



Memory Reservoir

Interactive Event

Created by Ruth Hof

Co-creator Guy Saar Ruso

age +16

Duration: ongoing event 3 hours and a half // 210 minutes

Capacity: up to 90 participants, per event, 30 people per hour, without time limitation.

Music: Emmanuel Witzthum.

Photos: Anna Todich

Premiered: Beit Avi Chai, Jerusalem, Israel / 6.6.2017

About

The Memory Reservoir is a human enterprise aimed at raising memories, treasuring them and re-using them for the benefit of all. This is an interactive event, where the audience is the protagonists. Each audience member follows their own unique experience.

When entering the venue, the audience makes its way freely between stations that offer different ways to evoke memories.

You are invited to a journey of collecting, remembering and packing living and lost memories, a journey during which you will go through several stalls, ceremonies and departments. Through sound, drawing, objects, writing, conversations. You can answer questions or be silent, remember with your eyes closed or by observation through line and color, order a memory at the bar or listen to a forgotten song.

At the end, you can choose to leave the memories behind or to cherish them and take home.

About the project - Explanation video



Promotional trailer (English subtitles)



Our invitation

This event is ready to travel. We do so by collaborating with a local partner who coordinates all the aspects of the production: finding an inspiring location, building a professional team, including designers and performers, and of course, reaching an audience. One of the key positions is the production leader who will be our eyes and hands in place until we join physically before the premiere. Until then, the preliminary work is done remotely through emails, virtual meetings, charts, and sketches. In this process, we see possibilities and communicate needs regarding space and its design, including props, sound and light specifications, and the selection of performers. Together with partners, we adapt the universal aspect of remembrance, to create a tailor-made event with nuances inherent to your place and culture.

The process of translation and adaptation will vary from partner to partner. For some, half a year will be enough. For others, more time might be handy. Once all the event components of the event are set, our partners may choose to stage it several days in a row, or for a longer period. Our will is that the Memory Reservoir will continue to serve the local community and be available as much as it is needed.

So far we have had a great experience of adapting Memory Reservoir to a new context in Moscow ([Ges-2](#), 2022-2023). Thanks to the local producers' tenacity, with whom we worked for several years until the project could happen, we succeeded in a meaningful collaboration in times of personal distress in the midst of dehumanizing governmental actions. Memory Reservoir offered a safe and brave space for participants to express their narratives and transgress national censorship. Each protagonist unveils what has been forgotten, silenced, hidden, or just missed and can then celebrate in the most personal way.

In times of AI and stored memories on digital platforms, Memory Reservoir is a low-tech human enterprise of the tangible, embodied, and divergent. Here we touch, smell, write, and read handwriting, we talk with each other, and we listen. The event is a capsule of time, as a time machine, to encounter and treasure pieces of our puzzle, in freedom to choose in every moment.

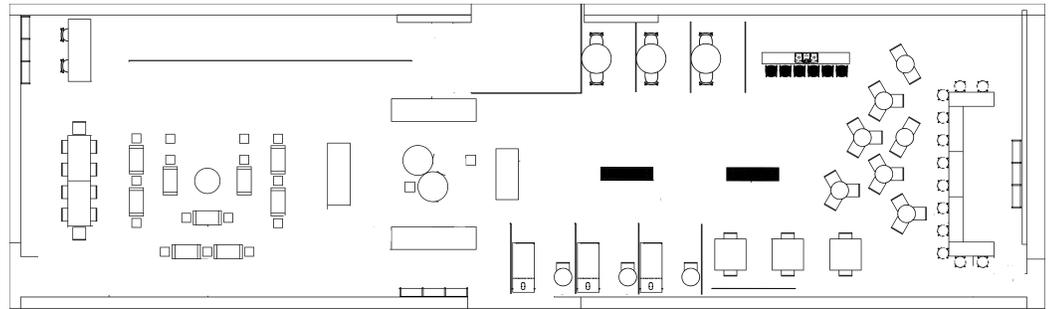
Performers

Memory Reservoir is based on local performers to offer the audience the act of remembering in their mother tongue. Through an open call, we gather a team of performers. The total number of performers varies, with a minimum of 12 per event, and up to 16. Due to the delicacy of the work, there are common threads that we search for in all performers: their capacity to listen and be empathetic. The performers must have experience working closely one-on-one with audience members and be flexible to adapt and learn. The team consists of painters, therapists, sound designers, and performers.

Location

The size of the venue dictates the number of performers and as a consequence the audience size. Optimally, Memory Reservoir needs a relatively large space of at least 200 square meters. The space can be a black box or white cube, which with the help of partitions will give the option to hold different stations. We had the experience of hosting the event in other sites such as a synagogue, municipality archive, YMCA, deserted offices, outdoor locations, and more. The location is a source of inspiration for the audience and team, and we are looking forward to the next creative adventure to give life to the Memory Reservoir in a new space.

Example of 400 square meters space.



You can find the production and creation process, and suggested timetable in the ANNEX.

Stations

The event is composed of 10 stations, partly directly activated by a team member and others where the audience follows a written explanation and can be done independently. Below, we describe stations that are activated by team member(s) and offer a one-on-one experience. Besides describing the activity, we also include a short sentence regarding the team person needed for it, their background, and skills.

Office

The office is both the starting and closing point. The first thing participants receive is a questionnaire to help them enter the realm of remembering; it offers information about the Memory Reservoir in general and a brief description of each station. In case of need, it can also offer a 'memory improvement kit'. At the end of the visit, it hands in a diploma to take home.



Team: 2 performers

Characteristics: welcoming, organized, with the ability to oversee the space and provide support to participants and performers.

Eyes shut

At this station the participants are invited to lie down comfortably in order to recall a primary glimpse of memory and tell it out loud. The performer will take detailed notes of what the participant shares. Once the memory is completed, it will read back what just heard, in order to help the participant to crystalize the memory, from abstract to concrete, and eventually check the relevancy of it in their present.



Team: 3 therapists preferably in arts (movement, theater, or bibliotherapy)

Skills: performing capacities, advanced storytelling skills, and clear handwriting

Searching for lost past characters

In this station participants are invited to an interview about a person they lost contact with and might wish to reconnect. The interviewer gently leads the conversation with questions such as "Can you describe their way of walking?"; "Is there anything from theirs that remained with you till this day?"; "If you ever decide to look for them, where would you go?".

Team: 3 performers-interviewers

Skills: previous experience in one-on-one work, therapeutic approach, and clear handwriting





Memory Bar

In this station, you can choose from the bar selection as described on the menu: a celebration, an accident, a place, a wound, a secret, and many more, and the bartender will offer a jar or a box for each customer. One can order a single item or several. For instance, a participant may choose "present moment" from the menu, and receive a box containing a small replica of a bench, or maybe a tin with a fetal ultrasound, or one with a stopped watch in it. Someone who chooses "place" might get a box with grass or many other options. All participants are invited to write a memory that comes to their mind, which they can take with them or leave behind for others to read during Memory Reservoir events. In the bar, one may also ask for a conversation mate to share a moment.

Team: 3 performers and bartenders.
Skills: previous experience in direct contact with an audience and improvisation, creative and intuitive, preferably with familiarity with the world of bartenders and waitresses.



Portrait \ Scenery

In this station one can describe a scene or a person from memory and a visual artist will capture it for him\her.

Team: 2-3 painters

Skills: high sketching and drawing skills; previous experience in one-on-one work with an audience; creative and intuitive; with ability to draw from a description.



DJ Memory

At this station, a DJ performer and their assistant welcome you. Following some exercises to sharpen your listening, you will be asked to choose 3 cards from a deck that describes sounds from life: a flying insect, a moving train, a heartbeat, a crackling fire, a whisper, etc. Following that, the DJ will prepare a sound composition, especially for you. Alternatively, the DJ station can play forgotten songs or some others that remind past times to listen with headphones or play as a background for the whole event.



Team: 1 professional sound designer who mixes and edits live, and 1 performer who interacts with the audience

Skills: fast technical abilities in sound editing; and the second, ability to guide the participants.

Independent stations:

Memories to drown

A basin of water is set for participants to write down a memory or a fragment of a memory on a pebble. It is a private and personal ceremony.



Memories of others

A rope crosses the space and fills up with written memories from others, and maybe yours.



Recall

In this station participants are invited to recall a phone number or an address. Each number or address carries a memory (or several). What do they tell you today?



Luggage storage

A growing exhibition of objects left behind by choice. We invite participants, prior to the event, to bring objects from home that they could not keep any longer, on one hand, and neither could throw away, on the other hand. When the object is delivered to the Reservoir, the participant is asked to give it a name, write down some goodbye words, and place it on the exhibition shelves.



About the makers

Ruth Hof

As a multidisciplinary artist, I work with stage production as well as performance art. I create intimate audience interactions ranging from one-off, site-specific projects to long-term or permanent creations. Furthermore, I accompany stage works artistically and dramaturgically, and direct and collaborate with diverse creators in a wide variety of fields. I graduated from the School of Visual Theater Jerusalem in 2011.

<https://www.ruthhof.com/>

Guy Saar Ruso

I am an independent artist living and working in Jerusalem. My work is mainly in the field of Fine Arts: painting, sculpture, woodcuts, and literature as well. I act as an artistic guide, stage designer, graphic designer, art teacher, and group facilitator. Married, and father of three. Vital Institute Tel Aviv Graduated Graphic Design Dept, B.A.Honors

[@guy.saar.ruso](https://www.instagram.com/guy.saar.ruso)



Contact

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Past events

[GES 2 Moscow](#)

21-23.10.2023, 14-16.4.2023, 6-8.10.2022

Fine Arts department, Jerusalem Municipality

19.12.2019 at Municipal Archives Jerusalem

26-27.9.2019 at Yemin Moshe, under Vacuum event

26.02.2018 Winter Festival

Oct-Nov 2017 itinerary pop-up festival in different neighborhoods, Jerusalem

[Neve Shechter Synagogue](#)

25.9.2019, Bavoia Event

Mekudeshet Festival (currently [Feelbeit](#))

July-August 2019, open-air event for children

[The Jerusalem Writers Festival](#)

15.5.2019, YMCA Jerusalem

[Jerusalem Puppet Festival](#)

15.05.2018, Khan Theater

[Beit Avi Chai - Jerusalem](#)

6.6.2017, White Night

Reviews

(We suggest to use a translator on your browser)

In Russian

[Режиссёры-супруги привезли из Израиля в Москву уникальный спектакль](#)

In Hebrew

<https://politicallycorret.co.il/memories>

Annex

Example of timeline and explanation for each stage

January	Selection of venue Open call for performers
February	Ruth Hof interviews potential performers and finalizes the team selection together with local producer Beginning of props and space design Translation of texts and prompts to the local language
March	Finalizing the initial space design Beginning of graphic designer work and local team definition
April	Finalizing print material Finalizing furniture and props, sound and light equipment needs
May	In situ: Ruth Hof and Guy Saar Ruso arrive for the set-up and work jointly with the local team two weeks before the premiere for final training indispensable in the process of understanding the course of the event and the role of each member of the team.

1st week meeting the team, rehearsals, and workshop

- **Two hours of training for each position**

Ruth and Guy meet each performer group separately, namely: painters, therapists, interviewers, bartenders, DJ, assistants, office, and others. This includes an introduction to the overall course of performance and specific aspects of each position.

- **Workshop with Ruth Hof**

The workshop is a space for deep diving into the areas of emotion and memory that the Memory Reservoir participants will experience in different forms. The workshop combines guided imagination exercises, writing, sharing, working in pairs, and experiencing a protected group space.

2nd week run-through with guests, reflect, and feed-forward & performances

