

Hello Friend Get tickets for *Then Came the Fall* -- running July 9th and 10th! [View Online](#) Or [Forward](#) to a friend.



The cast and crew of *Then Came the Fall*. Left to right: Azar Kazemi, Luke Daigle, Nahal Navidar, James Gasber, Arti Ishak Art by Wilda Marie

Artistic Director Jamil Khoury on *Then Came the Fall*

There's something truly profound about Nahal Navidar's *Then Came the Fall*. Yes, there's the fact that it's a beautifully crafted play conveyed through fascinating characters. But its profundity for me is how it reflects upon the experience of mourning, and more specifically, the denial of mourning.

It's been well documented that the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 unleashed a backlash against Americans of Muslim, Middle Eastern, and South Asian backgrounds. Our organization was created in response to that backlash.



What is less known is how the backlash denied millions of Americans the time and space to effectively process and grieve. Our feelings of loss, shock, devastation, and sadness were upended by defensiveness, the ascription of collective blame, and citizenship in peril.

With an unflinching tenderness and poignancy, Navidar's play navigates the spaces between insider and outsider, "one of us" versus "one of them." And it does so not as memory or history, but as a story resonant with the aftermath of Orlando, Brexit, Istanbul, Dhaka, Baghdad, and whatever Donald Trump's latest outrage may be. In its intimacy and raw honesty, *Then Came the Fall* reveals truths about today, while reflecting back fifteen years to a tragedy we still struggle to comprehend.

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Then Came the Fall

Written by Nahal Navidar | Directed by Azar Kazemi
Saturday, July 9th and Sunday, July 10th | 4:00pm | \$10

Nasrin, an Iranian American PhD student, and Donovan, an elevator repairman, plan for a bright future together. When a terrorist attack from the other side of the Hudson shakes their world, the ashes of fear and hatred quietly creep in and haunt Donovan's mind. In a post 9/11 xenophobic environment where intolerance is the new status-quo, the couple finds themselves questioning if their relationship will survive the fall.



A Statement from Playwright Nahal Navidar

As an 18-year-old in my first month of college, I had anxieties typical of most freshman that included passing my gen eds so I could focus on my major. However, when terrorists

"When terrorists attacked the World Trade Center less than 170 miles from my University...my worries translated to fears of a completely different kind."

-Nahal Navidar, Playwright

These fears had been shelved and forgotten in the twelve years since my family and I immigrated to the United States from Iran. As the months passed, I found I had no place in the tight-knit community that formed as my classmates bonded over their grief. My name, once an embarrassment for being unusual, now identified me as Middle Eastern. My voice, once reserved, now felt lodged in my throat and yearned to scream as classmates express hatred and wishes for violence against "the people over there." My dreams, dreams to study acting and give life to other's voices, now felt arbitrary. Why give voice to others when I wasn't allowed my own?

"We live in a nation where the ideals of Donald Trump...stir the emotions and festering fears of millions of Americans."

-Nahal Navidar, Playwright

My first play, *110 Flights*, was born as an emotional out pour of these stifled thoughts. Fifteen years later, we live in a nation where the ideals of Donald Trump are not contained in one man, but rather, horrifyingly stir the emotions and festering fears of millions of Americans. *Then Came the Fall* is a page one rewrite of my 18-year-old cultural isolation and awakening. Though I've further developed relationships and plot points, the echoes of a xenophobic post 9/11 nation remain. *Then Came the Fall* hopes to compel a dialogue that we were incapable of embracing 15 years ago.

Learn More About *Then Came the Fall*



Explore several of the curated articles below to gain a deeper understanding about the issues brought to light by *Then Came the Fall*.

"I think of him every day," Ms. Torres said, "but sometimes he seems like something I might have made up." [Read More »](#)

Living With Loss: Portraits of Grief | The New York Times

"Hedia, Hedia," my father said. "Wake up. You need to see this." [Read More »](#)

What It Was Like to Be an Iranian American Woman in NYC on 9/11 | Huffington Post

"I was 13 when 9/11 happened. My teacher announced that a Muslim might have done it, and that there might be hatred against Muslims. I felt 9/11 when I came back to New York for Ramadan break." [Read More »](#)

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