NewYorkRep is an off-Broadway theatre company committed to developing and producing new plays and musicals that inspire social change. By illuminating social and ethical questions through art, they strive to create provocative theater that promotes empathy, compassion, and inclusion. Recent recognition includes the Outer Critics Circle Award nomination for ‘New American Play’, The Bergen Record Top 10 productions of the year, New York Times Critics' Pick, Off-West End award nomination for Best Production, and the Off-Broadway Alliance nomination for ‘Best New Play’.

NewYorkRep.org

Gayle Waxedenberg (Co-producer, executive director of NewYorkRep) is the founder and Executive Director of NewYorkRep. She also founded & was the past President of The Graham School Education Foundation, which serves NYC’s most at-risk children. She serves on the board of Danza Espanza, The American Spanish Dance Theater. Her philanthropic work continues to support domestic abuse victims, hospice patients, substance abuse victims, immigrants, and mental health patients. Her play, A Bitter Pill, premiered at the Hudson Guild Theater's Venus/Adonis Theater Festival.

Theatre Three Collaborative. Since our inception in 1995, Theatre Three Collaborative, Inc. has been creating, developing and producing poetic, character-driven plays on crucial topics of the day. TTC was founded by the late Lee Nagrin, George Bartenieff and Karen Malpede to produce The Beekeeper's Daughter. We also create and host Festivals of Conscience, talks and talkbacks with public intellectuals, activists and specialists in the field of the play.

Kia Corthron, Kevin Hourigan, Naomi Wallace, artist co-producers. See bios in artist sections.

Partner Bio

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural disasters and exclusion from healthcare. MSF offers assistance to people based on need, irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation.

Special Thanks

We would like to thank Nathaniel French, Artistic Line Producer of Signature Theatre, for his support of this project and for his assistance in coordinating the performance space.

Also special thanks to Julie Auster, Nick Bayer, Tom Blake, Cindy Cooper, Erik Freer, Leila Fuleihan, Wes House, Fiona Korwin-Pawlowski, Victoria Mendino, Cayce Pack, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater Athena Viscusi, Sue Wolf.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Stage Manager: Sofia Montgomery
Assistant Stage Managers: Sydney Golden, Jen Delac
General Manager: Michael Rico Cohen
Company Manager: Joseph Heaton
Press Reps: Keith Sherman and Associates
Graphic Designer: Erik Freer
Production Assistants: Cindy Cooper, Jonah Eastzer, Marjia Mayer

We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers’ Unions: Actors’ Equity Association, American Guild Of Musical Artists, American Guild Of Variety Artists, and SAG-AFTRA, through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the Artists to appear on this program.

NewYorkRep, Kia Corthron, Kevin Hourigan, Naomi Wallace & Theatre Three Collaborative present

IMAGINE: IMAGINE: IMAGINE

Push/Pull
Written By: Ismail Khalidi
Directed By: Markus Potter
Saba: Leta Renée-Alan | Issam: Bhavesh Patel

Of Ruin: A Song for Younis
Written By: Mashuq Mustaq Deen
Directed By: Johanna McKeon
Pooya: Pooya Mohseni | Maha: Maha Chehlaoui
Sevan: Sevan Greene

Dinner During Yemen
Written By: Karen Malpede
Directed By: Markus Potter
Nita: Kathleen Chalfant | Rita: Dee Pelletier
Voice: George Bartenieff

Smoke Break
Written By: Kara Lee Corthron
Directed By: Kevin Hourigan
Valentina: Maha Chehlaoui | Woman: Hend Ayoub

Atonal
Written By: TD Mitchell
Directed By: Lucie Tiberghien
One: Jill Eikenberry | Two: Ellen Parker

Waiting for Naem
Written By: Yonis Ali
Directed By: Shadi Ghaheri
Dolah: Valerie David | Rahma: Bahar Beihaghi

Wormholes for Sale at the Corner Bodega
Written By: Andrew Saito
Directed By: Shayok Misha Chowdhury
Moshin: Alok Tewari | Umm Farid: Heather Raffo
Umm Farida: Mahira Kakkar | Zahra: Ayse Babahan

Charade (a musical)
Written By: Kia Corthron
Directed By: Kevin Hourigan
Baize: Baize Buzan | Erren: Erron Crawford
Juliana: Juliana Canfield | Sevan: Sevan Greene
Sherr: Sherri Eldin

The Book of Mima
Written By: Naomi Wallace
Directed By: Kevin Hourigan
The Flyer: James Udom

Lighting Designer: Tony Giovannetti
Asst. Lighting Designer: Miriam Crowe

Screened in the Lobby before and after Performance:

Shakespeare in Yemen (short film)
Directed by Katherine Hennessey and Amin Hazaber
Screening sponsored by the Sidney E. Cohn Chair in Theater Studies at the Graduate Center, CUNY
With thanks to Dr. Marvin Carlson

THE PERSHING SQUARE SIGNATURE CENTER

The Irene Diamond Theater
June 25, 2018, 7:00PM
Playwright Bios

Younis Ali (Waiting for Naeem) is a Yemeni American poet and playwright. He’s been writing both in Yemen and the U.S. the last ten years. His work includes Saah Alhida, an Arabic comedy performed in Yemen in 2013 and Center Aisle, winner of Brooklyn College’s Ottile Grebanier Drama Award. His background and experiences in Yemen make this tragic war very personal.

Kara Lee Corthron (Smoke Break). Plays, including Welcome to Fear City, Listen for the Light, and Holy Down in Heaven, have been performed around the U.S. Author of the young adult novel The Truth of Right Now, which won the Parents’ Choice Gold Award in 2017. Other honors include the Princess Grace Award. Currently under commission for La Jolla Playhouse.

For more: www.karaleecorthron.com.


Mashuq Mushtaq Deen (Of Rain: A Song for Younus) is a New Dramatists resident playwright and a Dramatists Guild member. Plays include Draw the Circle (PlayMakers, Mosaic, Rattlestick), The Shaking Earth, and The Betterment Society. He has been developed at institutions such as the Public, NYTW, PT3, Ma-Yi. His work is represented by the Gurman Agency. (mashuqmustaqdeen.com)

Ismaïl Khalidi (Push/Pull). Truth Serum Blues (Pangea World Theatre), Tennis in Nablus (Alliance), Foot (Teatro Amal), Sabra Falling (Pangea), Returning to Haifa (Finborough Theatre). Commissions from The Public Theatre, Noor Theatre, Pangea World Theatre and Actors Theatre of Louisville. Khalidi co-edited Inside/Outside: Six Plays from Palestine and the Diaspora (TCG). He holds an MFA from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts.

Karen Malpede (Dinner During Yemen). Co-founder, Theater Three Collaborative. Writer/director nineteen plays. “One of America’s leading political dramatists” (Marvin Carlson).

Extreme Whether, LaMama 2018, ARTCOP Paris 2015, TNC 2104. Author of Plays in Time: The Beekeeper’s Daughter, Prophecy, Another Life, Extreme Whether: Directed Kathleen Chalfant (Prophecy), Dee Pelletier (Extreme Whether). Other Than We, summer 2018 workshop, LaMama.

T.D. Mitchell (Atonal) is an award-winning writer of plays, television, film, speeches (UNICEF), and essays. Queens for a Year (Hartford Stage), addressing military sexual assault, presaged the recent MeToo wave. In 2009 she created what was then the only positive portrayal of an Iraqi Muslim recess teacher in a screenplay on pre-K’s War of Ruin: A Song for Younus, which won the Parents’ Choice Gold Award in 2017. Other honors include the Princess Grace Award. Currently under commission for La Jolla Playhouse.

For more: www.karaleecorthron.com.

Heather Raffo (Unm Farida, Wormholes for Sale at the Corner Bodega) is a Yemeni American poet, Transgender activist and writer. Galatea (WP Pipeline Festival), One Woman, an award-winning one-woman show (United Solo Festival), The Good Muslim (EST), The White Snake (Baltimore’s Center Stage). Recurring guest star on Big Dogs (Choice Films, upcoming 2018) and a recurring guest star in the first season of Falling Water (USA network).

Leta Renée-Allen (Saba, Push/Pull) is a native New Yorker. NY theater credits include: 48 Hour Forum (Noor Theatre); The Heasel Festival (The Public Theater); Outer Banks (Signature Theatre); The Animals (JACK); The Place We Built (The Flea); Red Wednesday (LaGuardia Performing Arts Center); The Wall (Brooklyn Lyceum); Clybourne Park (Brooklyn Theater): BA: Brown University, MFA: Brooklyn College Graduate Acting.

Leta Renée-Allen (Saba, Push/Pull) is a native New Yorker. NY theater credits include: 48 Hour Forum (Noor Theatre); The Heasel Festival (The Public Theater); Outer Banks (Signature Theatre); The Animals (JACK); The Place We Built (The Flea); Red Wednesday (LaGuardia Performing Arts Center); The Wall (Brooklyn Lyceum); Clybourne Park (Brooklyn College): BA: Brown University, MFA: Brooklyn College Graduate Acting.

Alok Tewari (Moshin, Wormholes for Sale at the Corner Bodega). Theatre: The Band's Visit (Broadway) Atlantic; Monsoon Wedding (Belk/Keiley); Awake and Sing! (Public/NATCO); A Fable, Through the Yellow House, Wow (Rattlestick); Bunty Berman Presents, Rafia, Rafia... (New Group) Television: Looming Tower, Iron Fist, House of Cards, Madam Secretary, Homeland. Film: Pirates of Somalia, Shelter, Brooklyn’s Finest.

James Udom (The Flyer, The Book of Mima). Off Broadway: Tambaluline (TFANA), Macbeth (Public Theatre), Winters Tale (The Pearl Theatre). Off-Broadway: The Magic Flute, Of Mice and Men (Hubbard Hall) among others. James is a recent graduate of Yale School of Drama’s MFA acting program.

Bahr Beihaghi (Rahma, Waiting for Naema). Trained in LeCoq and Method. Previous credits: Ismene (Greece) 2014, Medea (Paris 2016), Samar in Red Wednesday (New York 2018). MFA candidate at Actors Studio Drama School, BS in civil engineering in Iran. Rahma enjoys contemporary dance, singing and ballroom alongside her passion for Farsi and French languages. She is excited to draw attention to the Middle East by bringing life to Rahma.

Baize Buzan (Baize, Charade) is a theater artist living in Brooklyn. NY. She has worked with Victory Gardens, Yale Rep, Steppenwolf, Writers’ Theatre, Jackalope Theater Company, and most recently, Smith Street Stage in NYC. She holds a BA from Vassar College and an MFA from Yale and has also studied at the Moscow Art Theatre.


Kathleen Chalfant (Nita, Dinner During Yemen) will perform T.S. Elliot's Four Quartets at Bard SummerScape July 6-8, 2018. Recent: Sarah Ruhl’s For Peter Pan On Her 70th Birthday, Playwrights Horizons; Amy Herzog’s Mary Jane, Yale Rep; Rose Kennedy in Rose, Nora’s Playhouse. Tony nominee: Angels in America. Outer Circle Critics, Drama Desk, Obie, Lucille Lortel awards for Wi, Talking Heads and other plays. Film, TV.

Maha Chehlaoui (Maha, Of Rain: A Song for Younus and Valentine, Smoke Break). Acting credits include Food and Fadwa (Noor/NYTW), Aftermath (NYTW), Feer Glynt (The Guthrie, direction); Lisless (Page 73), Othello (The Public Theatre). Maha was a co-founder of Obie-winning Noor Theatre and currently works as a creative producer and consultant in film and television with www.passthroughmedia.com.

Erron Crawford (Erron, Charade) is a 3rd-year MFA candidate at Yale School of Drama. Father Comes Home From The Wars (Yale Rep); Slave Play; If Pretty Hurts... (YSD); In the Red and Brown Water, Antony + Cleopatra (Yale Cabaret). BFA in musical theatre from Carnegie Mellon. Erron hopes to contribute positive change to the world by actively seeking, pursuing, and reflecting Truth in life, craft, and beautiful collaborative artistry.

Valerie David (Dolah, Waiting for Naema) wrote and currently tours her award-winning The Pink Hulk: One Woman’s Journey to Find the Squirrel Within, her story of becoming a 2-time cancer survivor. Her new play The Home We Left Behind is premiering in the BBT festival. Dramatists Guild, LPTW, AEA and SAG-AFTRA. Valerie thanks Shadi Ghaieri, Younis Ali, cast and crew. http://pinkhulkplay.com


Sherri Eldin (Sherri and co-composer, Charade) is an Egyptian-American actress, singer and multi-instrumentalist. She was born in New Jersey. She’s also a total science nerd. BA: Fordham (Bilingual Literature & Creative Writing between English & Italian). MFA: Brown/Trinity Rep, where she was Commencement Speaker. Eternal thanks to Kia Corthron for asking her to be a part of this very special and meaningful project. For Baha and Mamma.

Sevan Greene (Sevan, Of Rain: A Song for Younus and Sevan, Charade). NYC: Lortel Award-Winning Betrayed (Culture Project, LATW, Kennedy Center, PBS), Bunty Berman Presents, Betty Shaeimi’s The Stranger, NYTW’s Aftermath, NYMF’s Les Enfants du Pas, Prospect’s Mapquest, FringeNYC’s Perez Hilton Saves the Universe.... TV/Film: The Dictator, Blue Bloods, Damages, M.O.N.T. London: Scenes from 68 years, bi, Maroon. Regional: Language Rooms (Wilma), Virginia Grise’s rasgos asiaticos (SoHo Rep/CalArts Center for New Performance); MukhAgni (Ars Nova).

Shadi Ghaieri (Waiting for Naema) has directed Death of Yazg德尔, Titus Andronicus and The Sleepless Snow. As Co-Artistic Director of Yale Summer Cabaret’s 2017 season, she directed Akthar’s The Trojan Women and Lear. She directed Art and A Stranger Walking in My Room in Tehran. A graduate of the Yale School of Drama is a 2016 P. D. Soros Fellow. shadighaheri.com

Kevin Hourigan (Charade, Smoke Break, The Book of Mimaa; and co-producer), has directed workshops and readings for writers including Craig Lucas, Diana Oh, Brendan Pelsue, Trevor Bachman, Dylan Frederick, AJ Ditty and others. He is the current Directing Fellow at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre and a graduate of the Yale School of Drama, where he was the artistic director of the Yale Cabaret's 2016-2017 season.

Johanna McKeon (Of Rain: A Song for Younus) Associate Director of King Kong on Broadway. Additional Broadway: War Paint, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, American Idiot, and Grey Gardens. Directing: Mona Mansour’s Unseen (Old Globe workshop), Tokio Confidential (Atlanta), Comedy of Errors & Schmoozy Togetherness (Williamstown), Anne Washburn’s I Have Loved Strangers (Clubbed Thumb & Williamstown), Film: Auld Lang Syne, Indie Street 2016 Audience Award for Narrative Feature. MFA UT Austin.

Markus Potter (Dinner During Yemen and Push/Pull, and co-producer) is the Producing Artistic Director of NewYorkRep, and recently served as Interim Artistic Director of Theatre Aspen. Recent direction includes the off-Broadway production of Stalking the Bogeyman (Outer Critics Circle Award nomination, NYTimes critics’ pick), London's Southwark Playhouse (Off West End Award nomination for best production and direction), Church & State tof-Broadway Alliance nomination for best new work. MarkusPotter.com

Lucie Tiberghien (Atonal). Director/translator. Recent New York credits: Terminus, Gabriel Jason Dean (NYTW Next Door); Daybreak, Joyce Van Dyke (Beckett Theater). Recent Regional credits: Queens for a year, TD Mitchell (Hartford Stage), Pen/Mau/Ship (Portland Playhouse); Blood and Gifts, JT Rogers (La Jolla Playhouse). French version of Ayad Akhtar's Disgraced, Paris. www.lucietiberghien.com

Designer Bio

Tony Giovannetti (Lighting Design) has worked with Theatre Three Collaborative for over 20 years (represented tonight by Karen Malpede and George Bartenieff) a long history with other avant-garde performers, mainstream and site-specific performance pieces, and uptown work with the Metropolitan Opera and the NY Philharmonic.

Company Bio

Hend Ayoub (Woman, Smoke Break). Theatre: Broadway’s Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo with Robin Williams and its previous run at Mark Taper Forum; Yale Rep’s Kiss, Veils (world premiere, Portland Stage; Barrington Stage). Television: Homeland, The Looming Tower, Madam Secretary, Damages, Royal Pains, Feed the Beast, The Watch List, and other guest roles. TV/Film: Emmy Award-winning Death of a President and award winning Private.

Ayse Babahan (Zahra). Wormholes for Sale at the Corner Bodega was born in North Carolina and grew up in Istanbul, Turkey. She has trained at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. After graduating, she joined The Flea Theatre’s resident acting company. She has most recently been in The House of Bernarda Alba, Feba and Her Friends, Bee, and Field, Awakening (Signature Theatre).