



The Persian Revolution by Mehrdad Seyf

A co-production between
30 Bird Productions and the
Iran Heritage Foundation

27th September – 14th October
Lyric Hammersmith

Special Previews
3rd – 5th August 2006

Show description:

The year is 1906 or so it seems. The Iranian Monarchy is about to succumb to the will of the people. The Constitutional Revolution is gaining pace and the establishment of the first parliament in Iran is imminent.

The Persian Revolution is a dark comedy inspired by the events of the 1906 Constitutional Revolution in Iran. The play travels through layers of time as characters cross decades to the events of the revolution:

An Islamic Cleric looks up to the skies in search of God and sees America landing on the moon. In a corner of Tehran, a child avidly reads the adventures of Tintin while unborn children learn about the electoral law in 1906. The sound of the revolution encroaches upon everyday life until scenes depicting major events take over: the bast at the British Legation, the opening of the first parliament, the coup d'état of Mohammad Ali Shah, the resistance at Tabriz and finally the defeat of the royalists and the restoration of the parliament in Tehran.

The Persian Revolution is a psychological and personal examination of the Constitutional Revolution and its effects on contemporary culture. Focusing in particular on the conflict between the law of God and the law of the state, **The Persian Revolution** explores the struggle to come to terms with secular democracy.

Created by the team behind the critically acclaimed:

Majnoun "*Playful, absurdist and comic... (Majnoun) is impossible not to like*" The Guardian;

Death by Heroine "*An epic love story enriched by cinematic staging*" Time Out;
And the documentary **but you speak such good English** "*funny, poignant and a fine, accessible guide to the natures of both the exiled and their adoptive country*" Time out.

The Persian Revolution was made as part of theMIX at Lyric Hammersmith, supported by Deutsche Bank and is a co-production with the Iran Heritage Foundation www.iranheritage.org .



Press Release

30 Bird Productions present
UK TOUR 2007
THE PERSIAN REVOLUTION

Following great success in London last year 30 Bird Productions tour the UK from October with **THE PERSIAN REVOLUTION** by Mehrdad Seyf **VISITING WARWICK, LEICESTER, LIVERPOOL, CAMBRIDGE, EDINBURGH, CRAWLEY, BIRMINGHAM AND LONDON. London date 6 – 10 November at OVAL HOUSE. London press Wednesday Night 7 November. See tour listings below for full tour dates.**

The constitutional revolution in 1906 was the first event of its kind in the Middle East and was covered by the press worldwide. 100 years on The Persian Revolution is a lighthearted contemporary interpretation of the exciting events surrounding the establishment of the first parliament and constitution in Iran in 1906.

"An enjoyable romp through revolutionary Persia" Metro

The play travels through layers of time and across the decades. From the vaudeville halls of 19th Century England to a corner of Tehran where a child avidly reads the adventures of Tintin. America lands on the moon whilst an Islamic cleric searches the sky for God and children learn about the electoral law of 1906. The sound of the Revolution encroaches upon everyday life as the East awakens and takes its first tentative steps towards a democratic government.

In this dark comedy Mehrdad Seyf brings an anarchic surrealist humour to these momentous events where politics, religion, love, satire, sanitation and civil war go hand in hand with the fragile establishment of the first secular parliament in the Middle East.

'Inventive and very funny' Financial Times

The Anglo/Iranian Cast includes **ALI AMADI, BETSABEH EMRAN, NOEL LE BON, YASMIN BODALBHAI** and **DONALD SLACK** directed by **MEHRDAD SEYF** design by **LESLIE TRAVERS** and lighting design by **ANNA WATSON**.

The Persian Revolution is the company's fifth theatre project to date and will further expose culturally diverse work to British audiences. Created by the team behind the critically acclaimed *Majnoun* - "Playful, absurdist and comic... (*Majnoun*) is impossible not to like" The Guardian, *Death by Heroine* - "An epic love story enriched by cinematic staging" Time Out, and the documentary *but you speak such good English* - "funny, poignant and a fine, accessible guide to the natures of both the exiled and their adoptive country" Time Out.

Original play was co-commissioned by the Iran Heritage Foundation.

The Persian Revolution continues 30 Bird's quest to challenge the mis-representation of Iran in the West and to explore the meeting points between the East and the West. Using visual and textual material to develop new forms of theatrical expression 30 Bird aims to create surprise out of the ordinary. The Persian Revolution specifically focuses on the relationship between the law of the state and the law of God.

MEHRDAD SEYF was born in Tehran and has lived in the UK since his teens and was educated at the Lycée Français in Tehran and London. After studying Literature and Philosophy, he trained as a psychoanalyst at the Centre for Freudian Analysis and Research and subsequently worked for 3 years as an analyst. He trained as an actor/director with Complicite, Monica Pagneux, Zoltoowski and Lorna Marshall. Mehrdad was assistant director to David Farr on the production of The Odyssey at Lyric Hammersmith. He has written Two radio plays for Radio 4, The Virgin, for Stages of Sound, and Yalda as part of The City Speaks project for Radio 4 and Film London. Mehrdad has written and directed all of 30 Bird's projects to date.

LESLIE TRAVERS is an award winning designer whose work includes H. Marschner's opera Hans Haling (winner of the European Opera Competition), Swan Lake and The Nutcracker for K-Ballet Tokyo (Asahi Award winner for choreography & design); Silent Cry (WYP) Veriete (Lindsay Kemp Company World Tour) The Lark Ascending (ENB).

**For further press information contact Target-Live 0207 9071117
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See also websites <http://www.target-live.co.uk> and <http://www.30birdproductions.org>

TOUR LISTINGS

**The Persian Revolution by Mehrdad Seyf
UK TOUR 2007**

**23 – 24 October
Tickets £10.50**

**WARWICK ARTS CENTRE
Box Office 024 7652 4524 www.warwickartscentre.co.uk**

**25 October
8pm**

**LEICESTER PHOENIX ARTS
Box Office 0116 255 4854
www.phoenixarts.org**

**1 November
8pm**

**UNITY THEATRE LIVERPOOL
Box Office 0151 709 4988
www.unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk**

**5 – 10 November **
7.45pm Tickets £12**

**OVAL HOUSE LONDON
Box Office 0207 582 7680
www.ovalhouse.com
**** IRANIAN EVENING WITH PANEL DEBATE – Friday 9 Nov****

**16 November
8pm Tickets £10**

**THE JUNCTION2 CAMBRIDGE
Box Office 01223 511511
www.junction.co.uk**

21 – 24 November
8pm Tickets £13**

**TRAVERSE THEATRE EDINBURGH
Box Office 0131 228 1404
www.traverse.co.uk
**** MEET THE COMPANY – Wednesday 21 November****

29 November
7.45pm Tickets £10.50

THE HAWTH CRAWLEY
Box Office 01293 553636
www.hawth.co.uk
**** MEET THE COMPANY – Thursday 29 November**

7 – 8 December **
7.45pm Tickets £10

BIRMINGHAM REP
Box Office 0121 228 1404
www.birmingham-rep.co.uk
**** MEET THE COMPANY**
Friday 7 December