

Friday, November 18 to  
Sunday, November 20, 6 pm

# SHOWCASE PERFORMANCE

OH MY SWEET LAND BY AMIR NIZAR ZUABI



AGA KHAN MUSEUM

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# OH MY SWEET LAND

*“They call it a civil war, but there is nothing civil in this. Nothing civil at all.”*

They came from Damascus, from Halab, from Baniyas, and beyond – and now they live in camps and abandoned buildings in Lebanon and Jordan, as Syria becomes a distant memory. This intimate and compelling drama explores the crisis in Syria through the experiences of its 4.8 million refugees, as a Syrian woman prepares *kibbeh* in her kitchen while recounting tales of her vanished lover, bringing to life a land torn apart by civil war.

*Oh My Sweet Land* is presented by Silk Road Rising, a non-profit theatre company based in Chicago, Illinois. They create live theatre and online videos that tell stories through primarily Asian American and Middle Eastern American lenses. In representing communities that intersect and overlap, the company advances a poly-cultural worldview.

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Sussan Jamshidi** (Actor) hails from Chicago and is thrilled to be part of *Oh My Sweet Land*. A graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University, Chicago, Sussan holds a Masters Degree in Acting. Her past credits include: Remy Bumppo, The Gift, 16th Street, Victory Gardens, Chicago Dramatists, Theater Wit, Lookingglass, Sideshow, Lifeline, Collaboraction, Erasing the Distance, Stage Left, Oracle, The Inconvenience, Theatre Mir, Arena Stage, Berkeley Rep, The Michigan Shakespeare Festival, and Pittsburgh Public Theater’s Young Company. Her television and film credits include *Sirens*, *Chicago PD*, *Muslim in the City*, *Cicero in Winter*, *The Wallet*, and *A Cadaver Christmas*. Sussan continues to train with the Second City Conservatory Program in Chicago, making appearances in local festivals, screenings, and plays.

**Amir Nizar Zuabi** (Playwright) is a Palestinian theatre director and actor, who trained at the Nisan Nativ Theatre studio in Israel and in 2009, he became one of five co-founders of the independent theatre company ShiberHur (A Bit of Freedom) in Haifa. His productions there included *War is More* and *I Am Yusuf and This Is My Brother*, an impossible love story set in the strife-torn Palestine of 1948, which was followed by a sequel, *In the Penal Colony* in 2011.

**Anna C. Bahow** (Director) is committed to the development of new work and a diversity of voices. She is an Associate Artist with The International Voices Project and Chicago Dramatists. From 2011–2012, Bahow served as the Michael Maggio Directing Fellow at the Goodman Theatre. She received an After Dark Award for directing and her productions have received JEFF Awards for outstanding new work and use of multi media. Hedy Weiss of the *Chicago Sun-Times* called Bahow “a director of immense skill and subtlety, with an impeccable eye for casting, and a gift for finding the action in a play about the mind and the heart.”

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## RELATED PROGRAMMING

### ***Return to Homs***

**(Talal Derki, 2013, 94 min. Presented in Arabic with English subtitles)**

Sunday December 4, 2 pm

Be immersed in the harrowing vision of director Talal Derki in this documentary about two close friends living through the hard first years of Syria's civil war.

### **Arabica Coffee House Concert with the Al Qahwa Ensemble**

Sunday, December 11, 6 pm

Experience the premiere performance of the newly formed Al Qahwa Ensemble featuring Maryem Tollar, performing traditional songs from Syria's Arabic classical and popular repertoire – all in the setting of a traditional coffee house. Coffee included in ticket price.

For more information on, or to purchase tickets for these events, please visit [agakhanmuseum.org/performing-arts](http://agakhanmuseum.org/performing-arts)

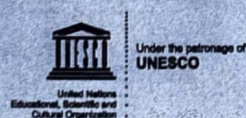
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and receive the latest news about our events and exhibitions!

*Syria: A Living History* and its related programming run through  
February 26, 2017 at the Aga Khan Museum.



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