

OPERATION

NO

PENETRATION

Lysistrata 97!

An outrageous comedy about sex and war.

Adapted by Torange Yeghiazarian
Based on Kenneth Mc Liesh's translation of
Aristophanes' Lysistrata

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Pamela Beitz	Lysistrata
Bella Ramzan-Nia	Kalonike, Chorus
Reema Bahnasy	Myrhine, Women's Chorus Leader
Jennifer Darya Maghsoudi	Lampito, Door Keeper, Chorus
Janet Acio	Chiapas Delegate, Defector, Chorus
Maria Zamroud	Chinese Delegate
Dylin Redling	Men's Chorus Leader
Siamak Mirnezami	Chorus, Messenger
Clarence A Mitchell	Chorus, Citizen
Ali Dadgar	Chorus, Kinesias
Greg Denzler	Senator
Von Scott Bair	Palestinian Ambassador
Peter McCarron	Israeli Ambassador
Koorosh Angali	Iranian Ambassador

PRODUCTION STAFF

Torange Yeghiazarian	Director
Maria Zamroud	Stage Manager
Guodrun Eysteinsdottir	Technical Director
Veronica Arana	Set Design
Vida Ghahremani	Costume Design
Jodie Ferguson	Lighting Design
Shahzad Khorsandi	Dance Choreography
Paul Sherman	Fight Choreography
Gen Hayashida	Master Carpenter
Kathryn Snavely	Set & Prop Builder/Painter
Luisa Leung	Set & Prop Builder/Painter
Nancy Hormachea	Publicity
Roshanak Sirjani	Publicity
Emily Shihadeh	Advisor

There will be a 10 minute intermission

This production could not have happened without the help of many dear friends and colleagues. The staff at San Francisco Theatre Arts department, Mohammad Kowsar, Erika, Dan and Mark, Wendy and.... Darvag Theatre Group, Mansour and Afsaneh Taeed, Kiumars Hakim, Helen Hirmand, Marcia Kimmel and Lewis Campbel of the Next Stage, Barbara Lubin of Middle East Children's Alliance. My friends at Chiron Corporation for their enthusiastic support, my family who has always been there for me, and most importantly the love of my life, Kamshad Kooshan.

THE PLAY

Produced in 411 BC, Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* is one of the most popular of the extant Greek comedies. It followed shortly on a disastrous phase of Athens's war with Sparta. Many of Aristophanes plays use a utopian premise to criticize war. *Lysistrata* addresses the politics of its time in a variety of ways. Lampooning the politicians of the time and Athens's expansionist policies on the one hand, and utilizing the social inferiority of the women in Athens as a comic ploy, on the other hand. Aristophanes was a master at highlighting social hypocrisies. But at the same time the play is by no means "feminist" in its approach. Aristophanes pleads for peace and advocates family values of his own time, seeing women as child bearers and home makers with sexuality being their only weapon.

THE ADAPTATION

To fully reap the sows of Aristophanes political commentary, a contemporary adaptation needs to address the politics of its own time. Certainly the role of women in our society has changed, albeit slightly!, from Aristophanes' era. This cannot be ignored. War remains, but the players are different. The United States may be the Athens of today; the global leader, economically and militarily. This adaptation focuses on the relationship between the US and the Middle East. Islamic Fundamentalism is currently being thrown around as the one remaining enemy, the force that threatens "Democracy" in the world today. In this production Iran is being presented as a background player, with Palestine and Israel as the main warring parties. The play is really designed to speak directly to its audience, however. And since it is being produced in the US, it seems important to set the play in the US as well. In this production, the Jewish-American *Lysistrata* along with the Palestinian-American Kalonike, unite women from around the world, including the Iranian Lampito, to join in on a global sex strike in order to force men to stop war and sign the World Peace treaty. The play attempts to emphasize the global nature of war in our time and the need for a global peace settlement.

Torange Yeghiazarian

Torange Yeghiazarian, an Iranian-born Bay Area artist and San Francisco State Theatre Arts alumnus, is directing her adaptation of Kenneth McLiesh's lively translation of Aristophanes' **Lysistrata**. Torange's directorial debut was in 1994 with **WAVES** which premiered at the San Francisco Fringe Festival to sold out audiences and received favorable reviews from Bay Area critics. Torange has had the pleasure of collaborating with the **San Francisco Mime Troupe** in writing **Torch**, a play about proposition 187 and anti-immigrant sentiments in California. At San Francisco State University, Torange directed Albert Camus' **Caligula** and Saadeh Hedaayat's **Behind Glass Window**. Torange's performances in Persian include Farhad Ayeesh's **Comedy of Last Supper** recently staged at **Darvag** and **A Woman Alone**, a one woman play by Dario Fo, at the Live Oak Theatre in Berkeley.

Who's who in the cast ...

PAMELLA BEITZ Currently teaches at San Francisco State University after graduating from its Theatre Arts program with honors.

BELLA RAMZAN-NIA Born and raised in Iran. Has been a Berkeley resident since 1980 and is a founding member of the Darvag Theater group from its inception in 1985. Bella has acted in nineteen Darvag productions and has collaborated with other Bay area theater groups.

REEMA BAHNASY A star-gazing Sagittarius, Reema likes long walks on the beach and smores in the sand. Reema came to acting at the behest of her Doctor who thought theater would be a good therapy for her severe case of Road Rage. She is, however, currently working on her issues and will be entering the Betty Ford Road Rage Clinic as soon as "Operation No Penetration" closes. To pay the bills, Reema is one of the assimilated thousands who e-mails her way through the 9 to 5 day. Presently sucking the last drops to come out of the parental spigot, Reema is desperately looking for an apartment in the City. So, if you've any leads.....

JANET ACIO She finally has a biography ! Whoopee ! Hallelujah ! Praise the Lord !. She's going to graduate from San Francisco State University (only three units to go). That's all there is.

JENNIFER DARYA MAGHSOUDI Jennifer is a Theatre Arts Graduate of San Francisco State University. She has acted with the Belasco Theatre Company and in S.F. State University productions. This is her first venture into updated Greek Comedy and she's enjoying every minute of it.

DYLIN REDLING Dylin began acting at HB Studio in New York, and has trained at ACT and Bay Area Theatre sports in San Francisco. He appeared on stage in "Phaedra's Love", and will be performing "Our Dyke House". His film credits include "The Loner Type X".

"Distracted", "Harold Darling!" and "What Dreams May Come". Special thank you to Allison for her love and support.

SIAMAK MIRNEZAMI Born in Abadan-Iran, Sep. 6th 1957. Siamak received his engineering degree in England where he lived for 23 years before making his way to warmer and sunnier Bay Area. This is Siamak's first foray into acting. And as he says "It's only a diversion, I am not giving up my day job!".

CLARENCE A. MITCHELL Born in Vallejo, CA in 1946. My first play was "Spoon River" in 1984, in which I played five roles. After attending acting classes at City College and A.C.T., I began acting in independent films. My toughest role was a solo performance of "White Sands At The Marsh" using my own material. I hope to do more solo performances in the future.

ALI DADGAR Born in Iran in 1963. Has been in the United States since 1977. In the past 12 years, Visual Arts (painting, drawing, sculpture,...) have been his main format for Artistic expression. "Art for Art's sake", has been Ali's guiding light and made him what he is now. An active member of the Darvag Theater Company (Iranian Theatre group based in Berkeley), he has performed continuously in the past 6 years. Catering to cultural gypsies of the borderlands, in Persian and English. "I have discovered another format, and I have become addicted to it, I am yet to master it."

GREG DENZLER A low -budget Bon Vivant of undocumented enthusiasms, Greg has gracefully submitted to Thespian Quarantine on stage, screen and mike. Most recently, he broke into French-language Theatre (encountering no resistance worth mentioning), disguised as the Scholar in Moliere's "The Jealous Husband" and as God in Boris Vian's "To Each His Own Serpent". Look for him in "Love Without Pliers", an ongoing saga about one man's lonely struggle with varicose Brains. Behind his flamboyant personae lurks a man who likes plenty of naps.

VON SCOTT BAIR Von Scott Bair celebrates the first anniversary of his acting career with this, his lucky 13th role. In 1998, he will produce stage readings of his plays "Revelations" and "The way of the Theatre", as well as continuing his new career. His only question: "Why didn't I discover Theatre 25 years ago?".

PETER MCCARRON Is a veteran San Francisco Bay Area thespian. This production marks the third time he has been in Lysistrata.

KOOROSH ANGALI Born in Abadan, Iran, Koorosh Angali as a painter, poet, musician and performance artist is one of the most versatile artists around. His recent CD "Koorosh Angali Recites Rumi", has been one of the most successful projects within the world of cultural/music releases.

Golden Thread Productions

Golden Thread Productions is made up of people who support the presentation of theatrical works, original writings or adaptations, that are centered on the issues of the Middle East and its people. In Spring 98 Golden Thread will be presenting **Behind Glass Windows**, a stage adaptation of a short story by Saadegh Hedaayat, one of the most popular and well respected Iranian writers. Golden Thread productions is actively seeking writers, directors and designers to join its growing list of collaborators. If you feel your name should be on that list, leave us a note on our signing book at the box office.