



# ENGLISH

BY SANAZ TOOSI CO-DIRECTED BY ANAHITA DEHBONEHIE & GUILLERMO VERDECCHIA  
A CO-PRODUCTION WITH SOULPEPPER THEATRE COMPANY

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Welcome to our production of *English* by Sanaz Toossi!

When I first programmed this play in 2020, it had yet to have its world premiere in New York City. At the time, we had no way of knowing what was to come and the pandemic's impact on the theatre industry. However, we are grateful to finally be able to share this play with you that has, since then, received numerous accolades, including the coveted Obie award for Best New Play.

Three years later, *English* is being performed against the backdrop of protests in Iran and the "Woman. Life. Freedom." movement. These events have added a new, deep layer of meaning to the play, which we hope will resonate with you. The conversations around immigration, and the relationship between language and identity, are ever-present in so many countries around the world. It's also timely considering the conversations happening in our own province right now.

Alongside our producing partner, Souleppper Theatre Company in Toronto, we're proud to celebrate a culture not often depicted on stage. This wonderful show reflects our commitment to make the Segal Centre a true gathering place built on joy, communication, and self-discovery – a place to share diverse stories and perspectives that make us stronger together. Experiences such as these have a way of bringing people together in a way only theatre can facilitate. We hope this production will stay with you as it has for us.

We look forward to welcoming you back to the two remaining shows in our 2022-2023 season (*Prayer for the French Republic* and *Josephine: A Musical Cabaret*) where we promise more opportunities for unique experiences and wonderful memories.

Thank you for being here.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa".

**LISA RUBIN**

**Artistic and Executive Director**

*The Segal Centre is situated on the traditional territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka people. The land was also a diplomatic meeting place with other Iroquoian and Algonquians including Algonquin-Anishinaabe, Atikamekw, and Huron-Wendat. We acknowledge that we are located on a land that has been the site of human creativity and story-telling for thousands of years, and are thankful that we are able to create, collaborate, play, and work here. To learn more about this, visit [segalcentre.org/en/land-acknowledgement](http://segalcentre.org/en/land-acknowledgement)*



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A SEGAL CENTRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS AND  
SOULPEPPER THEATRE COMPANY CO-PRODUCTION

# ENGLISH

BY SANAZ TOOSI

CO-DIRECTED BY ANAHITA DEHBONEHIE & GUILLERMO VERDECCHIA

ELHAM

Ghazal Azarbad

MARJAN

Ghazal Partou

OMID

Sepehr Reybod

GOLI

Aylin Oyan Salahshoor

ROYA

Banafsheh Taherian

NADER (VOICE)

Sina Suren

VOICE RECORDING

Eion Bailey, Fiona Sauder

SET

Anahita Dehbonehie

COSTUMES

Niloufar Ziaee

LIGHTING

Tim Rodrigues

SOUND

Rob Denton

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Aurora Torok

VIDEO SUPPORT

Samay Arcentales Cajas

DIALECT COACH

Diane Pitblado

STAGE MANAGER

Tracy Lynne Cann

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Farnoosh Talebpour

CULTURAL CONSULTANT & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Leila Ghaemi

"English" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

**THE RUNNING TIME IS 85 MINUTES WITH NO INTERMISSION**

The Segal Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

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SANTÉ ET DU  
BIEN-ÊTRE



Centre  
de Montréal

[CUMMINGSCENTRE.ORG/PROGRAMS](http://CUMMINGSCENTRE.ORG/PROGRAMS)



Every March, before Iranians celebrate the coming of spring\*, they mark the past year by jumping over an open fire. The saying “Let your redness be mine, my pallor yours” is an exchange made with the fire, leaving behind the troubles and missed opportunities of the past year, preparing for renewal in the coming one. It is a ritual foremost about bravery: you jump over a lit fire into an uncertain future.

This is the work we find our characters, a wave of first generation immigrants, engaged in as they try to navigate the leap all migrants make to cross vast distances, leaving behind loved ones and beginning the process of reshaping their tongues and identities around foreign syllables.



Migration may seem like an inevitability from the outside; who would not reach for a safer home? More freedom? Greater financial opportunity? But only those of us who've packed these bags understand the cost of condensing lives into luggage – no matter the circumstances.

Sanaz Toossi's play *English* was written and programmed for production at Soulpepper and the Segal Centre well before the murder of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini by the Islamic Republic; the spark that touched off the massive protests currently burning across Iran. Inside the country, the people rise courageously, losing their lives and livelihoods while outside the Iranian diaspora oscillates between hope and despair. Who could not be inspired and moved by the protestors resisting Iran's repressive theocratic dictatorship? Who would not be appalled by the repression unleashed by the regime to enforce its illegitimate and crumbling authority?

Yet Sanaz's play is not one torn from the headlines. Instead, she presents a different glimpse of life in Iran: not a traumatic one, not a tragic one but one filled with hope, humour and longing.

*English* is a play for anyone who has experienced the rupture and liberation that a new language can offer, for anyone who has felt the ache of homesickness, for anyone who has leapt over the fire onto new and foreign lands.

**ANAHITA DEHBONEHIE (1) & GUILLERMO VERDECCHIA (2)**  
Co-Directors, *English*

# TIMELINE OF POLITICAL EVENTS IN IRAN

BY DR. MARJAN MOOSAVI

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**1921**

The Pahlavi monarchy comes to power and pursues an ambitious modernization campaign.

**1951**

Nationalist Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalizes the British-owned oil industry and later is overthrown by a CIA/MI6 aided coup in 1953.

**1971**

Pahlavi organizes grand international festivals and festivities, including a decade of avant-garde theatre and music festivals of Shiraz (1967–1977).

**1978-79**

Iranian Revolution led by Ayatollah Khomeini overthrows the Pahlavi monarchy and proclaims The Islamic Republic of Iran. As a result of the project of Islamization, Islamic dress code becomes compulsory.

**1980-88**

Iraq invades Iran. This war of attrition ends in 1988.

**1989**

The new supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, is appointed. The post-war construction era starts.

**1995**

The United States places oil and trade sanctions on Iran. The economic sanctions get renewed repeatedly by the US and UN over the next two decades.

**1997**

Reformist era starts with Mohammad Khatami's presidency. New democratic discourses and practices about civil rights, freedom of expression, and women's rights grow.

**1999**

Pro-democracy protests by university students last for six days. Recurrent arrests of students, activists, journalists, and intellectuals continue.

**2009**

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad wins re-election, defeating the reformist Mousavi. A series of protests known as the Green Movement starts and becomes a major event in Iran's modern political history. The state responds with a brutal crackdown on protestors.

\*The events of *English*, the play by Sanaz Toossi, are set in Spring of 2009, right after the election.

## 2013

Reformist-backed cleric Hassan Rouhani wins the presidential election. Under his presidency, Iran begins Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) negotiations with P5+1 over the nuclear program.

## 2017

Women begin a series of anti-hijab protests, protesting compulsory hijab by unveiling in public and sharing their selfies on social media.

## 2019

Fuel price hike prompts mass protests nationwide. Over 100 people are reported dead in the police crackdown.

## 2019

Nasrin Sotoudeh, Iran's most prominent human rights lawyer, is sentenced to 38 years in prison. She represented a woman who was arrested for peacefully protesting the compulsory hijab.

## 2021

The hardliner cleric Ebrahim Raisi is elected to presidency. The new minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance issues a new "program" for revamping MCIG's rubrics to further "Islamize" the arts. The government's censorial intervention in art and culture escalates.

## 2022

Starting in September, the largest civil uprising since the 1979 revolution, led by women and students, is unfolding. With the slogan "Woman. Life. Freedom.", this intersectional movement is a fight for a democratic, secular government, freedom of expression, and equality for religious, ethnic, and gender minorities. Over 17,000 protestors are arrested, and four are executed.

## 2023

The "Woman. Life. Freedom." movement continues to evolve.

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**Dr. Marjan Moosavi** is an educator, researcher, digital curator, and dramaturg. She holds a Ph.D. in Theatre and Performance Studies from the University of Toronto. She is the Roshan Lecturer in Persian Studies and Performing Arts at the University of Maryland-College Park where she designs curriculum, mentors graduate students, and pursues her transnational projects at the intersection of Theatre Studies and Digital Humanities. Marjan's digital and curatorial collaborations include two pioneering and transnational digital projects: Digital Guide to Theatre of the Middle East and the Digital Photo Exhibit on the Middle Eastern Theatre. Her research has been published in venues including The Drama Review (TDR), New Theatre Quarterly, Asian Theatre Journal, Critical Stages, and Routledge Companion to Dramaturgy. She is a longstanding Regional Managing Editor for TheTheatreTimes.com.

AFTER THE SHOW, YOU ARE INVITED TO  
STAY IN YOUR SEAT FOR A MODERATED  
POST-SHOW DISCUSSION.

MONDAY NIGHT INCLUDES A TALKBACK  
WITH THE COMPANY OF *ENGLISH*

**“YOU GO YEARS WITHOUT MAKING ANYONE LAUGH.”**

- Marjan (*English* by Sanaz Toossi)

Our mother tongue is at the heart of who we are, central to the creation of our identities. The rhythm and music of our original language frames the world for us, braids us into the person we become. This play examines what happens when we step out of the language that has built us word by word, phrase by phrase. It asks: what happens when we are not speaking in our own words? Are we still ourselves? If a new language is an opportunity for reinvention, what do we have to give up in exchange? Are we lost or found when our mouth speaks words that our ancestors never knew?

**“SOMETIMES I THINK YOU CAN ONLY SPEAK ONE LANGUAGE. YOU CAN KNOW TWO BUT ...”**

- Marjan (*English* by Sanaz Toossi)

*English* takes place over a period of weeks in an English language class in Karaj, Iran. Farsi is everyone's mother tongue. All the characters are at various stages of proficiency in this new language. Playwright Sanaz Toossi found a wonderfully theatrical way to convey the two linguistic worlds the characters inhabit: when the actors' English is fluent and accent-free, they are speaking in Farsi. When they speak with a strong accent, they are speaking in English.

Middle Eastern people, Toossi says, do not grace our stages often. For many cast and creative team members, this is the first time they have been in a room with so many other Iranian artists. The experience, the connection, the discoveries go beyond words. Like so many things, they can only be felt. The beauty of this broken-hearted comedy is that, in Marjan's words, "it brings the inside to the outside and allows us to listen to the insides of others." As they say in Farsi, "Khosh-amadeed".

**PLAYWRIGHT SANAZ TOOSI**

Sanaz Toossi grew up in California, the only child of Iranian immigrants, "naturally bilingual" in English and Farsi. A strong student, she chose not to go to law school, but instead did her MFA at New York University; *English* was her thesis project. The play won Williamstown Theatre Festival's 2020 L. Arnold Weissberger New Play Award, went on to an off-Broadway production, and a Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play in 2022. Her second play, *Wish You Were Here*, about a group of Iranian women friends in the years of the Iran-Iraq war, was produced in New York in 2022.

Background Notes by Paula Wing

The Segal Centre would like to thank the Iranian artists, businesses, and community members who helped bring the show to life. We would also like to acknowledge the brave women in Iran, who have been protesting their marginalization for decades, and continue to do so to this day. The Segal Centre stands with the women of Iran in protest for gender equity and an end to discriminatory laws.

**Woman. Life. Freedom.**

To learn more, please review our list of resources on how to support the Iranian community locally and internationally, found on the Segal Centre website.





### SANAZ TOOSSI

#### Playwright

Sanaz Toossi is an Iranian-American playwright from Orange County, California. Her

plays include *English* (co-production Atlantic Theater Company/Roundabout Theatre Company; NYT Critics Pick; Weissberger New Play Award), and *Wish You Were Here* (Playwrights Horizons; Williamstown/Audible, released 2020).

She is currently under commission at Atlantic Theater Company (Launch commission; Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation grant), Roundabout Theatre Company, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Manhattan Theatre Club, South Coast Repertory, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival (American Revolutions Cycle).

In television, Sanaz recently staffed on *Invitation to a Bonfire* (AMC); *A League of Their Own* (Amazon); *Five Women* (Marielle Heller/ Big Beach); and sold an original idea, *The Persians*, to FX with Joe Weisberg & Joel Fields attached as Executive Producers. Sanaz is a member of Youngblood and the Middle Eastern American Writers Lab at the Lark, and an alum of Clubbed Thumb's Early Career Writers' Group. She was the 2019 P73 Playwriting Fellow and a recipient of the 2020 Steinberg Playwright Award. MFA: NYU Tisch.



### ANAHITA DEHBONEHIE

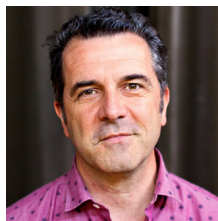
#### Co-Director & Set Designer

Born in Tehran and based in Toronto since 2013.

**Segal Debut**

**Soulpepper** *English* Design: *Marat/ Sade*, *Blood Wedding*, *The Dead*,

*Soulpepper Concert Series*. Assistant Director *Jesus Hopped the A Train*  
**Elsewhere** *The Flick*, *Trojan Girls* and *the Outhouse of Atreus*, *Dr. Silver*, *TomorrowLove*, *The Tape Escape*, *Vitals* (Outside the March), *Chitra* (The Shaw Festival), *Jane Eyre* (The Citadel Theatre), *Hand to God*, *The Aliens* (Coalmine Theatre), *The Little Prince* (Puzzle Piece), *Take D Milk N'ah*, *Shove It Down My Throat* (Pandemic Theatre), *Bloom*, *The Lesson* (Modern Time Theatre) **Film & Television** *The Young Arsonists*, *The Players*, *Salome Learns to Dance*, *Spaceman* **Awards** Recipient of two Dora awards, two theatre critics awards. **Other** Graduate of the Soulpepper Academy, Concordia University, and CalArts.



### GUILLERMO VERDECCHIA

#### Co-Director

Guillermo Verdecchia was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**Segal Debut**

**Soulpepper** *English*, *Fronteras Americanas*; *Animal Farm*; *Of Human Bondage* (dramaturg); *Queen Goneril* (dramaturg); *The Parliament of the Birds* (playwright); *Around the World in 80 Plays* **Elsewhere** *King Gilgamesh* and *The Man of the Wild* (dramaturg: Jungle Theatre); *The Jungle* (director: Tarragon Theatre); *The Orchard* (dramaturg: Shaw Festival); *The Art of Building a Bunker* (co-creator: Quiptake/Factory Theatre) **Other** A recipient of the Governor-General's Award for Drama for his play *Fronteras Americanas*. His newest play, *Feast*, will premiere in the fall of 2023. He is the Jury Chair of the Siminovitch Prize in Theatre. He teaches at the University of Toronto.



**GHAZAL AZARBAD Elham**  
Ghazal Azarbad (دب‌آزاد) was born in Mashhad, Iran and raised in Vancouver,

BC. **Segal** Debut **Soulpepper** *English, La Bête, Innocence Lost* (2018), *Wedding at Aulis* (2019), *The Seagull* (2020) **Elsewhere** *East Van Panto: Little Mermaid and Alice in Wonderland* (Theatre Replacement); *Romeo and Juliet* (Bard); *Bunny* (Search Party); *Being Here: The Refugee Story* (Belfry); *Shakespeare in Love* (Bard); and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Arts Club). **Film & Television** *Float* (Lionsgate), *Charmed* (CW), *Kim's Convenience*, *The Slowest Show* (CBC) **Other** Writer and creator of *Tarof* (فرهنگ): a Persian Comedy, *Dear Konstantin* (Spotify), and *REAL*. Awards Two-time Jessie Awards nominee, recipient of the Hnatyshyn Foundation Award for Acting.



**GHAZAL PARTOU Marjan**  
Ghazal Partou is an Iranian-Canadian actress and multi-disciplinary

artist. Ghazal is the recipient of the "Lead Actress" Special Mention from the Five Continents International Film Festival, the Best Acting award from the Ark Gate International Film Festival, the Toronto Arts Foundation/ TELUS "Newcomer Artist" award, the Persbook Contemporary Art award, and the National Sculpture Biennial award in Tehran. She received her B.A. and acting degree in Iran and continued her education at the Toronto Film School. Her combined

knowledge of visual art and drama has allowed her to expand her world of creation. She seeks to establish an interactive relationship with the audience and to raise fresh questions in their minds. With the revision and redesign of familiar concepts, she makes of them a means for fresh expression, an expression whose elements are rooted in daily life, but which ultimately creates and narrates what has been hidden underneath those familiar forms. Since landing in Canada, Ghazal has been active in a diverse range of thought-provoking artistic projects as an actor, performance artist, creative director, singer, and designer. Her overarching goal is to make the most out of the multicultural potential of Toronto, find an international language as an artist and connect with the core of humanity beyond race, language, nationality, and ethnicity.



**SEPEHR REYBOD Omid**  
Sepehr Reybod is an Iranian-Canadian actor, playwright, and creator based in Toronto. **Segal** Debut

**Soulpepper** Debut **Elsewhere** *Richard III, All's Well That Ends Well* (Stratford Festival); *R+J* (WhyNot Theatre & Stratford Festival); *The In-Between* (Geordie Theatre). **Other** Sepehr's first play *Saffron & Caviar* was publicly presented in the Parkdale New Works Theatre Festival in 2019. His current work-in-development, *The Karkhaneh*, was developed through Factory Theatre's Foundry unit (2019-2020) and Factory's initial Bedrock Creators' Initiative.



**AYLIN OYAN  
SALAHSHOOR  
Goli**

Aylin (Oyan) Salahshoor is a Toronto-based actor. She has been actively pursuing

her love for theatre in Toronto. She has completed her bachelor's degree in Drama, Theatre & Performance Studies at the University of Toronto, and is the first prize winner of the Norma Epstein Foundation Awards in Creative Writing for her play *Minor Punctuations*. Aylin has performed in several theatre productions in Toronto, most recently in *English* (Soulpepper Theatre), *9428* (Toronto Fringe Festival – July 2022), *Heart of a Dog* (Next Stage – Toronto Fringe Festival, January 2022), *The Monster I Learned to Love* (Toronto Fringe Theatre Festival 2020), *Swim Team* (Theatre Centre, November 2019), and *Sisyphus and Death* (Alumnae Theatre, May 2019). She has also appeared in several productions of Nowadays Theatre performing in Farsi, *The Dance of Torn Papers* (Dance Maker, November 2018) and *The Only Way Possible* (Ignatieff Theatre, June 2018).



**BANAFSHEH  
TAHERIAN  
Roya**

Banafsheh Taherian was born in Tehran/ Iran and immigrated to Canada.

**Segal Debut Elsewhere** *Distorted* (Small World music); *Swim Team* (Theatre Centre); *The Only Possible Way* (Canadian Stage); *Dance of Torn Papers* (Dancemakers); *Sleeping In an Empty Cup* (Fairview library theatre); *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Glendon Theatre); *Untuned* (Digital Fringe) **Film & Television** *16 Hudson*; *LiLi & LoLa*; *Simurgh* **Other** In 2019, she published

her podcast *Chai With Banafsheh* that recounts ancient Iranian tales from significant literary figures. She is currently the 2021-22 artist in residence with Canadian Stage.

**SINA SUREN  
Nader (Voice)**

Sina A. Suren is a multi-disciplinary performance artist, specializing in writing, directing and acting. Born in Iran, he currently leads the Rise Theatre Collective in Montreal & Toronto.

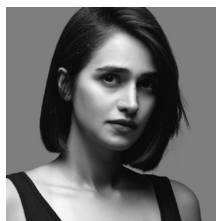
**Directed Work** Rise Theatre Collective: *Gracchi* (2022), *Arash* (2021), *Little Black Fish* (2020) **Selected Acting Credits** *Fifteen Dogs* (dir Zach Fraser), *The Crucible* (dir Terry Donald) **Authored Plays** *The Keeper* (2020), *Gracchi* (2019), and *Novus* (2017).

**EION BAILEY  
Voice Recording**

Eion Bailey is an award-winning actor who has played in many films and tv shows, currently playing in the thriller/horror series *FROM* on Epix and MGM+. His most recent theatre credit is Sam Shepard's *Fool for Love* at Soulpepper in 2019.

**FIONA SAUDER  
Voice Recording**

Fiona Sauder is a Toronto-based Director, Writer, Performer, and Educator. A multiple Dora Award winner, she is the Artistic Director of Bad Hats Theatre, Soulpepper's Associate Company.



**NILOUFAR ZIAEE  
Costume  
Designer**

Niloufar is a filmmaker and multi-disciplinary artist from Iran who

has made Canada her home since 2016. **Segal Debut Soulpepper Debut Elsewhere** *The Death of the King* (Humber College, Faculty of Media

& Creative Arts); *Trojan Girls & The Outhouse of Atreus* (Factory Theatre ); *Children of Fire* (Nightwood Theatre); *1184* (theatre passe muraille); *The Sylvia Effect* (Theatre Kingston) **Film & Television** *The Players; The Young Arsonists; Salome; Three Fellows; The Creation.*



**TIM RODRIGUES**  
**Lighting Designer**  
**Segal** *Marjorie Prime*  
**Soulpepper** Debut  
**Elsewhere** *Serving Elizabeth* (Theatre Aquarius),

*Pipeline, How Black Mother's Say I Love You* (Black Theatre Workshop), *From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea, Reaching for Starlight* (Geordie Theatre), *This Is How We Got Here, The River* (Magnus Theatre), *The Sages of Chelm* (Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre) **Film & Television** *L'Assemblée - Montréal* Lighting Assistant (Porte-Parole & Télé-Québec) **Training/Experience** The National Theatre School of Canada (Production Design and Technical Arts-Specialization in Lighting), Concordia University (BFA-Contemporary Dance) **Online** @timrodrigues\_lx **Et cetera** Three-time META Nominee for Outstanding Lighting Design, Creator of the Lighting Installation *Liberation's Radiance* in the Segal Centre lobby February 2021. President of the Board of Directors for Mainline Theatre/ Montreal Fringe Festival.



**ROB DENTON**  
**Sound Designer**  
Rob Denton was born and raised in Montreal. **Segal** *Small Mouth Sounds* (2020)  
**Soulpepper**

*English* (2023) **Elsewhere** *Camille: The*

*Story* (Au Delà du Visuel 2022), *Meet Me* (Live Action Theatre Project 2022) **Film & Television** *King of the River* (Roi de la rivière), *Grey Roads, Fuego Awards* MECCA Sound Design - *Satchmo' Suite* (2007), META Sound Design - *Another Home Invasion* (2016).



**AURORA TOROK**  
**Assistant Lighting Designer**  
Aurora Torok has origins in Ontario, but now calls Montreal

(Tio'Tia: Ke) her home base for freelance work across the country. **Segal** Debut **Soulpepper** Debut **Elsewhere** *Celestial Bodies* (Geordie Theatre/YPT); *Heartbeat Reverie* (Youtheatre); *Pipeline* (Black Theatre Workshop); *From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea* (Geordie Theatre) **Awards** Nominee for the META (Montreal English Theatre Awards) for Outstanding Contribution to Theatre.



**SAMAY ARCENTALES CAJAS**  
**Video Support**  
Samay Arcentales Cajas was born in Toronto and raised on the

west coast and in her home country, Ecuador. **Segal** Debut **Soulpepper** *Where the Blood Mixes* **Elsewhere** *Mischief* (Roseneath Theatre); *Reverence | Rage* (Peñasco Theatre, NM); *Kisâkihitin/Gizaagin* (Paprika Festival), *Izzie M.: The Alchemy of Enfreakment* (Chocolate Woman Collective) **Film & Television** *Solar Lodge, Toe the Line, Paladin, The Story of the Dancing Heart, In Moment* **Other** Samay Arcentales Cajas is a queer (Kichwa) digital media artist and filmmaker based in Toronto. In her work

she explores human-land relationships, the new media dimensions of indigenous cosmology, and immersive art as a site of liberation.



**DIANE PITBLADO**  
**Dialect Coach**  
Diane was born in Toronto. She has lived in Toronto, Montreal, and London, UK. **Segal**

Debut **Soulpepper** *English*; over 70 productions since the inaugural season. **Elsewhere** National Arts Centre, Canadian Stage, Tarragon Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times, Studio 180, Mirvish Productions, Royal Manitoba Theatre, among others. **Film & Television** select credits include Emilia Jones in *Locke and Key*, Tom Hopper and Robert Sheehan in *Umbrella Academy*, Margot Robbie in *Suicide Squad*, Mads Mikkelsen in *Hannibal*, Kristen Stewart in *On the Road*, and Julie Christie in *Away from Her*.



**TRACY LYNNE CANN**  
**Stage Manager**  
Tracy Lynne Cann was born and raised in Toronto. **Segal** Debut **Soulpepper**

*English* (2023), *Bad Parent* (2022) **Elsewhere** *Menopause The Musical* (ShaggyPup Productions); *The 39 Steps* (The Grove Theatre); *Passport to Madness* (Workman Arts); *Rinaldo* (The Royal Conservatory of Music) **Other** Tracy's dog, Max, has a career unto himself as a professional model and social influencer. Jokingly called "Side Hustle", Max can often be found traveling and working alongside Tracy.



**FARNOOSH TALEBPOUR**  
**Assistant Stage Manager**

Farnoosh Talebpour was born in Tehran, Iran but has now spent

most of her life in Toronto. **Soulpepper** *Queen Goneril*, *King Lear* **Elsewhere** *Dixon Road* (Musical Stage Company/ Obsidian Theatre company), *Through the Bamboo* (Uwi Collective/Toronto Fringe); Apprentice SM: *Orphans for the Czar* (Crow's); *Serving Elizabeth* (Stratford Festival); *Angel*, *The Resurrection* (Opera Atelier); *Angelique* (BTW/Factory Theatre) SM: *Iphigenia and the Furies* (Saga Collectif/Theatre Passe Muraille) **Film** Assistant Production Design for *One Small Visit*, *Lune*; Costume Designer for *Tête à Tête*, *Queen of the Morning Calm* **Other** She would like to thank all the people around her who have helped keep her feet grounded, joined her in laughter, and kept her heart safe.



**LEILA GHAEMI**  
**Cultural Consultant & Outreach Coordinator**

Leila Ghaemi (she/elle) is a MENA (Middle Eastern and

North African) Montreal theatre-maker. She recently returned to her hometown of Montreal, Quebec after a decade of working for various theater companies in the United States. Leila received her BFA in Theatre Arts and MFA in Theatre Education & Direction from Boston University's School of Theatre. Leila is a teaching artist at The Study School, dramaturg at Playwrights' Workshop Montreal, and co-artistic director of Persephone Productions Montreal. While she has a handful of job titles, Leila's main artistic pillars are new play development, MENA representation, and radical theatre empowerment.

Centaur Theatre Company presents the English-Language  
Premiere of the Théâtre Duceppe production of

# KING DAVE

by Alexandre Goyette

adapted in collaboration with Anglesh Major

translated by Patrick Emmanuel Abellard

directed by Christian Fortin



March 28 – April 16



Patrick Emmanuel Abellard in *King Dave*  
Photo by Danny Taillon

« Patrick Emmanuel Abellard Brilliant »

— THÉÂTRALITÉ

“With only a few road cases, some microphone stands, a piano and two stools Patrick Emmanuel Abellard delivers a huge array of emotions as he attacks the intense text which is shot through with humour, Creole and the language of the street.”

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 Maxime Billick  
 Maxine Seidman  
 Melanie Bernard  
 Melanie Thompson  
 Melanie Watier  
 Melika Clarke  
 Melissa Felsky  
 Melissa Poplaw  
 Menashi Mashaal  
 Mher Barbarian  
 Mia Ginter  
 Michael Antonelli  
 Michael Baratta  
 Michael Levine  
 Michael D. Saragossi  
 Michal Katz  
 Michelle Perlis  
 Miekka Kamphuis  
 Mikhail Vinokur  
 Mindy Goldberg  
 Miriam Rozenek  
 Miryam Jane Barac  
 Mitchell Kujavsky  
 Mitchell Leckner  
 Mitelman  
 Morris Jacobson  
 Nancy & Gerald Goldenberg  
 Nancy Cleman  
 Nancy Freedman  
 Naomi & Stanley Mazoff  
 Naomi Sweeney  
 Natasha Hall  
 Nathalie Saviolidis  
 Nellie Philanthropy Foundation  
 Newgen Asset Management Ltd  
 Nikpaul Canada Inc.  
 Nir Guzikovitz  
 Nona Moscovitz  
 Norbert & Gusta Roth Foundation  
 Orlando Lopez  
 Orly Hermon  
 Pamela Pierre  
 Pamela Rosenberg  
 Pamela Rosenberg  
 Pamela Strashin  
 Pascale Sabourin  
 Patricia Greco  
 Paul Garellek  
 Paul Godawa  
 Paula Baker  
 Paula Buick  
 Penni Kolb  
 Perry Shak  
 Philippe Lemieux  
 Pierre-Andre Meunier  
 Pimco Canada  
 Pina Merenda  
 Polar Asset Management Partners  
 Rachel & Adam Shapiro Family Foundation  
 Rachel Fima  
 Ralph Rimokh  
 Rachel Merovitz  
 Raluca Popescu  
 Randi Haimovitz  
 Randi Lenet  
 Randy Schwartz  
 Randy Thompson  
 Raquel Volinsky  
 RBC Royal Bank  
 Rebecca Croll  
 Rebecca McFarlane  
 Recia Liebman  
 Reesa Barr  
 Renee Beaudoine  
 Rhonda Scheffer  
 Riana Levy  
 Richard Ho  
 Richard Serour  
 Ricki & Jack Shlien  
 RobertKandestin  
 Robert Antonelli  
 Robert Bohbot  
 Robert Gold  
 Robert Iny  
 Robert Stoller  
 Robin Kravitz  
 Robyn Berman  
 Robyn Pomerantz  
 Roger Hall  
 Ronald Finegold  
 Ronit Arnsel  
 Ronnie Roter  
 Rosalba Servello  
 Roshi Chadha  
 Roth Foundation  
 Roz Agulnik  
 Russel Investments  
 Ruth & David Steinberg Family Foundation  
 Ruth-Ann Weinberg  
 Ruth Sapir-Pichhadze  
 Sabrina Bercovitch  
 Saint Victor Investments Ltd  
 Samantha Bretholz  
 Samantha Manis  
 Samara & Albert Sayegh  
 Sami Boutaleb  
 Sandra Serour  
 Sandra Trehub Matthews  
 Sandra Chaker  
 Sandra Guerrero  
 Sandra Serour  
 Sara Greco  
 Sarah Deshaies  
 Sarah Kornik  
 Sarah Kulaga-Yoskovitz  
 Sasha Dubry  
 Selina Eisenberg  
 Shari Fleming  
 Sharon Stern  
 Shelley Rothstein  
 Sheri Liebmann  
 Shil Sondagar  
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 Stella Hayot  
 Stephanie Finkelstein  
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 Timothée Chalامت  
 Toni Kourakis  
 Tricia Fitzgibbon  
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 Vivian Billick  
 Vivian Konigsberg  
 Wendy Alperstein  
 William Azeff  
 William Steinman  
 Xavier Kato  
 Yair Behar  
 Yair Meyers  
 Yohan Sauves  
 Yolande Amzallag  
 Yves Robert Gabbay  
 ZIM Integrated Shipping Services Co Ltd.

### Musical Fundraiser 2023 Participants

Anthony Seidman  
 Carley Azeff-Billick  
 Carol Barrs  
 Carrie Mazoff  
 Diane Antonelli Randy  
 Earl Lunger  
 Elan Kunin  
 Elissa Lifson  
 Hannah Pichhadze  
 Heather Leckner  
 Jackson Seidman  
 Jennifer Gardos  
 Jon Konigsberg  
 Jonathan Ginter  
 Jordana Kujavsky  
 Leah Fima  
 Leidy Ojeda  
 Lonnie Bodtkin-Schneider  
 Melanie Thompson  
 Menashi Mashaal  
 Miryam Barac  
 Moïshe Campbell  
 Musical Fundraiser Participants 2023  
 Nedivah Finegold  
 Perry Shak  
 Riana Levy  
 Rick Leckner  
 Scarlett Lifson  
 Shari-Ann Fleming  
 Shiri Tamam  
 Sidney Serour  
 Simone Moloney  
 Sonny Silverstein  
 Stephanie McKenna  
 Stephanie Raby-Naimier  
 Stephen Maclean Rogers

If we inadvertently misspelled or omitted your name, please accept our sincere apologies and advise Stephanie McKenna, Development Officer, 514.739.2301 x8302, smckenna@segalcentre.org or visit segalcentre.org.

The logo for TNL (The Night Out) is displayed in a large, white, outlined font. The letters are set against a background of a red-to-orange gradient. Above the letters, there is a shower of colorful confetti in shades of blue, green, purple, and white, scattered across the top half of the image.

# TNL

**The perfect night out!**

Enjoy dinner, a drink, and an exclusive meet and greet with special guests before one of the following fabulous productions:

***English (March 30)***

***Prayer for the French Republic (May 4)***

***Josephine: A Musical Cabaret (June 8)***

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Single tickets \$88

Contact Stephanie McKenna at 514.739.2301  
or [smckenna@segalcentre.org](mailto:smckenna@segalcentre.org)

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WE SALUTE THE ALVIN SEGAL FAMILY FOUNDATION for its extraordinary support and commitment in helping the Segal Centre for Performing Arts maintain the highest standards of performance.



*Dracula*



*Frankenstein*



*English*



*Prayer for the French Republic*



**ALDO**

*Josephine: A Musical Cabaret*

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FROM THE WRITER OF *BAD JEWS!*  
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# PRAYER for the FRENCH REPUBLIC

BY JOSHUA HARMON DIRECTED BY LISA RUBIN

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