



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

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**TESTIMONY OF THE
GREENWICH VILLAGE SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
REGARDING PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF THE
Hebrew Actors' Union Building
31 East 7th Street, Manhattan
June 23, 2009**

Thank you Commissioners for the opportunity to testify before you today. The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation strongly supports the proposed designation of the Hebrew Actors' Union Building, located at 31 East 7th Street, as an individual landmark.

The Hebrew Actors' Union Building is significant on multiple levels. First, the building is of citywide importance as the product of one of the largest and most influential immigrant groups to inhabit New York at the turn of the 19th Century. Second, the building holds nationwide importance as home to the country's first theatrical union. The building is also of worldwide importance as playing a major role in the development of the Lower East Side at the international center of Yiddish Theatre in the late 19th Century.

In recent years, we have seen the closing and/or demolition of numerous theatres in the East, West and South Villages and in NoHo. These neighborhoods were once hotbeds for

Thank you.