

Don't miss this world premiere of a brilliant play from freshmen playwright Nahal Navidar!

[View this email in your browser](#)



The World Premiere of *My Dear Hussein*



Written by Nahal Navidar

Directed by Tlaloc Rivas

A child, a toy dog, and a ruthless dictator walk into a war zone and fanciful imagination breaks free. This surrealistic tale of a four-year-old Iranian girl unfolds amidst the carnage of the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s. The lines between playful fantasy and brutal warfare are gradually blurred as ugly realities become harder to mask.

March 17–April 19, 2020



The cast of *My Dear Hussein* includes (from left to right) Shatee Vossoughi (Parvaneh), Rom Barkhordar* (Baba/Saddam Hussein), Ninos Baba (Hussein), Joan Nahid (Maman/News Reporter), and Omer Abbas Salem (Javad).

* Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

Buy Tickets Now

Inspired by my childhood memories of growing up in the Iran-Iraq War, the themes in the play echo the war crisis in Syria and global injustices wherein children's lives are threatened. As children are unearthed from rubble or detained in migrant incarceration camps, I am reminded of my own parents' attempt to protect me in a time of imminent danger and uncertainty. I poured these memories into Parvaneh, the four-year-old protagonist, who lives a life of whimsy and imagination, and fails to recognize the hazard of the missiles that explode beyond her door. The central theme of the play falls in the lesser seen characters, Parvaneh's parents, who try to walk the paper-thin line of protecting their child in war without destroying her innocence. As the threat of a U.S. war with Iran lingers, I am left worrying if this story will remain an echo, or a literal manifestation of atrocities to be born again.



— Nahal Navidar, Playwright



The opportunity to direct at Silk Road Rising is dream, and that it will be Nahal Navidar's poignant, fanciful, and moving drama intersects with my own prime directive to support new work and new voices from underrepresented perspectives. The play takes place during a time I remember quite vividly as a child - and both the wonderment and confusion that wartime presents. For this generation (and since the founding of Silk Road) we have never known a time *without* war - and Nahal's play poses the question that many parents and educators fear: do we do more harm than good when we try to shield young people from the evil that men do and the atrocities of the world?

— Tlaloc Rivas, Director

Parents go to great lengths to create a safe world for their children, and when circumstances threaten that childhood bliss, parents man the barricades. Circumstances such as war and a coercive state and the mandating of religious rigidity imperil a child's innocence. Trauma can enter one's DNA to debilitating effect, and the defenseless are, by definition, at greatest risk. *My Dear Hussein* is, at its core, a story about innocence, the vulnerability of innocence and the resilience of innocence. Or better yet, it's a story about the persistence of

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼[RSS](#)

violence. Innocence as an act of
resistance.

— Jamil Khoury and Malik Gillani,
Founders, Silk Road Rising



Momentary Theatre is excited to partner with Silk Road Rising for Nahal Navidar's *My Dear Hussein*. This play provides the perfect platform for our two companies' missions to meet in support of this urgent story where echoes from the Iran-Iraq War reflect too clearly our world today. Together, our collaboration will record myths and disinformation associated with global events both past and present; challenge those ideas by revealing

new narratives through our shared humanity; and ask our audiences to react with inclusion and intention to influence action.

— Jacob C. Shuler, Co-Curator, Momentary Theatre

Previews Begin March 17, 2020

Copyright © 2020 Silk Road Rising, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).