



Golden Thread Productions Proudly Presents

ReOrient

Sixth Annual Festival of Short Plays Exploring the Middle East



Three San Francisco Locations

India Garden 1261 Folsom St. 415.626.2798	India Clay Oven 2435 Clement St. 415.751.0505	Tandoori Mahal 941 Kearny St. 415.951.0505
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September 16 through October 10
Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa Street
San Francisco

October 15 through 24
The Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Avenue
Berkeley

Matinee performances in Berkeley
Series 1: Sunday, 10/17, 3 PM
Series 2: Sunday, 10/24, 3 PM

Welcome

It is a pleasure to share this amazing collection of plays with you at the sixth annual ReOrient Festival. 2004 has been a year of foundation building for Golden Thread Productions. Thanks to many of you, our Benefit Art Auction in May was very successful, providing much needed funds for the daily operation of the company. Our board has tackled the thankless but highly rewarding job of developing a five-year strategic plan based on the belief that Golden Thread has the potential for a wider audience and greater impact. In that regard, we are particularly excited to have been invited to present *Karima's City* from ReOrient 2003 at the Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theatre. I hope this will be the first of many international performances for Golden Thread Productions.

We have many exciting plans for 2005, including a weeklong presentation of women's writing and performance at the Thick House in March, a workshop presentation of *The Passion of Hussain*, a full-length Taziyeh in English by Rebecca Ansary Pettys, as well as our annual Art Auction in May and the ReOrient Festival in the fall.

This year's ReOrient Festival is unique in a number of ways. We have enriched our usual presentation of short plays with a seminar on Taziyeh, an Iranian passion play; staged readings of four full-length plays from Iran, Turkey and Palestine/Israel; as well as a playwrights' round table and two playwriting workshops. I hope that you will be able to join us for many of these special events. The plays this year are also more stylistically diverse than in previous seasons, ranging all the way from the topical *Compression of a Casualty* that tackles the media's coverage of the Iraq war to *Dinner*, which delights in universal absurdity. Content is also riskier. Proposing a new ending to Taziyeh is like asking what would have happened had Jesus not been crucified? How would Christian imagery, Christian self-perception be different, not to mention the religion itself? With all its ambiguity, *Don't Eat the Tomatoes* asks a simple question: What have we gained by creating so much death and misery? What is the cost? *Between the Eyes* exposes that cost in a deeply visceral way and *Falling* reminds of lost opportunities. If the reenactment of history guides future generations, then are we able to create a different future by offering alternatives to that history? In the words of Azar Nafisi in *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, "How [can we] confront the real world with the possibilities created by fictional ones."

Many thanks to all the people who make this festival possible. To the artists, for sharing your talent and to our audience, for being here, for your interest and your support. We could not have done this without the help of our wonderful volunteers, support staff, Board of Directors and audience members like you.

Enjoy the festival,

Torange Yeghiazarian

About Us

Golden Thread Productions is a San Francisco Bay Area theater company dedicated to exploring Middle Eastern culture and identity as represented throughout the globe. In addition to producing *ReOrient*, an annual festival of plays about or written by playwrights from the Middle East, now in its sixth season, we stage full-length plays, staged readings, workshops and special events. Made up of artists from around the world, the company exemplifies theatre's ability to transcend cultural and political boundaries and to encourage an active dialogue.



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www.goldenthread.org

We accept play submissions throughout the year. Deadline for consideration for the ReOrient Festival is March 1st. Please allow two to six months for a response. We do not accept electronic submissions and will not return scripts.

We need you!

Donate your time, money and expertise...

Wish List...

Pentium 4 with Windows XP and MS Office, Laser jet printer, QuickBooks Pro 2004

Space for storage, space for rehearsal, space for performance



**\$5 OFF
YOUR NEXT ReOrient TICKET**

ReOrient 2004

SERIES 1 Thursdays & Saturdays

Chocolate in Heat, Growing Up Arab in America

by Betty Shamieh (30 min)

Disheartened

by Melis Bilgin, directed by Hal Gelb (20 min)

INTERMISSION (15 MIN)

Between the Eyes

by Naomi Wallace, directed by Amy Mueller (10 min)

Falling

by William Borden, directed by Arlene Hood (5 min)

Taziyeh

by Novid Parsi, directed by Arlene Hood (25 min)

SERIES 2 Fridays & Sundays

Don't Eat the Tomatoes

by Fatma Durmush, directed by Torange Yeghiazarian (45 min)

INTERMISSION (15 MIN)

Compression of a Casualty

by Kevin Doyle, directed by Laura Hope (25 min)

Dinner/ Khnamakhos

by Lilly Thomassian, directed by Meredith Weiss Friedman (35 min)

This production is made possible in part by generous grants from The Puffin Foundation, Walter and Elise Haas Fund, Zellerbach Family Foundation, CA\$H grant -- a program of Theatre Bay Area, the San Francisco Art Commission and by donations from generous individuals.

The Ensemble

Patrick Alparone, Suha Araj, Sheri Bass, Ben Beecroft, Toby Brooks, Katy Brown, Ann Marie Donahue, Maxmillienne Ewalt, David Fierro, Nabil Ghachem, Vida Ghahremani, Tiffany Harrison, Patrick A. Keene, Zak Kilberg, Sara Luna, Patrick MacKellan, Keahn Malak-Madani, Doyle Ott, Lisa Tateosian and Cyrus Tinati

Designers

Set	Mikiko Uesugi
Light	Stephen Siegel
Sound	Marc Hagan
Costume	Keri Fitch
Graphics	Miriam Behpour
Video	Alan Jose

Production Staff

Technical Director	Stephen Siegel
Stage Managers	Diana Strachan
	Lisa Medina
Set Build & Props	Patrick A. Keene
Outreach & Publicity	Lucinda Kidder
Casting Director	Hal Gelb
Literary Manager	Yussef El Guindi
Photography	Termeh Yeghiazarian

ReOrient Literary Committee

Yussef El Guindi, Nabil Gachem, Hal Gelb, Arlene Hood, Lucinda Kidder, Amy Mueller, Janaki Ranpura, Torange Yeghiazarian

Thanks to Lisa Tateosian and Darlene Dhillon for administrative support.

Thanks to Mikiko Uesugi and Gary Graybill for set build support.

Thanks to Dominique Chandon, Laurent Martini, Jeff Raz, Mark Routhier, Steve Silver Productions, Charles Zukow, and Jael Weisman for casting assistance.

Chairs courtesy of Ultimate Grounds (Oakland).

Thank You!

Judy Wilber, Anahita Bakhtiary, Bob Miller, Jim Lucas
Mani Hakim, Keyumars Hakim, Haleh Hatami, Erin Blackwell
Bob Kuzma, Behzad Golmohammadi, Betty Shamieh, Lucinda Kidder

Emily Koch, Mollena Williams, Lea Bender & Sparky, Hal Gelb
Margaret Salimi, Linda Change, Merim Olson, Anush Yegyzarian
Coyote Days, Jewana Harfoush, Helen Hirmand, Lana Nasser,
Nahid Olfati, Ismail Bustany, Jesse Ghannam, Vavi Toran,
Dina Saba, Mona Masri, Renda Debit, Bashir Anastas, Jahanshah Javid

UC Berkeley Production Staff, San Francisco State Prop Shop,
ACT Costume Shop, Cal Shakes
Z Space, Theatre of Yugen, Magic Theater, Shotgun Players,
A Traveling Jewish Theatre
First Congregational Church of Oakland
ArtsFirst Oakland

Special Thanks to our Production Donors

Avidex Industries LLC, Fremont
Ultimate Grounds, Oakland
Freedom Flowers, Berkeley

Bon Voyage to the cast & crew of Karima's City

Have a great performance at the Cairo International Festival for
Experimental Theatre

Bernadette Quattrone, Vida Ghahremani, Deborah BenElizier,
Simin Yahaghi, Patrick Alparone, Leo Rodriguez, Coyote Days,
Angela Demmel and Arlene Hood.

Special thanks to Ms. Aida Hood for generous contribution to
make this trip possible.

Karima's City

Benefit Performance

Monday, September 20th at Cell Space
2050 Bryant St. San Francisco

Help send us to Cairo. Make a donation today.

Staged Reading Series

Plays from Palestine/Israel, Turkey & Iran

NOTE DATE & VENUE CHANGE

Wednesday, October 20th at The Ashby Stage

Shooting Magda by Joshua Sobol, directed by Amy Mueller

The line between fact and fiction blurs during this overnight shoot by Israeli and Palestinian movie makers.

Wednesday, September 29 at Noh Space

The Beauty Inside by Catherine Filloux, directed by Jessica Heidt

A touching story of an unexpected friendship between two very different women: an attorney and a young girl who has been raped. Based on the true case of an honor killing in Turkey.

Tuesday, October 5 at Noh Space

Guest of a Few Days by Mohsen Yalfani, directed by Torange Yeghiazarian

A love triangle exposes the political conflict between two friends whose paths diverged in pre-revolutionary Iran.

Monday, November 1 at A Traveling Jewish Theatre

Bounty of Lace by Susan Merson, directed by Rebecca Novick

A delicious afternoon tea party among four Israeli women disintegrates into an exploration of the romantic boundaries of the politically fraught region.



SERIES 1

Chocolate in Heat, Growing Up Arab in America

Created & Performed by Betty Shamieh (9/16 & 18)

Performed by Suha Araj (9/23 – 10/24)

Director Torange Yeghiazarian

Assistant Director Bernadette Quattrone

***Disheartened* by Melis Bilgin**

Director Hal Gelb

Toy Ben Beecroft

Kit Toby Brooks

Kit's Sister Katy Brown

***Between the Eyes* by Naomi Wallace**

Director Amy Mueller

Man Doyle Ott

***Falling* by William Borden**

Director Arlene Hood

Zaki David Fierro

Reina Katy Brown

Christian Doyle Ott

The fall lasted 10 seconds. They struck the ground at just less than 150 miles per hour -- not fast enough to cause unconsciousness while falling. They jumped alone, in pairs and in groups. --*USA Today*

SERIES 1 - Continued

Taziyeh by Novid Parsi

Director	Arlene Hood
Assistant Director	Patrick Alparone
Cyrus	David Fierro
Kambiz	Nabil Ghachem
Javad	Keahn Malak-Madani
Sami	Cyrus Tinati
Mother	Vida Ghahremani

The part of Mother will be performed by Manada Malak-Madani 9/23-10/3.

Thanks to Parviz Sayyad, Ardavan Mofid and Rebecca Ansary Pettys for providing background information about Taziyeh.

About Taziyeh:

The ta'zieh is a unique dramatic expression within Islamic culture, occurring during the annual ten-day mourning period observed by the Shi'ia sect during Muharram, the first month of the Muslim lunar calendar. The mourning commemorates the martyrdom of Hussain, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. A complete Muharram cycle recreates a series of events that culminated in the slaughter of Hussain, which, in turn, resulted in the creation of the Shi'ia sect of Islam.

Although the commemoration of the martyrdom at Karbala on Ashura ---the tenth day of Muharram---may have started shortly after the tragic event in 680, the first official Muharram commemoration took place on Ashura in 963 in Baghdad.

The Safavid rulers encouraged the further development of mourning rituals during Muharram. Court poets in Iran were encouraged to turn their talents to writing elegies lamenting the fate of Hussain and his family. The already established storytelling tradition began using these elegies to elevate their narration of the story of Karbala. Thus, Rowzah Khani, or recitation sessions, became a popular part of the annual mourning rituals. Both the processions (visual) and the recitations (aural) continued to develop and flourish in Iran for several more centuries before the two forms combined at the end of the eighteenth century to produce theatre: the ultimate form of rebellion within a religion that prohibits representation.
-- Excerpts from "The Ta'ziyeh in Iran: Only the Heros Sing" by Rebecca Ansary Pettys.

Scenic Designer **Mikiko Uesugi** is pleased to be designing for Golden Thread Productions for the first time. She has designed productions that include *Immortal Heart*, *The Fall River Axe Murders* and *Stories by Tobias Wolff* for Word for Word, *Betrayal* for Aurora Theater Company, *Peer Gynt* for the ACT M.F.A. program, *Let My Enemy Live Long!* for Berkeley Repertory Theater, as well as *Body Familiar*, *Bronte* and *A Common Vision* for The Magic Theatre. Ms. Uesugi is a recipient of the NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Designers and The Isadora Duncan Dance Award.

Naomi Wallace was a 1999 recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship, the grant popularly known as the genius award. Her newest play, *The Inland Sea*, will have its world premiere in London this spring, produced by the Oxford Stage Company. *Slaughter City* was awarded the 1995 Mobil Prize and received its world premiere in January 1996 at the Royal Shakespeare Company. *In The Heart Of America* received its world premiere at the Bush and was subsequently produced at the Long Wharf Theater and in Dortmund, Germany. It was published in *American Theater* magazine and was awarded the 1995 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. Her plays are published in Great Britain by Faber and Faber, and in the U S by Broadway Play Publishing Inc. A collection of her plays, *In The Heart Of America And Other Plays*, was published by TCG in 2001. At present, Wallace is under commission by The New York Shakespeare Festival-The Public Theatre, Paines Plough of London, and is also co-writing a film script on the Ludlow massacre of 1913 with Bruce McLeod and the historian Howard Zinn.

Torange Yeghiazarian writes, directs and acts for the Theatre. She is the founder and artistic director of Golden Thread Productions. A native of Iran and of Armenian heritage, Torange holds a Master's degree in Theatre Arts from San Francisco State University. Her short play, *Abaga (The Future)*, debuted at ReOrient Festival in 2001, was presented by New York City's Immigrant Theatre and reviewed in the *American Theatre Magazine* (April 2002). As a teaching artist, Torange has taught playwriting to at-risk youth as part of the Each One Reach One program, incorporated theatre into social studies in Richmond's Washington Elementary School as part of East Bay Center for Performing Arts' Learning Without Borders program, and lead acting and play development workshops for Golden Thread Productions.



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Since 1999 Lighting Designer/Technical Director **Stephen Siegel** has been the Technical Director for Theatre of Yugen at Noh Space and has designed the lighting for many of their productions most recently *Frankenstein* which premiered in October of 2003. In addition he designs lights for dance, theatre, and live music. This is his second time working with Golden Thread. In 2001 he designed lighting for their ReOrient festival at Noh Space as well. In his spare time he works on and continues to develop his solo show *RunEscapeEmbrace* that he debuted at Noh Space in January of 2003. Stephen studies Kyogen and Noh Theater in the USA and Japan, and performs Kyogen with Theatre of Yugen's ensemble. In March of 2004 he performed in *Sorya! Two Chickens and a Bear*, playing the role of 'Wife' in Theatre of Yugen's premiere of *Two Chickens* (based on Luigi Pirandello's short story "*I galletti del bottaio*") adapted by Ken Bullock and the company, and directed by Yuriko Doi and Jubilith Moore.

Stage Manager **Diana Strachan** is a recent graduate of Goucher College (Baltimore), with a degree in English and Theatre. Highlights of her Goucher career include *The Bacchae* (Lighting Designer), *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* (Stage Manager) and *Twelfth Night* (Stage Manager). This is her first production with Golden Thread. She would like to thank Torange for the experience and her parents for supporting her dreams.

Lisa Tateosian is pleased to be making her first appearance at the Re-Orient Festival. She collaborated this past year with Golden Thread Productions on the musical, *Love Missile* and a children's theatre camp. Lisa most recently appeared as Pfeni in *The Sisters Rosensweig* with Actors Ensemble of Berkeley and sang in *Cinderella* and *My Fair Lady* with CTA/ Crossroads Theatre in Walnut Creek. An accomplished dancer, Lisa has performed with several local dance companies and has choreographed productions for California Theatre Arts, Golden Gate Opera and Word For Word. Lisa teaches dance and musical theatre for children and has been on the faculty of Vallejo Ballet Conservatory, California Theatre Arts and California Ballet Academy. She also teaches as an Artist-In-Residence in Bay Area public schools.

Lilly Thomassian was born in Iran and studied at the University of Geneva. She is an award-winning poet and playwright. In 1998, she was selected to participate in Wordsmiths, a workshop supported by the City of Los Angeles Cultural Department. That same year, her one-act play, *How Do I Look*, was a finalist in the Pathway Productions' National Contest. *The Interrogation*, a play inspired by the Iranian revolution, was a finalist in the 2001 Ashland New Plays Festival and the 2003 Senachai Festival in Chicago. She is perhaps best known for her play, *Let the Rocks Speak*, which won the 2001 Catawba College Peterson Award. It was also awarded an Honorable Mention in the Plays for the 21st Century by the Playwrights Theater in Texas and was the finalist in the David Mark Cohen National Playwriting Competition. In 2002, parts of the play were performed during the 1st Annual Genocide Commemorative Event at the Glendale Civic Auditorium. *Let the Rocks Speak* was produced by ShapeShifter Productions in March 2003 at the Fountain Theatre in Hollywood. Lilly has been a long time active member of FirstStage in Hollywood, where she is currently part of the Artistic Committee. She is also member of Playwrights Ink, a prestigious playwright group whose members' plays have won many theatre awards. She belongs to the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights.

SERIES 2

Don't Eat the Tomatoes by Fatma Durmush

Director	Torange Yeghiazarian
Yildiz	Lisa Tateosian
Zekai	Doyle Ott
Turkish Women	Sheri Bass, Maxmilienne Ewalt, Tiffany Harrison
Kurdish Woman	Ann Marie Donahue
Young Woman	Sara Luna
Man	David Fierro
TV Announcer	Mehdi MalekMadani

Background:

Turkey is home to more than half the world's 25 million Kurds. Others are scattered throughout the rugged reaches of Iran, Iraq and Syria. The Kurds are a non-Arab, mostly Moslem people with their own language and culture. In 1999, Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), a leftist underground movement for Kurdish independence, was arrested and condemned to death. Under pressure from the European Union, the Turkish government reduced Ocalan's sentence to life imprisonment and subsequently outlawed capital punishment.

Compression of a Casualty by Kevin Doyle

Director	Laura Hope
Soledad O'Brien	Tiffany Harrison
Bill Hemmer	Patrick MacKellan
Joel L. Bertoldie	Zak Kilberg

Thank you Kenny Bell, Jesse Gustafson, Keith Rockkhald and Ruby Unger.

SERIES 2 - Continued

Playwright's Note:

Compression of a Casualty was written with found material as its direct inspiration. The dialogue of the two news anchors is taken directly from official CNN transcripts of the morning of July 18, 2003. I witnessed the original broadcast live on television. The inspiration for Private Bertoldie's dialogue is taken from accounts in local Missouri newspapers which appeared in the days and weeks after Bertoldie's death. Nothing beyond the initial report depicted in this play was broadcast about Bertoldie by CNN that morning. This play is dedicated to the Bertoldie family.

Director's Notes:

At the time this program went to print, there were:

-**1007** reported deaths of U.S. military personnel in the war in Iraq.

-**868** of those deaths took place **after** May 1, 2003 when President Bush dramatically landed on the USS Abraham Lincoln, stood beneath a giant banner reading "Mission Accomplished," and announced, "major combat operations in Iraq have ended." Joel Bertoldie is one of those casualties.

-There have been **6,397** U.S. soldiers wounded in action.

-**66** soldiers from the United Kingdom have perished, and **60** soldiers from other member nations of the coalition forces.

-The civilian deaths among the Iraqi people in this war are estimated at a minimum of **11,717** and a maximum of **13, 724**. This estimate is provided from international humanitarian relief organizations, as the U.S. government does not officially release, and claims not to count Iraqi deaths. This figure does not include Iraqi military deaths.

Specialist Bertoldie, though I did not know you, I feel the pain of your loss...I was the medic who came to you...There was nothing I could do but I still feel like I didn't do enough. I sat with you outside of that humvee and said how sorry I was that I could not save you. I think about the whole thing every day and will the rest of my life. Your war is over...Godspeed Brother!

- message left on a Joel Bertoldie memorial internet site by SPC Darren Hubbel of Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Stage Manager **Lisa Medina** enjoys working with Golden Thread Productions as she prepares for a Masters Degree in Occupational Therapy. This is Lisa's 3rd happy production with Golden Thread Productions!

Director **Amy Mueller** is a multiple award-winning director whose primary dedication is to the development of new plays for the American stage. She has directed and produced original theater for the past fifteen years and is the Artistic Director of the Playwrights Foundation. Selected world-premiere directing credits include *Let My Enemy Live Long!* by Tanya Shaffer at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, A Contemporary Theatre (Seattle) and San Diego Repertory Theatre; *Watsonville*; *Arthur and Leila*; *Foster Field*; *A Woman With Juice* and Anne Galjour's *Alligator Tales*. This is her second season with Golden Thread's ReOrient Festival; last year, she directed *Coming Home* by Israeli playwright, Motti Lerner. She is currently on the faculty of University of San Francisco's Performing Arts and Social Justice Department. She was the recipient of a 1996/97 NEA/TCG Directors Fellowship as well as Dramalogue and Bay Area Critics Circle Awards and nominations. In 2000, she was nominated for a TCG Alan Schneider Award.

Doyle Ott has performed with many companies in the Bay Area and beyond including the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Foolsfury, Make*A*Circus, Acrosports City Circus, Antenna Theatre, and others. He has trained at the Dell'Arte School and the San Francisco Clown Conservatory, he holds an MA in Creative Arts Education from San Francisco State and is a PhD candidate in Theatre for Youth at Arizona State University. He currently serves as the director of Splash Circus Theatre in Emeryville.

Novid Parsi, a son of immigrant Iranians, grew up in East Texas and studied literature at Swarthmore and Duke. His plays have been produced and given staged readings by Immigrants' Theatre Project, New York; The New Group, New York; Stephen Joseph, Scarborough, England; Paines Plough, London; and the Young Vic, London, among others. Novid has also published short fiction and criticism. He lives in Chicago.

Rebecca Ansary Pettys is Chairperson for the Department of Music and Fine Arts and Professor of Theatre at Union College in Kentucky and author of *The Passion of Hussein*, a full-length play based on Taziyeh, the passion play that commemorates the martyrdom of the Shi'ite saint, Hussein. She is author of several articles on the subject of Taziyeh, most recently a performance review published in *Asian Theatre Journal*. Currently she is collaborating with Peter Chelkowski of New York University on an article for an issue of *The Drama Review* devoted to Taziyeh. Professor Pettys has received accolades for her teaching, including a Distinguished Professor of the Year Award. She was born in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Betty Shamieh is a Palestinian-American writer and actor. She is currently a Van Lier Fellow at New Dramatists. Her solo performance work *Chocolate in Heat*, in addition to being remounted off-off-Broadway, will tour various theatres on the West Coast. Betty presented a monologue *Tamam* she wrote for *Imagine: Iraq* at Cooper Union (co-presented by The Artists Network and SALAAM), which will be presented in London and New York at the Brave New World Festivals. She, along with a group of writers including David Henry Hwang, has been invited to contribute a new work for the Victory Project that will be presented at Columbia University's Miller Theatre later this year. She received a BA in English Language and Literature from Harvard College, MFA in Playwriting from the Yale School of Drama and is presently a Professor of Screenwriting at Marymount Manhattan College.

Haleh Hatami lives in Oakland. Her writing has appeared in the Bay Area PEN award-winning anthology, *An Eye for an Eye Makes the Whole World Blind*. Other poems have appeared in *ZYZZYVA*, *Kennesaw Review*, *Fourteen Hills*, *Sojourn* and soon in *Phoebe* and *International Poetry Review*. She is the recipient of the CPIC Life Poetry Award at San Francisco State University. She holds degrees in Middle Eastern Studies, Political Science and History from UC, Berkeley and the University of Chicago.

Arlene Hood has been associated with Golden Thread Productions for the past four years. Last year, she directed *Karima's City* for ReOrient 2003. Besides freelancing as a Bay Area director and actress, Arlene is the theatre arts instructor for Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward. Her students have received numerous awards and recognition for their outstanding work. She has a theatre arts degree from CSU Hayward and is an active member of the California Educational Theatre Association. An avid traveler, Arlene has had the opportunity to direct and perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the Festival of Amathus in Cyprus. She is currently restaging *Karima's City* for performance at the Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theatre. Directing credits include *Les Miserables* (authorized school edition); Lorca's *The Billy-Club Puppets*; *Sylvia*; *Khamasseen* (North American premiere); *Prelude to a Kiss*; *Kiss Me, Kate*; *Something's Afoot*; *The Visit*; Anouilh's *Antigone*; *Macbeth*; *Man of La Mancha*; *Our Country's Good*; *The Real Inspector Hound* and *1776*.

Laura Hope previously directed *The Muse* for Golden Thread. She is a founding company member of The Shee Theatre Company, where she performed the title role in *Augustine (Big Hysteria)*, Ella in *Ladies and Gentlemen* and Clare in *Riddance*. She is also an Associate Member of Crowded Fire Theatre Company, where she appeared in Erik Ehn's *Maid*. Other favorite roles include Gwendolyn in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Woman's Will) and Cheryl in Rebecca Gilman's *The American in Me* at the Magic Theatre, where she served as Literary Manager and Festival Director until 2002. She is a Ph.D. candidate in Theatre at the UC, Davis.

Zak Kilberg is thrilled to be making his West Coast debut in Golden Thread Productions' raw, progressive, political material. He is new to the Bay Area, arriving from Connecticut in May with a B.F.A in Acting from The Hartt School Conservatory. Zak spent two seasons at The Monomoy Theatre Summer Stock company on Cape Cod. There he played supporting roles in *Biloxi Blues*, *Amadeus*, *The School for Scandal* and many other plays. At school, he was lucky enough to portray Cassio in *Othello*, Costard in *Love's Labor's Lost* and Prior Walter in *Angels in America*.

Sara Luna is a seventeen-year-old senior at an East Bay high school. This is her first professional performance and she is excited to be participating with Golden Thread. Sara enjoyed performing in school plays and is thrilled to be expanding her experience in the performing arts. She would like to thank her family for all of their confidence and support.

Patrick MacKellan was most recently seen in Impact Theatre's *Macbeth*, directed by Melissa Hillman at the Subterranean Theatre in Berkeley, where he will also play Brabantio in *Othello* next season. Raised in Athens, Georgia, graduated from Florida State (Music Composition) and Emory (Divinity), Patrick has performed live theatre in four states and has sung on stage with Robert Shaw, Barry Manilow and Ralna English of *The Lawrence Welk Show*. Patrick has studied with Chris Herold, Cliff Osmond, Taylor Korobow, Sam Paris and the faculty of Studio ACT. A Californian for fourteen years, he resides in the Oakland hills.

SERIES 2 - Continued

Dinner/ Khnamakhos by Lilly Thomassian

Director	Meredith Weiss Friedman
Ani	Sara Luna
Mrs. Zarian	Sheri Bass
Mrs. Petrosian	Maxmilienne Ewalt
Mrs. Hacopian	Lisa Tateosian
Mr. Hacopian	David Fierro
Vahé	Zak Kilberg
Shaké	Katy Brown
Nazik	Ann Marie Donahue

SPECIAL EVENTS, FREE TO THE PUBLIC

***Taziyeh*, a Traditional Iranian Passion Play Historical context & contemporary experiments**

Presenters: Rebecca Ansary Pettys, theater scholar and artist;
Haleh Hatami, poet
Coordinated by Haleh Hatami

Saturday, September 18 at 4 pm, Noh Space

Playwrights' Roundtable Join the artists in an informal discussion on writing and the Middle East

Coordinated by Erin Blackwell

Sunday, October 3 at 4 pm, Noh Space

Playwriting Workshop

**Developing a Solo Performance Text.
Led by Betty Shamieh
September 19, 1:00 to 4:00 PM at Z Space.
Tuition \$50**

Artists' Biographies

Sheri Bass was born in Tehran where she received her B.F.A. in acting and directing. Productions in Iran: *Zytoon*, *The Condemned of Altona*, *Joan of Arc*, and *The Exception and the Rule*. She toured the one-woman show, *Medea*, by Dario Fo and Franca Rame to London this year and to an Iranian theater festival in Cologne, Germany, in 2000. Sheri performed in *Prometea in Evin*, an Iranian political play, in Los Angeles and other West Coast venues. Her most recent appearance in San Francisco was in *Salam Shalom*, directed by Mike Ward. Sheri is delighted to be a part of the Reorient Festival.

Ben Beecroft is 10 years old and a 5th grader at Tamalpais Valley School, where he has appeared in several school plays. Following acting classes at the Marin Theater Company, Ben appeared at the Magic Theater as the son in the world premiere of David Mamet's *Dr. Faustus*, directed by the playwright. The effect of that was that Ben was truly bitten by the acting bug! When not rehearsing, he is an avid roller hockey and baseball player and keeps his family entertained with his violin playing. Ben lives with his brother and sister, parents, Puss and Boots (cat and dog) and a lizard.

William Borden's scripts have won 37 national playwriting competitions and have had over 200 productions. The film version of his play, *The Last Prostitute*, was shown on Lifetime Television and in Europe and is available on video. His novel, *Superstoe*, was recently republished by Orloff Press. A Core Alumnus Playwright at The Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis, he is Playwright-in-Residence with Listening Winds Theatre. He is a member of PEN, The Dramatists Guild, ASCAP and the Authors Guild.

Toby Brooks is 15 years old and a freshman at Berkeley High. This is his second show with Golden Thread, the first being *Nine Armenians* at the Magic Theatre. Toby lives in Berkeley and has performed in many school plays as well as in *The Life of Galileo* at Berkeley Rep. He has also performed in the San Francisco Fringe Festival. Toby is happy to be back with Golden Thread.

Ann Marie Donahue is pleased to be working with Golden Thread Productions for the first time. She was most recently seen in The Pear Avenue Theatre's *Short Play Festival* in March and will soon be seen as a featured performer in the upcoming tv pilot, *B.I.T.C.H.*, for Erinys Productions. Ann Marie is also a professional photographer currently working on a multimedia collaboration with Bay Area musicians. She would like to thank her friends and family for their encouragement and smiles!

Kevin Doyle is a playwright and director who divides his time between Brooklyn and Quebec. He is the author of several plays, including *The Position, Not From Canada* and *The Amputated Years*. Earlier this year, his play, *Styrofoam*, was produced Off-Off-Broadway to critical acclaim. In October 2003, he directed the American premiere of *11 September 2001* by the French dramatist, Michel Vinaver. Kevin studied Drama Studies at Purchase College (SUNY) and this year he receives an M.A. in Theatre History & Criticism from Brooklyn College (CUNY). "I would like to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the staff at Golden Thread for presenting *Compression of a Casualty*. The hard work goes out to Wilson."

Fatma Durmush was born in Larnaca, Cyprus, in 1959. At the age of six, she migrated to England with her family and, despite a brief return to Cyprus in her teens, went to school in London and studied Humanities at the Open University for two years. Her work has been published in the Turkish language press and in the *Big Issue* and *Daily Express*. Fatma's collection of plays and short stories, *I Sit in the Light*, was published in 2000. She won first prize for poetry in the FATAL Short Story and Poetry Competition for Turkish Speaking Women in 1998. Her poems can be found in *Modern Poetry in Translation, New Series No. 17 – 2001*. Fatma writes in English.

Maxmillienne Ewalt has been acting in theatre, television, film and voice-over work for the past 15 years. Her favorite and most challenging theatrical role was Abbey Putnam in Eugene O'Neill's *Desire Under the Elms*. She has written and performed her own solo show, *Enough Chicken to Kill a Cow*, a piece she "had to write" while watching her mother slip into dementia. Maxmillienne has been seen in numerous commercials and on tv's *Nash Bridges*. She is delighted to be in her first production with Golden Thread.

David Fierro is very excited to be making his debut with Golden Thread Productions. A California Arts Scholar, David has performed with a variety of local theater companies, including the Ross Valley Players, the College of Marin, Marilyn Izdebski Productions and the Marin Civic Light Opera. He is most proud of his work with the Mountain Play, where he has appeared for the last three years -- in *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Annie* and *My Fair Lady* -- and for his work as Pistol in Marin Shakespeare's production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. He is also an accomplished filmmaker. His last film, *The Martini Shot*, won an award for his screenplay at the Atlantic City Film Festival. He is best known for his appearance on tv's *Love Connection* where, sadly, he did not make a love connection!

Director **Meredith Weiss Friedman's** credits include work with the Aurora Theatre Company, Shotgun Players, TheatreFIRST and the Magic Theatre's newly formed Theatre Gymnasium. Most recent directing projects include *The Odd Couple* in Pleasanton and a staged reading of Karen Macklin's *Mr. President* for CAFÉ/Off-Market. A newish resident of the Bay Area, Meredith received an M.F.A. in Directing from the University of Portland in Oregon. Credits there include *Refuge*, *The Seagull* and *The Rose Tattoo*. Much thanks to Torange, Lily, the production crew and cast for all your invaluable support and hard work. And, of course, love and gratitude to Jon, without whom nothing is possible.

Hal Gelb is a writer/director. For Golden Thread, he directed *Security* (Israel Horovitz), *What a Beautiful Voice Is Sayeda's* (el Guindi), *Deep Cut* (Alrawi) and *Voices and Stoning* (Rabihavi). He's also staged plays by Hare, Mamet, Pinter, Fugard, Guare, Moliere, Mednick, Schevill, Genet and Bullins. Hal's media work has been aired on PBS, KTVU, TV20, KQED and been shown by UN agencies, the Brussels world conference on the environment and the Museum of Modern Art (NYC). As a writer, he translated *The Misanthrope*, contributed to the Samuel French version of Dario Fo's *We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!* and Golden Thread's *Love Missile*, told the true story of Bill and Monica in *Executive Ardor* and is the West Coast theater critic for *The Nation*. It was his idea and early work that turned Theatre Bay Area, the theater support group, into an organization that represents theater companies as well as individual artists.

Marc Hagan has enhanced over 100 productions from Shakespeare to Children's Theater in various parts of the world. Back grounded in radio production, he soon brought this audio dynamic to the stage. His most recent sound patterns were for Twelfth Night, I Do, I Do, Lady in the Dark, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Othello, Glass Menagerie and Amedeus ad nauseam. At the millennium he returned from Japan where he scored many theater, radio and television productions, which makes him somewhat qualified for sounding out this production; even though, without a working knowledge of the Middle east he wasn't sure if he was recording a hymn or a tribal war chant.

Tiffany Harrison has studied theatre haphazardly, but with sinister intent. Some of her favorite roles include the antisocial messenger of death, Mercade, in *Love's Labor's Lost*, the tongueless Philomele in *The Love Song of the Nightingale* and the gender-bending Moss in a 25-minute, Chinese-food-fueled production of *Glengary Glen Ross* at the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival two wild summers ago. She's thrilled to be playing a tomato and Soledad O'Brien — and all in one night! Theatre ain't dead, after all