MAYER KIRSHENBLATT
GREAT SMALLEY WORKS
THE WHITE PAJAMAS
The story of a cobbler who had seven daughters. Every time a son was born he died. The cobbler went to the rabbi for advice.

The rabbi gave him an amulet for the child and told him to dress the child in white. The Angel of Death would be fooled into thinking the child was already dead and would leave him alone.

The boy was fourteen when Mayer left Apt in 1934. He was still wearing the white pajamas when the Nazis killed him.
Mayer, in his blue public school uniform, introduces himself.
Mayer runs around the town with his hoop past the cemetery.
The town panorama unfolds in a series of scenes.
Asking forgiveness on Erev Yom Kippur outside the synagogue
Synagogue interior
The cobbler, his wife, and seven daughters sleep in one room. Whenever a boy is born it dies.
The cobbler goes to the rabbi for advice. He passes by the church.
The midwife arrives to deliver the baby.
Amulets protect the infant from Lilith.
The baby boy is born! The cobbler did what the rabbi said. The baby is wearing an amulet and is dressed in white.
The Angel of Death arrives.
The cobbler presents the “dead” baby.
The boy grows up. He continues to wear the white pajamas.
The white pajamas did not help boy when the Nazis arrived.
Behind the scenes
Jennifer and Mayer narrate in full view of the audience.
How the sound was sampled and mixed.
Figures and scenic elements mounted on stiff plastic strips that slide in grooves on the theater floor.
Specially painted backdrops, lifted one at a time to reveal the whole scene.
Lineup of each element: backdrops, figures, effects, cues.
Line-up of scenes

- Titles
- Meet Mayer
- Buildings
- The Mud Thirre
- Synagogue
- Sleeping Daughters
- Birth 1
- Raquel Sequence
- Milk Lady
- Cemetery
- Polish Village
- Kebbi's House
- Birth 2
- Cobbler Workshop
- Hoops
- I'm Sorry Sayers
- Mayer goes to Canada
- Expulsion
- Mourin
What is toy theater?

Toy theater was in its heyday during the Victorian period as a parlor entertainment. It was picked up by the avant-garde in the 20th century. It began as way to stage popular plays of the period in miniature in one’s own home. You could buy a kit made up of printed paper elements and put it together yourself. Classic toy theater is also known as paper theater.