyourspirits.org)

Year: 2021

Please present your activity report according to the following lines. The whole report will not exceed 2 or 3 pages (as word document).

Name of the Program: Raise Your Spirits Theatre – current show: **REBECCA!
Mother of Two Dynasties**

Year of activity: 2020-2021

Name of the report's writer: Toby Klein Greenwald (Budget prepared by Adv. Tamar Rubin, Chairwoman, Raise Your Spirits Theatre)

Function of the report's writer: Artistic Director

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Website / Facebook address of the organization: www.raiseyourspirits.org

Number of active participants in the program: 35-40

Estimated number of impacted participants: 35-40 plus several thousand audience members

Give the actual state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines): We have been rehearsing by Zoom since August, 2020, and have also had a number of live rehearsals, despite 2 lockdowns, when the rules of Israel's Ministry of Health permitted. Our show is a musical. The cast has learned and rehearsed about 85% of the songs, and about 70% of the dances and movement segments, which are more challenging during lockdown.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.): We have rehearsed by either Zoom or live usually twice a week, with participants whose numbers ranged from three to 30, depending on the size of the scene (some scenes are with soloists or duets), since August, 2020. Our choreographer has succeeded in teaching dances by Zoom (the only one we are aware of who is doing this) and women have learned their songs and sometimes also rehearse with each other, not in the context of the larger group, by phone or Zoom.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...): Our music director has used several technological methods in which women learn and record their parts in songs, send them to her, she mixes them in her studio and plays them back for the cast at our Zoom rehearsals, gives feedback to the singers/actors and they advance accordingly. A similar method is used with the dancers, in which they rehearse by Zoom in a way that the choreographer can see them and correct their moves. We also rehearse individual songs with them directly, not recorded, via live Zoom. When we have been able to get together for live rehearsals, we saw, to our satisfaction, that the actors were, for the most part, able to go seamlessly from the virtual rehearsals to the live rehearsals. The live rehearsals have been done with our actors masked and socially distanced, with the goal being that when they are permitted to have closer physical contact, they will be able to make that transformation easily. Obviously this is more challenging than the previous year, when all rehearsals were live, but we have broken new ground and proven, we believe, that where there's a will, there's a way. When we have live rehearsals, every actor has to sign in that she has had no contact with a COVID patient, and we check their temperature. Our conclusions for the future are that even when life returns to normal, there are some elements of these rehearsal methods that we may include. For example, there were three women in our cast who came down with COVID during the rehearsal period, but due to the fact that we were rehearsing mostly by Zoom, they were able to join us and, depending on how they felt, either participate or at least watch. We also included women who live farther away.

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:
We hope to, please God, reach the point that we can perform live before live audiences during mid- 2021.

Please join the Evaluation Report, the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (as **PDF documents**)

Please join photos – as **JPG files** – and any link or any other document connected to the program which will seem to you relevant – as **PDF document**.

Please join a 5 minutes movie which presents your institution and the particular project supported by the Matanel Foundation. The movie should be accessible to the philanthropic world and to other potential donors.