



*Mark Your Calendars!*

*ReOrient 2003*

*"A Festival of Short Plays about the Middle East"*

*October 30 to November 23*

*New Langton Arts, San Francisco*



*131 Tenth St. San Francisco, CA. 94103*

*TEL. 415.626.4061*

*FAX. 415.626.1138*

[\*information@goldenthread.org\*](mailto:information@goldenthread.org)

[\*www.goldenthread.org\*](http://www.goldenthread.org)

*A surreal tale of passion, greed, denial and longing, involving unnamable body fluids and orifice!*



New Langton Arts, San Francisco

June 2003

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

Hello,

*The Love Missile* is a work in progress, collaboratively developed in response to the post-9/11 shift in American domestic and foreign policy. In this incarnation of *The Love Missile*, we chose to focus on a society much like ours. It is my hope that one day -inshallah - there will be a *Love Missile - Part Two*, digging deeper into that other distant world, the one we know very little about, yet feel compelled to liberate.

This production would have been impossible (REALLY!) without the generous contribution of Judith Wilber and Bob Miller. And without the tireless efforts of the volunteers who made Golden Thread Productions' benefit art auction in April an impressive event. Endless thanks go to Termeh Yeghiazarian in particular, whose creativity, professionalism and kindness bring magic to everything she is involved with. Many thanks as well to the artists, donors, and the participants.

I am delighted to have on board several alumni of San Francisco State University's theatre program, one of few theatre programs still remaining. With funding for the arts disappearing, it is up to individuals to support the creation of new art and the education of future artists. It's a heavy load, but the alternative - no art - may be devastating.

Many thanks to the cast and production staff for their patience as we painstakingly continue to develop this play. And thank you for being here.

*Enjoy the show!*

Torange Yeghiazarian  
Artistic Director

**THANK YOU!**

Cecilia Hong, Bernadette Quattrone and Claudia Rosa  
Joan Mankin, Jeff Raz and Randall Stuart  
Vida Gharemani & Anahita Bakhtiary  
Apadana TV, The Middle East Hour (KPFA)  
Henri-Pierre Koubaka, Gregory Scharpen  
Darlene Dhillon, Lana Nasser  
Helen Hirmand, Jill Detmer and Carol Ohara  
Jonathan Marshall, Larry Reed  
Magic Theatre, Theatre Rhinoceros  
Bayer Diagnostics

Many thanks to the volunteers who support Golden Thread Productions.  
We wouldn't be here without your generosity, talent and contribution.



Dedicated to theatre that explores Middle Eastern culture and identity as represented throughout the globe.

**Board of Directors:**

Judith Wolber, President  
Keyumars Hakim, Vice President  
Farzad Salimi, Treasurer  
Anahita Bakhtiary, Secretary  
Abdel Basset Al Hubaishy  
Termeh Yeghiazarian  
Torange Yeghiazarian

## Who's Who

**Sofia Ahmad (Sharifa)** holds a B.F.A from NYU, where she studied at the Stella Adler Conservatory. She spent this past winter/spring performing with New Conservatory Theater's YouthAware program, bringing AIDS/HIV and substance abuse educational plays to students of the SFUSD and beyond. "It's been thrilling to be part of this timely production - with such an entertainingly hilarious cast/crew. Lots of love to all (the GOOD kind - don't think I'd be so crass as to send you the kind featured in our play!!)"

**Chelsea Antrim (Stage Manager)** has been stagemanaging for six years. She just recently graduated from San Francisco State University with an emphasis in Stage Management. While there she stage-managed *When You Comin Back*, *Red Ryder* (which she also toured to the American College Theatre Festival), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *Street Scene*. She has worked for The Old Globe Theatre in San Diego and the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. She is going to Italy next fall to study Italian literature and language for a year to better her stagemanaging abilities for opera.

**Oran Bumroongchart (Set & Costume Design)**. I was born in a bucket during an earthquake in the middle of a drought during the monsoon season after 14 hours of labor on Buddha's birthday in Bangkok, Thailand. Picasso also happened to pass away that same day. My parents, true to the superstitious nature of the Thai people, whisked me to the local temple where a bunch of monks, through divine inspiration, gave me my name: "Oran."

**Norman Gee (Director)** is the Artistic Director of the Oakland Public Theater. A theater artist in the Bay Area for over a decade, Norman has worked extensively with such groups as Thick Description, African-American Shakespeare Company (and about a 1/2 dozen Shakespeare Festivals total), Word For Word and the Bay Area Playwrights Festival. He acts, directs, writes (mostly grants and press releases) and works toward the modest goal of re-establishing Bay Area theater as a benchmark of innovation and excellence.

**Hal Gelb (Playwright)** is a writer and director who has worked in theater, television, print media and documentary film. He's translated *The Misanthrope* (Moliere) and *Stoning* (Ghazi Rabihavi); told the true story of Bill and Monica in *Executive Ardor*; was one of a group responsible for the Samuel French version of Dario Fo's *We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!*; and is the West Coast theater critic for *The Nation*. For Golden Thread, Hal directed *What a Beautiful Voice Is Sayeda's* and *Deep Cut*. He's also directed premieres by Murray Mednick and James Scheville and staged Ed Bullins' *Salaam, Huey Newton, Salaam* for Bullins' own BMT Theater. His media work has been seen on PBS, KTVU, TV20, KQED and at the Brussels world conference on the environment, United Nations events and New York's Museum of Modern Art.

In a consumer society, there are inevitably two kinds of slaves: the prisoners of addiction and the prisoners of envy.  
*Tools for Conviviality*, Ivan Illich

**Vida Ghahremani (Oma)** is an actress, designer and teacher. She has worked with Golden Thread Productions since its first production, *Operation No Penetration, Lysistrata 97!*, where she designed and built the costumes. Vida's performances in *ABAGA* and *Nine Armenians* received rave reviews from audience members and critics alike. Ms. Ghahremani began acting in film as a teenager in Iran, where she established the standards of stardom. A member of the Screen Actors Guild, Ms. Ghahremani has performed in numerous Iranian and American films, including *The Guests of Hotel Astoria*, *The Rock*, and *Dark Holiday*. She currently teaches creative theater and Persian language at the Persian Center in Berkeley.

**Johannes Mager (Musical Director & Composer)**. The Musical Director/Composer/Band Leader for Make\*A\*Circus in 1996-2002, he graduated from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree in Trombone and Composition. He co-founded the New Music Ensemble, a leader of avant-garde music performance in the Bay Area in the 1970's. He worked directly with such composers as John Cage, Morton Feldman, Terry Riley and Roman Haubenstock-Ramati. Johannes was the founder of the avant-garde music trio, Suono Della Fontana, which specialized in performing graphically notated music; and toured for several years in Europe. In the 1990's, he wrote and performed a solo performance piece called *Exit*, presented at the Theatre Rhinoceros; toured with the Dell Arte Players, performing the music for their production of *Redwood Trilogy*, and wrote and performed the music and sound design for the Fratelli Bologna theatre group, and their production of *Medea*, which played for sixweeks at the Cowell Theatre in San Francisco.

**Lenny Moors\* (Bruce, Chorus)** makes his debut with Golden Thread Productions. A native of Northern California, Lenny has appeared in numerous Bay Area productions. He has lived and performed in New York City and has performed in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the G&S Festival in Buxton, England, and at the Victoria-Jungfrau Hotel in Interlaken, Switzerland. Lenny is a graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and is an accomplished singer/songwriter. Check out his web site: [www.LennyMoors.com](http://www.LennyMoors.com).

**Andoni Panici (President)**. Before becoming "President," in his first professional theater production with Golden Thread, he had been in and out of music, theater and film since childhood. After becoming a corporate casualty in 2001, Mr. Panici committed himself to creating peace through becoming a responsible professional actor and musician. He recently played in *Tommy* at Chabot College; *Bookshelves to Broadway* at College of Marin and performs as a singer in a rock band, choir and as a soloist.

**Janaki Ranpura (Playwright, Puppeteer)** is a puppeteer and physical theater actor who studied at Ecole Lecoq in Paris. She has worked with Shadowlight Productions in the Bay Area and co-created the original play, *Beneath Sita's Belly*, which ran in the 2002 San Francisco and Seattle Fringe Festivals.

**Carmen Elena Sosa\* (Rosalita, Chorus).** Some of Carmen Elena Sosa's regional credits include the following: *Dreamlandia* with Thick Description, written and directed by Octavio Solis; *Heroes and Saints* with Teatro Vision; *Navigators* with Opera Piccola, written and directed by Rinde Eckert; and *The Stand-In* with Theatre Rhinoceros and *Picnic* with Marin Theatre Company, both directed by Danny Scheie. Off-off Broadway, she performed in *The Playmasters* with the 52nd Street Project and Playwrights' Horizons. She was in the Fifth Floor's critically acclaimed production of *Orestes*, which received Bay Area Critic Circle Awards for Best Production and Best Ensemble and a Dramalogue Award for Best Production. She has an M.F.A. from U.C., San Diego, and has been a Guest Lecturer for the Academy of Art College, A.S.I.F.A. and Mattel Interactive. She has also taught at City College of San Francisco, Foothill College, for the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival and E.G.Y.P.T.

**Lisa Tateosian (Choreographer).** A graduate of Mills College, Lisa's primary dance training is in ballet, jazz and modern dance. She studies and performs various ethnic dance techniques with such companies as Khadra International Dance Theatre and Ballet Afsaneh. Lisa has also performed with Dance Brigade, CHODERA/dance, Asian-American Dance Performances, as well as musical productions at Diablo Light Opera Company, Willows Theatre and Civic Arts Repertory.

**William Todd Tressler\* (Dr. Z)** was most recently seen as Artie Shaughnessy in Sierra Repertory Theatre's production of *The House of Blue Leaves*. Last fall, he appeared as Mr. Holt in San Diego's Sledgehammer Theatre production of *A Knife in the Heart*. He performed as Guilliano in *Big Love* for the Ardeo Theatre Project in France. Other favorite roles include John in *Oleanna*, Jerry in *Betrayal* and Vladimir in *Waiting for Godot*. A million years ago, when he had some, he appeared in the Broadway production of *Hair*.

**Kris Welch (Connie, Chorus)** studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, at Second City in Chicago with Viola Spolin and locally with the SF Mime Troupe, Lilith Theater, Bob Ernst and Moshe Cohen. She has appeared with The Chicago City Players, in the Bay Area Fringe Festival and with Tailspinners Theatre and Many Rivers Theater locally. She has also sung with Champagne Unlimited swing band and Alan Copeland's jazz choir. Her day job is as host of *Living Room* and the *Saturday Morning Talkies* on KPFA-FM. She is always happy to be on stage.

**Torange Yeghiazarian (Playwright)** writes, acts and directs for the theatre and is the founder and Artistic Director of Golden Thread Productions. Among her writing/ directing credits are *ABAGA (The Future)*, a lyrical tale of two generations of forbidden love: from Istanbul of 1915 to Jerusalem of 1935; and *Operation No Penetration, Lysistrata 97!*, a contemporary adaptation of the classic Greek comedy, where Palestinian and Israeli women unite to force their men to sign a peace treaty. Torange holds a Master's degree in Theatre Arts from San Francisco State University.

Consumerism makes people susceptible to a demagogue.

## *The Love Missile*

Written by Hal Gelb, Janaki Ranpura and Torange Yeghiazarian  
Directed by Norman Gee

Time: Now      Place: ShappaImageanna, Distancia

### CAST

SHARIFA	Sofia Ahmad
OMA	Vida Ghahremani
ROSALITA	Carmen Elena Sosa*
BRUCE	Lenny Moors*
CONNIE	Kris Welch
PRESIDENT	Andoni Panici
DR. Z	William Todd Tressler*
Puppeteer	Janaki Ranpura

\* Member Actors' Equity Association.

All actors participate in the chorus and operate puppets.

### PRODUCTION STAFF

Puppet Design & Construction	Janaki Ranpura & Vida Ghahremani
Original Music Composition	Johannes Mager
Dance Choreography	Lisa Tateosian
Set & Costume Design	Oran Bumroongchart
Lighting Design	Paul Meason
Graphic Art Design	Janaki Ranpura
Production Manager	Robert Anderson
Stage Manager:	Chelsea Antrim
Sound Board Operator	Lisa Medina
Set Build	Keyumars Hakim & Behzad Golemohammadi
Postcard Layout	Homayoun Makoui
Photography	Farzad Mohr
Casting	Hal Gelb

This production is made possible through the generosity of the underwriters Judith Wilber and Bob Miller. ♥