

2021 SYD FEST



DORR-E DARI:

A POETIC CRASH COURSE IN THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE

PYT FAIRFIELD | WORLD PREMIERE



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CARRIAGEWORKS

20–24 JANUARY

70 MINS

CAST AND CREDITS

First Nations Elder Aunty Rhonda Dixon-Grovenor

Concept/Co-Creator/Performer Mahdi Mohammadi

Co-Creator/Director Paul Dwyer

Co-Creator/Performer Jawad Yaqoubi

Co-Creator/Performer Bibi Goul Mossavi

Co-Creator/Video Artist Sean Bacon

Lighting Designer Neil Simpson

Production Stage Manager Patrick Howard

Project Intern Bernadette Fam

PYT FAIRFIELD

Artistic Director Karen Therese

Executive Director Katy Green Loughrey

Producer Louisa Minuttillo

Producer - Emerging Artists Bina Bhattacharya

Administration and Communications Coordinator Daisy Montalvo

CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project has been developed in partnership with the University of Sydney. It has been generously supported by the Australia Council for the Arts and the NSW Government through Create NSW, Vitalstatistix, Crack Theatre Festival and the Seaborn, Broughton & Walford Foundation.

PYT Fairfield would like to thank Richard Manner and Justine Shih Pearson of the University of Sydney, Jalal Nazari, Amina Khodadadi, Razia Maqsoudi, Mirabelle Wouters, Gabrielle Wilson, Frank Dwyer, Rafik Avanesian of Taraneh Records and Sydney Festival.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Switch off your dating apps, forget the nightclubs and tune in to a thousand-year practice of courtly Persian love poetry in *Dorr-e Dari: A Poetic Crash Course in the Language of Love*.

Through intimate storytelling and epic ballads from the streets of Kabul, Tehran and Quetta, via Western Sydney, your hosts Bibi, Jawad and Mahdi will guide you on the path to love.

Inspired by the tradition of private recitals and ‘curtain shows’ performed throughout the Persian-speaking world, this new theatre work will show you there’s a verse for every condition of the heart.

Dorr-e Dari: A Poetic Crash Course in the Language of Love is a creation by PYT Fairfield, a brave and transformative theatre company, whose vision asserts and celebrates Australia as a culturally diverse nation.

Following the success of *Tribunal* (Sydney Festival 2018), PYT Fairfield return to challenge the conversations of traditional theatre with this rich and tender new work.

A NOTE FROM THE CREATORS

While touring with *Tribunal*, Mahdi Mohammadi pitched an idea to PYT Fairfield for a new show, a celebration of Persian language and culture, especially the classical traditions and everyday uses of Persian love poetry. And he had a title: *Dorr-e Dari* — the “Pearl of Dari”, a reference to the form of Persian spoken in Afghanistan, the ancestral home of Mahdi, Jawad and Bibi.

A form for the show, and a precious sense of ensemble, developed over the many months of what we dubbed our “dinner + dramaturgy” sessions. Nourished by Jawad’s lamb shorba, and sitting on the carpet, we worked through the resonances between classical poetry, popular song and the lived experiences of the performers while researching the history, politics and visual arts traditions of the Persian-speaking world.

With this performance we invite you into the charmed space of our poetry circle where, at least for a moment, any problem might be solved with a couplet. This “poetic crash course” aims to expand this space and prolong these charms. There is hope in hospitality.

ABOUT PYT FAIRFIELD

PYT Fairfield’s vision asserts and celebrates Australia as a culturally diverse nation. Their practice is based on the act of Radical Kindness, an inclusive practice that involves conversation, collaboration, skills sharing and ritual. PYT Fairfield is the only professional theatre company in Western Sydney focused on the development and engagement of local young and emerging artists as core practice.

PYT has a reputation as a brave and transformative theatre company who make urgent work that explores the critical issues of our times. They challenge the conventions of traditional theatre and respond to the needs and aspirations of the next generation of artists. They do this by creating innovative performance and social artistic experiences in theatre spaces and across diverse urban sites of Fairfield, Western Sydney and beyond, and with a key focus on cultural diversity.

PYT has presented work across Australia including at the Sydney Opera House, Sydney Festival, Arts House Melbourne and Adelaide Festival Centre. PYT’s work has garnered high acclaim and has won a HELPMANN Award and nomination, SMAC Award and Australian Dance Award.