



DR. EDNA NAHSHON

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Dr. Edna Nahshon served as chair of the Hebrew Department at JTS from 1990 to 1998. Her specialty is Jewish theater and performance. She has written three books on the topic, including *Jews and Shoes* (Berg Publishers, 2008), and edited a collection of essays titled *Jewish Theatre* (forthcoming, Brill Academic Publishers). She is also working with Professor Michael Shapiro (University of Illinois) on a book tentatively titled *Countering Shylock*, in which they examine Jewish responses to the *Merchant of Venice*.

Dr. Nahshon's work has been published in numerous media outlets in both Hebrew and English, in the United States and Israel. She was guest editor of a special issue of *American Jewish History* devoted to the theme of "Jews and Performance" (summer 2004). Her numerous other articles include the main entry on Yiddish theater, as well as nearly all the individual entries on Yiddish and Hebrew theater in the landmark *Oxford Encyclopedia of Theatre and Performance* (Oxford University Press, 2003). Dr. Nahshon served as the historical adviser to a PBS television project "The Life and Death of the Federal Theatre." She is a member of the editorial board of *All About Jewish Theater*, a multilingual electronic database for the preservation, deployment, and circulation of the heritage of Jewish theater worldwide. In February 2009, Dr. Nahshon organized the three-day conference "*Jews/Theatre/Performance in an Intercultural World*" at JTS.

Dr. Nahshon has regularly organized panels and delivered papers at conferences and congresses organized by the Association for Jewish Studies, the World Congress of Jewish Studies, the European Association of Jewish Studies, the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, and the International Federation of Theatre Research. Dr. Nahshon enjoys participating in talk-back programs connected with theatrical productions. In 2007, she gave a talk at the Metropolitan Playhouse in New York following a production of *The Melting Pot*, and at Theater for a New Audience following its production of *Oliver Twist*.

Dr. Nahshon has received grants and fellowships from YIVO, the Memorial Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Littauer Foundation, and the Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Oxford University, where she is senior fellow. Dr. Nahshon studied at Tel Aviv University and Columbia University. She holds a PhD degree in Performance Studies from New York University.