

July 16, 2014

Summer Stock Finale—Now with More Uptown



While Second Avenue was a tenement haven for Jewish immigrants and the Catskills replaced the *dachas* of the old world, for many artists of Yiddish theater it was still the “uptown” allure of Broadway and Carnegie Hall that were the pinnacle of their American dream.

In our “finale” installment of the Summer Stock streaming series, we spotlight Joseph Rumshinsky, the last of the Big Four composers. While the other three were content to entertain their core audience and occasionally cross over to the “uptown” world, Rumshinsky wanted to take all of Yiddish

theater along. Rumshinsky wasn't alone in his quest. In fact, he was so closely associated with Molly Picon and her husband Jacob Kalich, that they were known as The Three Musketeers of the East Side. Whether Rumshinsky, his colleagues and successors brought Second Avenue to the mainstream or the mainstream down to Second Avenue might be fodder for dissertations, but their lasting impact on theater, music and film is undeniable.

Join us for one last session in the Catskills to learn more about Rumshinsky, stream some of his beautiful, ambitious songs (one of which Picon wrote the lyrics for) and watch Cantor Benzion Miller sing Rumshinsky and Tomaszewsky's version of *Sh'ma Yisro'el*. And if you missed any of the installments on Abraham Ellstein, Sholom Secunda, or Alexander Olshanetsky, you'll find links for those, too. So what are you waiting for?

Head over to our virtual

Summer Stock Finale: Joseph Rumshinsky—“Crazy Wagner of Second Avenue

Yiddish theater music, videos and interviews now streaming from the Milken Archive.

