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# BEHIND THE CURTAINS

BY:  
**EZZAT GOUSHEGIR**

Director:  
**HANNAH GALE**

Producer:  
**AMIR NORMANDI**

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## About the Play

"An extraordinary play with the soul of a lyric poem. Set in Iran in the late 1800's, the play chronicles with sensitivity and respect the life of Tahereh who is blessed or cursed, depending on one's perspective, with a keen intellect and fearless nature which compels her to question and defy the tenets of traditional male-dominated Islamic society. For her boldness she pays dearly, but the beauty of her strength and vision remain as a monument to those who seek to overcome oppression everywhere and stand as a voice for Truth."

**Melody Brooks**

director of the 1992 New York production of *Behind the Curtains*.

### Synopsis of Scenes

Scenes 1 & 2	1844	Qazvin, Iran
Scene 3		Karbala, Iraq
Scene 4	Mufti's House	Baghdad
Scene 5		Qazvin
Scene 6	Mosque & Saleh's	Qazvin
Scene 7	Courthouse	Qazvin
Scene 8		Qazvin
Scene 9	1st Babi Conference	Badasht, Iran
Scene 10		Tehran
Scene 11	King's Palace	Tehran
Scene 12	Commissioner's House	Tehran
Scene 13	1852	The Death

## Production Staff

Producer	Amir Normandi
Director	Hannah Gale
Assistant Director	Fran Westbrook
Asst Stage Mngr/Understudy	Lynn Marie
Set Design	Ario Mashayekhi
Lighting Design	Kevin Heckman
Costume Design	Justine Liht
Costume Assistant	Susan Hilger
Sound Design	Eric Leonardson
Choreography	Jennifer Savarirayan
Board Operators	DJ Giles & Maryn Sorrel

## Cast (by appearance)

Dancer	Jennifer Savarirayan (Maryn Sorrel 4-6 & 4-7)
Kaffieh	Jen Moses
Tahereh	Carlotta Ramos
Saleh (father)	Clint Corley
Taqi (uncle)/King	Circus-Szalewski
Muhammed (husband)	Chris Dafsios
Dream Messenger	Jason Tinker
Mufti/Murderer	Tracy Livingston
Alusi/Executioner	John Sierros
Red Flag/Guard	Raymondo Gordon
Black Flag/Guard	Noel Dineen
Protestor/Guard	Paymon Safavi
Khatoon	Rula Gardinier

**Ezzat Goushegir** (Playwright) is a native of Iran. She received her BA from the University of Dramatic Arts in Iran and her MFA from the University of Iowa. She has had several productions in Iran and the US. This play was produced in New York in 1992 by the New Perspective Theatre.

**Hannah Gale** (Director) began working with Ms. Goushegir while in graduate school at the University of Iowa. She found that her Orthodox Jewish background gave her unique insight into Ezzat's work and has enjoyed collaborating with her since. She received a BA in Theatre from Loyola University in Chicago, and MFA in Directing from Iowa.

**Fran Westbrook** (Assistant Director) has worked with Hannah Gale and Ezzat Goushegir on Hidden Theatre's production of Maryam's Pregnancy. She has worked as a stage manager with many theatre companies in Chicago, including City Lit, Cloud 42 and Lifeline.

**Jennifer Savarirayan** (Dancer/Choreographer) has based her movement in both modern dance and Bharatanatyam (a classical South Asian dance style). Currently she is in The Elephant and the Tragopan at the Chicago's Actors Ensemble on Saturdays thru the end of May.

**Circus-Szalewski** (Taqi-Uncle) is back after a US tour with Chamber Theatre and a stint of 479 performances with the Chicago, Toronto, and New York productions of Cannibal Cheerleaders on Crack. He played Me (John Lennon) in Frank Farrel's production of Lennonplay and has collaborated with several companies including Chicago Dramatist's Workshop, Torso, and Next in Dexter Bullard's Rhinoceros!

**Clint Corley** (Father) is a new Chicago resident. He graduated with an MFA from the University of Iowa and BFA from the University of Evansville. Previous roles include: Pericles in Pericles, Prince of Tyre, Solyony in The Three Sisters and Doc in Crimes of the Heart.

**Chris Dafsios** (Husband/Man) is a recent graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts program. NY highlights include a few "off" Broadway productions playing Yusha in The Cherry Orchard and Manny in Safe Sex with the Murray Hill Players. He is pleased to be making his Chicago debut.

**Noel Dineen** (Black Flag) moved to Chicago recently from Toronto. He is currently taking classes at The Second City Training Center.

**Rula Gardinier** (Khatoon) is pleased to make her stage debut in this production.

**Raymondo Gordon** (Red Flag/Slave) was born in Chicago. He is happy to be a part of this production.

**Tracy Livingston** (Mufti/Murderer) is currently a Advertising/Theatre major at Columbia College. He's glad to be making his debut in Behind the Curtains. Currently, Tracy is part of Columbia's Grass Roots. Tracy is also part of Loves' Enlightenments gospel choir.

**Jen Moses** (Kaffieh) is a founding member of Hidden Theatre and has performed in the seminal productions of Grapefruit, Grapefruit II, and as Maryam in Maryam's Pregnancy by Ezzat Goushegir.

**Carlotta Ramos** (Tahereh) a Renaissance Woman wanna be, has performed locally with Urban Gateways, Chicago Cabaret Ensemble's Rhino Festival appearances, and as Woman 1 and Woman 3 in Realworks' production of Lepers.

**Paymon Safavi** (Protestor) has been involved in productions in Chicago and LA and he is proud to be a part of this play whose message is timely and true, even today.

**John Sierros** (Alusi/Executioner) is a 1993 Graduate of the University of Notre Dame with a BA in Communications. He has been studying acting at the Steven Ivich Studios in Chicago.

**Maryn Sorrel** (Dancer/Sound Technician) is very excited to be appearing and working on Behind the Curtains. New to Chicago and hailing from Roswell, GA she trains at Second City, The Chicago Actors Studio and Victory Gardens and is aggressively pursuing a career in film. In final, she is proud to be making her technical debut!

**Jason Tinker** (Dream Messenger/Combat Consultant) is a recent graduate of Columbia College and is very excited to be a part of this production. Recent credits include: Queen Christina Goes Roman at Pusz Studios and Where I'm Headed at Baliliwick. He is extremely thankful to Deanna for her love and heartfelt support.