



THEATRE (NEW WRITING)

Arab Arts Focus Edinburgh, AIK Productions and Turtle Key Arts present

Love, Bombs & Apples

A humorous, poignant one man play detailing the lives of three men to tackle the problems facing the Arab and Muslim communities in today's multicultural landscape

EDINBURGH FRINGE PREMIERE

Written by Hassan Abdulrazzak

Part of the Arab Arts Focus Edinburgh Showcase

Anatomy Lecture Theatre, Summerhall, 4 - 27 August 2017 (not 7, 14, 21), 13:30 (14:30), 18+

Abdulrazzak is a comically attune, excellent playwright whose captivating tales hook an audience from start to finish." A Younger Theatre

Set against the backdrop of worldwide political instability with the looming threat of civil unrest, the three unrelated stories are brought to life using storytelling, political commentary and whip-smart humour.

The three vignettes tell very different tales. *Love in the Time of Barriers*, tells the story of love under occupation in Palestine for a young actor, *Level 42* features a young British Muslim man in Bradford jailed under suspicion of terrorism after penning what he thinks will be a post 9/11 bestseller and *The Apple*, a disenfranchised youth tempted by the iPhone and the Mac store at Westfield in London over joining ISIS.

Writer Hassan, performer Asif and director Rosamunde said: *"It was always our dream to bring Love, Bombs & Apples to the Edinburgh Fringe because the play sits somewhere between drama and stand up and a show that straddles both elements seems a perfect fit for the festival. It is doubly exciting to be bringing it to Edinburgh as part of Arab Arts Focus which we hope will blow the mind of the audience (in a metaphorical, non-terroristic way of course) and make them see the Arab region in an entirely new light."*

Hassan Abdulrazzak is of Iraqi origin. He was born in Prague and now lives in London. He holds a PhD in molecular biology and has worked at Harvard and Imperial College. Hassan's first play *Baghdad Wedding*, was staged at Soho Theatre in 2007 to great acclaim and went on to be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and performed Australia and India. Hassan's play *The Prophet* was performed at The Gate Theatre in 2012 and was based on extensive interviews in Cairo with revolutionaries and soldiers, journalists and cab drivers. More recently he was commissioned by the Kevin Spacey Foundation to write *Dhow Under The Sun*, a play for 35 young actors, which was staged in Sharjah, UAE (Jan 2015). He was also commissioned by Untold Theatre to write *Catalina*, the story of the Moorish slave of Catherine of Aragon (Ovalhouse Theatre, 2015). His comic monologue play *Love, Bombs & Apples* was selected out 114 scripts to be part of the PlayWROUGHT3 festival, was staged at the Arcola Theatre and toured the UK. His short play *Lost Kingdom* was selected from 75 scripts to be part of San Francisco's Golden Thread ReOrient 2015 festival. His essays have been published in the Guardian, the Edinburgh Review and Al-Ahram Weekly. His poems have been published in Snakeskin and in *We Are Iraqis: Aesthetics and Politics in a Time of War*. He is currently working on a number of theatre, TV and film projects.

Asif Khan was born in Bradford, West Yorkshire and is now based in London. He trained at The Royal Academy Of Dramatic Art (RADA). Theatre includes: *The Hypocrite* (RSC/HullTruck), *Paradise of the Assassins* (Tara Arts), *Love, Bombs & Apples* (Arcola & UK Tour 2016), *Handbagged* (UK Tour 2015, Tricycle Theatre/Eleanor Lloyd Productions), *Punjabi Boy* (Rich Mix), *Multitudes* (Tricycle Theatre), *The Nutcracker*;

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The Mouse King (Unicorn Theatre), *The Book* (Flying Cloud), *Queen of the Nile* (Hull Truck), *Kabaddi Kabaddi Kabaddi* (Arcola Theatre), *The Snow Queen* (Unicorn Theatre/Trestle), *Snookered* (Tamasha/ Bush Theatre), *Mixed Up North* (Out of Joint), Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* (National Theatre), *Playback* (Ankur Productions); *Three Sisters* (Jonathan Miller), *Rookery Nook* (William Gaskill), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Toby Frow), Screen work includes: *Love Type D* (feature film to be released in 2016), *Spooks* (Series 10), *The Dumping Ground*, *Doctors*, *Casualty* (BBC). *Dark Matters*, *Terry Pratchett's Going Postal* (Sky1), *Man Down*, *Bradford Riots* and *Plot to Bring Down Britain's Planes* (Channel 4).

Rosamunde Hutt has led or co-led three major companies (Hijinx Theatre 1990-1993; Theatre Centre, Director, 1993 -2007 and Unicorn, Associate Artistic Director, 2007-2011). From 2011, her international work includes touring Anupama Chandrasekhar's *The Snow Queen* to India (Trestle Theatre/British Council), co-leading workshops on young people's theatre in Japan and directing Charles Way's *The Snow Queen* in Romania, now in repertoire and shown on Romanian National Television on Christmas Day 2015 (Theatre Ion Creanga). Her 2013/15 credits include productions of classics and new plays at RADA, ALRA , East 15 (including *The Workroom* by Jean-Claude Grumberg, in an English translation by Amy Rosenthal, Arcola 2016), Nottingham Playhouse (*Grandpa in my Pocket-Teamwork* by Mellie Buse and Jan Page), AJTC/York Theatre Royal (*Bin Men* by Mike Kenny), Polka Theatre (*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Simon Reade and *Operation Magic Carpet* by Samantha Ellis), and a site specific new play for Dragon Breath Theatre (*A Crack in Time* by Peter Rumney). In April 2016 she was invited to speak about her work commissioning new writing for young audiences at the Youth Theatre Festival 2016 in Athens (Onassis Cultural Centre) and she will be directing actor/writer Michael Mears in his new play *This Evil Thing* at the Edinburgh Festival this year.

Company

Written by	Hassan Abdulrazzak
Performed by	Asif Khan
Director	Rosamunde Hutt
Designer	Mila Sanders
Lighting Designer	Charlie Lucas
Composer	James Hesford

Web and social media links: @ArabArtsFocus | @The_AsifKhan | @AIK_productions | @abdulrazzak | www.turtlekeyarts.org.uk | www.aaf.orientproductions.org | #AAFE | #LoveBombApples

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCH_0gFxPLI

NOTES TO EDITORS:

AIK Productions is theatre company created by Asif Khan in 2015 to produce new, high quality theatre specialising in stories and voices from minority backgrounds.

Turtle Key Arts unlocks creative potential in individuals, companies and communities, producing and devising original, ground-breaking, inclusive art to entertain and inspire. As creative producers they enable each project to reach its full artistic potential and ensure that participation and education is embedded at the heart of everything they do. Their work has a UK and international reach through a wide variety of innovative projects with many different collaborators and partners, currently including the companies: Ockham's Razor, RedCape Theatre, AmiciDance Theatre Company, Joli Vyann, Flying Cloud, Slot Machine, Keziah Serreau and SMITH dance theatre; and recent collaborations with: English Touring Opera, Royal College of Music, The Wigmore Hall, National Portrait Gallery, Opera North, The Royal Court Theatre and Oxford University. They have played a committed role in advancing participation in the arts by disabled, disadvantaged and socially excluded people, and are widely recognised as a leader in this field, often charting new territories, such as Turtle Song for people with Dementia and The Key Club for young people with Autism.

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The Arab Arts Focus Edinburgh is the first showcase of contemporary Arab theatre, performance and visual art at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Presented by D-CAF Festival (Cairo), the Tamasi collective for the performing arts and Orient productions (Egypt) in collaboration with Kenmure Productions (Scotland), the showcase will feature theatre, contemporary art, dance, talks and late night cabaret Chill Habibi with the aim to increase the visibility of Arab artists (especially those not residing in Europe), evolve different, non-reductive discourses on the Arab world and change stereotypes about the region; opening the door for mutual understanding at a time when it is needed most.

With the support of Ford Foundation, Studio Emad Eddin Foundation, British Council Egypt, Qattan Foundation and Swedish International Development Agency. In collaboration with Sundance Theatre institute and with special thanks to Lorne Campbell and Northern Stage (Newcastle).

Listings information

Arab Arts Focus Edinburgh, AIK Productions and Turtle Key Arts present
Love, Bombs and Apples

Anatomy Lecture Theatre, Summerhall, 1 Summerhall, Edinburgh, EH9 1PL

4 - 27 August 2017 (not 7, 14, 21) | 13:30 (14:30) | £12 (£10)

Previews: 2 - 4 August 2017, 13:30 (14:30) | £8

Box office: 0131 560 1581 | www.summerhall.co.uk