

Leah Napolin, Whose 'Yentl' Adaptation Made Broadway, Dies at 83

By **Neil Genzlinger**

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Leah Napolin, who with very little experience adapted an Isaac Bashevis Singer story into the play “Yentl,” earning a Broadway run that became a resonant symbol for the second-wave feminist movement in the mid-1970s, died on Sunday at her home in Sea Cliff, N.Y., on Long Island. She was 83.

The cause was breast cancer, her friend Eleanor Pam said.

Ms. Napolin (pronounced NAP-oh-lin) was essentially a playwriting novice when her friend Robert Kalfin, founder of the Chelsea Theater Center, asked her to take a crack at writing a stage adaptation of a Singer short story that had caught his eye called “Yentl the Yeshiva Boy.” It involved a young Jewish woman who disguises herself as a man so that she can be allowed to study the Talmud and enrolls in a yeshiva.

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