

Get to know playwright Nahal Navidar

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## Meet Nahal Navidar

### Playwright of *My Dear Hussein*



Nahal Navidar is an Iranian-born playwright raised in upstate New York. Her plays are motivated by the exploration of social issues while employing magical elements to embody the expanse of human emotions. Nahal's plays have been developed at Boston Court, Silk Road Rising, Ensemble Studio Theatre LA, The Vagrancy, Rogue Machine, Coeurage Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, Playwright's Arena, Troy Foundry Theatre, The Last Frontier Theatre Conference, Golden Thread Productions, Company of

Angels, The Kennedy Center, and The University at Albany. Upcoming projects include *Iran Melancholia*, commissioned by Momentary Theatre, which explores the psychological impact of immigration, xenophobia, and losing one's language. Nahal holds an MFA from the University of Southern California's School of Dramatic Arts and is a member of the Dramatist's Guild of America.

[Buy Tickets to the World Premiere of "My Dear Hussein"](#)

## Thoughts from Playwright Nahal Navidar

*I dream of giving birth to a child who will ask 'Mother, what was war?'*

When American poet Eve Merriam wrote these poignant words, she had already lived through two of the bloodiest clashes in global history: world wars one and two. Merriam

would witness hundreds more conflicts within her lifetime. One of these was the Iran-Iraq war, a prolonged eight-year combat of trench warfare and human-wave attacks, resulting in an estimated one million militant and civilian deaths on both sides. Despite this, the focus of Merriam's writing is not on poems of carnage, but rather on enchanting children's poems that entice and captivate young audiences.





can climb the shantoot tree I used to climb. When she can roll down my favorite grassy hill, and chase the butterflies I chased, and ask, “Maman, was this your home?”

As tensions between the U.S. and Iran continue to escalate, my fear grows that this day may never come in my lifetime. But as Eve Merriam did, I will continue to create worlds that transport and words that captivate. This is the spirit in all that humans must do.

Read Nahal's full letter in the program book when you attend *My Dear Hussein!*

Tickets on Sale Now

## About Nahal Navidar and *My Dear Hussein*



Nahal Navidar’s *My Dear Hussein* is a story about innocence, its vulnerability, and its resilience. Or better yet, it’s a story about the persistence of innocence in the face of war and state violence. Set in Iran during the Iran-Iraq war, and told through the eyes of a four-year-old girl, *My Dear Hussein* reveals a world in which reality and make-believe are muddled. Where the need to play and see beauty cannot concede to the dangers that abound. How does a child make sense of a world full of death and despair while at home she feels safe? And what do you do when your parents are clandestine atheists and covert leftists, in a state that prescribes religious austerity? What do you tell the neighbors?

—Jamil Khoury  
Founding Artistic Director  
Silk Road Rising



## Want to know more?



**Saturday, March 7**  
**3pm to 4:30pm**  
**Indian Boundary Park**  
**2500 W Lunt Ave**  
**Chicago, IL 60645**

Playwright Nahal Navidar discusses the world premiere of *My Dear Hussein*, a new play that portrays the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980's as understood from the perspective of a young Iranian girl. Cast members will perform an illuminating excerpt from this new play, after which Jamil Khoury, co-founder of Silk Road Rising, will engage in a lively conversation with Navidar 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.

**FREE EVENT!**

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