

# Golden Thread Productions Presents A National New Play Network Premiere

# Jihad Jones and the Kalashnikov Babes

By Yussef El Guindi

June 5 – 29, 2008 **Thick House** 

San Francisco

# Artistic Director's Note

Welcome to the Hollywood Hills where our protagonist Ashraf, finds himself negotiating the price of fame and fortune. Tinsel town has inspired many playwrights but none have explored its power of seduction as deliciously as Yussef El Guindi in this play. You are in for a treat.

Every theatre production actualizes as a result of a series of miracles. In our case, one such miracle is Mark Routhier who accepted to direct *Jihad Jones* and went out of his way to ensure the success of the production as well as gain national attention for the play. Golden Thread's will be the first production in



a National Rolling Premiere of *Jihad Jones*. Another first for Golden Thread and for Yussef El Guindi, a playwright whose plays are now gaining the kind of attention they deserve.

Jihad Jones and the Kalashnikov Babes is the last main stage production in Golden Thread's Tenth Anniversary Season. A season that began with *Benedictus* in the fall, ReOrient Festival in January and will continue on with Golden

Thread's Fairytale Players tour of *The Girl Who Lost Her Smile* across Bay Area libraries and schools. We will close this season with an intensive playwriting workshop with one of America's most respected writers, Naomi Wallace.

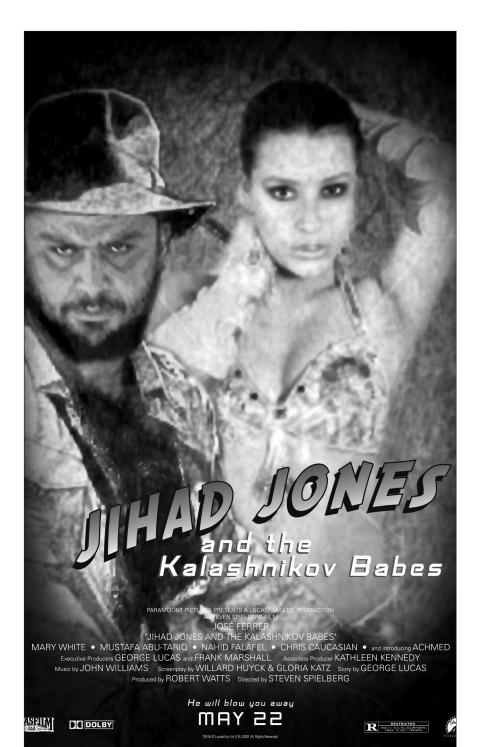
We are grateful to you and to all the donors, sponsors and volunteers whose continued support makes our work possible. Our next season promises to be every bit as exciting as this one with original work, exciting new programs and a national initiative. I hope that you will stay tuned and participate.

Golden Thread is actively recruiting new Board members. If you share Golden Thread's vision and want to lead our organization into its next growth phase; if you have time and resources that you want to contribute towards innovative and thought-provoking theatre, drop me a note and let's talk.

Last but not least, I want to acknowledge the artists and production staff who create breathtaking work with minimal resources and perform every task above and beyond the call of duty in every project and production. Artists are truly the heroes of our time!

Thank you for being here and enjoy the show.

Torange Yeghiazarian Artistic Director



# Program

Golden Thread Productions Presents A National New Play Network Premiere

Jihad Jones and the Kalashnikov Babes By Yussef El Guindi

Directed by Mark Routhier

#### Cast:

Jessica Kitchens	Peggy
Kamal Marayati	Ashraf
David Sinaiko	Barry
Cat Thompson*	Cassandra
Mark Rafael Truitt*	Julius

<sup>\*</sup> Appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

Co-presented by the Arab Cultural Center, the Arab Film Festival and La Pena Cultural Center

This is the first production in a Rolling National Premiere as part of the National New Play Network's Continued Life Project, next productions to follow by InterAct Theatre Company in Dallas and Kitchen Dog Theatre Company in Philadelphia.

Jihad Jones and the Kalashnikov Babes is made possible in part with grants from the Z Space/Magic New Work Initiative, National New Play Network, and the Zellerbach Family Foundation, and through special arrangement with the Abrams Artists Agency.

Golden Thread Productions is grateful for the generous support of the San Francisco Arts Commission, Grants for the Arts, California Art Council and the Hewlett Foundation, as well as our kind donors, volunteers, staff and Board of Trustees.

# The Company

# Designers

Set Design	James Faerron
Lighting Design	Jacob Petrie
Sound Design	Sara Huddleson
Costume Design	Sarah Al Kassab

# Production Staff

Stage Manager	Elizabeth W. Curtico
Stage Manager	
Assistant Stage Manager	.Lannie Gower
Technical Director	James Faerron
Assistant Technical Director	.Keyumars Hakim
Master Electrician	.Margaux Hodges
Electricians	Brian Bostwick, Suzanne Kottwitz,
	Chris Liaghat
Set Build	.Batbayar Tsagaan
Steel Work	.David Gardner
Scenic Painter	Jackie Smith
Graphic Design	.Evren Odcikin
Photography	.Gohar Barseghyan, Tamer Yussef
Publicity	.Lanie Wieland
Program Layout	.Homayoun Makui
Additional Film Poster Design	Navid Maghami, Tamer Yussef

Many thanks to Joan Arhelger for help with the Lights and to Richard Olmstad for set supplies and flats.

# Who's Who

Sarah Al-Kassab (Costume Design) is an Arab-American designer and performer determined to create thought-provoking beauty in all things. She is honored to be part of the Golden Thread family and is determined to bring Middle Eastern truths and values into the light of mainstream culture through compassion and beauty. Ms. Al-Kassab is also an ensemble cast member for part of Golden Thread's Educational Program, The Fairytale Players performing a Middle Eastern fairytale for Bay Area (and expanding!) schools and libraries. Sarah is excited to be part of Jihad Jones' rolling world premiere and flattered to work with some of the Bay Area's most prolific performers and of course other Arab-American artists. Born into the Theatre, raised on both the east and west coast of the USA, and trained as a fashion designer, Ms. Al-Kassab brings a unique, multi-cultural and multigenre background to design on-stage and off

James K. Faerron (Set Design) is very happy to be working again with Golden Thread, Mark Routhier and Yussef El Guindi. James is the resident Set Designer for both Encore Theater and Campo Santo. World Premieres include: Octavio Solis (Bethlehem, Pancho and Lucy, June in a Box), Adam Bock (Five Flights, The Shaker Chair, Thursday, The Typographer's Deam), Erin Cressida Wilson (Trail of her Inner Thigh), Denis Johnson (Hellhound on my trail, Shoppers, Psychos Never Dream, Purvis), Naomi Iizuka (Polaroid Stories, Blood in the Brain), Greg Sarris (Joy Ride), Claire Chafee (Darwin's Finches), Terry Tarnoff (The Bone Man of Benares), Mark Jackson (American \$uicide), Adam Rapp (Dreams of the Salthorse), Yussef El Guindi (Back of The Throat), Loretta Grecco (Passage), Jose Rivera (References to Salvador Dali make Me Hot), Carl Djerassi (Calculus), Philip Kan Gotanga (Fist of Roses), Kevin Fisher (Monkey Room) and Jessica Hagedorn (Stairway to Heaven). Future projects include new plays by Adam Bock and Peter Nachtrieb.

◆ Sara Huddleston (Sound Design) Bay Area sound design credits include: In On It and American Suicide (Encore Company), The Chair (Encore Theatre Company and Shotgun Players), Mrs. Warren's Profession (Shotgun Players), The Joan Rivers Theatre Project, Expedition 6, The Crowd You're In With, Tir Na nOg (Land of Youth), and Monkey Room (Magic Theatre), and most recently Octopus (Magic Theatre and Encore Theatre Company). Sara is the Resident Sound Designer for both Magic Theatre (where she is also Production Director) and Encore Theatre Company.

# ♦ Yussef El Guindi's (playwright)



most recent productions: Our Enemies: Lively Scenes of Love and Combat, produced by Silk Road Theatre

Project in Chicago, where it was "Jeff Recommended". Other productions: *Back of the Throat*, premiered by Golden Thread Productions and Thick Description then later presented in various theaters around the country including The Flea Theater in New York, was winner of the 2004

Northwest Playwrights' Competition held by Theater Schmeater. It won L.A. Weekly's Excellence in Playwriting Award for 2006. It was also nominated for the 2006 American Theater Critics Associations Steinberg/ New Play Award, and was voted Best New Play of 2005 by the Seattle Times. Another play of his, Ten Acrobats in an Amazing Leap of Faith, staged by Silk Road Theatre Project, won the After Dark Award for Best New Play in Chicago in 2006. His two-related one-acts, Acts of Desire, were staged by the Fountain Theatre in Los Angeles. Back of the Throat, and the two related one-acts, now titled, Such a Beautiful Voice is Sayeda's and Karima's City, have been published by Dramatists Play Service. The latter one-acts have also been included in The Best American Short Plays: 2004-2005 to be published by Applause Books in 2008. His play, Ten Acrobats in an Amazing Leap of Faith, is to be included in Salaam/Peace: An Anthology of Middle-Eastern-American Playwrights, to be published by TCG in 2009. Yussef holds an MFA from Carnegie-Mellon University and was playwright-in-residence at Duke University.

# This is Jessica Kitchens' (Peggy)



first project with Golden Thread Productions. Since her arrival to the Bay Area almost three years ago, Jessica

has appeared in Monkey Room (Magic Theatre), Blood Wedding, Love is a Dream House in Lorin, Ragnarok, Cabaret (Shotgun Players), Monster in the Dark (foolsFURY), The Greek Play (Elastic Future), Romeo & Juliet and

Richard III (Woman's Will). Jessica hails from UC Davis, from which she holds dual degrees in Theatre Arts and Political Theory.

# ◆ Kamal Marayati (Ashraf) recently



appeared in *Homebody/Kabul* at the Mark Taper Forum and BAM. He has appeared in television, film and plays around

the country. He has co-starred in several television series, including the ABC series Desperate Housewives, Alias and Daybreak, NBC's Law and Order and Law and Order SVU. His film credits include After the Sunset, The War Within, and Power Hungry. He has also acted in the ensemble piece, The Color of Justice at Second Stage Theatre and played the part of Salieri in Amadeus (Circle in the Square, Downtown). Among his other stage credits are 27 Wagons Full of Cotton (78th Street Theatre Lab), Suburbia (Triad Theatre), The Taming of the Shrew (Benbow Shakespeare Festival) and I Hate Hamlet (Palo Alto Players). Kamal Maravati holds a MFA from the Actors Studio Drama School.

# ◆ Jacob Petrie (Lighting Design) Jacob is pleased to be working on his second show with Golden Thread, after designing lighting for ReOrient Festival earlier this year. Other design credits include productions for Janice Garrett & Dancers (StringWreck), Magic Theatre (LaunchPad), New Conservatory Theatre (I Am My Own Wife), the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre (Fences), Ellis Wood Dance, The Foundry (Imprint), and El Teatro de la Esperanza (Shakespeare's R & I).

Assisting credits include productions at San Francisco Opera, Seattle Opera, Shakespeare Theatre Company and Marin Theatre Company. Jacob holds a degree in Technical Theatre and Design from SFSU.

# Mark Rafael Truitt\* (Julius) is



making his second appearance with Golden Thread. He is also a writer and a teacher. His Bay Area appearances

include Ted Kaczinski Killed People with Bombs, Schrodinger's Girlfriend, Joe Goode's Body Familiar for the Magic Theatre, The Best of Playgrounds 9 & 11, ReOrient Festival, and the Bay Area Playwrights' Festival. He has also appeared regionally at Yale Repertory, American Stage, Wisdom Bridge and Northlight Theatre, among others. Film and Television credits include Titanic, Star Trek Voyager, the Practice, Babylon5 and Wings. His book, "Telling Stories: A Grand Unified Theory of Acting Techniques" has just been published by Smith and Kraus.

#### ◆ Mark Routhier (Director) is the



Director of Artistic Development at the Magic Theatre and serves on the Executive Committee of the National New Play

Network (NNPN). He received his MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU. He has directed several Bay Area and regional plays, including *The Monkey Room* (Magic Theatre), *The Bone Man of Banares, 70 Scenes of Halloween* (Encore Theatre), *Cartoon* (Impact Theatre), *Opus* (Orlando Shakespeare

Theatre), someguy, Drunken Grownups, Iphigenia and Other Daughters (Mettle Theatre), Cowboy Mouth (MGTC), and Exit the King (Am. Citz. Theatre). His workshop credits include Carly Mensch's All Hail Hurricane Gordo (University Playwright's Workshop, Marin Theatre Company), Eisa Davis' Bulrusher (SF Stage and Film), Marisa Wegrzyn's Hickorydickory and Rajiv Joseph's Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo (Magic Theatre). His dramaturgy include Lucy Thurber's Monstrosity (Encore Theatre), Mike Geither's Stars Fell All Night (BAPF), Tim Lord's The Secret History of Caleb Caan (University Playwright's Workshop, Stanford). His short play, Spotter, premiered in Best of Playground and Leaving premiered in S.O.S. II at AlterTheatre, Mark will direct Conor McPherson's The Seafarer at Southern Rep in New Orleans this fall.

David Sinaiko (Barry) was a founding member of Chicago's acclaimed New Crime Productions. He has performed on stage and in film in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco and Boston. Locally, David has appeared in Cutting Ball's As You Like It, Chain Reactions, Avant Gardarama, Macbeth, Woyzeck, The Taming of the Shrew and Endgame, and C.A.F.E.'s one man production of David Sedaris' The Santaland Diaries. among others. Additional Spencer/Colton's include Ahah's Wife; New Crime's Heart of the Dog, Accidental Death of an Anarchist, and Methusalem; The Goodman Theatre's Midsummer Night's Dream. include: The Grifters and Bob Roberts, among others. Directing Credits include: New Crime's award winning production of Jean Genet's The Balcony, Paula Vogel's Desdemona...a play about

a handkerchief at the Boston Center for the Arts and the New England premiere of Wendy MacLeod's *The Water Children*. David and his wife, writer/ director Annie Elias will collaborate this summer on Annie's adaptation of Italo Calvino's *The Baron in the Trees*.

# ◆ Cat Thompson's\* (Cassandra)



is pleased to join Golden Thread Productions. Most recently, she appeared as Mother, Sister Mary, Molly

and others in Edna O'Brien's Tir na nOg at the Magic Theatre. Other credits include Henry IV parts I & II, King Lear, Alice in Wonderland (Marin Shakespeare Company); Reckless (SF Playhouse); Holes (The Orpheum Theatre); The Fugitive Kind, Misalliance (Cernter Repertory Theatre); Visions of Kerouac (Marin Theatre Company); Beirut (Pacific Repertory Theatre); The Merchant of Venice, Taming of the Shrew (Carmel Shakespeare Festival); Comedy of Errors (San Francisco Shakespeare Festival): Dreamstealers, Midnight Brainwash Revival (fool'sFURY); On the Road; Coppola's workshop production, Othello (Bannam Place Theatre); Macbeth, Tartuffe (Sonomal Shakespeare Festival); As You Like It, Macbeth, The Tempest (California Shakespeare Festival); Comedy of Errors (San Francisco Shakespeare Festival), and is a company member of PlayGround. In September, she can be seen as Beatrice in Much Ado About Nothing at Marin Shakespeare. For Debbie and MT.

Torange Yeghiazarian (Founding Artistic Director) writes. and acts for the theatre. She is the Artistic Director of Golden Thread Productions, where she has devoted her professional life to exploring Middle Eastern cultures and identities through theatre arts. In this capacity, Torange launched ReOrient Festival of Short Plays showcasing alternative perspectives of the Middle East. Most recently, Torange adapted the poetry of Simin Behbehani to the stage in I Sell Souls, collaborated with Iranian, Israeli and American artists on creating Benedictus, and is currently providing dramaturgy on Water Under Bridge, adapted from a 9th Century Sufi tale. Torange's play Call Me Mehdiis included in "Salaam/Peace: An Anthology of Middle-Eastern American Playwrights" published by TCG in 2009. Other plays include Waves, Dawn at Midnight, Behind Glass Windows, Abaga. As a teaching artist, Torange has taught playwriting to at-risk youth as part of the Each One Reach One program, incorporated theatre into social studies in Richmond's Washington Elementary School as part of the Learning Without Borders program, and led acting and play development workshops for youth and adults for Golden Thread. A native of Iran and of Armenian heritage, Torange holds a Master's degree in Theatre Arts from San Francisco State University.

<sup>\*</sup> Appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.

# Thank You's

Sally Al Daher, Joan Arhelger, Sonia El-Feki, Vida Ghahremani, Nadine Ghammache, Tehmina Khan, Jim Lucas, Navid Maghami, Nabila Mango, Richard Olmstad, Sara Razavi, Sima Shakhsari, Michel Shehadeh, Debbie Smith, Lanie Wieland, Tamer Yousef.

Many thanks for providing housing to our visiting artists: Edie Williams & Juan Vargas Mahsa Nirui & Ali Eslami Artie Kramer

> Thanks to Encore Theatre Company, Magic Theatre, Z Space Studios and the Thick House staff.

Many thanks to the artists who supported Golden Thread's Spring Reception Silent Art Auction: Ali Dadgar, Taraneh Hemami, Craig Nelson, Shiva Pakdel, Mokhtar Paki, Ardalan Payvar, Chris Winslow, Termeh Yeghiazarian, Shadi Yousefian and to Nancy Quinn and Tom Driscoll for being such fabulous hosts.



# Golden Thread Productions

Torange Yeghiazarian, Founding Artistic Director Lanie Wieland, Marketing Associate Lisa Tateosian, Education Program Director Carol Elllis, Fairytale Players Artistic Lead Sarah Al-Kassab, resident Costume Designer Evren Odcikin, resident Graphic Artist

Solden hread
Middle East Center Stage

Denmo Ibrahim, Commissioned Artist Artistic Associates: Yussef El Guindi, Vida Ghahremani, Haleh Hatami, Laura Hope, Amy Mueller, Evren Odcikin, Lisa Tateosian

## Board of Trustees:

Jim Lucas, President Rana Orangi, Secretary Keyumars Hakim, Treasurer Eddie Grant Judith Wilber Torange Yeghiazarian

Golden Thread Productions is dedicated to theatre that explores Middle Eastern cultures & identities as represented throughout the globe.

We produce plays by playwrights from the Middle East as well as all playwrights writing about the Middle East. Full-length plays are accepted year round. Short plays (10-40 min) will be considered annually for production in the ReOrient Festival, deadline is March 1st.

We are actively recruiting new Board members. If you are as passionate about this work as we are, if you believe in the power of the arts to change lives, and if you want to lead Golden Thread into its next ten years of success, contact us:

131 Tenth Street, San Francisco, CA, 94103 Tel. 415.626.4061 Fax. 415.626.1138 E.Mail torange@goldenthread.org www.goldenthread.org

# Tenth Anniversary Season Contributors (OCTOBER 2007- MAY 2008)

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#### \$500-\$999

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#### \$1,000 and more

Eddie Grant Keyumars Hakim Nosrat Salimi Judy Wilber & Bob Miller



# Middle East America

# A National New Play Initiative

Golden Thread Productions in San Francisco, the Lark Play Development Center in New York and Silk Road Theatre Project in Chicago launch a national effort to actively cultivate and support the development of Middle Eastern American playwrights and their plays.

Middle East America will provide a \$10,000 commission to a Middle Eastern American playwright to support the development of a new play. Awarded through an application process, the prize also provides intensive developmental support from the Lark with possible productions at Golden Thread Productions and Silk Road Theatre Project.

The Initiative is designed to encourage other theatres, both American and international, to produce plays by Middle Eastern-American playwrights. In doing so, the Middle East America Initiative aims to challenge the lack of representation and stereotypical depiction of individuals of Middle Eastern ethnicity with the ultimate goal of deepening our national conversation about the Middle East.

Applications are due July 31th. The selected playwright will be announced in September 2008. Visit www.MiddleEastAmerica.com for more information and application guidelines.



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# 12:01 THE OTHER SIDE OF NOON

FOX SEARCHLIGHT PRESENTS A JOHN BISHAM FILM

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# Join Us For Post-play Discussions Every Sunday!

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June 15 Arab Representations in Hollywood, sponsored by the Arab Film Festival

June 22 In Conversation with the Director, Mark Routhier

June 29 Producing Plays about the Middle East, Torange Yeghiazarian

# Upcoming Performances by the Fairytale Players

The Girl Who Lost Her Smile

June 10 - KZV Armenian School

June 19 – Tiburon Main Library

July 12 - San Mateo Main Library

July 19 - Bay Area Discovery Museum

July 27 – San Francisco TheatreFest

Golden Thread Productions' Fairytale Players are an ensemble of performers who will create a repertory of touring plays based on tales, music and dance from the Middle East. For bookings and info contact Lanie@goldenthread.org

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