

GOLDEN THREAD PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS WEST COAST PREMIERE



AMREEKA: THE COMEDY SHOW

Friday, May 12, 2023, 8:00 PM
presented at Brava Theater Center

☆ HEADLINER ☆



A Canadian, a Palestinian, a Muslim, and a lesbian walk into a bar... it's just **Eman El-Husseini**. Yes, she's all those catastrophic identities rolled into one — her life is a current event. From the Muslim ban to Palestinian rights and marriage equality to the ice cream truck that insists on parking in front of her building, it's all happening and it's happening to her, especially. Strap in and get comfortable, Eman has a lot to work through. In her decade-long comedy career, Eman has headlined across Canada, opened for Patton Oswalt, and recorded her first comedy album, "Unveiled," which can be heard regularly on SiriusXM Radio. She currently lives in New York City, legally, thank you very much. emanentertainment.com

☆ FEATURING ☆



Usama Siddiquee (formerly known by his stage name "Usama Bin Laughin") is completely comfortable with writing a bio about himself in third person. His absolute ease should already be impressing you by now. And if you thought that last paragraph was self-serving, here is a shameless list of Usama's achievements. He is on Netflix's *Inventing Anna*, HBO's *And Just Like That*, Comedy Central's *Nora from Queens*, and FX's *Better Things*. Wow! He most recently was featured on the 2020 season of *America's Got Talent*. He traveled to Montreal as one of the New Faces at Just For Laughs in 2018. Shortly after he was passed at the world-famous Comedy Cellar in New York. usamastandsup.com



Jackie Keliiaa is a stand-up comedian, writer, and actor based in Oakland, California. You can find her in the 2021 release, *We Had a Little Real Estate Problem: The Unheralded Story of Native Americans & Comedy*. She has been featured on Comedy Central, Team Coco, Netflix and IllumiNative's 25 Native American Comedians to Follow. Jackie has opened for Judah Friedlander, Nikki Glaser, JR De Guzman and is featured on the First Nations Comedy Experience streaming on Amazon Prime. She is a regular at Bay Area venues and has performed at San Francisco SketchFest, Punch Line San Francisco and Cobb's Comedy Club. jackiecomedy.com

☆ MASTER OF CEREMONIES ☆



Charles McBee is a stand-up comedian based out of New York City by way of Toledo, Ohio. He has performed at clubs and colleges across the country, with appearances on Laughs, Punchline, and Gotham Comedy Live. His television writing credits include MTV's Video Music Awards, VH1's Hip Hop Honors, and The Golden Globe Awards. Currently, he is the head writer of Comedy Central's *Hell Of A Week with Charlamagne Tha God*, executive-produced by Stephen Colbert and Aaron McGruder. charlesmcbee.com

☆ PROGRAM CURATOR ☆



Iraqi-born artist **Wafaa Bilal** is known internationally for his on-line performative and interactive works provoking dialogue about international and interpersonal politics. Bilal's work explores tensions between the cultural spaces he occupies —his home in the comfort zone of the U.S. and his consciousness in the conflict zone in Iraq. For his 2007 installation, *Domestic Tension*, Bilal spent a month in FlatFile Galleries where people could shoot him via a remote-access paintball gun. The Chicago Tribune called it "one of the sharpest works of political art to be seen in a long time"—naming him 2008 Artist of the Year. That year, City Lights published *Shoot an Iraqi: Art, Life and Resistance Under the Gun* about Bilal's life and *Domestic Tension*. Using his own body as a medium, Bilal continued to challenge the public's comfort zone with projects like *3rdi* and *and Counting....* Bilal's work, *Canto III*, was included as part of the Iranian pavilion at the 2015 Venice Biennale. Bilal's current work *168:01* brings awareness to cultural destruction and promotes the collective healing process through education and audience participation. His work can be found in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL; MATHAF: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar; amongst others. He holds a BFA from the University of New Mexico, an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and was conferred an honorary PhD from DePaul University. Bilal is currently an Arts Professor at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. wafaabilal.com

GOLDEN THREAD STAFF

Sahar Assaf, Executive Artistic Director
Heather Rastovac Akbarzadeh, Program Manager,
Golden Thread Fairytale Players
Amal Bisharat, 2023 TBA Arts Leadership Resident
Sheila Devitt, Marketing and Engagement Manager
Linda Maria Girón, Operations Associate
Navid G. Maghami, Art Director
Michelle Mulholland, Managing Director
Soluna Espinosa Pieb, Development and Patron
Services Associate
Wendy Reyes, Production Associate

ABOUT GOLDEN THREAD

Founded in 1996, **Golden Thread Productions** is the first American theatre company devoted to the Middle East. Golden Thread produces passionate and provocative plays from and about the Middle East that celebrate the multiplicity of its perspectives and identities. Golden Thread is a developmental catalyst and vibrant artistic home to artists at various stages of their career. Golden Thread brings the Middle East to the American stage, creating treasured cultural experiences for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Our headquarters are located on the ancestral home of the Ramaytush Ohlone. www.goldenthread.org

PROGRAM CREDITS

Maxwell Bowman, Light Designer
Mikki Johnson, Stage Manager
Alba Lluch, Brava Production Manager
Drea Schwartz, Brava Technical Director
Jaime Serra dos Santos, Brava Lead Sound Engineer
Arielle Flinkman, Brava Audio Deck Assistant
Angelica Rodriguez, Brava Venue manager
Golda Sarmiento, Brava House Manager
Marisa Ramos, Brava Marketing Director

GOLDEN THREAD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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