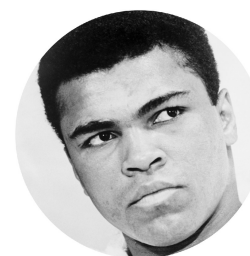


Hello Friend, WE SWIM, WE TALK, WE GO TO WAR runs this weekend only! [View Online](#) Or [Forward](#) to a friend.



Heavyweight Boxing Champion Muhammad Ali, on refusing to serve in the U.S. military after being drafted to fight in Vietnam, 1966

"My conscience won't let me go shoot my brother, or some darker people, or some poor hungry people in the mud for big powerful America. And shoot them for what? They never called me n****r, they never lynched me, they didn't put no dogs on me, they didn't rob me of my nationality, rape and kill my mother and father... Shoot them for what? How can I shoot them poor people? Just take me to jail."



Founding Artistic Director Jamil Khoury on *We Swim, We Talk, We Go To War*



Conscientious objection to military service on moral, religious, racial, and/or political grounds is less a concern to today's all-volunteer military than to the compulsory one of Ali's day. But what if the objection is raised not by the would-be soldier, but by his cousin? What if a young Arab American man views enlistment not as a moral conundrum but as an act of patriotism? What if his definition of "patriotism" extends to killing his fellow Arabs in, say, Iraq or Libya? What if his Arab heritage has little to no bearing on his sense of Americanness? And what if some Arab Americans perceive

his choice as constituting betrayal, a crisis of masculinity, evidence of internalized racism and a colonized mind?

Should an Arab American enlist in the U.S. military? Thousands already have, and a good many lost their lives fighting in our country's wars. When I was of military age, it was gayness, not Arabness, that made the choice for me. But playwright Mona Mansour refuses to accept this as merely a question of "choice." Or perhaps she's set out to illuminate how complicated a choice it truly is.

We Swim, We Talk, We Go To War prompts us to ask: what if a parent or grandparent hadn't immigrated? What if "the enemy" had been me? And why must "picking sides" mean killing a part of myself?

I look forward to seeing you at the theatre!

Performances Next Saturday and Sunday!

Playwright Mona Mansour

Saturday, September 9th at 4:00 pm
Sunday, September 10th at 4:00 pm

A progressive woman and her conservative nephew, both of Arab ancestry, dip into the treacherous waters of identity, family, and militarism. Co-commissioned with San Francisco’s Golden Thread Productions and New York’s Lark Play Development Center as part of the Middle East America New Plays Initiative, **We Swim, We Talk, We Go to War** blurs the lines between “us” and “them,” presenting a provocative exploration of the tragic and indelible ripples of war.



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