

THE MARSH SAN FRANCISCO PRESENTS  
IMPROVISATIONAL WEEKLY DIGEST  
JOSH KORNBLUTH'S  
**WHAT IS TO BE DONE?:  
FIGHTING FASCISM AND  
DEPRESSION**

Performed by **Josh Kornbluth**  
Developed in collaboration with **Jon Tracy**  
**June 27 – July 31, 2026**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (22 June 2026) — Comic monologist **Josh Kornbluth** brings his wildly successful improvisational piece *What Is To Be Done?: Fighting Fascism and Depression* to **The Marsh San Francisco** after multiple extended runs at The Marsh Berkeley. For over 30 years, Kornbluth has developed his monologues through a process of live improvisation. *What Is To Be Done?: Fighting Fascism and Depression* is a new work in (and of) progress, developed in collaboration with Jon Tracy, that finds the acclaimed storyteller reckoning with the mess of the week in real time. Kornbluth finds himself resisting the powers-that-be on at least two levels: against political depredations, and against attacks from within his own psyche. Can he help save our democracy even as he struggles to pull himself together? Will he have to perform these improves from a psychiatrist's couch? Josh Kornbluth offers thoughts on defeating depression by resisting fascism, defeating fascism by resisting depression, and more. This funny, inspired, and deeply human piece offers a timely look at how one finds hope, or even joy, in dark times. *What Is To Be Done?: Fighting Fascism and Depression* will play **June 27 – July 31, 2026** with an added performance **5:00pm Saturday, June 27** and performances **7:30pm Fridays** (for specific performance schedule visit [themarsh.org](http://themarsh.org)) at **The Marsh San Francisco**, 1062 Valencia St., San Francisco. For tickets (\$15-\$35 general admission sliding scale, \$50 and \$100 reserved, plus a \$3 convenience fee per ticket) or more information, the public may visit [themarsh.org](http://themarsh.org).

“Nobody does it like Josh Kornbluth,” said The Marsh Artistic/Executive Director **Stephanie Weisman**. “Josh was one of our first performers at The Marsh. In this current series, he is tapping into the power of the present with such urgency and awareness. Audiences in Berkeley leapt to their feet for this show, which in its ongoing workshop iteration we have extended three times by popular demand. This is a chance now for San Francisco to meet the moment with this incomparable performer.”

*What Is To Be Done?: Fighting Fascism and Depression* was first presented as a two-weekend workshop series at The Marsh Berkeley’s cabaret space. As the show developed, it was moved onto the primary stage at The Marsh Berkeley to accommodate audience demand, where *Theatrius* raved, “Kornbluth is a genius...the antidote to misery and the gateway to FUN,” calling *What Is To Be Done?: Fighting Fascism and Depression* full of “keen insights and biting wit.” After three Berkeley extensions, the show was workshopped further at Club Fugazi in January 2026 as part of its *January Jamboree*. It now arrives at The Marsh San Francisco for further development.

#### **ABOUT THE CAST AND CREATIVES**

**Josh Kornbluth** (*Performer*) is a mainstay at The Marsh who has developed and premiered his lauded works there for decades, with his performance of *Haiku Tunnel* being The Marsh’s first-ever full-length production. For over three decades Kornbluth has been performing his autobiographical monologues for theater audiences all around the U.S., and internationally. He launched his career as a solo artist with *Josh Kornbluth’s Daily World*, in which he described his childhood as the son of communists in 1960s New York. Thanks to a sponsorship by the U.S. State Department, Kornbluth’s monologue, *Citizen Josh*, toured throughout India. Other works include *Red Diaper Baby* (Drama Desk Award nomination), *The Mathematics of Change*, *Ben Franklin: Unplugged*, and the San Francisco Mime Troupe production of *Mr. Smith Goes to Obscuristan*, among many others. For two years he hosted a television interview program, “The Josh Kornbluth Show,” on *KQED*. He has collaborated with his brother Jacob on two nationally distributed feature films: *Love & Taxes*, which received a 100% “Fresh” rating from Rotten Tomatoes, and *Haiku Tunnel*, which was accepted into the Sundance Film Festival. Kornbluth has appeared in several other movies including concert films of *Red Diaper Baby* and *The Mathematics of Change*; Lynn Hershman Leeson’s *Teknolust* and *Strange Culture*, a documentary about artist and professor Steve Kurtz; and Francis Ford Coppola’s *Jack*, starring Robin Williams. His shows have been collected into a book, *Red Diaper Baby: Three Comic Monologues*, as well as two audiobooks from Audible, *Red Diaper Baby: Three Comic Monologues* and *Ben Franklin: Unplugged...and Other Comic Monologues*. Kornbluth was an artist-in-residence at the Zen Hospice Project in San Francisco as well as a Hellman Visiting Artist at UCSF’s Memory and Aging Center. Since January 2017, Kornbluth has been an Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health at the Global Brain Health Institute, where he

produces the *Citizen Brain* series of online videos which address issues including brain health, loneliness, empathy, and ageism. He also writes an online newsletter, *But Not Enough About Me*.

**Jon Tracy** (*Collaborator*) is a widely respected theatermaker in the Bay Area, with a career spanning three decades of large-scale Shakespeare, new work development, interdisciplinary collaboration, and arts education. A longtime company member of Shotgun Players and PlayGround, he has worked alongside Carl Lumbly, Delroy Lindo, Danny Glover, Lauren Gunderson, and Octavio Solis, among many others, and directed the feature film *What's in a Name*, which earned more than 50 festival awards. As artistic facilitator of TheatreFIRST, he led a five-year reimagining of the company's mission, commissioning work from more than 50 playwrights, and co-led Groundswell: The International Theatre Intensive in San Miguel de Allende, connecting Bay Area theatre to global conversations around civic storytelling. His work has been recognized by the Kennedy Center, San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle, Theatre Bay Area, and the National Endowment for the Arts. He currently serves as artistic director of Marin Shakespeare Company.

### **ABOUT THE MARSH**

**The Marsh** is known as “a breeding ground for new performance.” Launched in 1989 by Founder and Artistic/Executive Director Stephanie Weisman, it annually hosts more than 500 performances across the company’s two venues in San Francisco and Berkeley. A leading outlet for solo performers, The Marsh’s specialty has been hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “solo performances that celebrate the power of storytelling at its simplest and purest.” The *East Bay Times* named The Marsh one of the Bay Area’s best intimate theaters, calling it “one of the most thriving solo theaters in the nation. The live theatrical energy is simply irresistible.” In April 2020, The Marsh launched its digital platform MarshStream and hosted more than 700 live streams which provided 300 performers and its youth class participants a platform to continue discovering, developing, and producing art during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. Today, The Marsh presents both in-person live performances and content on its MarshStream, continuing to expand its reach to audiences onsite and around the world. The Marsh believes in the power of people’s storytelling and has several classes for the public to create their own works as well as through its developing work performance series: Monday Night Marsh, Tell It on Tuesday, and Marsh Risings. The theater company also collaborates with over 25 San Francisco public schools providing a year-round youth program serving students at its theater and in the classrooms.

### **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:** Comic monologist **Josh Kornbluth** brings his wildly successful improvisational piece *What Is To Be Done?: Fighting Fascism and Depression* to **The Marsh San Francisco** after multiple extended runs at The Marsh Berkeley. For over 30 years, Kornbluth has developed his monologues through a process of live improvisation. *What Is To Be Done?: Fighting Fascism and Depression* is a new work in (and of) progress, developed in collaboration with Jon Tracy, that finds the acclaimed storyteller reckoning with the mess of the week in real time. Kornbluth finds himself resisting the powers-that-be on at least two levels: against political depredations, and against attacks from within his own psyche. Can he help save our democracy even as he struggles to pull himself together? Will he

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*What Is To Be Done?: Fighting Fascism and Depression* is:  
Performed by Josh Kornbluth  
Developed in collaboration with Jon Tracy

**WHEN:** **June 27 – July 31, 2026**

**SHOWS:** **7:30pm Fridays**  
**5:00pm Saturday, June 27**  
*No show July 3*

**WHERE:** **The Marsh San Francisco**, 1062 Valencia St., San Francisco (between 21st & 22nd Streets)  
*Parking is available at New Mission Bartlett Garage at 21st St. between Mission & Valencia St.*  
*BART Station (closest): Mission & 24th St.*

**TICKETS:** \$15-\$35 general admission sliding scale, \$50 and \$100 reserved, plus a \$3 convenience fee per ticket.

**INFO:** For information, the public may visit [themarsh.org](http://themarsh.org)

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**PHOTOS:** Downloadable high-res photos are available here:  
<https://cbpr.co/press/whatistobedone>