

MEDIA RELEASE: 9 November 2017

STRAP IN FOR SEAT-OF-THE-PANTS THEATRE EXPERIENCE

Nassim Soleimanpour and Bush Theatre (Iran)

NASSIM

Australian Premiere Season

‘Entertaining, ingeniously thought-provoking and fully heart-warming.’ Daily Telegraph (UK)

What would happen if an actor were to perform a play without any rehearsals, preparations or even without reading the script?

Celebrating the raw and unexpected, **NASSIM** is a theatrical adventure that invites a new actor each night to take the stage and read the script for the first time, ensuring that each performance is truly unique and impossible to replicate.

The 2018 Perth Festival brings the world’s most innovative and playful theatre to our shores with the Australian premiere season of **Nassim Soleimanpour’s** self-titled show direct from its award-winning Edinburgh season.

The Iranian-born, Berlin-based playwright continues his specialty of a very specific kind of theatre after his 2010 play *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* was translated into 25 languages, heralding him as one of the most exciting new voices in theatre today.

In **NASSIM**, each new actor begins with a sealed envelope containing a script they have never read before.

The script – entirely in Farsi – is projected onto a screen for the audience to read and discover together with the actor. Soleimanpour keeps control by feeding the actor their lines, coaxing them on stage and even playfully hurting them when they go wrong.

The playwright explores themes of his childhood, love, family and his promises to his mother. Yet, at the heart of this emotionally charged piece are the freedoms and limitations of language, the power of language and how it can unite us in times of uncertainty.



Perth Festival Artistic Director Wendy Martin says: ‘This is seat-of-your pants theatre which ends with this beautiful moment when Nassim comes on stage and the audience shares a lesson in Farsi.

Most of us are in this powerful position of being able to speak English wherever we go so this is his opportunity to offer up his language to us. *NASSIM* is touchingly autobiographical while remaining powerfully universal.'

Soleimanpour's work has drawn inspiration from his situation as an artist once barred from traveling abroad, and whose plays have never been performed in his home country. From this incredibly personal starting point, his work addresses universal themes of identity, kinship and communication in a globalised world.

WHAT: NASSIM

WHERE: Studio Underground, State Theatre Centre

WHEN: Tue 20 Feb – Sun 25 Feb

TICKETS: \$36

Supported by the British Council

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Perth Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 64 years the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Wendy Martin is the Artistic Director 2016–19.

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