

It began with a phone call.  
 "I live in Chicago. How can I help?"

With these words, The Chicago Chapter of  
 THE SURVIVOR MITZVAH PROJECT was born!

Through the efforts of Jill Cahr, who made that phone call, Rochelle Baker, enthusiastic and dedicated committee members, volunteers and generous sponsors in Chicago, along with SMP's Fran Simon and Liz Karpukh in Los Angeles, a moving and thought-provoking program, *IN THEIR OWN WORDS* premiered in Chicago to great success!

Award-winning actors from television, film, and Chicago's famed Steppenwolf Theatre Company brought the words of the survivors to life with readings of letters and Holocaust testimony from SMP's Educational Archive. Riveting performances augmented by film and photographs of the survivors whose stories were told, created an emotional and moving evening and brought the audience to their feet. Most importantly, the performers who donated their time and talents were inspirational – compelling the Chicago audience to help. Funds raised were immediately sent overseas to bring emergency aid to survivors facing a brutal winter alone.

*Start a Chapter of The Survivor Mitzvah Project in your area!*

*Raise awareness!*

*Sponsor an event or a fundraiser!*

*For information call Fran Simon, Project Director,  
at 213-622-5050, or email [fran@survivormitzvah.org](mailto:fran@survivormitzvah.org)*

Your continued support of the elderly Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe literally means "life" to them. If you are new to this project, become a rescuer and join with us to help the last survivors of the Shoah in Eastern Europe.

Donate online at: [www.survivormitzvah.org](http://www.survivormitzvah.org)

Or mail a check to:

The Survivor Mitzvah Project  
2658 Griffith Park Blvd. Suite #299  
Los Angeles, CA 90039

*The Survivor Mitzvah Project is a 501c3 non-profit organization.  
All donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowable by law.*

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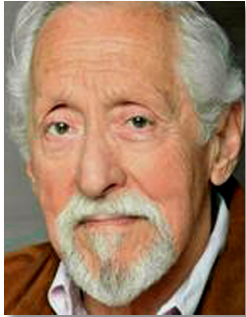
## IN THEIR OWN WORDS – Chicago Cast

**CAROLE DIBO** - With over 25 years experience as an actor, Carole is also the Founder and Director of *The Actors Training Center*, a school for young actors in Chicago, which has earned a national reputation for its direct and professional approach to training young talent. The prestigious Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare Company and the Goodman Theater, as well as casting offices in New York and Los Angeles seek Carole's expertise when casting teen roles. Her students have gone on to work in film, television, regional and Broadway theaters. She is a sought after guest teacher and has taught at Northwestern University.



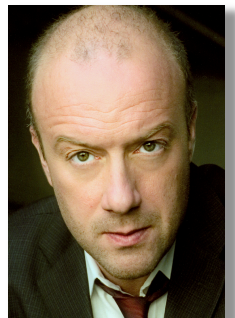
**DAVID EIGENBERG** – star of NBC's *Chicago Fire*, is known for his role in the Emmy-winning series *Sex and the City*. Film credits include, *See You in September*, *The Trouble with Romance*, *Driftwood*, *Love, Around the Bend*, *Garfield*, *The Mothman Prophecies* and *A Perfect Murder*. TV credits include, *Justified*, *The Beat*, *Third Watch*, *The Practice*, *Ed*, *Criminal Minds*, *N.C.I.S.*, *Castle*, *Private Practice*, *Cold Case*, *ER*, *Monk*, and *Law & Order: SVU*. A member of Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York, Broadway credits include *Six Degrees of Separation*, and *Take Me Out*, awarded the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics, Drama League and New York Critics Awards for Best Play.

**CINDY GOLD** – A Joseph Jefferson Award winner for her role as Gertrude Stein in Frank Galati and Stephen Flaherty's new musical *Loving Repeating*, her credits include *Showboat*, at the Lyric Opera in Chicago and the Washington, D.C. National Opera at the Kennedy Center. Other credits include *Measure for Measure* at The Goodman Theatre, and *Awake and Sing, Love, Loss and What I Wore*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *33 Variations* and *The Music Man*. TV and films include, *Leverage*, and *The Drunk*. She is Associate Professor and Head of the Acting program at Northwestern University Dept. of Theatre.



**MIKE NUSSBAUM** – Film and TV credits include, *Men in Black*, *House of Games*, *The Gladiator*, *Harry and Tonto*, *Field of Dreams*, *Fatal Attraction*, and *Gypsy*, *Fraiser*, *The X Files*, *LA LAW*, and *The Commish*. He has received multiple Joseph Jefferson Awards and nominations for *Racing Demon*, *Lunching*, *Broadway Bound*, *Forty Years*, *Loot*, *The Real Inspector Hound* and *Tuesdays with Morrie*. At the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, his credits include, *Follies*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Hamlet*, and *Henry IV*. At Steppenwolf Theatre Company he has appeared in *The Infidel*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Death and the Maiden*, and *Love Letters*.

**YASSEN PEYANKOV** - Film and TV credits include *A Very Harold and Kumar Christmas*, *Contagion*, *Transformers 3*, *U.S. Marshals*, *The Practice*, *The Beast*, *Alias*, *The Unit*, and *Numb3rs*. An ensemble member of the Steppenwolf Theatre Company, he appeared in *The Hot L Baltimore*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, *The Time of Your Life*, and *The Tempest*. Other credits include *Ivanov*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night* and *Medea*. A recipient of a Jeff Award, Fox Fellowship, he heads the Theatre Program at UIC.



**JESSICA THEBUS** - as Artistic Associate at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, her credits include: *Sex with Strangers*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *No Place Like Home*, and *When the Messenger Is Hot*. Other credits include: *Our Town*, *They All Fall Down*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Inherit the Wind*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Harriet Jacobs*, *A Civil War Christmas* and *Welcome Home, Jenny*. She received Jeff Award nominations for Best Director and After Dark Awards for *Pulp* and *Winesburg, Ohio*. She is an Artistic Associate at The Corn Exchange in Dublin, Ireland and a faculty member in the MFA Directing Program at Northwestern University.



*TOP: "Mitzvah Kids" Bryan Ovitz & Emily Fleming • Rochelle Baker, Tanya Polsky, Jill Cahr  
• Zane Buzby & David Eigenberg*

*CENTER: "Mitzvah Kids" Charlie Moss, Ian Cahr, Henry Stein-Krause*

*GROUP PHOTO: Rochelle Baker, Gloria Leboyer, Mindy Malkin, Phoebe Stein, Sara Levinson  
Leiberum, Tanya Polsky, Giselle Ratain, Susan Fleischman, Beverly Bernstein, Elaine Moss,  
Jill Cahr, Hyla Kallen, Aviva Ginzberg, Lori Ovitz*

*BOTTOM: Sara Levinson Leiberum & Zane Buzby • Liz Karpukh & Fran Simon*