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I have seen the transforming effects of the show firsthand. I have seen the show twice, once performed for a Jewish audience in a small local theater, and once for a diverse campus audience in a large university auditorium.

Through its wickedly funny comedy sketches and multimedia exhibitions, it dismantles disabling stereotypes and teaches lasting lessons about racial perceptions and cultural assumptions. Culminating with audience discussion facilitated by the performers, "The Black Jew Dialogues" also teaches us how to talk with each other about our fears and prejudices. It shows us how to bridge the social distance that keeps us from seeing what we have in common. Emphasizing the value of respect, empathy, humor, and history, it forces us to look at ourselves and others in new, enabling, and even transforming ways.

At both shows I was impressed by the humor, intelligence, and charisma of the performers, but what made the most enduring impact on me was the audience discussion. Audience members stood, asked probing questions, offered personal confessions, shared their own experiences of prejudice, and spoke about how they've worked to overcome their own prejudices. Some audience members spoke in halting voices, voicing their confusions, questions, and confessions for the first time in their lives. Some spoke with smoldering anger, especially those who had suffered or seen the crippling effects of prejudice and cultural misunderstanding firsthand. Some spoke with evangelical passion, especially those precocious individuals who had taught themselves how to see their own cultural blind-spots and who had committed themselves to forging lasting friendships with people they once saw as alien and threatening. Students spoke—at first at one another, and then to one another, and finally with one another. Young, middle-aged, and elderly adults also participated, sharing their perspectives. Ron Jones and Larry Jay Tish facilitated these discussions deftly.

I recommend that synagogues and campus organizations, especially those committed to cross-cultural communication and understanding, should sponsor "The Black Jew Dialogues." It will have a lasting, transforming impact on students, temple members, and local communities.

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