



Golden Thread Productions Proudly Presents  
A Middle East America Initiative World Premiere

# night OVER ERZINGA

by Adriana Sevahn Nichols  
directed by Hafiz Karmali

September 15 to October 9, 2011  
South Side Theatre  
Fort Mason Center, San Francisco

## From the Artistic Director

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We at Golden Thread Productions are thrilled to open our 2011 season with the inaugural production of the Middle East America: A National New Plays Initiative (MEA). The initiative was launched after a three-year conversation with our partners at Silk Road Theatre Project in Chicago and the Lark Play Development Center in New York to map out a plan for discovering and developing promising Middle Eastern-American playwrights with the goal of enriching the canon of American Theatre, an ambitious agenda made possible only by the strength of a national partnership. During the selection process in 2008, we were blown away by the passion in Adriana's proposal and her successful track record with her award-winning solo show, *TAKING FLIGHT*. We were also delighted to present the inaugural Middle East America award to a woman of mixed blood, one who reflects our image of a diverse Middle East and a diverse United States. *NIGHT OVER ERZINGA* is an American story, a shared immigrant story that reminds us how this country was built and continues to grow.

I would like to thank Levon der Bedrossian who signed on to this ambitious project back in 2009. In 2010, he made a week-long play development workshop possible, a luxury we could not otherwise afford. Embarrassing Levon is only one reason to mention his contribution. Another reason is to highlight the significant role each of you play in bringing our stories to life. If you agree that playwrights like Adriana Sevahn Nichols must be supported, if you share our belief that stories like *NIGHT OVER ERZINGA* must be told, then partner with us and make it happen.

Your next opportunity will be in November when we stage the west coast premiere of *LANGUAGE ROOMS* by Yussef el Guindi who happens to be the 2nd Middle East America Distinguished Playwright award-recipient. We will need the early investment of individuals like you to initiate the long term development and world premiere of Yussef's MEA-commissioned play, currently titled, *THE PLAY YOU ARE WATCHING*.

The third premiere of the 2011 season will be *RUMI X 7: SEVEN TALES FROM THE MASNAVI*, conceived and directed by Hafiz Karmali who so beautifully directed tonight's play. *RUMI X 7* is a dynamic performance with live music developed for family entertainment just in time for the holidays. Ask for it at a museum or cultural center near you.

Tonight the ancestors are present in the house. They invite us to watch, listen and learn from their experience. Thank you for being here.

**Torange Yeghiazarian**

## From the Managing Director

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There are certain projects that invoke the eternal, that engage and challenge, that transcend the stage, *NIGHT OVER ERZINGA* is such an endeavor. Three years ago this story was simply an idea, a playwright yearning to tell the story of her ancestors and in search of her own. What Adriana couldn't have imagined, is the impact her words, her narrative would have on everyone who's been part of this production. For me, it's been a deeply personal journey, with my family, my identity as an Armenian, the reevaluation of what it means to be an American. It has also given me the courage to return to my own memories of growing up in Lebanon during the wars, in shadowing of my grandparents' experiences during and after the Armenian Genocide.

*NIGHT OVER ERZINGA* marks my third year as the Managing Director of Golden Thread. During this time I have had the privilege of working alongside Torange, a visionary and a pioneer in every sense of the word; and our small yet dedicated Board of Trustees, whose commitment to the organization and its mission has been a source of inspiration when I've needed it most. On behalf of the staff, the Board, all the volunteers and artists that constitute the core of Golden Thread, welcome to the World Premiere of *NIGHT OVER ERZINGA*.

**Serge Bakalian**



*Golden Thread Productions Board of Trustees 2011*

# NIGHT OVER ERZINGA

by Adriana Sevahn Nichols

directed by Hafiz Karmali

<b>Natalie Amanian</b>	Estrella, Anoushig, Aghavni, Gariné
<b>Neva Marie Hutchinson*</b>	Older Alice, Veronica, Mrs. Postoian, and others
<b>Terry Lamb*</b>	Older Ardavazdt, Aram, Doctor
<b>Sarita Ocón</b>	Older Estrella, Sariné, Sahiba, and others
<b>Lawrence Radecker</b>	Cop, Alberto, Turkish Soldiers, and others
<b>Juliet Tanner</b>	Alice Oghidanian, Ava/Aghavni
<b>Brian Trybom</b>	Ardavazdt Oghidanian, Bienvenido Raymundo

<b>Production Stage Manager</b>	Wesley Apfel*
<b>Music Composition</b>	Penka Kouneva Ayana Haviv – Voice Norik Manukian – Duduk Kirsten Vogelsang – Cello

<b>Scenic Design</b>	Mikiko Uesugi*
<b>Lighting Design</b>	Jim Cave
<b>Costume Design</b>	Michelle Mulholland
<b>Sound Design</b>	Mitchell Greenhill
<b>Prop Mistress</b>	Valerie M. Niles

<b>Vocal Coach</b>	John Lehrack
<b>Armenian Dance Coach</b>	Lisa Tateosian
<b>Youth Acting Coach</b>	Valerie Weak

<b>Production Manager</b>	Jocelyn Thompson
<b>Technical Director</b>	Aaron Niles
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b>	Jenna Stuart
<b>Production Assistant</b>	Deane Brannen-Jurgenson
<b>Scenic Painter</b>	Julie Gillespie
<b>Master Electrician</b>	Alejandro Acosta
<b>Electrician</b>	Azi Crawford
<b>Dresser</b>	Abby Edber
<b>Lighting Board Operator</b>	Lannie Gower

<b>Graphic Design</b>	Navid G. Maghami   NaMa Design Studio
<b>Photography</b>	David Allen Studio
<b>Publicity</b>	Sagacity Communications
<b>Marketing Coordinator</b>	Annette Dilanchian
<b>Study Guide</b>	Lucinda Kidder

*\*Member Actors' Equity Association, United Scenic Artists*

Commissioned by Middle East America: A National New Plays Initiative, created and managed by Golden Thread Productions (San Francisco), Lark Play Development Center (New York) and Silk Road Theatre Project (Chicago).

This production is made possible in part by significant contribution from Levon der Bedrossian and generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts, San Francisco Arts Commission, Zellerbach Foundation and countless individual donors. Golden Thread Productions is grateful for operational support from the San Francisco Grants for the Arts and the Hewlett Foundation.

This Theatre operates under an agreement with Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

## From the Playwright

The process of creating NIGHT OVER ERZINGA has been a deeply personal one. A journey of going home and a grand daughter's attempt at trying to make whole, that which had been shattered by the events of 1915, 1938, and 1968. My sincerest thanks to the partners of the Middle East America Award, Golden Thread Productions, Silk Road Rising, and the Lark Play Development Center. You believed in the story, before it was written, and because of your faith in me, I was able to enter the darkest and most difficult places. However in doing so, what was unearthed, was not just pain and tears... there was also great joy and an embracing I felt from my ancestors guiding me and urging me to go on. I would like to honor my mother and father and two aunts who generously shared pictures and stories that helped to inspire and ground my point of departure as I moved from trying to archive a documentary into writing a play. A special thank you to Daniella Topol, John Eisner, Michael Robertson, and the Lark Play Development Center, for being my light-house, so each time I was willing to get lost on the page, I was able to find my way back to the story. Thank you to my husband, Jonathan for being such a source of love and support, daily, as I traveled this path. And thank you to Torange Yeghiazarian, Hafiz Karmali, Serge Bakalian, the entire Erzinga company, designers, crew, and Golden Thread family for all you have each contributed to bringing NIGHT OVER ERZINGA to life.

In 2009, I traveled to Western Anatolia with twenty other Armenians, on personal pilgrimages. As I stood on the warm brown earth in Erzinga, inhaled the purple irises in Shabin Karahissar, put my hands into the warm waters of the Euphrates, and danced under Mt. Ararat, I knew in my cells that I had found what I had been searching for all of my life...a belonging to something eternal, that cannot be explained, or taken from me. I had found home.

Thank you for taking this journey with us. May it inspire you to ask for the stories, remember the ancestors, and most importantly...to go home.

**Adriana Sevahn Nichols.**

## From the Director

NIGHT OVER ERZINGA - what a beautiful title for a play. Not only because it evokes a magical starry sky (cf. Van Gogh, Matisse et al) but also because it conveys a sense of the darkness that fell upon humanity during the tragic events of the Armenian genocide. But as day follows night, the Armenian spirit lives on in generations of paternal and maternal love.

Adriana Sevahn Nichols (or Sevahn as I like to call her) has conjured a deeply moving play about the enduring nature of the human spirit in the face of unspeakable tragedy, mental trauma, marital woes and filial rebellion. We are reminded to love and forgive.

The abstract production design and heightened performance style enable us to explore the landscape of the mind: nostalgia for an idyllic youth; haunting memories; obsessive thoughts; regrets; nightmares/dreams....

Thank you Adriana, Torange, the entire Erzinga company and Golden Thread Productions.

**Hafiz Karmali.**



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## Middle East America: A National New Plays Initiative

The Middle East America Initiative is a first-of-its-kind tri-coastal collaboration created and managed by San Francisco's Golden Thread Productions, New York's Lark Play Development Center, and Chicago's Silk Road Theatre Project. It is designed to encourage and support the development of Middle Eastern-American playwrights and plays of the highest artistic caliber and to enrich the canon of American dramatic literature. The program aims to challenge both the lack of representation and the one-dimensional stereotypical representation of persons of Middle Eastern descent on America's stages.

The Middle East America Distinguished Playwright award is granted every other year to an American writer of Middle Eastern background and comes with a \$10,000 commission to write a new play of the author's choice, artistic development support for two years and possible productions at both Silk Road and Golden Thread. During the commissioned play's development and production arc, representatives of each partner organization, along with the playwright will travel to each city—Chicago, New York, and San Francisco—to observe the play's creative process and to engage in public conversations and panel events about Middle Eastern-American voices.

NIGHT OVER ERZINGA is the inaugural production of the Middle East America Initiative and the result of Adriana Sevahn Nichols' award in 2008. The 2010 recipient, Yussef el Guindi proposes to write a play that explores representations of the Middle East in today's America. The working title of Yussef's play is - THE PLAY YOU ARE WATCHING. Watch for it in 2014 at a theatre near you!

[www.middleeastamerica.org](http://www.middleeastamerica.org)

## Education at Golden Thread Productions

Ten years have passed since the events of September 11 changed us and our relationship to the Middle East forever. While the Middle East has dominated the news for more than a decade, most Americans' knowledge of the region and its people remain superficial at best. Simultaneously, the rapid growth of immigrant communities of Middle Eastern background in the US has resulted in increasing numbers of children and youth from the region who remain under-served in their artistic and cultural education.

This year, Golden Thread developed an innovative theatre education curriculum rooted in Middle Eastern arts and literature. A core group of teaching artists, most bilingual and of Middle Eastern background, will be trained to lead classes and workshops. Additionally, Golden Thread will offer a two-day training program for teaching artists focused on Middle Eastern history, arts and literature taught by university professors and leading artists in the field.

By providing theatre education rooted in Middle Eastern arts and literature, Golden Thread's Education Program addresses the parallel needs of youth and equips arts educators with much needed overview of the region and its culture. The multifaceted program has three main arms: Teaching Residencies at schools and cultural organizations; the Fairytale Players creating and touring performances based on Middle Eastern stories; and Student Matinee Performances supported by detailed study guides tied to California Education Standards.

Partner with us to support this burgeoning program. To find out more about how to get involved, e-mail [Torange@goldenthread.org](mailto:Torange@goldenthread.org).



# Who's Who

**Natalie Amanian** (*Estrella, Anoushig, Aghavni, Gariné*) born in October 2002



is a 4th-grade student at KZV Armenian School where she studies English and Armenian Language, history and social Studies. How can we forget her favorite subject, Math? She also belongs to tennis, basketball and Armenian Scouts (Homenetmen) clubs. Natalie is very happy to make her theatrical debut with Golden Thread Productions and has this to say about NIGHT OVER ERZINGA, "I am the first American-Armenian generation in my family. I am confused about what happened to Armenians in 1915. My grandfather told me that my great grandfather and his 6 year old brother were the only survivors in his family; they were rescued by a Turkish family then sent to an orphanage in Syria. I can relate to my Grandfather in NIGHT OVER ERZINGA, as he could have been one of my great grandfathers leaving his family behind, without knowing what actually happened to them. Each Armenian's journey may have been different but the cause was the same. The only way we can preserve our heritage is by never forgetting where we actually come from."

**Wesley Apfel\*** (*Production Stage Manager*) has recently landed in Northern California after ten years in New York. Recently: ONCE IN A MILLION MOONS with 42nd Street Moon. Favorite credits include: THE BOYS FROM SYRACUSE, THE GRADUATE, FESTEN (Broadway); MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN (with Meryl Streep); ON THE TOWN, 1776, KISS

ME KATE (Paper Mill Playhouse); ART, SEE ROCK CITY AND OTHER DESTINATIONS (Barrington Stage); BYE BYE BIRDIE (Encores); the original NY productions of GUTENBERG THE MUSICAL!, BAT BOY, THE MUSICAL OF MUSICALS, LITTLE FISH, CYCLING PAST THE MATTERHORN (with Shirley Knight) and THE THING ABOUT MEN. Production Supervisor and five years as Stage Manager for the SPF Summer Play Festival.

**Deane Brannen-Jurgenson** (*Production Assistant*) born and raised in Berkeley, CA. also spent her undergraduate years at the University of California, Berkeley, focusing on German Language and Literature, as well as Theater and Film Studies. She is excited to be jumping right into theater production and management here in San Francisco, and plans to continue her theater education in the future, hopefully at locations other than the Bay Area.

**Jim Cave** (*Lighting Designer*) For the past thirty-five years Jim has focused on the development of new theater, multi-disciplinary projects and site-specific performances. He has directed and designed plays, dance, dance-theater, opera, new music theater, salon performances and even a flea circus for San Francisco's Exploratorium. The East Bay Express included him in its Best Of 2004 edition for Moodiest Theatrical Illumination: "His understanding of both the plays he lights and the theater's space is total. Warm and inviting or searing and harsh, Cave's lighting designs often tell us as much about the story as the text itself." His work has been seen at The Magic, The Aurora, Theatre Artaud, Berkeley Rep, Zspace, Theatre Rhi-

no, Ashby Stage, The Lab, SOMARTS, ATJT, JCCSF, Intersection for the Arts, ODC, Second Stage in NYC, The Centre Pompidou in Paris and in various colleges, barns, alleyways and living rooms. He has received numerous awards including Bay Area Critics Circle Awards for designs of THE ENTERTAINER and JACK GOES BOATING for the Aurora Theatre and the premier production of Tony Kushner's ANGELS IN AMERICA; a Garland/Dramalogue Award for his design of John O'Keefe's SHIMMER; and a Dean Goodman Award for Excellence in theater for Barry Gifford's WYOMING. Currently, he is the Stage and Production Supervisor at Laney College, where he teaches stagecraft and runs the Laney College Theatre, a valued Bay Area venue for dance and theatre.

**Mitchell Greenhill** (*Sound Designer*) "NIGHT OVER ERZINGA reminds me of my grandparents, who left Eastern Europe about a century ago. Did they realize that they were escaping the Nazi Holocaust that would later engulf their cousins, the ones who felt secure enough, financially and socially, to remain? I wondered about this as I walked the streets of Focsani, Romania, my grandmother's home town". Broadway: AN ALMOST HOLY PICTURE at Roundabout Theatre, directed by Michael Mayer and starring Kevin Bacon (composer). Regional: Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Repertory, Arena Stage, McCarter Theatre, Kennedy Center (sound designer/composer). Recordings: three CDs as an artist. As producer: one Grammy-winner and several nominees. On screen: The Long Riders and Safe. On stage: guitarist with String Madness. President of Folklore Productions International, a three-generation family business dedicated to traditional and vernacular music.

**Neva Marie Hutchinson\*** (*Older Alice, Veronica, Grand Mama, Mrs. Postoiian*)



has acted in over sixty productions in both the Bay area and New York City. She has worked with Francis Ford Coppola, Wynn Handman, Lee Sankowich,

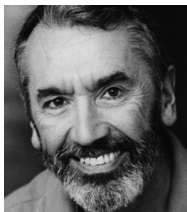
Libby Appel and many other directors in both new and classic plays. Her talents have been seen at San Jose Repertory, Marin Theatre, Encore Theater, Willows Theatre, Harvest Theatre, Pear Avenue Theatre and Fifth Floor Productions, to name a few. She has worked in both film and television. When not acting, she teaches and directs middle school students in productions of Shakespeare in the Redwood City school system. Working on ERZINGA, Neva feels that the themes of familial loss and personal grieving are ones that we all struggle with every day — that our joy in the universe is one of a restorative dance.

**Hafiz Karmali** (*Director*) after pursuing his MFA in Directing at Carnegie-Mellon University School of Drama, Hafiz served an apprenticeship at the American Repertory Theatre where he assisted internationally renowned directors Robert Wilson and Andrei Serban. While at the A.R.T., Mr. Karmali was a teaching fellow in the English Department at Harvard University for courses taught by Professor Robert Brustein. Hafiz has a special interest in cross-cultural performances with a view to showcasing indigenous performing arts of the Islamic world. With theatre productions of esoteric/mystical fables such as Attar's CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS (Ismaili Centre, London) Hafiz seeks to promote a better understanding of the arts and ideas of the Muslim world. Golden Thread audiences may be familiar with Hafiz Karmali's work: three new plays at the ReOrient Festival in 2009: ABAGA

by Torange Yeghiazarian; A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL (Egyptian Chekhov) and THE REVIEW (via "skype") both by Yussef El-Guindi; as well as in 2006, the Ikhwān al-Safā's fable ISLAND OF ANIMALS. More recently, to commemorate Prince Karim Aga Khan's golden jubilee (50th Anniversary) as spiritual leader, Hafiz co-wrote and directed ALI TO KARIM – A Tribute to the Ismaili Imams, an international touring theatre production. Hafiz is currently preparing his next show for Golden Thread Productions: RUMI x 7 = Tales from the Masnavi to be staged at the Islamic Cultural Centre in Oakland as part of a special series, ISLAM 101 – A Basic Guide.

**Michelle Mulholland (Costume Designer)** has been a seamstress since the age of 13 and began constructing costumes for theater while still in high school. She is the Resident Costume Designer for the Brava Theater and recently completed an internship with Teatro Zinzanni. Her previous work includes IPH... and THE BEEBO BRINKER CHRONICLES. Outside the theater she designs and constructs clothing, accessories, and formal wear. She is honored to be a part of bringing this true story to life.

**Terry Lamb\* (Older Ardavazdt, Doctor, Aram)** first performed with Golden Thread



in DEEP CUT. He was most recently on-stage in PENELOPE'S ODYSSEY, produced by Central Works Theater Ensemble. He has also acted with these theaters among others: Shotgun Players, TheatreFIRST, Aurora, Marin, Magic, Stage Left, New Conservatory, Pirandello Project, San Jose Stage, Geoffrey Chaucer, TheaterWorks, San Francisco Mime Troupe, and Shakespeare Santa Cruz.

Through his company, Videosyncracy, Terry produces videos for nonprofits and business entrepreneurs. He is also the producer of the online video series "Encounters on Earth" (original dramatic pieces showcasing Bay Area actors and writers). Because of his love for the storytelling of writers and actors, he feels particularly pleased and honored to be working with the wonderful team producing the remarkable and touching play NIGHT OVER ERZINGA. He has also been honored by being invited to perform in Golden Thread's next production, LANGUAGE ROOMS.

**Valerie M. Niles (Props Mistress)** is a recent graduate of the University of Delaware's Professional Theatre Training Program, having received her Master of Fine Arts in Technical Production this past May; she graduated in 2008 from the University of the Pacific with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts & also played NCAA Division I Field Hockey for the university. She has worked with esteemed directors & designers such as Eugene Lee, Adrian Hall, Takeshi Kata, and Ethan McSweeney while propping away at the University of Delaware. Her favorite work thus far has been for the world premiere of renowned playwright Theresa Rebeck's O BEAUTIFUL. She is thrilled to be back home in the Bay Area to finally begin embarking upon her career as a propeteer. Valerie is thankful to Golden Thread for giving her this opportunity, and for all their patience with her as she learns to swim in the professional whirlpool.

**Sarita Ocón (Older Estrella, Sabiba, Nurse, Sariné)** is honored to be part of this



powerful and heart-felt journey with Golden Thread and an incredible team of artists and designers. "From the moment I read the script, I was

incredibly drawn to the narrative and began immersing myself in the research. To be part of this ensemble is a wonderful gift that I hope to pass along to the audience with the utmost integrity, honoring the lives and spirits represented in the story." Sarita is an actor, visual artist and educator. Theatrical credits include collaborations with African American Shakespeare Co., Bindlestiff Studio, BRAVA Theater Center, Hybrid Performance Experiment Collective (HyPE), Playwrights Foundation, The Public Theater NY Residency at Stanford, ShadowLight Productions, and Teatro Visión. Sarita received her BA in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity from Stanford University.

**Lawrence Radecker (Alberto, Cop, Turkish Soldiers, Vegas Stage Manager)** is a



resident artist with Crowded Fire Theater Company where he has developed and debuted roles in the world premieres of Enrique Urueta's FOREVER NEVER COMES, Caridad Svich's WRECKAGE, Liz Duffy Adam's THE LISTENER, Mickey Birnbaum's BIG DEATH & LITTLE DEATH, and Dominic Orlando's JUAN GELION DANCES FOR THE SUN. Lawrence is very proud and excited to be back at Golden Thread with this beautiful production. Other GT plays include: WORM, LEARN TO BE LATINA, COMING HOME and SECURITY. He has also worked with Thick Description, Marin Theatre Company, Brava! For Women in the Arts, Cutting Ball and Uncle Buzzy's Hometown Theatre Show. He can be seen and heard in a variety of industrials and voiceovers, as well as a couple of television series.

**Adriana Sevahn Nichols (Playwright)** is an award winning actress and playwright of Armenian, Dominican, and Basque heritage. Her critically acclaimed one woman show, TAKING FLIGHT, garnered her a San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Award, a Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival Award, and the CD was a finalist for a 2008 Audie Award. She has developed and performed her work at the Sundance Theater Lab, South Coast Repertory, Mark Taper Forum, The Goodman, LATW, Stages Theatre, The Fountain, INTAR, and The Lark. Her plays have been published by Samuel French and Smith & Kraus. In 2008, she was honored to be the first recipient of the Middle East America Distinguished Playwright Award, from The Lark Play Development Center (NY), Golden Thread Productions (SF), and Silk Road Theatre Project (Chicago). The award gifted her with a commission to research, write, and develop, NIGHT OVER ERZINGA. She is deeply grateful for this journey with each of the host theatres. As an actress, Adriana has appeared in multiple guest-starring roles on TV which include: Law & Order, The Unit, Sex & the City, and Law & Order: Criminal Intent. Highlights of theatre credits: SCR, The Public Theatre, Goodman, Kirk Douglas Theatre, ACT, and Yale Rep. One of Adriana's biggest passions is bringing theatre and young people together to unleash and express their full creative potential. She has taught theatre workshops nationally and internationally, at ORRAN center for at risk youth in Yerevan, Armenia, Goodman Theatre, CalArts, UCSB, and created a mentoring program for adolescent girls living in group homes in Los Angeles. NIGHT OVER ERZINGA will be produced in Chicago at Silk Road Theatre Project, November 2012. Shnorhagalllem/ Gracias to the entire Golden Thread Erzzinga team, the Lark, and Silk Road!!



**Jenna Stuart** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) recently finished a Stage Management Fellowship at ACT after graduating Cal State Fullerton. She would like to thank Golden Thread for this great opportunity and her friends and family for all their support!

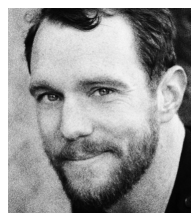
**Juliet Tanner** (*Alice Oghidanian, Ava/Agbavni*) has performed in the Bay Area



with Crowded Fire, including the world premieres of Liz Duffy Adams' *THE LISTENER* (*Listener*) and Sheila Callaghan's *WE ARE NOT THESE*

*HANDS* (*Moth*), as well as with California Shakespeare Theater, the Magic Theatre, Shotgun Players and Word for Word. She appeared in the Bare Bones production of *NIGHT OVER ERZINGA* at the Lark in New York City in June, and is honored to be a part of the world premiere.

**Brian Trybom** (*Ardavazdt Oghidanian, Bienvenido Raymundo*) "The many stories of loss, survival, and personal triumphs that I found in researching the Armenian Genocide, are so humbling, and inspiring, that I am honored to be given a chance to help tell this story and be a part of this production."



Brian was last seen in Shotgun Player's production of *ROAD TO HADES*, previous credits include, the titular character in *HERMES*, with No Nude Men, Tom in *THE GLASS MENAGERIE*, with Boxcar Theater, and Borachio in *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*, with Marin Shakespeare Company among others. This winter Brian will be appearing in Boxcar Theater's productions of *TRUE WEST*, and *FOOL FOR LOVE*. Many

thanks to my family, and of course to my wife Stavi.

**Mikiko Uesugi\*** (*Scenic Designer*) is honored to have designed *NIGHT OVER ERZINGA*. She last designed *ReOrient* 2004 for Golden Thread. Other theater credits include: *FAT PIG*, *SALOME* and *BETRAYAL* for Aurora Theater Company, *ANGEL FACE*, *4 ADVERBS*, *EPIPHANIES*, *IMMORTAL HEART*, and *THE FALL RIVER AXE MURDERS* for Word for Word, *AMBITION FACING WEST* for Theatre Works, *PEER GYNT* and *THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST & THE BEAUX STRATEGEM* 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, Dean Goodman Choice Award and The Isadora Duncan Dance Award.

**Valerie Weak** (*Youth Acting Coach*) was last seen at Golden Thread in *ReOrient* 2005 as Jill in *LEARN TO BE LATINA* by Enrique Urueta and Central Figure in *PARABLE FOR A DARK TIME* by George Crowe. She has acted with Center Rep, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival and was last onstage as Toby Belch in *TWELFTH NIGHT* for Impact Theater. As a theater educator, Valerie has taught for programs including Marin Theater Company, California Shakespeare Theater, and Word for Word Youth Arts, where she directed two Gary Soto stories at East Bay Arts High School in Hayward. Valerie is a member of Actors' Equity and Theatre Bay Area. [www.valerieweak.com](http://www.valerieweak.com)

\*Member Actors' Equity Association

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**Serge Bakalian**, Managing Director  
**Lucinda Kidder**, Education Director  
**Evren Odcikin**, Literary Artistic Associate  
**Hafiz Karmali**, Resident Director  
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Golden Thread Productions is dedicated to exploring Middle Eastern cultures and identities as expressed around the globe. We develop and produce a wide range of theatrical work that is aesthetically varied, politically involved, and emotionally engaging, while supporting countless local, national and international Middle Eastern artists in all phases of their careers. Our goal is to make the Middle East a potent presence on the American stage and also to make theatre a treasured cultural experience within Middle Eastern communities. Through our work, we encourage an active dialogue among Middle Eastern and non-Middle Eastern communities and aim to create a world where the common human experience supersedes cultural and political differences.

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# Thank You

Grace Andonian, Garine Panosian, Maro, Sose and everyone at KZV School  
Zaven Kanneian, Elizabeth Ojakian, David Ojakian and everyone at St. Vartan's  
Seta Tchakerian and everyone at St. Gregory's  
Ayko and Seta and everyone at NorCal  
Hagop Bedikian, Lisa Kirazian, Alisa Simonds, Jeffrey Lee, Justin Thurman, Amina Horozic, Chris Niles, Judith Ferrer and Jim & Jo Lucas  
Dany Samreth

Many thanks to the Amanian Family  
Many thanks to Armen Sedrakian and Ruth Alahydoian for providing in-kind housing  
Penka would like to give Special Thanks to Allison Wright Clark and Peter Golub  
Rana Orangi, Haleh Hatami, Anne Katzenberg, Ines & Liliana & Camilla Ascensio

Asian American Theatre Company, Laney College Theatre Department, the Magic Theatre, Intersection for the Arts, Brava Theater, ACT, Misery Loves Company, Greg Dunham and John Wilson from the SFSU Theatre Department, The Jewish Community High School, Z Space

Special thanks to David Allen for creating the family album slideshow

Special thanks to the Lark and Silk Road Theatre Project for being the best partners on the planet!

Many thanks to our opening night sponsors: Café La Mediterranee and Aghajanian Vinyards

Warmest thanks to outgoing Board member, Judy Wilber. Your belief in Golden Thread in 2001 made all the difference. We will miss your insights and your sense of humor!

A million thanks to Golden Volunteer, Eva Vander Giesson

Armenian wedding dress courtesy of Carol Kazarian and the Karoun Dance Ensemble  
Oud courtesy of Nabila Mango and Aswat Arabic Music Ensemble  
Rugs courtesy of Levon der Bedrossian

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A special campaign inspired by NIGHT OVER ERZINGA and Adriana Sevahn Nichols' creative journey strengthened by your support, trust and belief in the power of theatrical storytelling. The Tree of Life campaign will continue through the end of 2011. Join us in giving life to new works of art that tell our stories, the stories of our times that need telling, that for too long have gone unspoken, and unheard. Join the Tree of Life today!

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## Golden Thread's Annual Campaign

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And the many individual donors who gave at the 2011 Staged Reading Series.

## Giving Opportunities

In-kind Housing: San Francisco, East Bay  
Office Supplies: paper, binders  
Computers: PC, laptop  
Digital Camera: video, still, projector



## *Coming Up Next*

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### **Language Rooms**

by Yussef el Guindi

November 10 to December 4

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### **Rumi X 7: Tales from the Masnavi**

Conceived and Directed by Hafiz Karmali

November 18 & 19

laMediterranee

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