

Get to know the actors who will bring this beautiful play to life

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Meet the Cast of *My Dear Hussein*

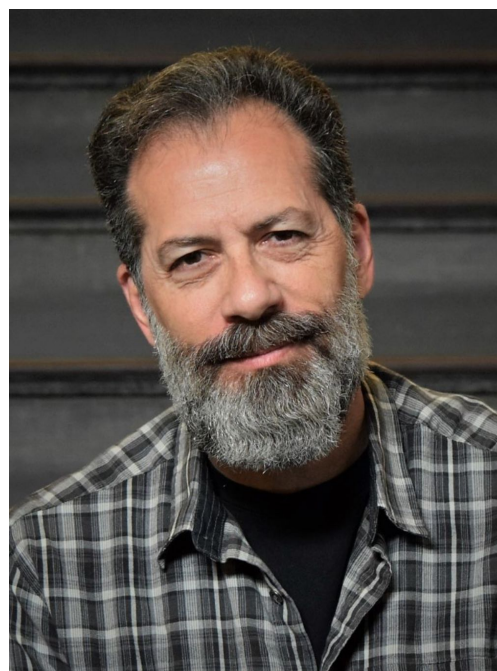


Shadee Vossoughi (Parvaneh) is an Iranian American actor, improviser, and sketch comedian hailing from Portland, Oregon. Theatre credits include *Black History Month Show*, *Public Empathy #1* (The Second City); *Deer and the Lovers* (First Floor Theatre); *The Tenth Muse*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival). Shadee received her BFA from Southern Oregon University and the NBCUniversal Bob Curry Fellowship at The Second City.

"I finally get to tell a story about Iran. I finally get to play an Iranian and speak Farsi which is huge for me, it means a lot."

Shadee on playing Parvaneh

Rom Barkhordar (Baba/Saddam Hussein) has been seen at Silk Road Rising in *Mosque Alert* and *Night Over Erzinga*. In addition to many regional theatre and television credits, some of Rom's other Chicago credits include *Acts of God* (Lookingglass Theatre), *Yasmina's Necklace* (Goodman Theatre), *Uncle Vanya, or That's Life!* (Rasaka Theatre), *The Who and the What* (Victory Gardens Theatre), *In a Garden* (A Red Orchid Theatre, Jeff nominated for Best Actor), and *The Elephant Man* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company).



what everyone sees and remembers as Saddam Hussein, but I also have to filter it through the lens of this little girl, so it's sort of Saddam Hussein meets Mister Rogers."

Rom on playing Saddam Hussein



Ninos Baba (Hussein) is a Skokie-born, Chicago-based performer. At Silk Road Rising, he previously understudied in *Through the Elevated Line*. Other credits include *SS! Macbeth* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *Miranda* (Indiana Repertory Theatre); *Significant Other* and *I Am My Own Wife* (About Face Theatre); *King Lear*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *The Comedy of Errors* (American Players Theatre). He holds a BFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"Someone else's life journey is likely more similar to yours than it isn't...we were all little kids with toys at one point. And at some point for all of us, that changed."

Ninos on *My Dear Hussein*

Joan Nahid (Maman/News Reporter) is an Iranian Chicago-based actor, writer, and voice artist. Her Chicago credits include *The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe* (Oak Park Festival Theatre), *Kiss* (Haven Theatre), *Tango* and *The Locketeer* (Trap Door Theatre), *The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe* (First Folio Theatre), and others. Joan has also appeared in *Miss Julie*, *A Doll's House*, and *Life x 3* in Tehran. She holds a MFA in theatre from Tehran University. She is also a graduate of Second City's Acting Lab Conservatory.



"I was the same age as Parvaneh when the war was happening in Iran. Everything in this show just reminds me of all those bitter-sweet memories of my childhood."

Joan on *My Dear Hussein*

Omer Abbas Salem (Javad) was last seen at Silk Road Rising in *Invasion!*. Other Chicago credits include *Linda* and *Earthquakes in London* (Steep Theatre), *Pinocchio* (The House Theatre), *In to America* (Griffin Theatre), *Merge* and *Even Longer and Further Away* (The New Colony). Regional credits include *Angels in America*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *You Across from Me* (Actors Theatre of Louisville). Off-Broadway credits include *Eddie and Dave* (The Atlantic Theater) and *I Am Going to Change the World* (Roundabout Theater).



"I love the idea that we're presenting a story about war that has very little to do with the trauma of it...it just shows how life is possible, how it persists, even in the most dire circumstances, like war."

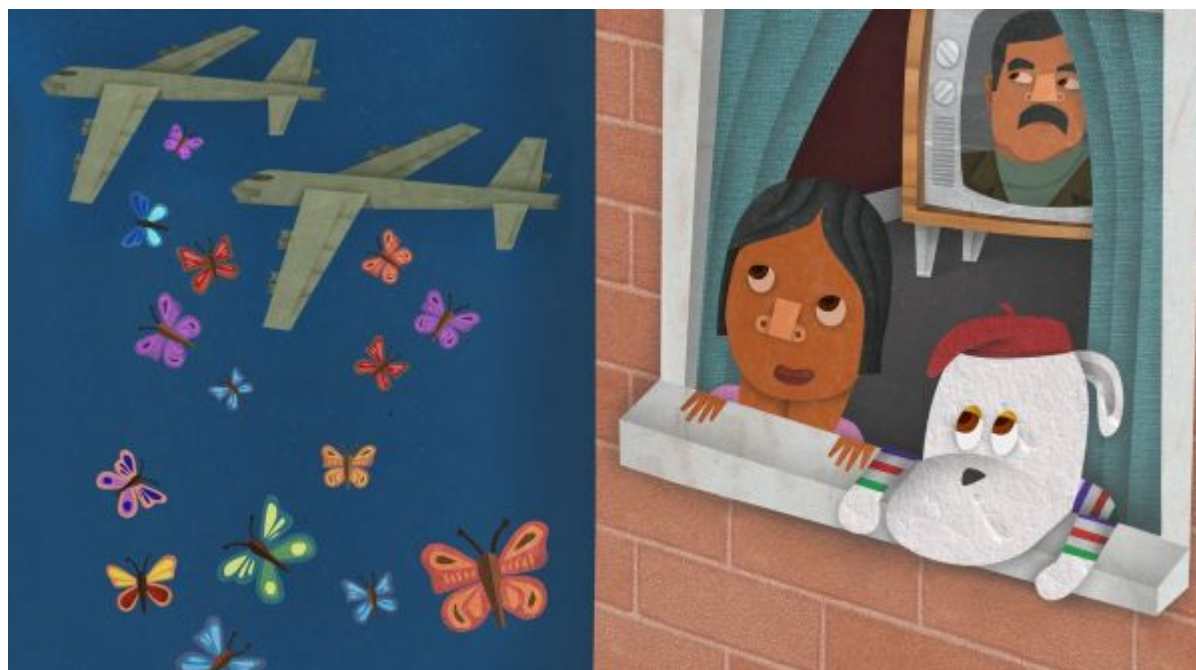
Abbas on My Dear Hussein

And Our Incredible Understudies



These amazing artists are our lifeline, and we couldn't do this work without them. From left to right they are, Marielle Issa (Parvaneh), Joshua Razavi (Baba/Saddam Hussein), Joaquin Rodarte (Javad), Thomas Russell (Hussein), and Emma Sheikh (Maman/News Reporter).

Previews Start Next Week!



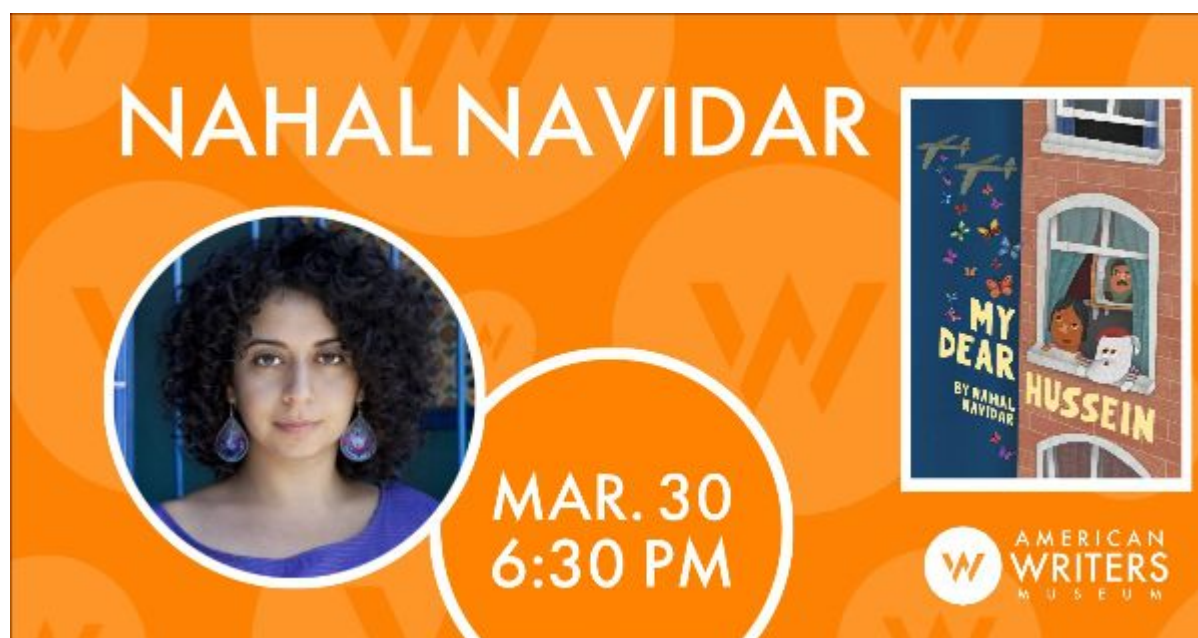
My Dear Hussein
by Nahal Navidar

March 17–April 19, 2020

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.

[Buy Tickets Now](#)

Another Chance to Meet the Playwright, Nahal Navidar



Nahal Navidar in conversation with Jamil Khoury

On Tuesday, March 30 at 6:30 PM, our partners at the American Writers Museum will host playwright Nahal Navidar and our co-founder, Jamil Khoury, to discuss the world premiere of *My Dear Hussein*. Guests will enjoy an illuminating excerpt of the play performed by cast members, followed by a lively conversation on the inspirations for her work and its powerful resonance with the world today. The remainder of the event will be an open discussion with questions from attendees.

American Writers Museum
180 N. Michigan Avenue, 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60601

[Buy Tickets to the American Writers Museum Event](#)

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