

## Coming Up Next at Golden Thread Productions

**RUMI X 7 = TALES FROM THE MASNAVI**  
Saturday, March 16 at 12 Noon  
Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

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### New Threads Play-Reading Series

April 9

**HOLY LAND** by Mohamed Kacimi

April 24

**THE ADMISSION** by Motti Lerner

May 6

**THE MOST DANGEROUS HIGHWAY IN THE WORLD** by Kevin Artigue

May 14

**SHOT IN BAGHDAD** By Jeane Beckwith

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### Main Stage Productions

WORLD PREMIERE

#### **444 DAYS**

*A Tangled web of love, betrayal, and espionage*

By Torange Yeghiazarian, directed by Bella Warda

October 17 to November 3

WEST COAST PREMIERE

#### **URGE FOR GOING**

*Sometimes the only way to live is to leave*

By Mona Mansour, directed by Evren Odcikin

November 14 to December 3



Golden Thread Productions Presents

### ***What Do the Women Say?***

**A Celebration of International Women's Day**

**March 8 at 8:00 p.m.**

**La Peña Cultural Center, Berkeley**

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

# **Satire is a Girl's Best Friend!**

## **Lubbock or Leave It!**

Written and performed by Leyla Modirzadeh\*

## **Zafira the Olive Oil Warrior**

Written by Kathryn Haddad, excerpts performed by Sofia Ahmad\*

Poetry from **Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here** performed by TruBloo

**Explosion** by Sita Carboni

**The Sudden Cessation of Electricity** by Dima Hilal

**Curves in the Dark** by Deema K. Shehabi

*\*Appearing courtesy of Actors Equity*

**Lubbock or Leave It!** is the story of Iranian New Yorker Leyla when she accepts a job teaching college in the most conservative town in the US: Lubbock, Texas! Set against a backdrop of American fundamentalism, Leyla and her canine cohort Daisy (played by a hand puppet) learn some hard lessons about xenophobia, nationalism, and dislocation.

**Zafira the Olive Oil Warrior** tells the futuristic story of a homeless Arab American schoolteacher turned superhero. She relives her experiences in an internment camp for Arabs and Muslims as she imagines herself victorious and powerful despite an increasingly hostile and ultra-nationalistic environment that has cast Arabs as enemies of the state.

Edited by Beau Beausoleil and Deema Shehabi, **Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here** is a collection of poetry and essays in response to the bombing of Al-Mutanabbi Street in Baghdad. It features Badr Shakir al-Sayyab, Iraq's preeminent modern poet, in addition to Mahmoud Darwish, Majid Naficy, Naomi Shihab Nye, and Natalie Handal. Local poets Julie Bruck, Dima Hilal, Elmaz Abinader and Deema Shehabi are also featured among others.

Tonight's event is sponsored by WomenArts/Swan Day.

Many thanks to our community partners: AROC, ACC and Zanan.

Many thanks to volunteers Haleh Hatami and Mariam Saeed.

## **Participant Biographies:**

**Kathryn Haddad** is a Lebanese American writer, teacher, and community organizer. She founded Mizna – one of the few Arab American Arts and literary organizations in the United States where she served as its Artistic and Executive Director for twelve years. Kathryn is a 2004 – 05 recipient of an Archibald Bush Leadership Fellowship for her work with the Arab American community. As a writer, she has received three Playwright's Center Many Voices Fellowships, and has had several plays produced in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Area, including a staged reading of *WITH LOVE FROM GAZA* (1992), at Intermedia Arts, *THE ARAB'S IN MY HEAD* (1994) at Theater Mu's New Eyes Festival, *WITH LOVE FROM RAMALLAH* (co-written with Juliana Pegues, produced by Mizna, and staged at Mixed Blood Theater) (2004), and *ZAFIRA THE OLIVE OIL WARRIOR* (2011) at Pangea World Theater. Kathryn has worked full time as a public school teacher since 1991.

**Leyla Modirzadeh\*** is an Iranian American writer, performer, and educator. She has acted in theatres across the country including Wisdom Bridge Theatre, (Chicago), A Contemporary Theatre, The Group Theatre, (Seattle), The Kennedy Center, (DC), and New York Theatre Workshop. Most recently, *LUBBOCK OR LEAVE IT!* performed in New York City at the Plus One Solo Festival, Dixon Place, and The Here Space. Over the last 17 years, she toured and collaborated with Obie Award winning theatre artist Ping Chong. Her animated and experimental films have been screened at national and international festivals ([www.twolittleheads.com](http://www.twolittleheads.com)). She received her BA from UC Berkeley, MFA in Acting from University of Washington, MFA in Fine Arts from Pratt Institute, and trained at Second City in Chicago. Her most recent publication is a contributing chapter about documentary theatre in the book *Arts Education for Social Justice: A Way Out of No Way* published by Routledge Books. \*Appears courtesy of Actors Equity

**Tru Bloo** is a Lebanese-Armenian hip hop-poetry fusion emcee, percussionist, composer, cultural and justice worker. A music prodigy, Tru studied classical guitar and music theory as a young adolescent and won her first poetry slam at age 15. As half of the hip hop duo, NaR (fire, in Arabic), Tru performed at national and international festivals. When she's not blessing mics, she's either curating ground-breaking cultural events like Al Musiqqa, Al Funoon, Music Without Borders, or the upcoming music and arts festival Hip Hop Beyond Gender ([lapena.org](http://lapena.org)) or in the courtroom advocating for homeless, differently-abled people in Berkeley as a staff attorney ([homelessactioncenter.org](http://homelessactioncenter.org)). Over the last decade, she has also advocated for justice on behalf of Southeast Asian & Middle Eastern immigrants post-9/11 as well as women in prison. Experience Tru's eclectic music and powerful poetry at her official website, [therealtrubloo.com](http://therealtrubloo.com) *MECCA TALES* (a Goodman commission) were both developed and had staged readings at The Goodman Theater.

Founded in 1996, **Golden Thread Productions** is dedicated to exploring Middle Eastern cultures and identities as expressed around the globe. We build cultural bridges by engaging the community in an active dialogue and facilitating collaborations among artists of diverse backgrounds with the aim of creating a world where the common human experience supersedes cultural and political differences.

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