



A World Premiere

SCENIC ROUTES

by *Yussef El Guindi*

Directed by
Torange Yeghiazarian

November 7-23, 2002

EXIT Stage Left, San Francisco

www.goldenthread.org

WELCOME

Those of us living in the in-between places will find nothing unusual in *Scenic Routes*. We will, in fact, feel right at home. That nebulous place, home. This feeling of not belonging, otherness, “that red herring – foreigner-thing”, is not unique to immigrants. Most of us at one point or another have felt as an outsider. Certainly in today’s political climate, many of us feel as outsiders. What gets the characters of *Scenic Routes* into trouble is their presumptuousness believing they could possibly fit in. Most of us have long given up on that idea. Maybe this is why we make theatre. We create a home on stage, a place we can take shelter in. A place where intelligent dialogue is still possible.

Golden Thread Productions closes its 2002 Season with *Scenic Routes*. It’s been an amazing year with sold-out performances for *Nine Armenians* at the Magic Theatre and *ReOrient 2002* at the New Langton Arts. We also have had the great honor of presenting selections from the *ReOrient* festival at St. John’s Armenian Church, on Arab TV, and as part of the Women Against War event on September 10th at the Herbst Theatre. We have very exciting plans for 2003: *The Love Missile*, an original anti-war comedy to be created collaboratively within the company; *Guest of a Few Days*, by Mohsen Yalfani, one of Iran’s most prominent playwrights currently living in exile; and *Reorient 2003*, the fifth anniversary of our annual festival of short plays that has become a trademark of Golden Thread Productions. In addition, we’re planning to have regular stagedreading of new works, as well as of classics that we feel compelled to fool around with!

You, our audience members, make all the difference. Your support and encouragement is instrumental to our existence. As are the tireless efforts of our fabulous Board of Directors, our artistic collaborators, and the volunteers who make every production and special event successful. We salute you!

This is a time of great difficulty for arts organizations. Our government doesn’t blink at spending billions of dollars on destruction but has great difficulty justifying funding creative endeavors. Well, it’s up to you to show them that your priorities are different. Make a tax-deductible contribution to Golden Thread Productions. Help us create ...

Thank you for being here and enjoy the show.

CAST

NAGUIB ■ *Janak Ramachandran*
LANA ■ *Maria Mastrojannis-Zaft*
FANNY ■ *Ruby Unger**
TERRY ■ *Zachary Link*

Voice-over artists:
*Pagliacci's Fools, Marcus Civin, Darlene Dhillon,
Donna Khorsheed, and Dr. Mohab Mohamed*

** Appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association. An AEA approved project.*

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

PRODUCTION STAFF

Set Design ■ *Keyumars Hakim*
Lighting Design ■ *Rob Anderson*
Sound Design ■ *Yvette Jackson*
Costume Design ■ *Donna Khorsheed*
Photography/Video ■ *Farzad Mohr*
Graphic Design ■ *Homayoun Makoui*

City Skyline ■ *Termeh Yeghiazarian*
Masks ■ *Lauren Fernaille*
Set Build ■ *Behzad Golemohammadi*

Stage Manager ■ *Darlene Dhillon*
Board Operators ■ *Termeh Yeghiazarian &
Darlene Dhillon*

Production Assistants ■ *Anahita Bakhtiary &
Arvind Desikan*

This project is supported by CASH, a grants program of Theatre Bay Area,
in partnership with Dancers' Group.

The Immigrant Theatre Project presented a staged reading of *Scenic Routes* in 2000 as
part of the American Dreams: Plays About NY & the Immigrant Experience at the
Tenement Theatre. Celia Braxton directed.

FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

I had some misgivings about having a play staged whose subject matter - in part (and only part) - is about whether or not the central character is a terrorist. In post 9/11, one becomes a little more sensitive about the images one puts out there. And even though the reason for writing the play was to deal with that very subject - how images/stereotypes can encrust people and obscure who they really are, I sensed I was treading a thin line in the way I was handling it. I wanted that ambiguity. But even in 1992 when the play was written, the approach was somewhat dicey. After 9/11, ambiguity may seem a little too precious and a somewhat dangerous game to play.

Yussef El Guindi

WHO'S WHO

ROBERT TED ANDERSON (Lighting Design). Some of his recent designs include *Bullshot Crummond* and *A Christmas Carol* at Center Rep in Walnut Creek, *Sacco & Vanzetti* at the Marin Theatre Company, Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte* at the Julia Morgan Center, *Three Sisters* at the Harbor Theatre, *Bullet in the Brain* at the Cowell Theatre, *Tape*, *Nine Armenians*, and *Kissing the Witch* at the Magic Theatre, *Talking with Angels* at ODC, and *The Fear Project* at Next Stage. Thank you.

DARLENE DHILLON (Stage Manager) is a recent graduate of the Theatre Arts Department at San Francisco State University. Her recent credits include *Illumiere* (The Third Integrated Performance Environment) at Cafe du Nord, movement pieces at Open Arts Circle in Oakland, and last year's Youth Theatre Project *Just Change* with the San Francisco Mime Troupe.

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, Michigan, 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, Yusef holds an MFA in Playwriting from Carnegie-Mellon University and was playwright-in-residence at Duke University.

KEYUMARS HAKIM (Scenic Design), a long time community activist and supporter of the arts, Mr. Hakim has collaborated with Darvag Theatre Company on the plays *Death and the Maiden* and *Shaparak Khanoom*. He joined the Board of Directors of Golden Thread Productions in 2001 and has actively contributed to projects such as *Nine Armenians* and the *ReOrient* festival of short plays.

DONNA KHORSHEED (Costume Design) is a Palestinian-American who grew up in Kuwait. She studied in London, where she received her BA in Commercial Art. She has lived in the Bay Area for the past 15 years and has worked in the home decor and fashion industry. Her interests include singing, poetry, and international and cultural awareness.

YVETTE JANINE JACKSON (Sound Design) has designed sound for *The Shape of Things*, *Augustine: Big Hysteria*, *Strands*, *Tape*, *Sonnets for an Old Century* and Campo Santo's premiere of *Floating Weeds*. As a member of Pagliacci's Fools, Yvette works as sound engineer for radio theatre projects and participated in the production of Ellen Sebastian Chang's location performance installation, *The Gentleman Caller: 7 Preludes of Memory*. She received a BA in music from Columbia University and can be heard on trumpet with Ray's Vast Basement.

ZACHARY LINK (TERRY, WAITER). *Scenic Routes* is Zachary Link's first San Francisco theater appearance. His previous work has been mostly at Stanford University and SUNY Binghamton, in plays such as Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia*, Karel Capek's *R.U.R.*, David Mamet's *Glegary Glen Ross*, Woody Allen's *Play It Again, Sam*, and Ashman and Mencken's *Little Shop of Horrors*, among others. Zachary would like to thank anyone who encouraged him to quit grad school and try more interesting things.

MARIA MASTROYANNIS-ZAFT (LANA). Maria has trained and performed in dance, theatre, and film in the Bay Area, Germany, and England. Her last dance theatre piece, *Fragments*, a collaboration with Lise Prewitt, was performed in San Francisco at Theatre of Yugen in November 2001. For the past three years, she has worked with independent film director, Rob Nilsson, appearing in his two most recent films, *Attitude* and *Need*. Other recent projects include *Night Passage*, a film by local director Trinh T. Minh-Ha, and *Good Girls Don't, But I Do*, with Marijoh Dance Theater. Maria is excited to have the opportunity to work with Golden Thread Productions and to contribute to a body of work that aims to transcend cultural boundaries.

JANAK RAMACHANDRAN (NAGUIB) had the epiphany, somewhere in his late twenties, that he would rather starve as an artist than be wildly successful as a businessman. His pocketbook regrets the decision, but his soul is alive again. Favorite roles include Vladimir in *Waiting For Godot* and Naguib in this exciting premiere of *Scenic Routes*. In addition to seeing Janak on the stage as an actor, you can see him around town as a working musician in cover and original music bands. For more information, contact him at janakr@bigplanet.com.

RUBY UNGER* (FANNY) is happy to be directed, once again, by the perceptive, knowledgeable and talented Torange Yeghiazarian. When not appearing for Golden Thread, Ruby (SAG, AEA, AFTRA) thespianates in other productions. She recently performed her one-woman show, *Exit Laughing*, in the SF Fringe Festival and she is now in pre-production on her educational film, *Muslims, Christians, Jews & Others: In Their Own Words*, distributed by aimsmultimedia.com. You may also remember her from her broadcast days on KCBS radio and as Ms. Nancy in the *Room that Romped* on KTVU/Ch 2. Once a do bee, always a do bee!

TERMEH YEGHIAZARIAN (Scenic Artist) is a visual artist and an art instructor. She lives in San Francisco.

TORANGE YEGHIAZARIAN (Director) writes, acts, and directs for the theatre and is the founder and artistic director of Golden Thread Productions. Born in Iran, Torange received her Masters degree in Theatre Arts from San Francisco State University.

MARIA ZAMROUD, co-founder of Golden Thread Productions, is here in spirit and wishes everyone a wondrous journey.

* Appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association. An AEA approved project.

CALL FOR PLAYS

Be a part of the fifth anniversary of *ReOrient*:

A Festival of Short Plays!

We're looking for plays (10-40 minutes) about the Middle East or plays written by people from the Middle East on any topic. Mail the script, a brief bio, and cover letter to Golden

Thread Productions, Golden Thread Productions
PMB 153, 4096 Piedmont Ave.
Oakland, CA. 94611

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2003

THANK YOU'S

Arab Cultural Center
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Vida Ghahremani

Norman Gee

Keyumars Hakim

Helen Hirmand

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Dr. Mohab Mohamed

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Rana Orangi & Babak

Amy Potozkin

Clive Shaffer

Tanya Shaffer

Mansoor Taeed

Judy Wilber

Ben Yalom

Anush Yeghazarian

Termeh Yeghiazarian

San Francisco State University's Creative Arts Department

The voice talent of Pagliacci's Fools [www.foolsradio.com]

AND

Golden Thread Productions' Artistic Associates

Hal Gelb, Claudia Rosa, and Yussef El Guindi



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Golden Thread Productions is a dynamic San Francisco Bay Area ensemble dedicated to theatre that explores Middle Eastern culture and identity as represented throughout the globe. We were established in 1996 and now operate as a not-for-profit company, which means your donations to us are taxdeductible. Don't wait another moment; write us a check this second. Cut the war fund! Contribute to the art fund!

Other ways you can help:

Volunteer your time!

Administrative Support: light office work, filing, data entry, and bookkeeping
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Donate stuff you don't use!

Office Space in San Francisco
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Office Supplies: paper, large binders, and color-printer cartridge (HP-G55)

We're also looking for an energetic and creative person to direct our Marketing and Public Relations efforts. Please send cover letter and resume to:

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WHAT'S NEXT?

2003 SEASON

- *Guest of a Few Days* by Mohsen Yalfani
- *The Love Missile*, an original anti-war comedy musical created by Golden Thread Productions
- *Reorient 2003!*

Staged Reading Series

- *Antony & Cleopatra* by William Shakespeare
- *Scent of Jasmine* by Bianca Bagatourian
- *Passion of Hussain* by Rebecca Ansary Pettys
- *Bay the Moon* by Mahmoud El Lozy
- *A Persian Story* by Shahrnush Parsipur