JEWISH CONFERENCES & COMMUNITY EVENTS

What We Carry.
What We Do Next.

A personal conversation about identity, trauma, and Jewish life.

An unconventional life.
A conversation that stays with you.

From southeast Jerusalem to combat service, from building a life as an artist in Los Angeles to founding The 8 Project, Tomer Peretz tells a story shaped by difficult experiences, unexpected turns, and the decision to create something from what he carries.

For Jewish conferences and community gatherings, his candid storytelling and unexpected humor open a personal conversation about belonging, the effects of war and terror, and how we show up for one another when our sense of safety is challenged.



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The person behind the experience.

Tomer Peretz is an Israeli-American artist, speaker, storyteller, and founder of The 8 Project. His story begins in southeast Jerusalem, where he grew up amid the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He later served as a combat officer in the IDF’s Golani Brigade before building his career as an artist in Los Angeles.

He has lived with PTSD for more than two decades. While visiting family in Israel on October 7, 2023, he found himself at a turning point. He volunteered with ZAKA in Be’eri in the aftermath, then returned to Los Angeles and founded The 8 Project.

There, he developed a Creative Rehabilitation Program that helps combat veterans and survivors of war and terror rebuild daily life through studio practice, mentorship, therapeutic support, and community.

In 2025, the Museum of Tolerance selected him as its first artist in residence. He created Art Will S8t You Free with more than 800 trauma survivors. To date, he has worked with more than 2,000 people, including combat veterans and military reservists.



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The questions we carry.

Identity & belonging

What does it mean to live openly as a Jew when belonging and safety feel uncertain? Tomer brings a perspective shaped by growing up in Jerusalem and building his adult life in the American Jewish community.

Trauma beyond the headlines

What happens after the immediate crisis passes? Through his own experience and his work alongside veterans and survivors, Tomer gives a human face to the long process of returning to daily life.

From concern to connection

How do we respond to what others carry? The story of The 8 Project opens a conversation about creativity, responsibility, and the practical ways a community can help people reconnect with life.

A personal perspective on the conversations your community is already having.

The emphasis is developed with your organization around its audience, purpose, and the questions it wants to explore, including antisemitism, Jewish identity, and the lasting effects of trauma.

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A conversation shaped for your audience.

A stage for the story

A featured talk built around Tomer’s personal journey, with room for audience questions.

A deeper conversation

A moderated conversation or panel contribution, connecting his lived experience with the themes of your event.

A shared purpose

For conferences, community gatherings, and fundraising events that want to bring a personal voice to questions of Jewish life, trauma, and rebuilding.

FORMAT & LOGISTICS

Format

Featured talk, moderated conversation, or panel participation, developed with the host organization.

Duration

Agreed with the host to fit the event schedule and allow time for questions where appropriate.

Location & travel

Available for engagements outside Los Angeles. Travel arrangements are coordinated with the host.

Planning

Audience, event goals, topic emphasis, and technical requirements are discussed in advance.

For more information & booking

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