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THE HILLS ARE ALIVE WITH THE SOUND OF MUSIC:
MUSICAL THEATER AT GIRLS' JEWISH SUMMER CAMPS IN MAINE

Amy Lynn Wlodarski (Dickinson College), Chair and Respondent

Sponsored by the Jewish Studies and Music Study Group,
Joshua Walden (Peabody Conservatory, Johns Hopkins University), Organizer

Stacy Wolf (Princeton University)

This presentation, based on extensive ethnographic, historical, and performance-oriented research, addresses questions relating to Jewish identities and gender in amateur musical theater in America. At a number of girls' Jewish summer camps in Maine, weekly musicals performed by campers of all ages have been a staple of camp life since 1915. Girls rehearse and present mini versions of Broadway musicals alongside their regular activities of swimming, soccer, and arts & crafts. In this talk, Wolf discusses the history and examines current casting, rehearsal, and performance practices of musical theatre at several camps. Using archival and ethnographic methods, she considers, How do musicals contribute to girls' sense of identity? How do musicals foster Jewishness in a wilderness setting? How do these amateur productions affect Broadway?