

Clarice Presents

**THE JAVAAD ALIPOOR COMPANY:
THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD**



November 14 & 15, 2024 • 8PM

DANCE THEATRE

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

Clarice Presents

**THE JAVAAD ALIPOOR COMPANY:
THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD**

Written by..... Javaad Alipoor with Chris Thorpe
 Co-created by..... Javaad Alipoor and Natalie Diddams
 Dramaturgy by Chris Thorpe
 Directed by Javaad Alipoor
 Set, Costume and Lighting Design Ben Brockman
 Composer, Music Director and Musician..... Me-Lee Hay
 With music by..... Raam Emami
 Sound Design Simon McCorry
 Projection and Video Design..... Limbic Cinema
 Specialist AV Technician..... Barret Hodgson
 Company Stage Manager Dylan Tate
 Touring Production Manager..... Daniel Potter
 Production Management The Production Family

**Performed by Javaad Alipoor and Asha Reid with Raam Emami,
together with on-stage musician Me-Lee Hay.**

The Javaad Alipoor Company, co-produced with National Theatre of Parramatta

This performance is also supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council and The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.



THE MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN
CAFritz FOUNDATION

Fereydoun Farrokhzad is invisible to everyone apart from, mostly, Iranians, because nobody apart from them ever has to think about him.

In 1992, the Iranian pop sensation and refugee Fereydoun Farrokhzad, “Iran’s Tom Jones,” was found brutally murdered in his home in Germany, only six months after playing to sold-out audiences at London’s Royal Albert Hall. The case was never solved.

This witty, fast-paced and cutting-edge production cuts to the heart of the biggest true crime case that you have never heard of. It is an investigation into both an iconic murder and an investigation into the nature of the investigation itself.

Part free-wheeling comic lecture, part podcast and part play, accompanied by live music, *Things Hidden* is a thrilling ride down the rabbit hole of Wikipedia and murder mystery podcasts, sorting through the tangle of information available online in a post-colonial world to reveal the limits of the search engines in solving a decades-old cold case.

Things Hidden builds on the success of *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran* which made its US debut at Public Theatre’s Under the Radar Festival in 2021, before playing at Sundance Film Festival and being selected as one of Helen Shaw’s “Best Theatre of 2021” in Vulture Magazine.

It is the third and final production in a trilogy of plays examining how technology, global politics and fracturing identities are changing the world (*The Believers are but Brothers*; *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran* and *Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World*).

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Javaad Alipoor has been very generous with his time this week. He visited two theatre classes in the School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies, in addition to two classes focusing on art and activism—one in Persian Studies and the other in Art History. There will be a Q&A following Thursday night’s performance with members of the company.

REGISTER FOR TJAC'S NEWSLETTER

Want to hear more about what The Javaad Alipoor Company are up to and be the first to receive news about their next project? Sign up to their newsletter here.



YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS

The Javaad Alipoor Company would love to find out more about their audiences. Please take 2 minutes to fill out this short survey. Many thanks!



TJAC AROUND THE WORLD

Loved what you saw? Tell us what you think about the show! Send your thoughts to admin@javaadalipoor.co.uk with a location of your choosing—to get the chance to see them published on the TJAC world map!



24/25 SEASON

CLARICE PRESENTS

at The Clarice Smith
Performing Arts Center

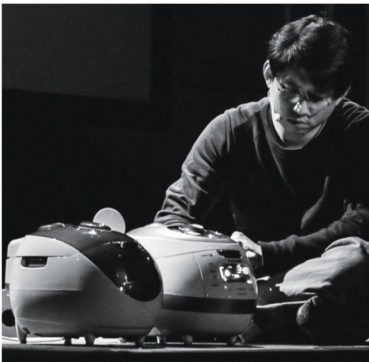
DON'T MISS!



Thu, Feb 6-Fri, Feb 7 • 8PM

Deepe Darknesse

With maximalist movement, oddball humor, and unrelenting theatricality, *Deepe Darknesse* (pronounced dee-pee dark-ness-ay) is a physical theater performance combining dance, theater and experimentation that will leave you breathless.



Wed, Feb 12-Thu, Feb 13 • 8PM

Jaha Koo: Cuckoo

Employing bittersweet and humorous dialogues, theatermaker Jaha Koo and his clever rice cookers take you on a journey through the last 20 years of Korean history, combining personal experience with political events and reflections on happiness, economic crises and death.

THE JAVAAD ALIPOOR COMPANY

THE JAVAAD ALIPOOR COMPANY (TJAC) makes ambitious, risk-taking, contemporary theatre, rooted in experimental and multi-platform practice. Their work leans into complexity to interrogate the key issues of our time. They ask questions and make connections, led by internationalist values and spearheaded by diverse voices, to understand the world we have made and can make differently.

TJAC was founded in 2017 by writer, director and artist Javaad Alipoor. Growing out of his experience running community theater projects in Bradford (UK), it evolved as an innovative production company that works with interlocutors around the world. Over the past six years, under Javaad's artistic direction, TJAC has grown to develop a signature brand of theater that explores the complexities and contradictions of the 21st century informed by its manifesto, with a global outlook. Past productions for the stage include a trilogy of plays examining how technology, global politics and fracturing identities are changing the world (*The Believers are but Brothers*; *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran* and *Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World*) and *Made of Mannheim*, a trilingual production for the stage inspired by Schiller's *Jungfrau von Orleans*. Past digital work includes the podcast *The Colour of our Politics*, exploring how anti-racism in the UK today has been shaped by a rich history of activism and resistance, and *The Believers are but Brothers* commissioned by The Space for the BBC in 2019.

TJAC's accolades include the 2017 Fringe First Award for *The Believers are but Brothers*, the 2018 Stage Innovation Award for *The Believers are but Brothers*, and the 2019 Fringe First Award for *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran*. In 2020, following the digital adaptation of *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran*, Javaad Alipoor was selected to be included in Columbia University's archive of twelve digital storytellers shaping the 21st century.

JAVAAD ALIPOOR

JAVAAD ALIPOOR is a British-Iranian writer, director and performer. He founded The Javaad Alipoor Company in 2019. The Company's most recent work, *Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World*, opened to five-star reviews and sell-out audiences at Battersea Arts Centre and HOME, Manchester. *Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World* then began a world tour, opening in the USA at the University of Michigan and Australia at The Sydney Opera House. Previously, Javaad Alipoor wrote, co-directed and performed in *The Believers Are But Brothers* as an international touring show, and wrote and performed in the TV adaptation for BBC Four. Its follow up, *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran*, also co-created with Kirsty Housley, won a Fringe First Award before the COVID-19 lockdown led it to transform into an immersive digital experience. The digital version opened at Battersea Arts Centre, before it toured to Sundance Film Festival and The Public Theatre's Under the Radar Festival. Together with Chris Thorpe, Javaad Alipoor wrote and directed the trilingual theater production, *Made of Mannheim*, which had its world premiere with Nationaltheater Mannheim and Theaterhaus G7.

Javaad was Resident Associate Director at Sheffield Theatres from 2017 to 2018, where he directed a new version of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Prior to this he was Associate Director at Bradford's Theatre in the Mill from 2015 to 2017. Javaad is involved in politics and activism, co-founding The International Alliance in Support of Iranian Workers, The Syria Solidarity Campaign and a Bradford-based network supporting EU migrants after Brexit. His writing about politics and culture has been featured in The Guardian, The Independent and The Stage. His plays have been published by Oberon and Nick Hern, and his poetry by Art in Usual Places.

CHRIS THORPE

CHRIS THORPE is a writer and performer from Manchester. His work tours and is produced in the U.K. and internationally. He has collaborated with Javaad Alipoor on several projects, including dramaturgy on *The Believers Are But Brothers* and *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran*, as well as co-writing and dramaturgy on *Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World*. In 2021, Chris and Javaad also co-wrote and directed *Made of Mannheim* for Nationaltheater Mannheim, Germany. Chris also has ongoing collaborations with artists and companies including Rachel Chavkin, China Plate, Yusra Warsama and Portugal's mala voadora. Work as a writer includes Victory Condition, and the film *What do You Want Me To Say* for the Royal Court, *There Has Possibly Been an Incident* and *The Mysteries* for the Royal Exchange and *Beowulf* for the Unicorn. Upcoming work includes a new, as-yet-untitled large scale piece co-written with Javaad Alipoor, *The Soprano Always Dies*, for mala voadora/Portuguese National Opera, *Always Maybe The Last Time* for the Royal Court and *A Family Business* and *Talking About The Fire* for Staatstheater Mainz/China Plate—two shows about nuclear treaty negotiation and disarmament, developed with diplomats, activists and NGOs, touring the UK and internationally in 2024-2025. As well as writing, Chris also mentors writers with a particular focus on working with young people in the care system, post-prison groups, and addiction recovery.

BENJAMIN BROCKMAN

BENJAMIN BROCKMAN is an award-winning lighting and set designer who has worked both in Australia and internationally.

Sydney Theatre Company: *Constellations*, *A Fool In Love*, *American Signs*; Queensland Theatre Company: *Family Values*; Griffin Theatre Company: *Family Values*, *Splinter*, *Replay*, *Diving For Pearls*; National Theatre Of Paramatta: *Things Hidden Since The Foundation Of The World* (AUS/UK), *Lady Tabouli*, *Girl In The Machine*, *The Girl/ The Woman*, *The Sorry Mum Project*, *Let Me Know When You Get Home*; Darlinghurst Theatre Company: *Overflow*, *Torch Song Trilogy*, *Broken*, *Detroit*, *Mother Fucker With A Hat*, *Tinder Box*; Hayes Theatre Company: *Ride the Cyclone*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Carmen Alive Or Dead*, *Razorhurst*; Belvoir 25a: *Horses*, *Jess & Joe Forever*, *Greater Sunrise*; Ensemble Theatre: *Tribes*, *The Big Dry*, *The Plant*, *Neville's Island*; Pinchgut Opera: *Farnace*; Critical Stages: *Alphabetical Sydney*; CDP: *Are we there yet?*, *Guess How Much I Love You*, *Spot Live On Stage*; Sydney Mardi Gras Festival: *Sissy Ball 2022*, *Sissy Ball 2020*; Campbelltown Arts Centre: *Mirage*; Apocalypse: *Cleansed*, *Metamorphoses*, *Angels In America Part 1 And 2*; bAKEHOUSE: *Coram Boy*, *Dresden*, *Visiting Hours*, *The Laden Table*, *Jatinga*; Squabbalagic: *Day of the triffids* development, *Good Omens* The Musical development, *Herringbone*, *Grey Gardens The Musical*, *Man Of La Mancha*; Little Eggs Collective: *Symphonie fantastique*; Legs On The Wall: *Cat's Cradle*, *The Raft*, *Waters Edge*; Shaun Parker & Company: *In The Zone*, *King*; Dance Makers Collective: *The Rivoli*, *Wolverine*.

Awards: APDG Award for best lighting design for a Live Performance or Event (*Cleansed*), Best Lighting Design for an Mainstage Production 2023 (*Constellations*), Best Lighting Design for an Independent Production 2019 (*Metamorphoses*), Best Lighting Design for an Independent Production 2021 (*Symphonie fantastique*)

NATALIE DIDDAMS

NATALIE DIDDAMS is a dramaturg, director and academic researcher based in Manchester. Notable productions include *A Series of Metaphors About a Plague* (HOME, Manchester), *The Believers Are But Brothers* (International Tour), *BIRTH* (Royal Exchange Theatre) and *Thesmo* (National Tour). Natalie has a PhD from Manchester Metropolitan University, and is an Assistant Professor at the University of Warwick. Through her research, Natalie is a leading voice on the intersection between comedy and contemporary politics, and regularly hosts workshops and performances aimed at empowering participants through comedy. Natalie is an Associate Artist of The Javaad Alipoor Company, Trestle Theatre and the International Schools Theatre Association (ISTA).

RAAM EMAMI

RAAM EMAMI is an Iranian musician, writer, actor and podcast host. He started his musical career in the undergrounds of Tehran. With a great deal of international press behind his band, including features in The New York Times, MTV, Billboard, NPR, CNN, VICE, NME and Vanity Fair, Raam paved the way for a new generation of aspiring underground Iranian artists. In January 2018, Raam's father, Kavous Seyed Emami, a prominent environmentalist, was arrested in Tehran under false charges of espionage. Two weeks after his arrest he was killed in Iran's notorious Evin Prison. Raam and his family attempted to flee Iran, but the authorities detained his mother and confiscated her passport. Raam and his brother were allowed to leave, but his mother was held hostage in Iran for 582 days. Besides his live shows with his band, Raam has also channeled his creative energy into a one-man storytelling performance called "Departure" about his family's experience and his father's legacy, woven together with his music. He also has a podcast in Persian called *Mastyo Rasty*, since its inception in 2020 the show has had over 40 million streams.

ME-LEE HAY

ME-LEE HAY composes for film, TV, dance and theater. A Malaysian-born Chinese-Australian, she has had works shown across multiple platforms including Netflix, Amazon Prime, Tubi, commercial TV channels and mainstream cinemas plus international planetariums and film festivals including Canne and Sitges. Off the screen, Me-Lee has been commissioned by leading arts companies of Australia such as Sydney Dance Company's PPY, Sydney Theatre Company as well as performing at the Sydney Opera House. Me-Lee received her debut nomination at the Sydney Theatre Awards in 2024 for Best Composer and Sound Designer in Independent Theatre (*Face of Jizo*) as well as her first AACTA (Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts) nomination for Best Original Score in Film in the same year (*Suka*).

Classically trained in piano and cello, Me-Lee is a graduate of the Australian Film Television Radio School (AFTRS), an Associate Composer Representative of the Australian Music Centre and was the Vice President of the Australian Guild of Screen Composers for four years. She composed for her first ballet in 2024 entitled *GOLD* presented at Parramatta Riverside Theatre (Sydney), a magical children's ballet set in the Australian bush during the historic gold rush era.

BARRET HODGSON

BARRET HODGSON is an award-winning video artist and digital projection designer. His company, Vent Media, was created after his master's degree in Collaborative Arts Practice at Trent University, Nottingham. Vent Media specializes in creating and staging visual media for live performance including theatre, dance and music events, gallery installations, film productions and architectural projection. Barret has continued to refine his practice, working on cutting-edge techniques and hardware to create a huge array of visual digital experiences. Clients and commissions have included the BBC, 59 Productions, Game City, Sadlers Wells, Red Bull, DreamThinkSpeak, Warp Films and Glastonbury Festival. Barret has toured nationally as a VJ for many years and has collaborated with DJ Yoda, Fat Boy Slim, Ghostface Killah and Roni Size, amongst many others. His theater and dance collaborations have had international recognition including touring in Asia, North America and across Europe.

SIMON MCCORRY

"Blissful, serene and yet broken at the edges to reveal something unseen"

–Magazine Sixty

"The leading voice of McCorry's cello is an irresistible beam of light in the darkness"

–The Quietus

"Electro-orchestral drone-scapes of, by turns, gauzy intimacy and soaring grandeur"

–Mojo

Born in London of mixed Indian/British ethnicity, studied music at The Centre for Young Musicians & Morley College, philosophy at Durham University. Now based in Stroud, Gloucestershire. Has worked as a composer & sound designer in theater, film and contemporary dance for over 20 years. Recent work is a combination of loop based cello compositions and atmospheric improvisations, field recordings and modular synth.

LIMBIC CINEMA

LIMBIC CINEMA is an award-winning multimedia creative studio that specializes in projection mapping and immersive video design. The studio creates mesmerizing, meaningful and memorable encounters that empower people through the use of light, sound and moving image. Directing and collaborating on ambitious productions that utilize cutting edge tools and immersive technology to transform spaces and transport audiences. Animation is central to the studio's output, taking traditional workflows and expanding on them through the use of emerging technologies. Their work can be seen in theaters and music halls, at festivals, large-scale public events and online.

Recent work featured at Video Mapping Festival, Lille (*Spectra* 2022), Glastonbury Festival (*Temple* 2022), Edinburgh Fringe (*Megalith* 2022), Sundance Film Festival (*Rich Kids* 2021), Vivid Sydney (*Critical Point* 2021). Limbic was nominated by CreaTech (Creative Industries Council) as one of the "Ones to Watch" in 2021.

DANIEL POTTER

DANIEL POTTER is an arts management professional based in Sydney, Australia and holds a postgraduate degree in Arts and Entertainment Management (Deakin University), graduating with distinction. Daniel has worked extensively with some of Australia's most renowned theater makers and administrators, leading production and creative teams to countless opening nights across the country and internationally while holding production management positions at Merrigong Theatre Company and Belvoir. Between 2015 and 2023, Daniel held the position of Executive Director/CEO at Shopfront Arts Co-op., an arts organization based in Sydney, Australia. Daniel serves on the board of Beyond Empathy, a grassroots organization that uses community, arts and cultural development practice to create new works and as chair of the board for Theatre Network NSW, the peak theater body for the state of New South Wales in Australia. He is a member of Create NSW's Artform Advisory board for Theatre & Musical Theatre. Daniel believes creative expression is crucial to building strong community ties and is passionate about utilizing the arts as a tool of empowerment for adults and Young People alike.

ASHA REID

Theatre includes: *One Jewish Boy* (Trafalgar Studios), *Snowflakes* (Old Red Lion), *Pufferfish* (Vault Festival), *One Jewish Boy* (Old Red Lion), *Graceful* (RADA Studio/Rosemary Branch Theatre), *Inside Pussy Riot* (Les Enfants Terribles), *Biggest Tarantino Fan in the World* (The Vaults Festival/Arcola), *Edinburgh Test* (Pleasance/Old Red Lion), *Stay Happy Keep Smiling* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *I Found Joy in a Hopeless Place* (Hackney Showrooms), *Money Womb* (Theatre 503), *A Third* (Finborough Theatre), *Scarlet* (Southwark Playhouse), *Electra* (Old Vic), *Cross Purpose* (Crypt Gallery), *Medea* (The London Theatre), *The Hate Play* (Box Clever Theatre), *Miniaturists: The Interval* (Arcola), *Scarlet* (Bush), *The Tempest* (Watford Palace), *Lord of the Flies* (Broadway Theatre), *The Magpies The Wolves* (Tristan Bates/Pleasance), *Hacked* (Theatre 503), *The Beggars Opera* (Regent's Park Open Air).

Film includes: *This Is Gay* (BBC), *FEMME Feature Film*, *FEMME Short Film* – (BIFA Winner & BAFTA Nominated), *Horror Vacui*, *Into Me See*, *Face The Camera & Smile*, *House Hold*, *Gemma's Wedding*, *Puzzled*, *White Collar*, *Weird Love*.

Television: *The Syndicate* (BBC1), *Nutritiously Nicola* (London Live)

DYLAN TATE

DYLAN TATE has worked in a range of roles across the industry since 2008. He splits his career as a stage manager, director and videographer. Often producing and consulting on work across the UK with companies and individuals. He has toured internationally and around the UK as a filmmaker and performer. A founding member of Flabbergast Theatre, Associate Artist of Futures Theatre Company and Director of Tate Creations. Enjoying all aspects of theater and film, he is proud to be involved with The Javaad Alipoor Company.

SCHOOL OF THEATRE, DANCE, AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES



METAMORPHOSES

BY MARY ZIMMERMAN

DIRECTED BY KENYATTA ROGERS

NOVEMBER 15-22, 2024

KOGOD THEATRE

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

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MARYLAND



24
25
SEASON

*at The Clarice Smith
Performing Arts Center*

