

Set in a carpet store in Halabja, Iraq in February of 1988, just prior to the attack and murder of Kurdish peoples with chemical weapons by Saddam Hussein's regime, I will dance with those oak trees as long as takes us into the lives of Gilgamesh, Enkidu, and Ninsun: three Kurdish women who must react to a violent and unstable outside world. Carpets, a chair, a suitcase, and strings create the environment in which two actresses interpret the three different women.

Accompanied by soundscapes inspired by traditional Kurdish music, this international duo uses objects, puppets, and a multilayered world of reality, dreams, memories, and visions to explore the question of what it means to be a hero when you have no other choice.

I WILL DANCE WITH THOSE OAK TREES AS LONG AS



I need a street
Empty of bloodstains,
A street that has never seen
Or known terror.
Let it be flawless,
Let it be flawless, flawless
Like the sex of these girls
that are killed unjustly
Let it be long, let it be long, long,
Like their agony.

Kajal Ahmad



DARIA HOLOVCHANSKA

MOVEMENT AND OBJECT
DIRECTOR
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
PUPPETEER
LIGHTING DESIGNER
SOUND DESIGNER
ACTRESS

AUDREY DÉGEZ is a producer, director, playwright (Our Common Thread (2015), Empathize Me (2016), 7x7 (2017), Mothermotherland (2022)), and actress from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (USA), now based in Paris (France). She studied at l'École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris ('19-'21). During her undergraduate studies in English Literature, she founded the post apocalyptic punk group The Wichts, as well as ran the underground show house The Blueberry Shire: featured in the short documentary, Safe Space. Scheduled to write a play at Residency Slovo in Kharkiv, Ukraine In 2022 as the first international resident in Slovo Building, she made the decision to found Slovo. Theater Group after the invasion of February 24th. For the last 10 years, she has been developing CP4P International Productions through poetry and theatre workshops around the world. She has lived in Berlin and Paris, where she has taught English to children through theatre and volunteered with refugee communities. In her spare time, she is passionate about baking vegan cookies with her daughter, Lili Maritchka and her husband, Louis.

DARIA HOLOVCHANSKA was studying at the Kharkiv National University of Art (Ukraine) until the full scale invasion on February 24th, 2022, when she transferred to Aleksandr Zilverovich Theater Academy in Bilystok (Poland) to finish her Master Degree in Puppetry. Daria previously worked at Kharkiv State Academic Puppet Theater V.A.Afanasyeva, performed in "Fairy tale for a little rabbit" (rabbit Sister, Hedgehog), "Princes spec" (Queen Isabelle), "Magical ring" (Angel), "Mother Courage and her Children" (Katrin) directed by Oksana Dmitrieva. Daria is one of the founders and actresses of TERRA Theater Company (performances "Peace to your home", "Our City", "Night Call") She took part in Slovo.Theater group, where she was a co-director, actress, light designer and mask maker of performance "Mothermotherland". This year, she performed at one of the largest puppet festivals in the world in Charleville Mezieres. She is interested in movement theater, objects, materials, puppets, stop-motion animation and masks.

AUDREY DÉGEZ

FOUNDING PRODUCER
PLAYWRIGHT
DIRECTOR
ACTRESS
MOTHER
WIFE

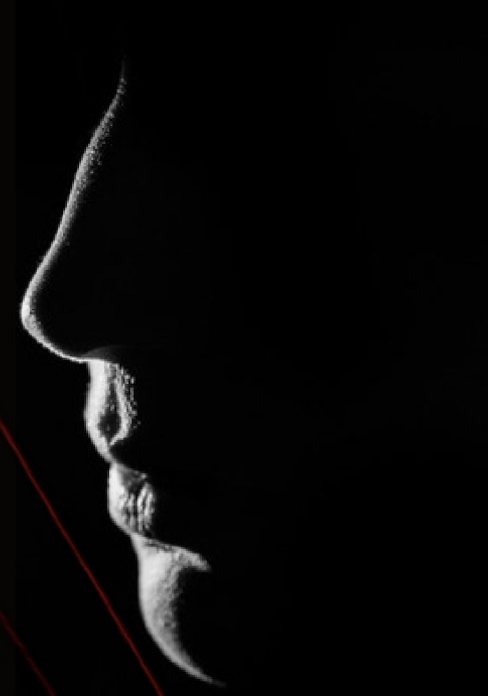


KAJAL AHMAD was born in 1967 in Kirkuk, a disputed city in Iraq with a strong Kurdish population. A poet, journalist and social critic, she has published four books: *Benderî Bermoda*(1999), *Wutekanî Wutin*(1999), *Qaweyek le gel ev da*(2001), and *Awênem şikand*(2004). Ahmad worked for over a decade as the Editor-in-Chief of *Kurdistani Nweand* at times has worked as a TV host for *KurdSat*.

Real stories of **REAL PEOPLE**

The epic of **GILGAMESH**, the oldest surviving epic poem, the first version of which dates to the 18th century BC, was found in Nineveh, where today lies Mosul, Iraq (in the Kurdistan region).

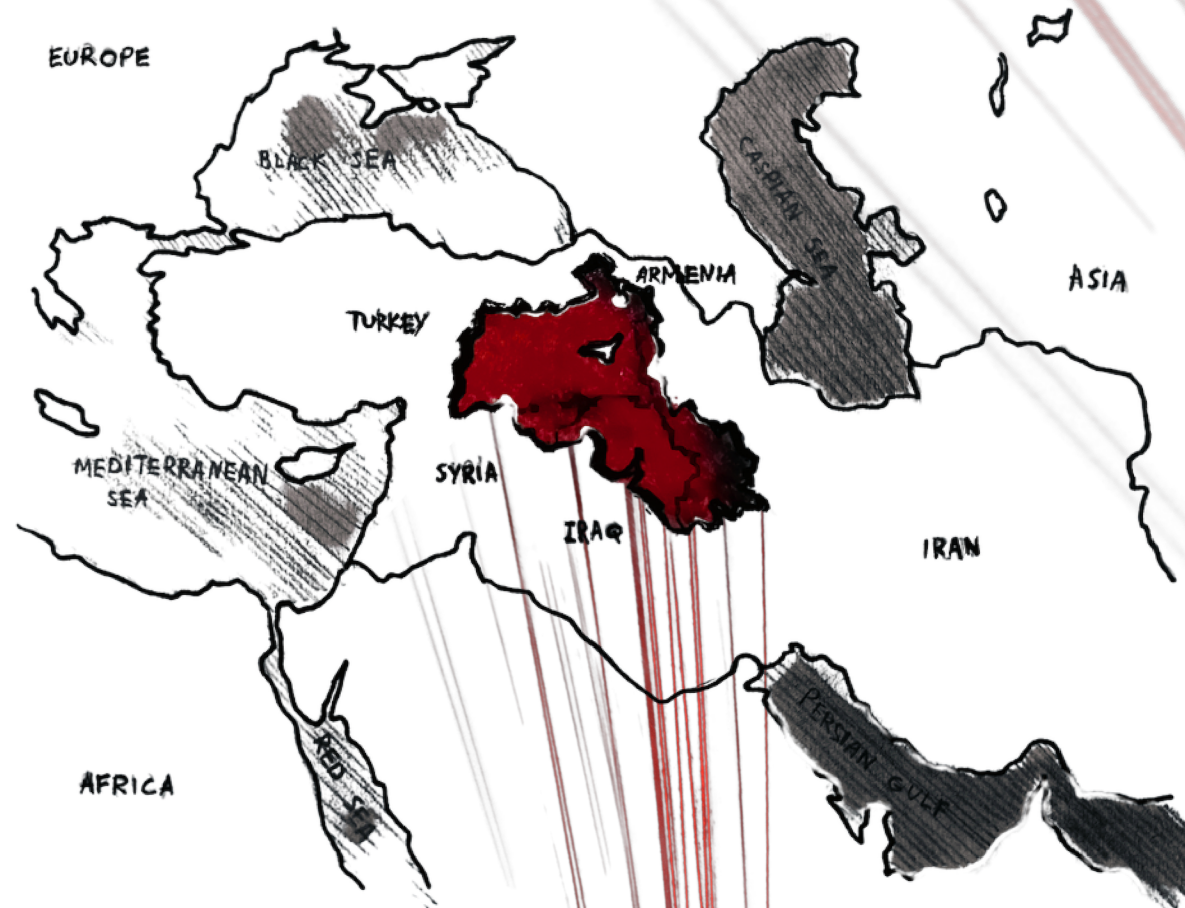
The first half of the story discusses Gilgamesh (who was king of Uruk) and Enkidu, a wild man created by the gods to stop Gilgamesh from oppressing the people of Uruk. After Enkidu becomes civilized through sexual initiation with Shamhat, he travels to Uruk, where he challenges Gilgamesh to a test of strength. Gilgamesh wins the contest; nonetheless, the two become friends. Together, they make a six-day journey to the legendary Cedar Forest, where they plan to slay the Guardian, Humbaba the Terrible, and cut down the sacred Cedar. The goddess Ishtar sends the Bull of Heaven to punish Gilgamesh for spurning her advances. Gilgamesh and Enkidu kill the Bull of Heaven after which the gods decide to sentence Enkidu to death and kill him.



What is Kurdistan?

Kurdistan is a mountainous cultural-geographical region that spans across four different countries: Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Turkey.

A long history of tension in the Middle East has threatened Kurdish cultural transmission for centuries.





The “Two Bros, Gilgamesh and Enkidu, go into the Cedar Forest to Kill the Scary Monster Humbaba” segment is based on the monologue Lemmings in Animal Tales, by Don Nigro, published by Samuel French, included by permission of the playwright.

The musical works of Dargelos and Daria Holovchanska were used in the sound design of the performance

2023-2024