

Tobias Mostel

In the article about the proposed renovation it said: "The 1889 Mazer Theater, where Mark Twain, Sholom Aleichem, and Zero Mostel once performed, will be replaced with a much more versatile community room seating up to 300 people. The space will be used for conventional theatrical performances, but it will also act as a movie theater and a meeting room with dividing walls." As far as I know, and I might be wrong, my father Zero Mostel (who would have been known then as Samuel Joel) never performed at the Mazer Theater in a formal sense. Maybe he was in school productions. He did tell me, however, that the rooms at the Educational Alliance were the first big rooms he saw, coming as he did, from cramped slums in the lower East Side. The rooms in the lower East Side are still cramped and I hope that the building's big spaces will be retained and not modernized away in the name of efficiency or pus-modern aesthetics. Save the Art School!