

Bernadette Quattrone feels lucky to be able to play Karima once again, a character that is very inspiring in less than inspiring times. Bernadette has performed with Golden Thread Productions in ReOrient 2001 and 2003. In the Bay area she has worked with Word for Word, The Willows Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, New Conservatory Theatre, Impact Theatre, Broken Buddha Productions and The Napa Valley Shakespeare Festival. She is a company member of the Bay Area's all-female Shakespeare Company, Woman's Will, where she played her favorite role of Angelica Bianca in *The Rover*. Bernadette teaches drama at the Marin School of Arts and Technology and The Willows Theatre Conservatory.

Torange Yeghiazarian writes, acts and directs for the theatre. A graduate of San Francisco State University, she is the founder and artistic director of Golden Thread Productions

Vida Ghahremani is a veteran of TV, stage and screen with numerous credits in both Iranian and Hollywood productions. She is also a painter and designer. An active member of the Iranian community in the Bay Area, Vida currently teaches Theatre and Persian conversation at the Persian Center in Berkeley.

Thank You!

Aida Hood, Dave and Judy Quattrone, Richard Beeler, The Yeghiazarian Family, Melissa Yeghiazarian, Joanna Nelson, Denmo Ibrahim, Ali Dadgar, Lynne Soffer, Golden Thread Productions Board, Artistic Staff, Volunteers and the donors that made this trip possible.

Golden Thread Productions is dedicated to exploring Middle Eastern culture and identity as represented throughout the globe. We define the Middle East broadly and inclusively.

In addition to staged readings, workshops and special events, we produce ReOrient, an annual festival of plays about or written by playwrights from the Middle East.

In 2005, we will produce a week of Women's Writing & Women's Performance. Send us a proposal and work sample to be considered.

SEND US YOUR PLAYS!!!

Golden Thread Productions
131 Tenth St. San Francisco, CA. 94103 USA
www.goldenthread.org



Karima's City

Golden Thread Productions is proud to represent San Francisco and the United States at the Cairo International Festival. It is quite a rare occurrence for an American company to be invited to this festival. In fact, the cultural exchange between the U.S. and the Middle East is dishearteningly infrequent. We are thrilled to take our mission of creating a bridge to Middle Eastern culture one step further by presenting a play that is about the Middle East in the Middle East by a multicultural cast.

Karima's City is based on a short story by Salwa Bakr, one of Egypt's preeminent feminist writers, and adapted to the stage by Yussef El Guindi, an Egyptian American. The play was first produced at ReOrient 2003, an annual festival of plays about or written by playwrights from the Middle East. *Karima's City* is set in Cairo but its universal theme of an individual fighting to maintain her identity against society's ever expanding dominance rings true everywhere.

Golden Thread Productions has worked diligently to bring the Middle East to the San Francisco Bay Area. Today, we have a rare opportunity to take San Francisco's open heart and bright talents to the Middle East. We are honored to be a part of such impressive array of international artists.

Thank you for being here.

Torange.

Karima's City by Yussef El Guindi

Director	Arlene Hood
Choreographer	Angela Demmel
Original Sound Design	Steven Klems
Original Lighting Design	Paul Measom
Original Costume Design	Keri Fitch
Original Props	Garrett Westfall
Stage Manager	Coyote Days
Sound Operator	Lisa Medina
Producer	Torange Yeghiazarian

The Cast

Karima	Bernadette Quattrone
Mother & Ensemble	Vida Ghahremani
Mr. Aziz & Ensemble	Leo Rodriguez
Nadia & Ensemble	Simin Yahaghi
Nurse & Ensemble	Deborah Ben-Elizier
Special Tree & Ensemble	Patrick Alparone

Who's Who

Yussef El Guindi, although primarily a playwright, has also been active as a poet, actor and filmmaker. His adaptation of Chekhov's *A Marriage Proposal*, staged by the Arab Theatrical Arts Guild in Dearborn, MI, was nominated for several PAGE awards including Outstanding Achievement in Original Play or Adaptation. His last poem, *Crossing Borders*, was published on placards and placed on buses as part of Seattle's Poetry and Art on Buses. His short film, *Love Stalks*, won an award for best short narrative film at the Seattle Underground Film Festival and was aired on KTEH. A native of Egypt, Yussef holds an MFA in Playwriting from Carnegie-Melon.

Arlene Hood has been directing with Golden Thread Productions for the past four years. Besides freelancing as a bay area director and actress, Arlene is the theatre arts instructor and the chair of the Visual and Performing Arts department at Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward. Her students have received numerous awards and recognition for their outstanding work. During her tenure as department chair at MCHS, the Visual and Performing Arts department has twice received an award for outstanding excellence from the California Alliance for Arts Education. She has a theatre arts degree from CSU Hayward and is a board member of the California Educational Theatre Association. An avid traveler, Arlene has had the opportunity to direct and perform for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the Festival of Amathus in Cyprus.

Deborah Ben-Eliezer, an actor, dancer and puppeteer, is delighted to return to the cast of *Karima's City* for this festival. She holds a B.A. in Acting, Cum Laude from San Francisco State University. Favorite roles include Oliver Martext in *As You Like It*, Caliban in *The Tempest*, and Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*. As the Co-Artistic Director of Eclipse Dance Theater, she has also directed and performed in several original productions. Offstage she is a professional voice-over for video games and toys. She dedicates this performance to her Iraqi grandparents.

Prior to moving to California, **Tara Coyote Days** worked professionally as a stage manager in Oregon. She stage managed the original production of *Karima's City* and is thrilled to revive this production in Cairo.

A native to the Bay Area, **Angela Demmel** has been dancing, teaching and choreographing modern, jazz and musical theatre for the past several years. She received her Bachelor of Art degree in Theatre Arts, Dance Emphasis from California State University, Hayward. Upon completion she was awarded a Graduate Teaching Fellowship at the University of Oregon, Eugene where she focused her studies on theatre/dance integration. Ms. Demmel currently works full time as director of dance at Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward and is a part time lecturer at CSU- Hayward.

Simin Yahagi last performed in 1999 in a Shakespeare Festival in Bologna, Italy. She lives in Oakland where she teaches yoga and is an intern with KPFA Radio.

Patrick Alparone recently graduated from Sonoma State University. Recent credits include Constantine in *Big Love*, Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and the Monkey King in *Monkey King and Other Children's Stories from around the World*. This November he can be seen in *Director's Cut: a Feast of 1-Page Plays* at the Phoenix Theater

Leo Rodriguez loves traveling to do theater. International travels include the International Women's Playwrights Festival in Galway, Ireland and The First Amathus Festival in Cyprus where he played Tiresius in Euripides *The Bacchae*. In the U.S., Leo played Long John Silver in the Missoula Children's Theater tour of *Treasure Island*. Other roles include Angelo (*Measure for Measure*), Sir Toby Belch (*Twelfth Night*), Mr. Toad (*The Wind and the Willows*), and Creon (Maria Lampidara-dou Pothous's *Antigone: Or the Nostalgia of Tragedy*). Musicals include *Ain't Misbehavin*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum* (Pseudolous), *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, and *Man of La Mancha*. Leo is currently working on a one-man show called Chosen, which goes into production in late October.