



25044

A MUSICAL STORY OF RESILIENCE



photo: Nick Pierce

Solo Theatrical Storytelling & Music Performance by Russell Kaback

25044: A Musical Story of Resilience is a deeply moving solo theatrical storytelling and music performance recounting the true story of Russell Kaback's grandfather, Szyjek Magier, a Jewish Polish teenager who survived four years in Nazi labor and concentration camps during World War II.

Combining original songs, live guitar, physicality, and sound effects, the performance explores resilience, family memory, and human connection in the face of adversity. Developed through personal interviews, survivor testimony, and historical research, **25044** balances emotional immediacy with historical clarity. With its intimate scale and minimal technical requirements, the performance can be presented in theaters, libraries, classrooms, or other community spaces.



"Kaback's energy and focus are consistently engaging and his voice is strong and resonant. His message is uplifting — an invitation, even."

- Amanda Painter, PortFringe Independent Review Team

Russell Kaback is a storyteller, musician, and educator whose solo work *25044: A Musical Story of Resilience* blends theatrical storytelling, original songwriting, and expressive physical performance into an immersive, one-man theatrical experience. Rooted in musical theatre traditions and shaped by sound effects, gesture, and movement, the piece explores family memory, survival, and the enduring power of hope in difficult times.

With over twenty years of experience as a K-12 educator, Kaback brings a deep understanding of young audiences and community-centered engagement to every performance. *25044* has been presented nearly one hundred times in schools, as well as in senior residences, libraries, and community venues. Highlights include an in-school residency presented by Portland Ovations, support from a Maine Arts Commission grant, and an upcoming performance at Holocaust Museum LA in Los Angeles.

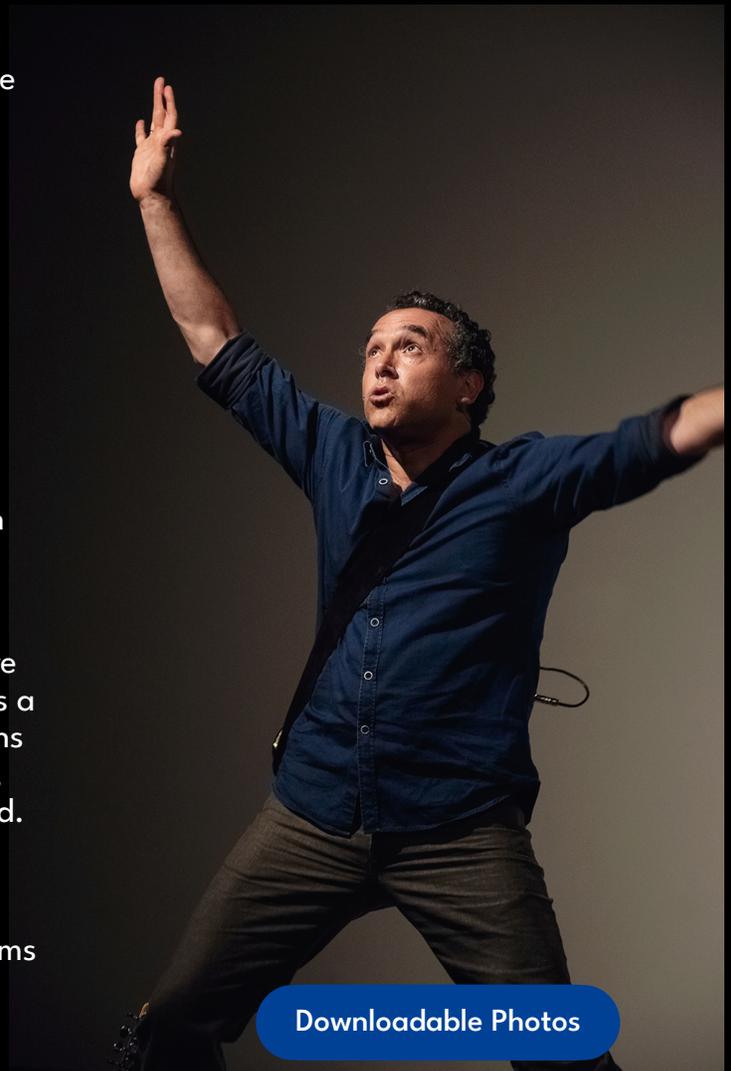
Based in South Portland, Maine, Kaback is also a multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter who self-produces, releases, and performs original music. In addition to touring *25044*, he maintains an active creative life as an independent recording artist, and has shared the stage with Regina Spektor and Raul Midón. His song “What A Life This Is” was featured in the Maine Office of Tourism *The Place for Play in Maine* campaign, created in collaboration with the Children’s Museum and Theatre of Maine. www.russellkaback.com @russellkaback

Russell Kaback’s *25044* had a profound impact on the students who had the opportunity to experience the performance while he was in residence with Portland Ovations Spring 2025. As Portland Ovations’ 2025 Maine Artist in Schools, Russell Kaback performed *25044* to nearly 2,000 students in 11 schools across Southern Maine.

His intimate storytelling style and original music captivated audiences and brought the history of the Holocaust to vivid life in a deeply empathetic and emotionally resonant way. The built-in talkback following the performance provided students with an opportunity to connect personally with Kaback.

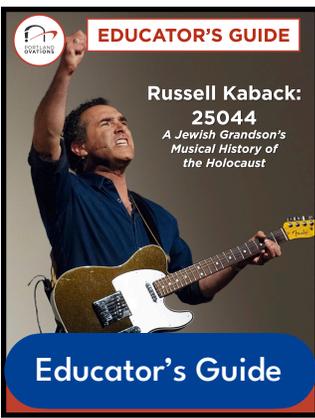
Everywhere *25044* was performed, we received feedback from teachers that their students were more engaged in curriculum after experiencing it. *25044* is a perfect example of the type of programming Ovations strives to bring to our student audiences: thoughtful, engaging, deeply relevant, and beautifully performed.

- Liz Schildkret, Director of School and Family Programs
Portland Ovations, Maine



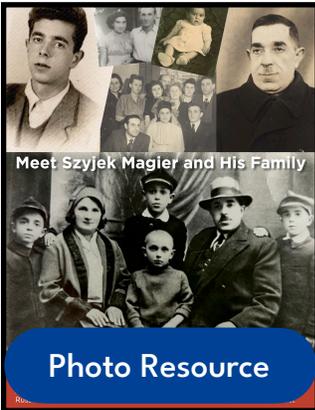
Downloadable Photos

photo: Nick Pierce



Selected Touring History

- Festivals & Showcases: PortFringe (ME), NERFA (ME), APCA (NY), APAP (NYC), MAX (WI)
- Upcoming Performance: Holocaust Museum LA (CA), January 2027
- Educational & Cultural Venues: Portland Ovarions in-school presentations (ME), Amherst Regional High School (MA), Maine Jewish Museum (ME), Jewish Community Alliance (ME)
- Community Venues: Senior residences and libraries across Maine
- International Presentations: Jewish Cultural and Community Center, San Miguel de Allende (Mexico), Organización Sionista Sefardi, Mexico City



“This was such a meaningful performance, thank you for bringing it to our students [at Lewiston Middle School]. For many of our students, this was their first (knowing) experience speaking with and hearing from a Jewish person. I have no doubt it’s had a big impact on their understanding of their community, and of the Holocaust.”

— Amanda Bryant, Principal, Lewiston Middle School, Maine

Recent Highlights:

- In-school residency presented by Portland Ovarions
- Support from the Maine Arts Commission
- Performances at festivals and showcases, including PortFringe, NERFA, APCA, APAP, and MAX
- Upcoming show at Holocaust Museum LA

Based in Maine, Russell Kaback tours nationally.



REPRESENTATION: [Rachel Cohen](#), Cadence Arts Network, Inc.
rachel@cadencearts.com

For more information, visit www.russellkaback.com