

THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION

OF THE WORLD

Sydney
Festival
2024



THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

The Javaad Alipoor Company and Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta

Sydney Opera House, Drama Theatre

19 - 21 January

Approx 90 mins (no interval)

CAST AND CREDITS

Co-commissioned by HOME, Manchester and National Theatre of Parramatta, Sydney

Written by Javaad Alipoor with Chris Thorpe

Co-created by Natalie Diddams and Javaad Alipoor

Dramaturg Chris Thorpe

Directed by Javaad Alipoor

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

Set, costume and lighting design by Benjamin Brockman

Composer, music director, live musician Me-Lee Hay

With music by Raam Emami

Company stage manager Dylan Tate

Sound specialist Mike Kingsley

Sound design by Simon McCorry

Projection and video design by Limbic Cinema

Video Associate Barret Hodgson

Additional filming by Tate Creations

AUS production management by PaperJam Partners

UK Production management by The Production Family: Dom Baker and Tom Mackey

Publicity Kabuku

NATIONAL THEATRE OF PARRAMATTA

Director Craig McMaster (Riverside Theatres)

Executive & Creative Producer Joanne Kee

Company coordinator Vanessa Hyde

Project officer Leigh Russell

Associate producer Emma White

Assistant producer Gabriel Faatau'uu-Satiu

THE JAVAAD ALIPOOR COMPANY

Artistic director and CEO Javaad Alipoor

Executive Producer Fenella Dawnay

Communications manager Rebekka Anstem

General manager Stacey Potter

Administrator Hannah Ferrugia

Supported by British Council and Create NSW.

ABOUT THE SHOW

An investigation into the nature of investigation, with the unsolved murder of a pop icon at its centre.

It's the 1970s and Fereydoun Farrokhzad's star is blazing bright - he's a sex symbol and chart-topping pop singer - imagine an Iranian Tom Jones. A decade on and he's living in political exile in Germany, though still performing to sold-out audiences in Europe. On 7 August 1992, he's found brutally murdered. The neighbours said his dogs had been barking for two nights.

Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World is a wild 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 search engines in solving a decades old cold case.

After creative development showings at Sydney Festival in 2022, this riveting multimedia theatre experience has its Australian premiere this summer.

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A NOTE FROM THE CREATOR

When I started researching the story of Fereydoun Farrokhzad, I came to realise that his murder is the beginning of a series of events that still haunt us today. As the relationship between the Global North and the Global South has shifted, so too has the old sense of the West as a safe place where dissidents can escape to. Put simply, you might leave the dictatorship, but the dictatorship won't leave you. *Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World* is the final part of a trilogy of plays that I began writing in 2017. I knew I wanted this last part to stand alone whilst speaking to the relationship between politics and technology, history and the present that has been the thread connecting all three plays. Retelling and trying to understand how to retell this story has helped me find a way to do that and to really confront what it means to think of the world as something like the internet, research as a kind of deep dive and tracing the way the 'democratisation' of the thirst for knowledge reproduces older networks of power.

- Javaad Alipoor

THE JAVAAD ALIPOOR COMPANY

The Javaad Alipoor Company takes stories beyond the stage through powerful multi-platform creations that explore the intersection of politics and technology in the contemporary world. Established in 2017, it stands on the shoulders of Northern Lines, the first company founded by Javaad Alipoor - a British-Iranian, Manchester-based and Bradford-built artist and writer - and retains its commitment to making new work with diverse artists for diverse audiences and communities.

NATIONAL THEATRE OF PARRAMATTA

Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta (NTofP) is changing the landscape of theatre in Australia by producing bold, transformative and inspirational work that champions fresh vibrant and engaging voices that nurtures creative communities and speaks to a new wave of global theatre making. We are committed to presenting and fostering authentic, inclusive voices and welcoming diverse audiences. NTofP creates, commissions, presents and tours performances that resonate with and reflect contemporary Australia's place in the world. Believing in the power of theatre, NTofP also nurtures talent through its engagement and skills development opportunities with programs that provide access, visibility and infrastructure for our vibrant community now and into the future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

City of Parramatta
Riverside Theatres
Create NSW
British Council
HOME

Please provide your valuable feedback of the performance via this link <https://l.ead.me/thstfotw>