

Producer Bios

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 Waxenberg (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, Theater 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, Marija 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



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 Mushtaq 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: Henda Ayoub

Atonal

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

Waiting for Naeem

Written By: Younis 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, || Erron: Erron Crawford
Juliana: Juliana Canfield || Sevan: Sevan Greene
Sherri: Sherri Eldin

The Book of Mima

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

Lighting Designer: Tony Giovanetti
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 Ottilie 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 *Holly 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.

Kia Corthron (*Charade* writer and co-composer; and co-producer). Premieres at Playwrights Horizons, NYTW, Atlantic Theater Company, MTC, BAM, Royal Court Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Humana, and elsewhere. Windham-Campbell Prize, USArtists Fellowship, 2017 Eclipse Theatre Company resident playwright. *The Castle Cross the Magnet Carter* won the 2016 Center for Fiction First Novel Prize. Dramatists Guild Council member.

Mashuq Mushtaq Deen (*Of Ruin: 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, P73, Ma-Yi. He is represented by the Gurman Agency. (mashuqmushtaqdeen.com)

Ismail Khalidi (*Push/Pull*). *Truth Serum Blues* (Pangea World Theater), *Tennis in Nablus* (Alliance), *Foot* (Teatro Amal), *Sabra Falling* (Pangea), *Returning to Haifa* (Finborough Theatre). Commissions from The Public Theatre, Noor Theatre, Pangea World Theater 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 recurring character on prime-time, for *Army Wives*. T.D.'s current project concerns the Syrian refugee crisis.

Andrew Saito (*Wormholes for Sale at the Corner Bodega*) was Mellon Resident Playwright at Cutting Ball Theater, which produced *Krispy Kritters in the Scarlett Night*, *Mount Misery: A Comedy of Enhanced Interrogations*, *Life is a Dream* (translation). Fulbright Scholar: Papua New Guinea. He has been honored to work with acclaimed Peruvian theater collective Yuyachkani. MFA: Iowa.

Naomi Wallace (*The Book of Mima* and co-producer). Plays include *One Flea Spare*, *Things of Dry Hours*, *The Fever Chart*, *And I and Silence*, and *Returning to Haifa* (adapted with Ismail Khalidi) produced in the U.K., Europe, U.S., and the Middle East. Awards: Obie, MacArthur, Windham Campbell, Susan Smith Blackburn (twice), Arts and Letters Award in Literature.

Director Bios

Shayok Misha Chowdhury (*Wormholes for Sale at the Corner Bodega*) is a queer Bengali director. He is currently a Resident Artist at Ars Nova, in the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab, and a NYTW 2050 Fellow. Upcoming: Aleshea Harris' *Beast Thing* ('62 Center for Theatre);

Evita, *City of Angels*, *Into the Woods*, *Company*.
www.sevangreene.com

Mahira Kakkar (Umm Farida, *Wormholes for Sale at the Corner Bodega*). Film/ TV credits: *Hank and Asha* (Slamdance favorite, Best actress Napa Film Festival, Best actress Wild Rose Film Festival), *Hechki*, upcoming indie film *Bite Me*, *Friends From College*, *Law and Order*, *Louie*, *Odd Mom Out*, *Blacklist*, *Blue Bloods*, *The Big C*. Select theater credits include *The Winter's Tale* (TFANA), *Monsoon Wedding*, *Miss Witherspoon* and *Vanya, Sonya, Clive*. Training: Juilliard, Harold Guskin. Website mahirakakkar.com

Pooya Mohseni (Pooya, *Of Ruin: A Song for Younus*) is an Iranian/American actor, 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).

Ellen Parker (*Two*, *Atonal*). Most recently: *20th Century Blues* here at Signature. Prior work at MTC, LCT3, The Public, Playwrights Horizons, Atlantic Theatre Company, CSC, MCC, La MaMa, the O'Neill, Broadway, regionally, in television and film. Emmy and Obie awards. Working for a return to sanity with IndivisibleNY19.

Bhavesh Patel (Issam, *Push/Pull*). Broadway: Present Laughter; Lincoln Center: War Horse; Roundabout: Indian Ink; BAM: RadioLoveFest; Other: Public Theater, Second Stage, CSC, Red Bull, Guthrie, St. Louis Rep, Shakespeare Theater DC; TV: Madame Secretary, John Glaser Loves Gear, Mysteries of Laura, The Good Wife, Elementary, Blue Bloods; Film: Gold, Wilding, James White, Two Days in NY. MFA: NYU Grad Acting.

Dee Pelletier (Rita, *Dinner During Yemen*). Broadway: *August: Osage County*. Off-Broadway: *Extreme Whether*, *Women Without Men*, *The Soap Myth*, *Bug*, *The Erotica Project*, *The Broken Jug*. Regional: Denver Center, Cincinnati Playhouse, Yale Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Trinity Rep, others. Film, TV.

Heather Raffo (Umm Farid, *Wormholes for Sale at the Corner Bodega*). Acting: *The Profane* (Playwrights Horizons). Writer/performer: *9 Parts of Desire* (MET—Lucielle Lortel best solo show, Drama League, Outer Critics nominations); *Palace of the End* (Epic Theater Ensemble—Drama League nomination); *Food and Fadwa* (NYTW); *In Darfur* (Public). Playwright/Librettist: *NOURA* (Shakespeare Theater, forthcoming Playwrights Horizons); *FALLUJAH* (NYC Opera, Long Beach Opera, Kennedy Center). heatherraffo.com

Leta Renée-Alan (Saba, *Push/Pull*) is a native New Yorker. NY theater credits include: *48 Hour Forum* (Noor Theatre); *The Weasel 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. @LetaReneeAlan www.LetaReneeAlan.com

Alok Tewari (Moshin, *Wormholes for Sale at the Corner Bodega*). Theatre: *The Band's Visit* (Broadway/ Atlantic); *Monsoon Wedding* (Berkeley); *Awake and Sing!* (Public/NAATCO); *A Fable*, *Through the Yellow Hour*, *War* (Rattlestick); *Bunty Berman Presents, Rafta, Rafta...* (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: *Tambulaine* (TFANA), *Macbeth* (Public Theatre), *Winters Tale* (The Pearl Theatre co.) Regional: *Father Comes Home* from the Wars (Yale rep, ACT), *Julius Caesar* (Shakespeare and Co.), *Of Mice and Men* (Hubbard Hall) among others. James is a recent graduate of Yale School of Drama's MFA acting program.

Malina. Hundreds of plays, Broadway, off. Four Obies. Drama Desk.

Bahar Beihaghi (Bahma, *Waiting for Naeem*). 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. Bahar 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 Theater.

Juliana Canfield (Juliana, *Charade*) Off-Broadway: *He Brought Her Heart Back In A Box* (Theatre for a New Audience); *Zurich* (Colt Coeur/Next Door Fest); *The House That Will Not Stand* (upcoming, New York Theatre Workshop). Television: "SUCCESSION" (HBO). M.F.A: Yale School of Drama.

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 *Wit*, *Talking Heads* and other plays. Film, TV.

Maha Chehlaoui (Maha, *Of Ruin: A Song for Younus* and *Valentina*, *Smoke Break*). Acting credits include *Food and Fadwa* (Noor/NYTW), *Aftermath* (NYTW), *Peer Gynt* (The Guthrie), *Lidless* (Page 73), *Othello* (The Pioneer Theatre). Maha was a cofounder of Obie-winning Noor Theatre and currently works as a creative producer and consultant in film and television with www.passthemicmedia.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 Naeem*) wrote and currently tours her award-winning *The Pink Hulk: One Woman's Journey to Find the Superhero 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 Ghaheri, Younis Ali, cast and crew. <http://pinkhulkplay.com>

Jill Eikenberry (One, *Atonal*). Broadway: *Moonchildren*, *All Over Town*, *Summer Brave*, *Watch on The Rhine*, *Onward Victoria*. Off Broadway: *Lemon Sky* (Obie), *Life Under Water* (Obie), *The Kid* (Drama Desk nomination), *An Evening at the Talk House*. Film: *Arthur*, *Hide in Plain Sight*, *Young Adult*. TV: *LA Law* (5 Emmy nominations, Golden Globe Award). Jill will perform in Michael Tucker's new play *Fern Hill* at NJ Repertory Company Aug 9 - Sept 9.

Sherri Eldin (Sherri and co-composer, *Charade*) is an Egyptian-American composer/lyricist, multi-instrumentalist, and singer from 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 Baba and Mamma.

Sevan Greene (Sevan, *Of Ruin: A Song for Younus* and *Sevan*, *Charade*). NYC: Lortel Award-Winning *Betrayed* (Culture Project, LATW, Kennedy Center, PBS), *Bunty Berman Presents*, Betty Shamieh's *The Strangest*, NYTW's *Aftermath*, NYMF's *Les Enfants des Paris*, Prospect's *Mapquest*, FringeNYC's *Perez Hilton Saves the Universe....* TV/Film: *The Dictator*, *Blue Bloods*, *Damages*, *M.O.N.Y.* 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 Ghaheri (*Waiting for Naeem*) has directed *Death of Yazdgerd*, *Titus Andronicus* and *The Slow Sound of Snow*. As Co-Artistic Director of Yale Summer Cabaret's 2017 season, she directed *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 Mima*; 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 Theater, 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 Ruin: 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* (Atlantic), *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 (off-Broadway Alliance nomination for best new play). 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/Man/Ship* (Portland Playhouse); *Blood and Gifts*, JT Rogers (La Jolla Playhouse). French version of Ayad Akthar'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 performance artists, mainstream and site-specific performance pieces, and uptown work with the Metropolitan Opera and the NY Philharmonic.

Company Bios

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 a recent recurring role on *Transparent*. 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*, *Fefu and Her Friends*, *Bee*, and *Field*, *Awakening* (*Signature Theatre*).

George Bartenieff (Voice, *Dinner During Yemen*). Co-founder, Theater Three Collaborative. *Extreme Whether*, LaMama, Paris, TNC. *I Will Bear Witness* non-traditional spaces tour, 2017-18. Career began age 14 on Broadway. *Zoo Story* (Peter), *Krapp's Last Tape* (Krapp) dir. Alan Schneider. *The Brig*, dir. Judith