



Ruby Slippers Theatre  
COURAGE • HEART • BRAINS

# Dil Ka



Photo by Emily Cooper featuring performers Janavi Chawla, Nimet Kanji, Parm Soor, Rami Kahlon, and Talia Vandenbrink

A Ruby Slippers Theatre Production

Co-Presented by Blackout Art Society and Presentation House Theatre

**Mar 22-31, 2024**



# Dil Ka

A Ruby Slippers Theatre Production

Co-Presented by Blackout Art Society and Presentation House Theatre

**Dates and Times:**

Mar 22–31, 2024

**Show length:**

Approximately two hours long with one intermission

**Audience (adult, youth, children):**

Adult

**CAST**

Talia Vandenbrink – *Zahra*

Nimet Kanji – *Mama*

Parm Soor – *Baba*

Rami Kahlon – *Aisha*

Janavi Chawla – *Sania*

Tanaz Roudgar – *Jaz*

**PRODUCTION/CREATIVE TEAM**

**Writer:** Lee Nisar

**Director:** Tricia Trinh

**Stage Manager:** Stephen Courtney

**Assistant Stage Manager:** Peter Jotkus

**Technical Director and Production Manager:** Jessica Han

**Set Designer:** Kimira Reddy

**Costume Designer:** Rachel Macadam

**Lighting Designer:** John Webber

**Sound Designer:** Mishelle Cuttler

**Projection Designer:** Jullianna Oke (Chimerik)

**Props Designer:** Louisa Birkin

**Cultural Consultant:** Adolyn Hamed Dar



Presentation House Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the terms of the jointly negotiated Canadian Theatre Agreement.



Presentation House Theatre engages professional designers who are members of the Associated Designers of Canada. These designers appear with permission of the Associated Designers of Canada.

Many thanks to our sponsors, funders and supporters!



Special thanks to the Arts Club, Raincity Props, Bard on the Beach, KW Studios, June Hahn, Anthony and Dylan and Leah Muhleman!

Ruby Slippers Theatre would like to thank our season sponsors John Fluevog Shoes and Ray-Mont Logistics International. We also sincerely thank the Canada Council for the Arts, the BC Arts Council, the Government of BC, the City of Vancouver, the Hamber Foundation and the Vancouver Foundation.

### **ABOUT RUBY SLIPPERS THEATRE:**

For three decades, critically heralded Ruby Slippers Theatre has given voice to under-represented artists garnering over sixty awards, three national tours, and the creation of five original full length works. We are the premiere purveyors of Québec works in English translation within our region, translations that we at RST often commission, and have a reputation for smart social satire that is infectiously entertaining. RST's annual Advance Theatre Festival provides development and showcase opportunities to female identifying and gender non-conforming playwrights and directors who also identify as Indigenous, Black, or Persons of Colour. Our two annual main stage offerings and Artist in Residency program also reflect our values and commitment to advance the radically inclusive stage.

RST's Artistic Director Diane Brown is a recipient of the prestigious Bra D'Or from Playwrights Guild of Canada, a national award in recognition of her many years championing and furthering underrepresented voices.

### **ABOUT BLACKOUT ART SOCIETY:**

In 2012, Vancouver, BC, witnessed the inception of a unique theatrical force: Blackout Theatre. Initially emerging as an ad hoc theatre ensemble, we passionately set our sights on creating socially aware and pioneering theatre experiences that resonated deeply with the Persian community. With the invaluable contributions of local Persian artists, our first four years were marked by performances that echoed our cultural heritage and enlightened our audiences. Taking a significant leap in 2017, Blackout Theatre transformed into a registered not-for-profit organization in British Columbia, Blackout Art Society.

As we evolved, our vision broadened. While the essence of our Persian roots remains undeniably central to our identity, our aspirations extend beyond. We envision a theatre that bridges linguistic and cultural divides, producing enthralling pieces in both Persian and English. We aim to connect with a diverse audience spectrum and secure our place amongst government-funded theatre establishments.



## **ABOUT PRESENTATION HOUSE THEATRE:**

Nestled in the heart of North Vancouver's Lower Lonsdale, Presentation House Theatre has become a neighbourhood creative hub, providing the community with a dynamic mix of professional theatre, music, and dance productions — all just a Seabus away from downtown Vancouver. We are the North Shore's professional theatre company. For more than 40 years, we've entertained audiences with innovative programming and quality professional productions in our wonderfully welcoming space. We are committed to presenting and producing shows of the highest standard, and appealing to the diversity of North Shore audiences. We proudly offer programming for children and youth, adults young and old.

Presentation House Theatre believes that professional theatre is for everyone. Every show we present or produce will be of the highest professional standard while also appealing to the diversity of the North Shore. We are proud to offer programming for children and youth, adults young and old, the music aficionado and the innovative and emerging dancers. We are the cultural hub in your own backyard.

## **A Really Funny Fundraiser for Presentation House Theatre**



**MON APRIL 8 | 7:30 PM**  
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**WITH**

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**BRADLEY FUNG**  
**RYAN WILLIAMS**  
**MONIQUE BELLAMY**



# RUBY SLIPPERS THEATRE

## **RUBY SLIPPERS THEATRE STAFF:**

Diane Brown - *Artistic Director*

Grace Chin - *General Manager*

Alison Chisholm - *Fund Development and Outreach*

Erin Gleig - *Social Media and Marketing*

Jodi Smith - *Publicist*

Boyd Norman - *Bookkeeper*

## **RUBY SLIPPERS THEATRE'S OVER THE RAINBOW DONORS:**

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## **RUBY SLIPPERS THEATRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

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**Ruby Slippers Theatre**  
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## PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE



As far back as I can remember, the women in my family used the kitchen as a hiding spot. They would cook together, exchanging tips and recipes over stories from their childhoods, and laugh in a way that I noticed they didn't around their husbands, brothers, fathers. I would sit with them, taking in their jokes and songs, old movie references and memories from school. These were

some of my favourite moments from my childhood.

When I got older, I realized the kitchen provided more than just a place to hide: it was where they could be set free, away from scrutiny.

Dil Ka began as an homage to South Asian cooking and kitchens, the familiar heaviness of the herbs and spices, dense smoke filling the air from the tawa. I wanted to reclaim this space for myself, as someone who is not a woman, who will never be a wife or mother, but who is trying to keep my family recipes alive regardless. Why can't the kitchen be a refuge for queerness, where our secrets can come out and lie with the smoke?

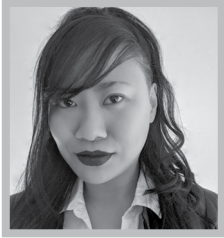
With support from Ruby Slippers Theatre and the Advanced Theatre Festival, this play has grown so much from its original reading into something beyond my wildest dreams. Thank you to the entire Ruby Slippers Team, including all of the actors, designers, crew, stage managers, technicians, production assistants, and ushers from the first reading until now. Special thanks to Tricia Trinh and Diane Brown for championing this story from the very beginning, and for pushing me to new depths as a writer. You're all awesome.

Lastly, I want to dedicate this play to my mother and my Aunt Amber, whose playful conversations in our tiny Karachi kitchen served as the heart of this story. I hope to be as strong and fearless as them one day.

Enjoy the show!

- Lee Nisar, *Playwright*

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE



**D**il Ka translates to “of the heart”. Heart is the driving force of this story.

What makes up our hearts? Our beliefs? Our values? Our love? Does one outweigh the other?

This production hopes to take the audience on a deep dive investigation into the multiplicity of intersectional hearts. How do we learn to coexist with all the facets of ourselves, so that we may meet ourselves in wholeness? In wholeness can our love for our source, for our family and for our partner meet in unity? May one strengthen the other?

As a queer, genderfluid, Chinese - Vietnamese - Canadian; raised by refugee parents in so-called Vancouver this story resonates with me on a profound level. My artistic practice is dedicated to investigating intercultural socio-political influence on queer identity and gender identity. Growing up, my initial access point to my displaced lineage was the kitchen. My fragmented intersectional identity required a deep dive journey into introspection, self-awareness, to meet myself in wholeness. It is still a constant practice in navigating, unlearning, remembering, claiming, holding, arriving, dropping in, centering - it asks of me to sit with it, breathe with it and move with it on the daily. It will be a lifelong practice.

To illuminate the intricate internal conflict of a young Queer Muslim Pakistani woman, grappling with her queerness against the backdrop of her familial duties and her belief system, this production toys with staging Zahra's memories through a series of vignettes; inspired by the visceral text. The directorial exploration of vignettes hopes to limelight the weight of family and belief in Zahra's internal conflict by inviting the audience to bear witness. To amplify the illumination we've built a world in which the language of the design elements are fragmented, abstract and metaphorical; extending the kitchen, the pillar of immigrant homes, into the rest of the house. By utilizing distinctive storytelling conventions we hope to invite the audience to see the world through Zahra's lens, in this pivotal moment of her life in which her internalized shame is in the driver's seat.

The fragmented abstract kitchen hopes to offer a window into the liminal space of Zahra's psyche, in which her perception of the world is blurred and pixelated. It isn't until Zahra gains clarity through her journey into self awareness, does the world reveal itself in clarity. As Zahra inches closer and closer to meeting herself in wholeness, to taking accountability for her truth, she is able to see the world as it truly is.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This production is dedicated to all the versions of us that try to shrink into spaces that do not have room for us. May all those versions know, they are enough, exactly as they are, in all their entirety.

This production strives to honour both the traditional and contemporary reality in present day Muslim culture in so-called Canada, while investigating the reality of queer intersectional identity.

Relentless gratitude to Ruby Slippers, Presentation House and Blackout Arts for championing feminist forward narratives with queer, immigrant, systemically excluded, POC experiences at the forefront.

*- Tricia Trinh, Director*



# CREATIVE TEAM & CAST



## **Lee Nisar** – *Playwright*

Lee Nisar is a Pakistani-Canadian filmmaker, writer, and photographer living and working in Toronto, Canada. They have just received their MFA in Documentary Media from Toronto Metropolitan University. Lee's work explores issues relating to intergenerational trauma, queerness, and race. Heavily inspired by horror and poetry, they seek to use multimedia tools and stylization to navigate various perspectives. They have written and directed several short plays, including ***Dil Ka***, their first full-length play, as well as multiple photo and video projects.

When not donning their producer hat or fidgeting with film lights, Lee likes singing karaoke with their friends, annoying their cat, or finding yet another excuse to order pho for dinner.



## **Tricia Trinh** – *Director*

Trinh is a queer, genderfluid, Chinese-Vietnamese-Canadian, interdisciplinary theatre artist; with a background in directing, playwriting, curating and producing. Graduate of UVic [BFA]. Founder & Artistic Director of Dusty Foot Productions. Selected Playwright-Director Credits: ***Probability*** [rEvolver 2018], ***Red Glimmer*** [Fringe 2019], ***Attachments*** [Tremors 2020/ATF 2024], ***Diosa Volcanica*** [Infinity Fire 2023], ***Duality*** [Infinity Fire 2024]. Selected Assistant Director Credits: ***we the same*** [Ruby Slippers 2021], ***Henry V*** [Bard on the Beach 2023]. Selected Producer Credits: Telling It Bent [frank theatre '20-'24], Cabaret Series [Rumble Theatre '21-'23], MSG Lab [vAct '23].

Her artistic practice aims to examine the multiplicity in intersectional lived experiences, specifically investigating intercultural socio-political influence on queer identity and gender identity. They approach storytelling as a direct vessel in which we can share with one another our humanity. He is immensely grateful for the opportunity to share the playing field with this electric team of artists.

Trinh's latest work in development is an experimental-holistic-immersive-experience, grounded in a theatrical narrative, that invites the audience to embody storytelling through: live instrumentals, guided meditation, sound baths, and 5rhythms. @dustyfoot\_trinh

## CREATIVE TEAM & CAST



### **Stephen Courtenay** – *Stage Manager*

Stephen is happy to rejoin Ruby Slippers Theatre after last fall's World Premiere co-production with Touchstone Theatre of Pippa Mackie's *Hurricane Mona* at the Cultch Historic Theatre. This followed a satisfying remounting of CLASSical Act Collective's *The Woman In Black* at Presentation House Theatre a short while after its first successful run at the Jericho Arts Centre. Other recent previous highlights include Touchstone Theatre's *Yaga, Ominous Sounds at the River Crossing* and Pi Theatre's *Lampedusa*. Stephen's career has included about fifty Shakespearean productions during his twenty-seven years as Production Stage Manager with Bard on the Beach. Other companies that he has worked with include the Vancouver Playhouse, Theatre Calgary, Citadel Theatre, Studio 58, Green Thumb, The Electric Company and numerous others. Stephen feels privileged to be working with Diane Brown's talented production and acting team on this sensitively crafted project.



### **Peter Jotkus** – *Assistant Stage Manager*

Theatre Credits: The Belfry; Pacific Opera; Arts Club (current); Vancouver Playhouse (twelve consecutive seasons); Bard on the Beach; Electric Company; Aeriosa Dance; WCT; Banff Centre; ATP; The Citadel; Theatre Calgary; MTC; Stratford Festival; Shaw Festival; Grand Theatre; Canadian Stage; Opera Atelier; COC; National Arts Centre; Centaur; Charlottetown Festival. Touring: De Singel, Antwerp; BAM, New York; Edinburgh International Festival; Kammerspiel, Munich; American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco; Bushnell Center for the Arts, Hartford; Bergen Festival, Norway; Wellington Festival; Adelaide Festival; Barbican Theatre, London; World Stage Festival; Luminato, Toronto.

Other: Graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada.



### **Jessica Han** – *Technical Director and Production Manager*

Jessica Han (she/her) is a Taiwanese-Canadian lighting designer, technical director, production/ stage manager, and filmmaker who is currently splitting her time between Taipei, Taiwan, and Vancouver, BC. She has been working

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and collaborating with local dance & theatre artists and companies since 2011. You can find more of her work at <https://jessicahan.ca/>



## **Kimira Reddy** – *Set Designer*

Kimira is an accomplished Artist, award-winning Set Designer and Creative Director who channels her artistic prowess on the unceded Coast Salish Territories. She also serves as the Communications Director of Raven Spirit Dance. Kimira's portfolio is a mosaic of immersive virtual reality experiences, exhibition designs, and art installations. Collaborations with UBC, Vancouver Opera, Canada Wild Arts Society, Indian Summer Festival, Zee Zee Theatre, and other esteemed partners have all contributed to the rich tapestry of her creative odyssey. Explore more at: [www.kimirareddy.com](http://www.kimirareddy.com)



## **Rachel Macadam** – *Costume Designer*

Rachel [she/they] is honoured to be working with Ruby Slippers again. Currently living on Vancouver Island working as the head of props for the Chemainus Theatre Festival. Most recently she worked for Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre set designing *Miss Julie* and costume designer for *Misery*. Other design credits include *Blackhorse* (Caravan Farm Theatre), *It'll Come to Me* (Theatre SKAM), and *Problem Child* (UVic).



## **John Webber** – *Lighting Design*

John is honoured to be working with such a wonderful group of artists and to be back with the Ruby Slippers team. A long time designer of both Sets and Lighting he has had the privilege of working with some of Canada's most talented and adventurous artists.

Past credits for Ruby Slippers include *Benevolence*, *Les Belles-soeurs*, and *I Lost My Husband!* among others. Past credits include: *Onegin*, *Kinky Boots*, *Angels in America Part 1 and 2*, for the Arts Club Theatre Company. *The Sound of Music*, *Chelsea Hotel*, *Wizard of Oz* for Western Canada Theatre. *Rigoletto* and *Marriage of Figaro* for Vancouver Opera.

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## **Mishelle Cuttler** – *Sound Design*

Mishelle is a Vancouver based composer and sound designer whose work is centred around the integration of sound, music, and storytelling. The foundation of Mishelle's work is collaborative creation, and she has been fortunate to bring music to a multitude of projects with many incredible artists since entering the professional community.

Some favourite past projects include: ***East Van Panto: Beauty and the Beast*** (Theatre Replacement), ***Someone Like You*** (Arts Club), ***The Seventh Fire*** (Delinquent/Newworld), ***The Wrong Bashir*** (Firehall Arts Centre), ***Clean/Espejos*** (Newworld). Next up: ***Hedda Gabler*** (Stratford Festival). Mishelle is the Programs Manager for the GVPTA, and the West Coast Representative for the Associated Designers of Canada.



## **Jullianna Oke** – *Projection Design*

Jullianna (she/they) is an interdisciplinary emerging artist of Japanese-Canadian descent, working and playing in Vancouver as a settler on the unceded, ancestral, and occupied lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaʔ (Tseilil-Waututh) Nations. Jullianna situates her work in relation to deep embodied listening, and adopts creation and a movement practice from this place of slow processing. Finishing her BFA Honours in Dance from Simon Fraser University, Jullianna's interests lie in the passage of information and non-verbal communication expressed from one body to another through movement, sound, and media.



## **Louisa Birkin** – *Props Design*

Louisa Birkin is a production and props designer based in Vancouver. After studying film production, Louisa worked in set design and art direction in fashion photography and events in London (UK). She then joined the nationally acclaimed theatrical circus Giffords Circus for 10 years as Head of the Art Department. Since moving to Vancouver in 2019, Louisa is bringing her unique background and singular vision to an array of award-winning independent film and theatre productions.

[louisabirkin.com](http://louisabirkin.com)

## CREATIVE TEAM & CAST



### **Adolyn Hamed Dar** – *Cultural Consultant*

Adolyn H. Dar is an actor, writer and mental health professional who divides his time between being on stage, on screen or on the spot talking about EDI and wellness. Recently he helped BIPOC TV and Film train EDI facilitators in the arts and entertainment industry and continues to run unconscious bias workshops for a whole bunch of those fancy sounding companies across the globe. He truly believes in a call in vs. call out culture and endeavors to create a space where everyone feels included - which is really just a place where everyone can have fun and be themselves. Who doesn't want to live in a world like that? Select actor credits,TV/Film: **"Allegiance"** (CBC), **"The Expanse"** (Amazon Prime), **"Superman and Lois"** (CW); Theatre: **Disgraced** (ATP), **Mahabharata** (Why Not/ Shaw). He's very honored to support this production and everyone on Dil Ka, thank you!



### **Diane Brown** – *Ruby Slippers Theatre Artistic Director – Producer*

Diane is a multi award-winning director and actor, and is the Artistic Director of Ruby Slippers Theatre. She has been honoured to receive recognition for her work including the prestigious Bra D'Or from Playwrights Guild of Canada, a national award in recognition of her years of commitment to furthering under-represented voices. Select acting for RST: **Hurricane Mona, The Duchess a.k.a. Wallis Simpson, Communion, A Beautiful View**. Select directing for RST: **Benevolence, You Will Remember Me, Les Belles-soeurs, Trout Stanley, Après Moi, The Leisure Society**. Diane heads up Theatre Cares and sits on the Advisory Board for Vancouver Civic Theatres. She earned a BFA from SFU and an MFA in Directing from UBC. She is thrilled to be partnering with PHT and The Blackout Arts Society on Lee's beautiful script.



### **Talia Vandenbrink** – *Actor – Zahra*

Talia Vandenbrink is deeply honoured to be bringing Zahra to life for the premiere of Dil Ka! Having lived in North Vancouver, Talia has watched numerous shows at Presentation House Theatre. It's a full circle moment for her to come back here, not as an audience member, but on stage.

## CREATIVE TEAM & CAST

Talia is a graduate of Capilano University's Musical Theatre Program. Past credits include *All's Well That Ends Well* (Bard on the Beach), *Grand Hotel* and *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (Arbutus Studio) among others. Talia would like to thank her family and friends for the unwavering support, Nadeem for the love, Tricia and Diane for the opportunity, and a heartfelt bow to Lee, for exposing their heart and letting us in. @taliavandenbrink



### **Nimet Kanji** – Actor – Mama

Award winning Nimet Kanji began her career in Nairobi, Kenya. She emigrated to Canada in 1989. Some of her theatre credits include *Contractions* (Northern Light Theatre), *Victim Impact* (Theatre Conspiracy), *Sultans of the Street* (Carousel Theatre), *9 Parts of Desire* (The Maggie Tree), *Bombay Black* (2017 Vancouver Fringe), amongst others. She also works in TV/Film and Voice. Check her out on [Imdb.com](https://www.imdb.com).



### **Parm Soor** – Actor – Baba

Parm was born in Punjab, India and raised in London, England. He studied Theatre at The University of Winnipeg. Stage highlights include The Arts Club productions of *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, *The Orchard* and *The Humans* at The Stanley Theatre and *The Men In White* at The Granville Island Stage; *A Vancouver Guldasta* at the Cultch; *MacBeth* at The Firehall Arts Centre, *Romeo and Juliet* at The Kaleidoscope Theatre and *Coronation Voyage* at The National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

He has also appeared in over 40 television shows and numerous Hollywood blockbusters including *'Watchmen'*; *'2012'*; *'Tomorrowland'*; and *'Maze Runner'*. He will next appear in the Toronto production of *The Wrong Bashir* at Crow's Theatre in the spring of 2024. Parm is delighted to be making his Ruby Slippers Theatre, Presentation House Theatre, and Blackout Arts Society debut.

# CREATIVE TEAM & CAST



## **Rami Kahlon** – Actor – *Aisha*

Rami is very excited to be playing the role of “Aisha” in the premiere of *Dil Ka*. She would like to thank her parents and siblings for helping her prepare for the role of “bratty younger sister” her whole life.

She has performed in *Dooja Ghar* (South Asian Arts Centre), *The Troll Grandfather* (Axis Theatre), and *Henry V* (Stone’s Throw Productions). Other credits include multiple characters in *The Dining Room* (Rogues West End Theatre), a staged reading of *The Bibliomancer* (Ruby Slippers Theatre), and a show that she co-produced: *Criminal Genius* (GO Studios).



## **Janavi Chawla** – Actor – *Sania*

Janavi (she/they) is a theatre artist born and raised in Vancouver, BC on the unceded, traditional territory of the xwməθkwəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Skwx̌wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. She is very excited and grateful to be working with such an incredible team on this show! Recent credits include: Moon (*Blood Wedding*, Studio 58), Diana (*A Chorus Line*, Studio 58), and Diana/Stewart/Larry (*Polar Opposites*, Burnaby Arts Council). Janavi is a recent Studio 58 graduate. When she’s not in the theatre she enjoys teaching the public about space at the space centre!



## **Tanaz Roudgar** – Actor – *Jaz*

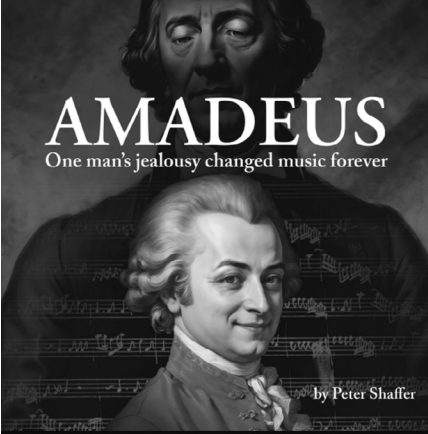
Tanaz is a multidisciplinary artist with professional training in acting and writing from Vancouver Film School and SFU and other amazing mentors. Her art manifests as poetry, playwriting, improvising, movement and Facilitation. Her work is centered around somatic awareness, activism, and play. She is committed to bringing her diverse experience as a queer BIPOC immigrant to the projects and spaces she is part of, dismantling systems of oppression like a warrior goddess on the unceded and stolen lands of the Coast Salish peoples aka Vancouver Canada.

They are an ensemble member of the improv comedy group “Bekhand” with instant theatre, where they also teach improv acting. They have participated in film projects such as: *'A Film About Uterus'*, *'parallel'*, *'backyard worriers'*, *'Persian*

# CREATIVE TEAM & CAST

*Pride!*. Theatre productions such as: *Shahre gheseh* (Blackout Theatre), *Dil Ka* (Ruby Slippers and VAACT), *Monologues for Gaza* (Carousel Theatre) *Hair Hair everywhere* (VAACT), *Madea* (SFU), *Selfie* (SFU), *One Of A Kind* (Children Festival) She has co created and performed in *Ode To Diaspora* at the STAND Festival 2023 and been in residencies with companies such as Rice and Bean Theatre, Carousel and Deer Lake Artist Residency. She has written plays such as *Seda* (Arts Club) and *Womanizer* (Paprika Festival). She has performed poetry with Telling It Bend (Frank Theatre), SFU lunch reading, Flaming Balloon, Nowrouz at Vancouver Black Library, Shahr Neshini, Poetry Floodlight Series.

Her movement practices are centered around improvising, contact improv, contemporary, belly dancing and pole dancing. She is currently working on developing a sketch comedy mini series about the female traveling experience. Visit her instagram @tanazroud for samples of work, more photos/videos and upcoming shows/projects.



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## **Amirnaeim Hosseini** – *Blackout Art Society Artistic Director*

Blackout Art Society's Artistic Director, and an active writer and director in Vancouver's theatre scene for the past ten years, Amir has produced and directed many projects surrounding social issues. His recent directing includes **Grafting** in 2023, **Echoes from Far Away Cities** in 2022, **Zoning Out** in 2021, **Auto-Biography** in 2019. He also wrote and directed **Relationship (+-)**, **Dash** and **An Easy Recipe for A Cake** in Canada. In addition to his theatre experiences, Amir has written and directed several short films and documentaries in Iran before immigrating to Canada. **Blank** and **Blue Moments** are some of his works, to name a few. Amir won an award for the best documentary at the 3rd Urban Film Festival in 2009 and the same title at the 6th International Student Film Festival in 2010. Amir holds a B. S. in Civil Engineering and B. A. in Directing from IRIB University, Iran, followed by M.A in Directing Theatre from TMU, Iran. He has been the artist-in-residence at Presentation House Theatre since 2018. Starting 2021, he is the Artistic Director of the STAND Festival, a festival to support voices of immigrant and refugee artists in theatre, dance, and music.



## **Soha Sanajou** – *Blackout Art Society Artistic Producer*

Soha is the co-founder of Blackout Art Society and has appeared in several short films and theatre productions in Vancouver and Iran for the past twelve years. Soha's theatre experiences

include **Echoes from Far Away Cities**, **Zoning Out**, **Auto-Biography**, **Relationship (+-)**, **An Easy Recipe for A Cake** and **Grafting** to name a few. Through her work, Soha invites us into a world where art is the bridge connecting diverse perspectives. Her commitment to the craft is not just about entertainment; it's about fostering a shared understanding and celebrating the stories that define us, challenge us, and ultimately, unite us.=

Soha studied Accounting at the University of British Columbia and holds a Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws from Iran. She also completed a Certificate in Acting by taking Masterclasses at the Persian Culture and Art Institute in North Vancouver and Devising classes at Ghost River Theatre in Calgary. A native of Iran, Soha now lives and works in Vancouver and since 2021, she is the Executive Producer at the annual @stand.festival to support voices of immigrant and refugee artists in theatre, dance, and music.

# VOLUNTEERING AT PHT

Our wonderful volunteers help Presentation House Theatre bring entertaining, engaging and accessible theatre and programs to our audiences of all ages. Volunteering is a great way to be part of the theatre, connect with the community, meet new people, and contribute to our exciting season of shows year after year.

## *Are you friendly, reliable, outgoing, and keen about theatre and the arts?*

Join our team of volunteers! There are a variety of ways you can volunteer with us from ushering, working in the concession, to bringing your own expertise to help the theatre.

### Perks of Volunteering with us:

- While working an Usher shift, our Ushers get to sit inside the theatre and watch the show.
- All volunteers receive 50% off our Concession items.
- Take part in our Zoom Insider Sessions. This is for our volunteers to connect, learn insider info about the theatre, our shows and Q&A sessions with artists in our community.
- For those who volunteer in our Concession, they receive an extra ticket to bring a plus one on the night they are volunteering or two complimentary tickets to another show of the run. (This perk is only for those who volunteer in our concession.)



Interested in volunteering?

Visit <https://www.phtheatre.org/volunteer/> to learn more.

**We do require all our volunteers to be 16 years or older.**

Please note that we are currently not looking for volunteers for creative duties such as set painters, costume, prop, set, lighting and sound designers, actors and any other role involved in the creation of a show. These are all paid positions.



# BEST SUPPORTING CHARACTER

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## PRESENTATION HOUSE THEATRE STAFF

**Kim Selody** | *Artistic Director*  
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**Kaeden Atkinson** | *Head Technician*  
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**Brad Trenaman** | *Technical Director*  
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