

A promotional image for 'Israel 201 Live' featuring two men, Benji Lovitt and Joel Chasnoff, against a blue background. Benji Lovitt, on the left, is wearing a grey suit, a white shirt, a dark tie, and glasses. He is gesturing with both hands, pointing towards the camera. Joel Chasnoff, on the right, is wearing a dark blue suit and a white shirt. He is holding a microphone in his right hand and gesturing with his left hand. Both men have surprised or expressive facial expressions. Their names are written in white text inside white circles above them.

**BENJI  
LOVITT**

**JOEL  
CHASNOFF**

# **ISRAEL 201 LIVE**

**COMEDY, WORKSHOPS,  
AND CONVERSATION**

**WWW.ISRAEL201.COM**

# THE ISRAEL BOOK EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT!



“Fantastic! *Israel 201* is precisely the kind of Israel education we all need.”

**Mayim Bialik, actress**



“Sabras, tourists, and immigrants alike will learn something from this wonderful book.”

**Ehud Barak, former Prime Minister of Israel**



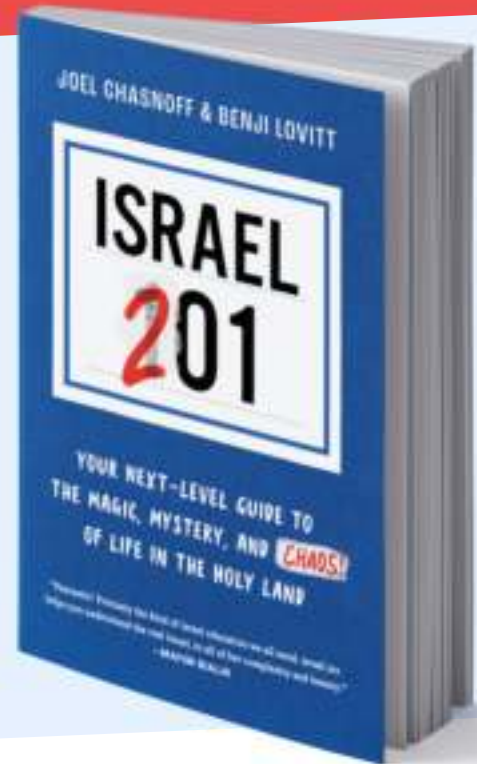
“Chasnoff and Lovitt have given us a gift!”

**Yossi Klein Halevi, senior fellow, Shalom Hartman Institute**



“Intense, profound, and written with love!”

**David Broza, musician**



## MEET JOEL AND BENJI



### Joel Chasnoff

is a stand-up comedian and author of three previous books, including the comedic memoir ***The 188th Crybaby Brigade*** about his experience as a Lone Soldier in the IDF. A Chicago native, Joel has performed comedy at more than 1,000 Jewish events in ten countries.

### Benji Lovitt

is a comedian and writer who has been featured in ***USA Today***, ***the Atlantic***, and ***Time Magazine***. Benji has worked as a cross-cultural trainer for Israel's Foreign Ministry, and during 2014's Operation Protective Edge, his poignant observations on the war led to his being called in Israel ***“the only reason to go on Facebook.”***



# READY, SET, ISRAEL!

## PRE-TRIP

In Israel, you'll see teenage soldiers, street cats on every corner, and drivers who honk the instant the light turns green. What can we learn from each of these about Israeli society? In **Ready, Set, Israel!**, Joel and Benji use stand-up comedy, video, and stories from their book, *Israel 201*, to introduce you to the Israel and Israelis you're about to experience, so you can hit the ground running.

VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON OPTIONS AVAILABLE



## ISRAEL 201, LIVE!

### IN ISRAEL

Why do Israelis speak so bluntly?

How did Israelis get to be so darn... Israeli?

What's a freier, and why are Israelis so afraid to be one?

In **Israel 201, Live!** Joel and Benji pull back the curtain on Israeli society and make sense of the people and phenomena you meet “only in Israel.”

**Israel 201, Live!** begins with a 30-minute stand-up show about the joys and oys of Israeli life, from (supposedly) English-speaking tour guides to the culture shock Joel and Benji experienced as tourists, and later as *olim chadashim* (new immigrants).

Joel and Benji then facilitate an interactive discussion, drawing from audience members' real-life experiences during their time in Israel. By hearing and examining stories about a colleague's lack of boundaries or an Israeli friend's preference for spontaneity over planning, the group will gain a new understanding and appreciation for Israeli behaviors and norms.





# Hear it from the source

## JOEL AND BENJI IN CONVERSATION WITH ISRAEL'S BRIGHTEST THINKERS

### WOMEN'S RIGHTS: RACHEL STOMEL

In Israel, a woman can fly F-16s or become prime minister, but she can't file for divorce. Rachel Stomel of the Center for Women's Justice discusses the state of women's rights, including recent cases of *agunot* (women trapped in marriages) and how she and her colleagues are petitioning Israel's Supreme Court for a more equitable Israeli society.



### LGBTQ ISRAEL: OFER NEUMAN

Between its hospitable beaches and rainbow flags, it's no wonder many call Tel Aviv the number one gay travel destination in the world. But once the tourists head home, what is LGBTQ life in Israel really like? Ofer Neuman, CEO of Israel Gay Youth, talks about the progress Israel has made on the LGBTQ front, what it's like to be "out" in the IDF, and the challenges that remain.



### WOMAN UNDERCOVER: SHIR PELED

Meet Shir Peled, the first female operative in *Mista'aravim*, the IDF's undercover anti-terrorism unit made famous in the TV show "Fauda." During the Second Intifada, Shir participated in undercover combat missions in the West Bank. In this candid conversation, Shir discusses her military operations, why she describes her service as a "battle on two fronts," and her current work advocating for women's rights in all sectors of Israeli society.



### CLOWNING AROUND: ARIEL KEREN

Actor Ariel Keren stars in TV commercials and blockbuster movies. But in 2022, he took on his most challenging role to date when he traveled to war-torn Ukraine with Israel's Dream Doctors to comfort refugees. Keren talks about what it's like to represent Israel in war zones overseas, the special bond he feels with Jewish and Arab patients alike, and how Israel's medical clown program is unlike any other in the world.



### MEET THE SABRA: OSNAT LAUTMAN

Why do Israelis hate to apologize? What cultural barriers do Israeli high-tech workers face when doing business overseas? Cultural trainer Osnat Lautman takes us on a deep-dive into the psyche of the modern Israeli, including the roots of the sabra personality and why Israelis think and behave (and misbehave) as they do.



# Exploring Israel's core values

## TEXT STUDY: PURITY OF ARMS

Even before your first visit, you're likely familiar with the mythical Israeli army. But the IDF is much more than a myth: It's the heartbeat of the nation, the foundation upon which Israeli society is built. In this text-based workshop, we explore Purity of Arms, the IDF's code of battlefield ethics; the Biblical origins of this code; and how Israeli soldiers navigate the moral dilemmas inherent to war.



## INTERACTIVE THEATRE: VISIONS FOR A JEWISH STATE

In Israel, there are four street signs you're guaranteed to see in every town: Herzl, Jabotinsky, Ahad Ha-am, and Harav Kook. In this interactive-theater workshop, audience members meet these four Zionist visionaries, learn about their dreams for a Jewish homeland, and debate what a Jewish state should actually look like.



## COOKING: TANTALIZING TAHINI

Israeli food is like Israelis themselves: bold, colorful, exciting, and spicy! In this hands-on workshop, Yemenite-Persian chef Dorit Admony teaches you to make hummus, tahini, Moroccan-spiced carrots, and other authentic Middle-Eastern salads. She brings the equipment and ingredients, you bring the appetite to learn and enjoy.



**WE'LL COME TO YOU, ANYWHERE IN ISRAEL.**  
**SHABBAT-FRIENDLY OPTIONS (NO MICROPHONE) AVAILABLE**

**DON'T LEAVE YOUR SOUVENIR SHOPPING TO THE LAST MINUTE!**  
**CONTACT US ABOUT BULK RATES FOR "ISRAEL 201" & HOW TO UTILIZE OUR ONLINE EDUCATIONAL GUIDE**

**BOOKING INFO, VIDEOS, AND MORE AT**

@joelchasnoff @benjilovitt

+972-58-5454-174 info@israel201.com

**WWW.ISRAEL201.COM**

