

MEDIA RELEASE

CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED *NASSIM* CLOSES OUT THE CITADEL'S BEYOND THE STAGE SERIES

April 22, 2019

(EDMONTON) From Iranian playwright **Nassim Soleimanpour** comes an audacious new theatrical experiment. Each night, a different performer joins the playwright on stage, while the script waits unseen in a sealed box ... Touchingly autobiographical yet powerfully universal, *NASSIM* is a striking theatrical demonstration of how language can both divide and unite us.

For six shows only, *NASSIM* graces the stage of The Club as the final production of the Citadel's 2018/19 Beyond The Stage series. An exciting roster of Edmontonians are taking part in this unique theatrical event: **NASRA** (former Youth Poet Laureate of Edmonton); Edmonton Poet Laureate, entertainer, and educator **Ahmed Knowmadic Ali**; piano teacher and social advocate **Sarah Chan**; **Belinda Cornish** (Citadel's *A Christmas Carol*, *Sense and Sensibility*), Teatro La Quindicina's **Jeff Haslam** (Citadel's *Hello, Dolly!*, *Little Shop of Horrors*), and **John Uilyatt** (Citadel's *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Mamma Mia!*).

NASSIM is performed all over the world, and has been universally praised by theatre critics. "The most unconventional theatre experience you will ever encounter ... it is a play for innovators, dreamers and people who aim to break boundaries. It's a breeze, it's a delight, and it is a must watch," said Ishita Mathur, Pelican Magazine.

NASSIM was originally commissioned and produced by the Bush Theatre and received its World Premiere at the Bush Theatre, London, on July 25, 2017. The winner of the Scotsman Fringe First Award at Edinburgh Fringe in 2017, *NASSIM* follows Soleimanpour's globally acclaimed *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*.

Nassim Soleimanpour is an independent multidisciplinary theatre maker best known for his multi award-winning play *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*. Nassim's play *BLANK* premiered at Dancing on the Edge festival in Amsterdam and had further performances all over the world, including the Bush's Radar festival, Edinburgh Fringe 2015 and in Argentina, Australia, India, Canada, Germany, Finland, Austria, Spain, Brazil, Denmark, and U.S. Further plays include *Blind Hamlet*, which premiered at LIFT Festival 2014 prior to a U.K. tour and productions in Bucharest and Copenhagen. His recent play, *Down by the Creek*, was published by New York Times as part of the 15 short plays about America 2024. Nassim now lives in Berlin and is commissioned to write a new play for the audiobook platform Audible.

Tickets for *NASSIM* are available at www.citadeltheatre.com and 780.425.1820. Tickets start at just \$30 plus fees and GST.

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Cast (In order of performance dates)

NASSIM SOLEIMANPOUR	Writer and Performer
BELINDA CORNISH	Performer (April 30, 2019)
JEFF HASLAM	Performer (May 1, 2019)
NASRA	Performer (May 2, 2019)
AHMED KNOWMADIC ALI	Performer (May 3, 2019)
SARAH CHAN	Performer (May 4, 2019)
JOHN ULLYATT	Performer (May 5, 2019)

Creative Team

Director	OMAR ELERIAN
Designer	RHYS JARMAN
Sound Designer	JAMES SWADLO
Lighting Designer	RAJIV PATTANI
Production Manager	MICHAEL AGER
Stage Manager	KACEY GRITTERS
Script Editors	CAROLINA ORTEGA and STEWART PRINGLE

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