



NASSIM

NASSIM SOLEIMANPOUR

Dear performer. I want to show you something. Did you know, in Farsi my name is written like this: ‘.ROUPNAMIELOS MISSAN si eman yM’

Did you know Nassim means ‘breeze’ in Farsi?

From Iranian playwright Nassim Soleimanpour, comes an audacious theatrical experiment that explores the power of language to unite us in unknown, uncertain times.

No rehearsals. No preparation. Just a sealed envelope and a new actor reading a script for the first time every performance.

Illuminating and playful, *Nassim* invites you to celebrate the raw and unexpected in a striking theatrical demonstration of how language can divide us but also bring us together. Themes of childhood, love and family are explored in English and Farsi, in a profound and warmly moving exploration of Soleimanpour’s own identity.

Just as each performer arrives unprepared on the day, audiences will also be surprised by who is performing alongside Nassim. The extension of the unseen script concept in Nassim is that instead of the actor reading Soleimanpour’s authorial voice in the stage directions, the playwright provides it himself, live, feeding the new actor their lines, coaxing them, bribing them and even punishing them in their endeavours.

Direct from an award-winning Edinburgh season, this new work is touchingly autobiographical while remaining powerfully universal.

Following its world premiere, Nassim won the Fringe First award at Edinburgh in 2017.

Nassimo Soleimanpour biography

Nassim Soleimanpour (playwright and performer) is an independent multidisciplinary theatre maker best known for his multi award-winning play *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*.

Born into a cultured Iranian family, Soleimanpour's father was a novelist – “he was like a mentor” – and his mother a painter. Both were bookworms. He was brought up in Shiraz, capital of Iran's Fars province, and if he hasn't exactly been a writer all his life, he has always been thinking about how he could write his thoughts down.

Soleimanpour started writing plays at 18, when he moved north to Isfahan to study engineering and telecommunication for four years at university. But before he finished the course, he quit and moved further north to Tehran to study theatre. He spent his first two years on general performing arts before specialising in set design. While this was a practical decision – he could take what he had learned in the degree to earn a living working in architecture.

In Tehran, he met the Canadian actor and director Daniel Brooks, who encouraged Soleimanpour to write the award-winning play *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*.

Soleimanpour could not get an Iranian passport as he refused to do mandatory national service, so he devised a play that could travel the world without him. *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* was performed around the world and translated into 15 different languages since 2011, it wasn't until 2013 that Soleimanpour was able to see this play live.

Further plays include *Blind Hamlet* which premiered at LIFT Festival 2014 prior to a UK tour and productions in Bucharest and Copenhagen. In 2015, Soleimanpour's play *BLANK* premiered in the UK at the Bush Theatre's RADAR, and went on to play all over the world including, Amsterdam and Utrecht, Argentina, Australia and India

Soleimanpour now lives in Berlin and has been commissioned to write a new play for Teater Momentum (Denmark).

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Wendy Martin is the Artistic Director 2016 – 19.

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