

PORTFOLIO

Selected Works from 2019 to 2024

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Calgary, Canada

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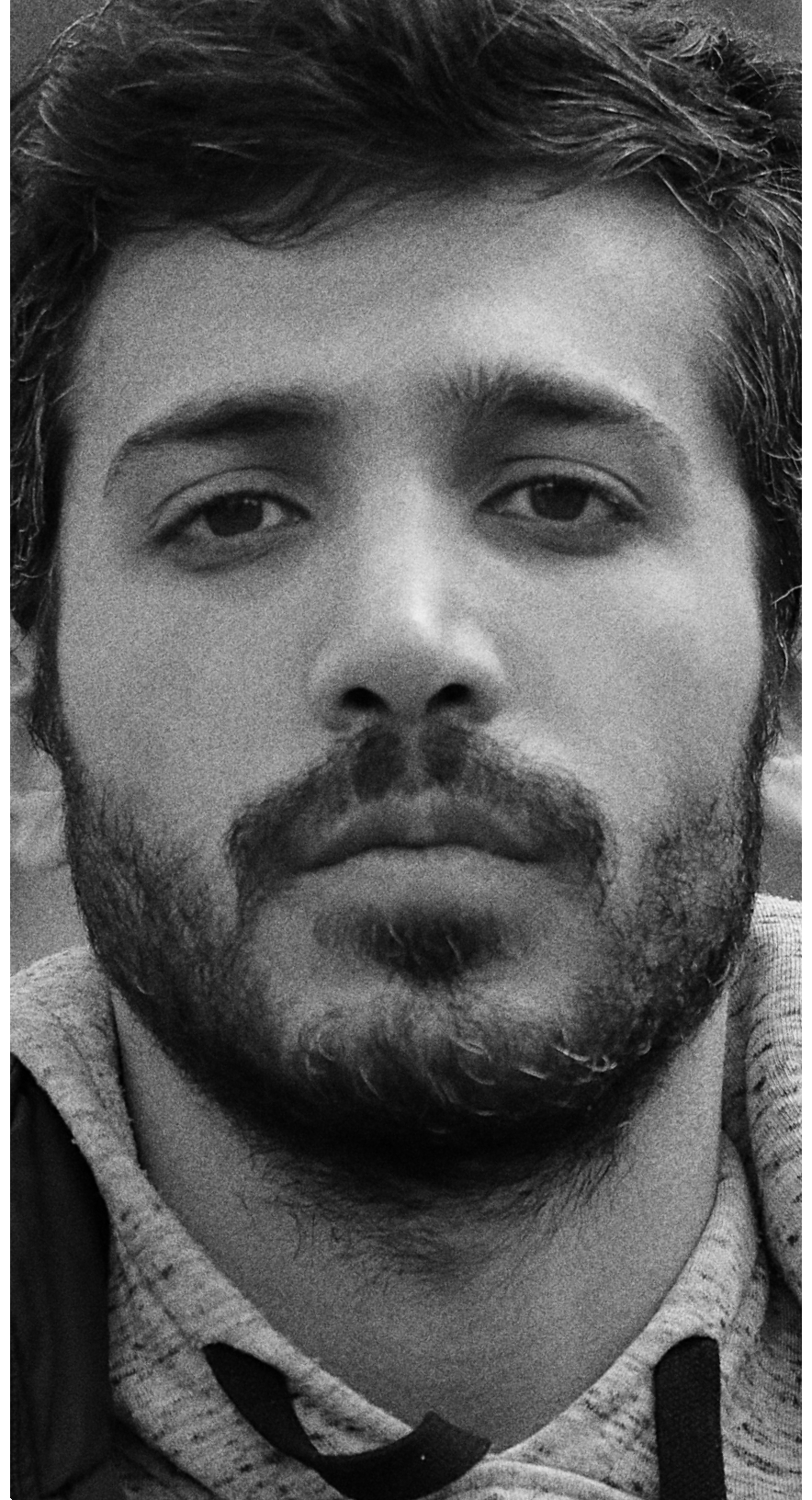
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SAEID ASGARIAN

ABOUT

Saeid is a professional theatre director and playwright with his first master's degree in Theatre Directing from the University of Tehran (2021). He has directed, written, dramaturge and stage-designed dozens of professional productions, including Empty Room (2024), Thirteen (2023), Absence (2023), Green Key (2023), Room No. 3 (2022), Life (2021), Historicity short movie (2020), A Memory of Two Mondays (2019), etc. His current artistic approach includes participatory and laboratory theatre to create his shows and understand better what theatre can do for society and how it affects the audience.

In his second master's degree in Theatre Studies at the University of Calgary (2024), he analyzed the role of theatre as a communicative action for immigrants' integration into the host society.



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HOME

*Co-writer and Director
Calgary, November 2024*

Home was a play co-written and directed by me. This absurd show draws inspiration from Kafka's novels and tells the story of a woman whose house is invaded by a family seeking to prove their claim to this home. The play addressed the issue of colonization and was performed in Calgary in November 2024. I used the Brechtian technique in this show to help audiences think more about its concept, and fortunately, we received terrific feedback from audiences for this show.









ARTIST

*Writer, Director and Actor
Calgary and Edmonton, October - November 2024*


Artis was an absurd comedy show written and directed by Saeid Asgarian. I also played one of the main characters in this play. It was performed in Calgary in September 2024 and in Edmonton in November 2024. The show explores the concept of art and delves into who can be considered an artist.

Director and Designer:
Saeid Asgarian

Producer:
Reza Hedayati

Actors:
Termeh Tohidi, Zahra Masoumi, Saeid Asgarian

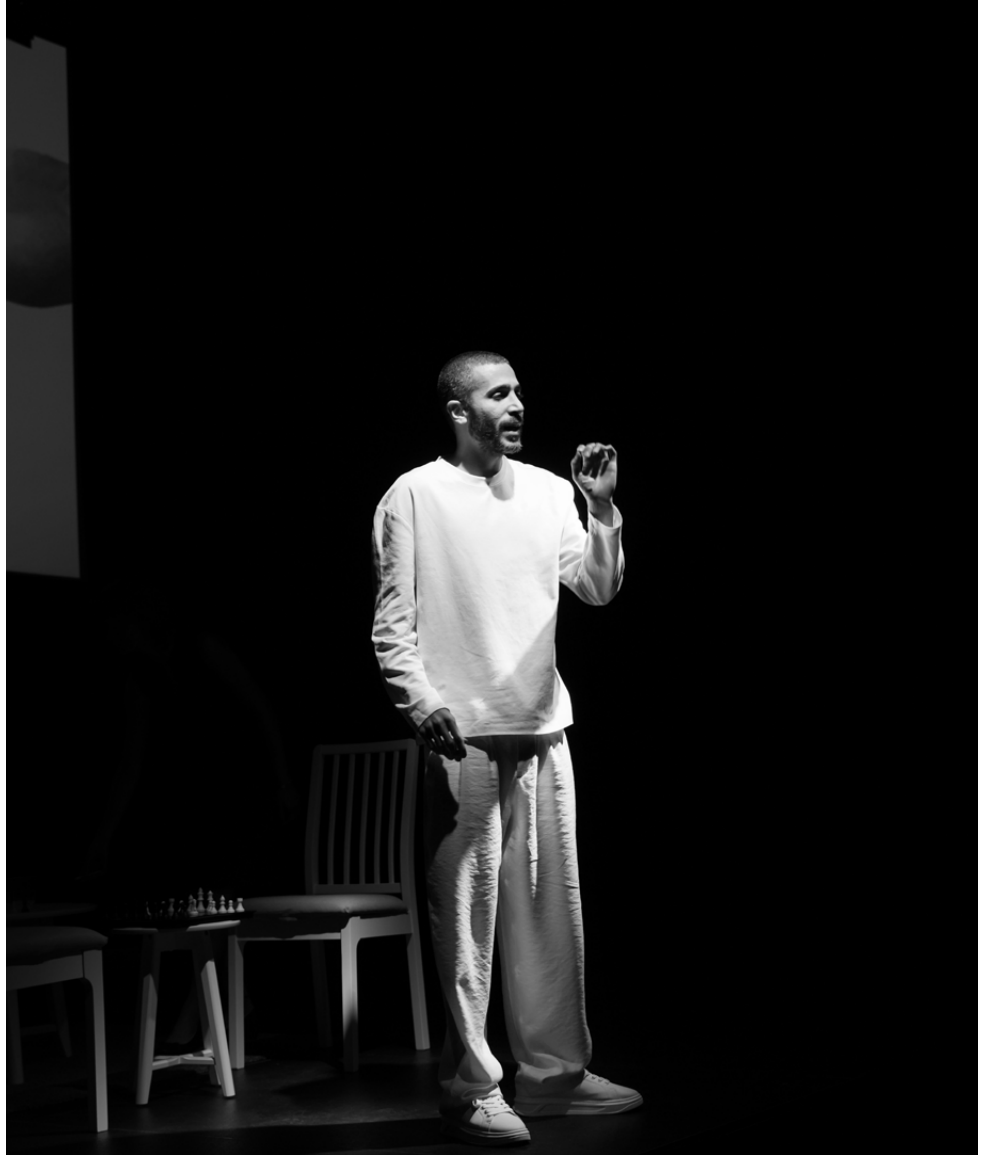
Poster:
Ali Khosroshahizadeh

 Roommate
Art
Company

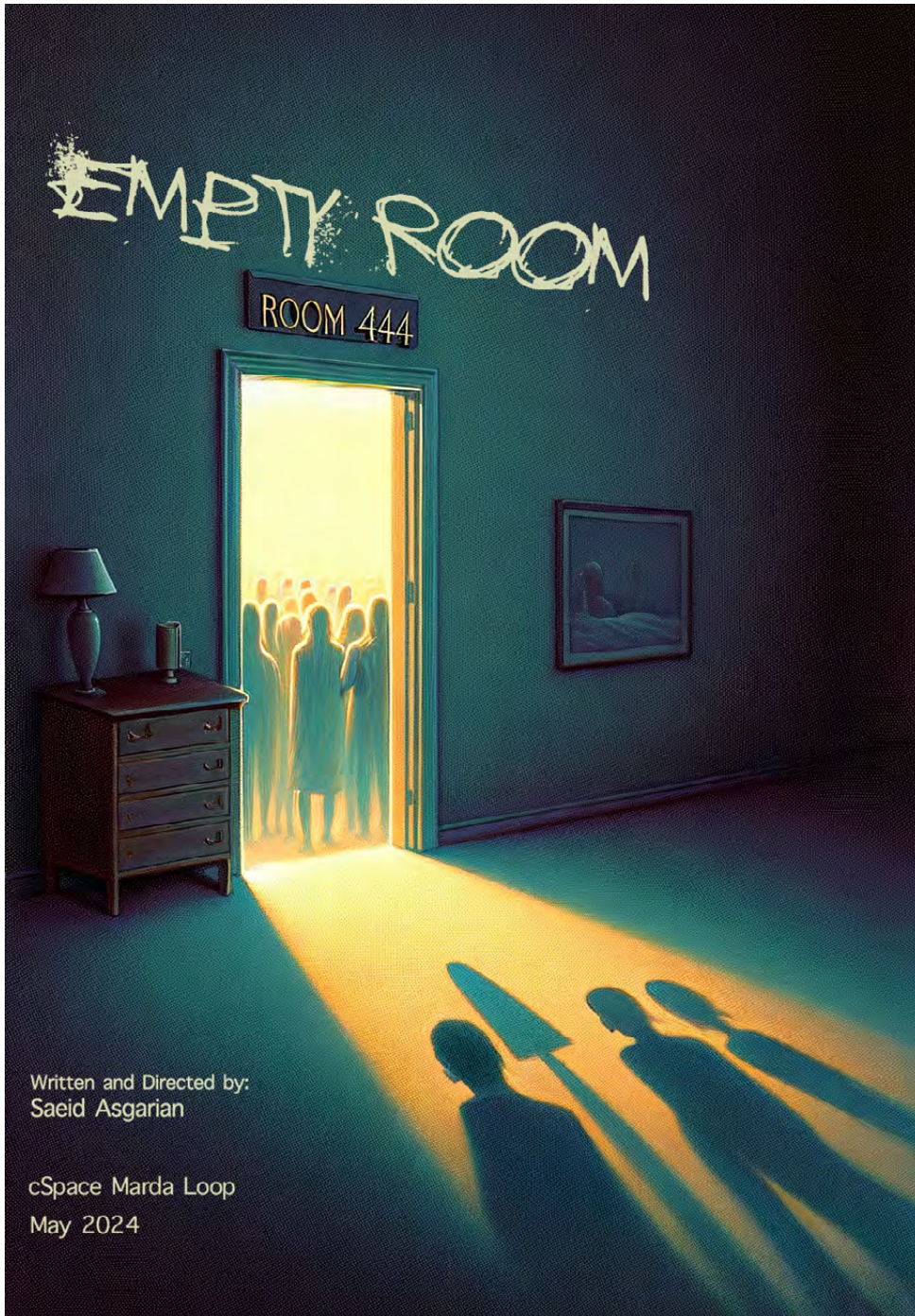

calgary arts
development


Calgary 









Written and Directed by:
Saeid Asgarian

cSpace Marda Loop
May 2024

EMPTY ROOM

Playwright, Director and Stage Designer
Calgary, May 2024

In May 2024, after three months of intensive rehearsals, I successfully led a comedy show titled "Empty Room" at cSPACE Marda Loop in Calgary, Canada. As the playwright, stage designer, and director, I created this play inspired by the works of Neil Simon. Collaborating with a talented cast of 11 actors, we performed to an enthusiastic audience of over 400. This project highlighted my skills in creative writing, theatrical direction, and stage design, demonstrating my ability to bring a vision to life and engage large audiences through comedy.







Downstage and Immigrant Council for Arts Innovation present

All Good Things Must Begin



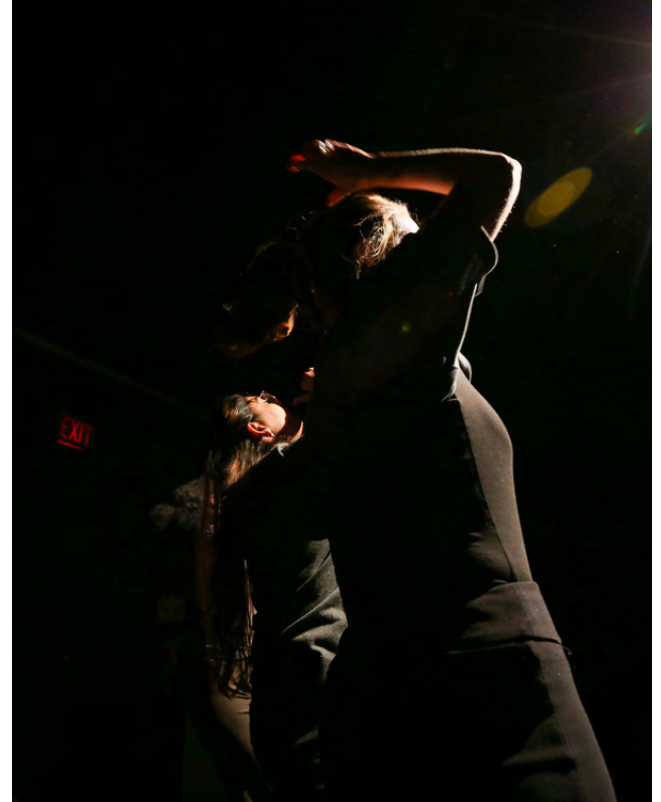
ALL GOOD THINGS MUST BEGIN

*Co-Director
Calgary, November 2023*

In November 2023, I had the privilege of co-directing the thought-provoking production “All Good Things Must Begin” in Calgary. This collaborative project between Downstage Theatre and ICAI brought together a talented team to address the urgent issue of climate action. Set to unfold at Arts Commons, the show aimed to inspire audiences with its powerful message, igniting conversations and fostering awareness about our collective responsibility towards the environment. Contributing to this impactful work was an enriching experience, leveraging the art of theatre to support positive change.

A Climate Change Theatre Action Initiative





A promotional poster for the play 'Thirteen'. The background is a dark interior with a large window looking out onto a city at night. The city lights are visible through the window panes. The text is overlaid on the image in a red, serif font.

November 17
cSPACE Marda Loop

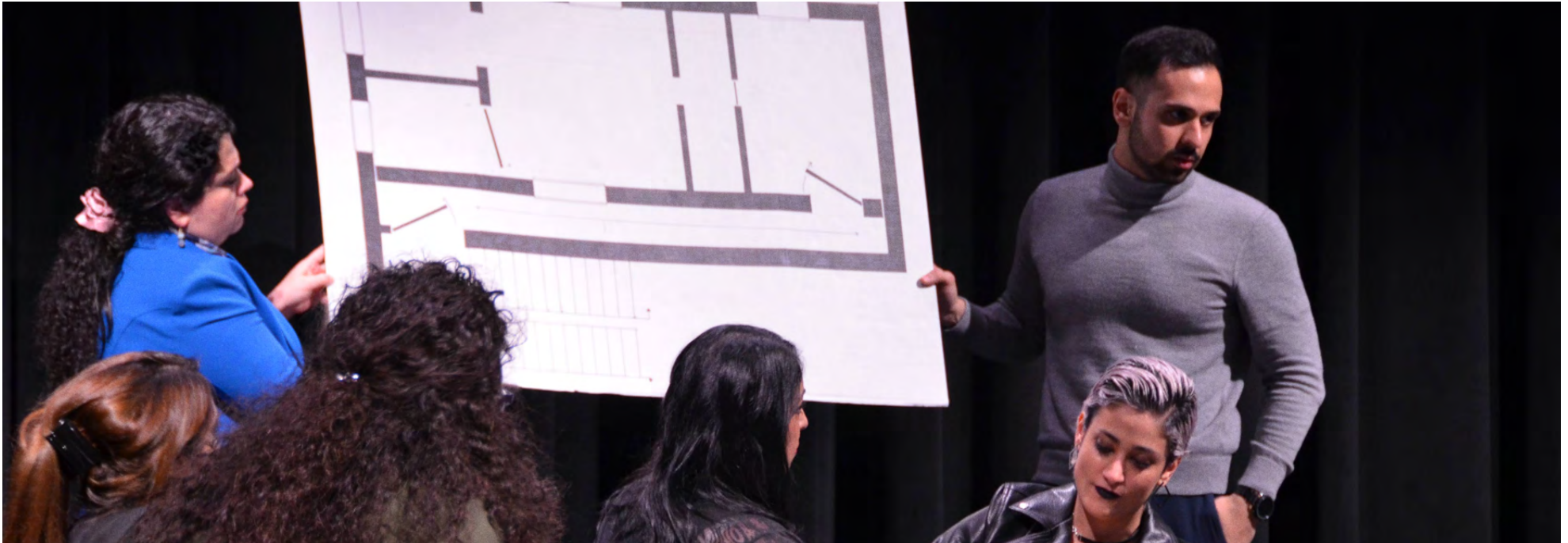
13
Thirteen

Based on *12 Angry Men* Written by Reginald Rose
Directed by Saeid Asgarian
cSPACE Marda Loop, Calgary
November 2023

THIRTEEN

Director
Calgary, November 2023

In November 2023, I directed *Thirteen* in Calgary. After three months of intense rehearsals, this Farsi-language adaptation of Reginald Rose's *12 Angry Men* engaged the Iranian community at cSPACE Marda Loop.



ABSENCE

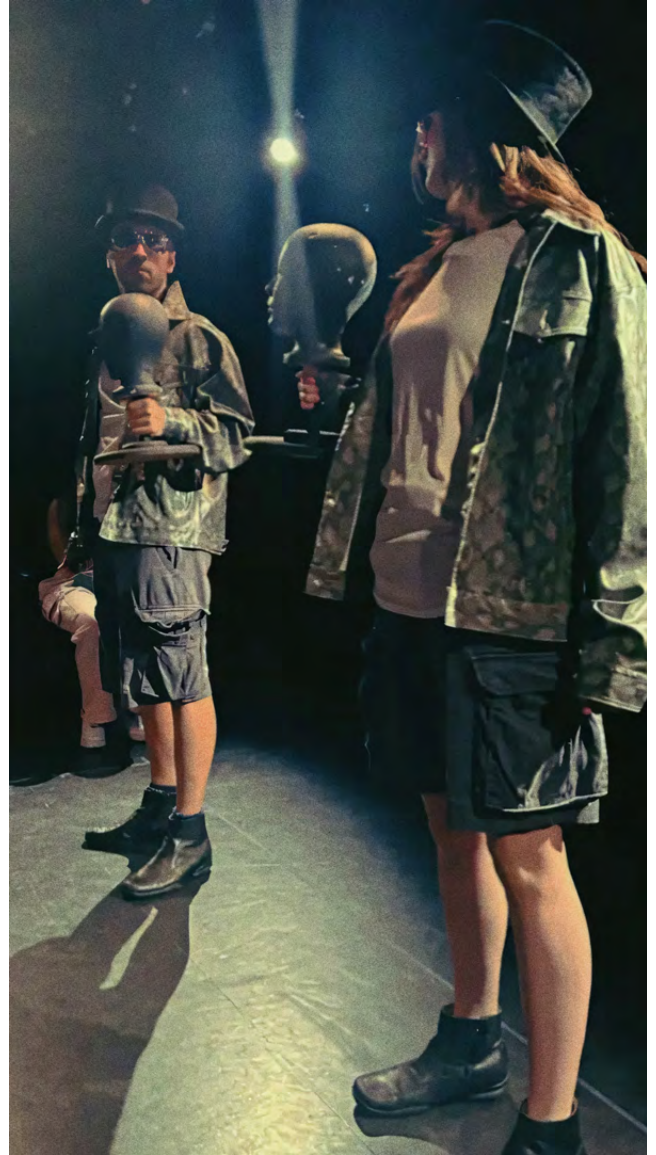
*Writer and Director
Calgary, September 2023*

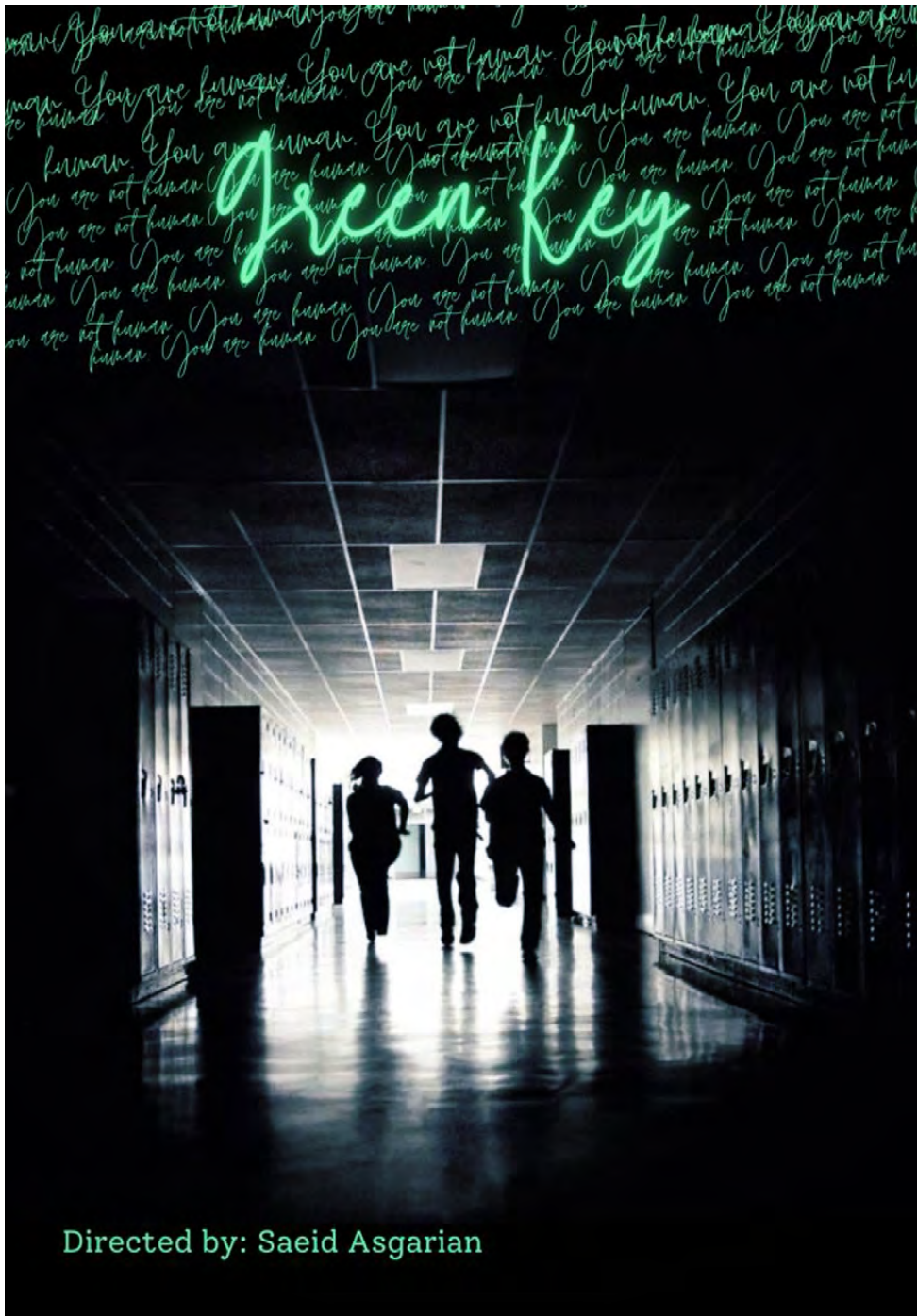
In September 2023, I served as writer and director for *Absence* in Calgary, a unique production born from collaboration among Canadian and immigrant artists. This experimental laboratory theatre piece, structured as a fashion show sans dialogue, provocatively explored capitalism's impact on contemporary society, compellingly interrogating its effects.











Directed by: Saeid Asgarian

GREEN KEY

Facilitator and Director
Calgary, February 2023

In 2023, I assumed the roles of facilitator and director for *Green Key* in Calgary, a poignant exploration of refugee experiences. Premiering at the University of Calgary in February, it later graced the stages of the Ignite Festival in July 2023 and the Chinook Festival in February 2024. This Applied Theater piece, featuring seven Canadian actors, engaged audiences in participatory experiences, guiding them through immersive spaces to foster empathy and understanding towards the refugee plight.



ROOM NO. 3

Writer and Director
Calgary, April 2022

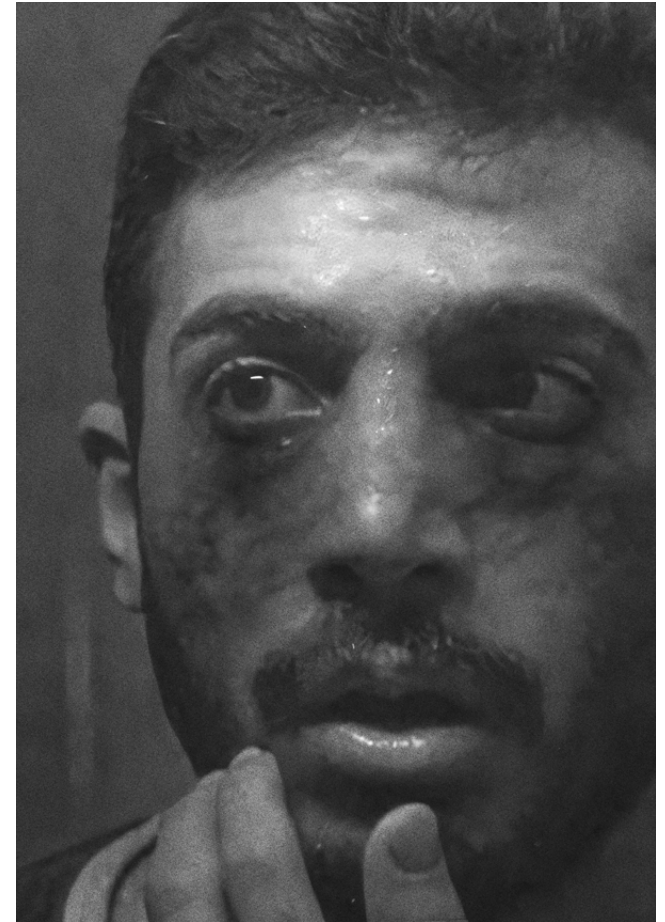
In April 2022, *Room No. 3* captivated audiences in Tehran's Molavi Hall with 30 riveting performances. As the writer, director, and stage designer, I crafted a compelling narrative exploring themes of immortality, drawing inspiration from Martin McDonough's characters. After nine months of rehearsal, our talented ensemble of 14 actors brought this fascinating story to life, impacting over 5,000 spectators.











LIFE

*Director, Stage Designer and Performer
Tehran, July 2021*

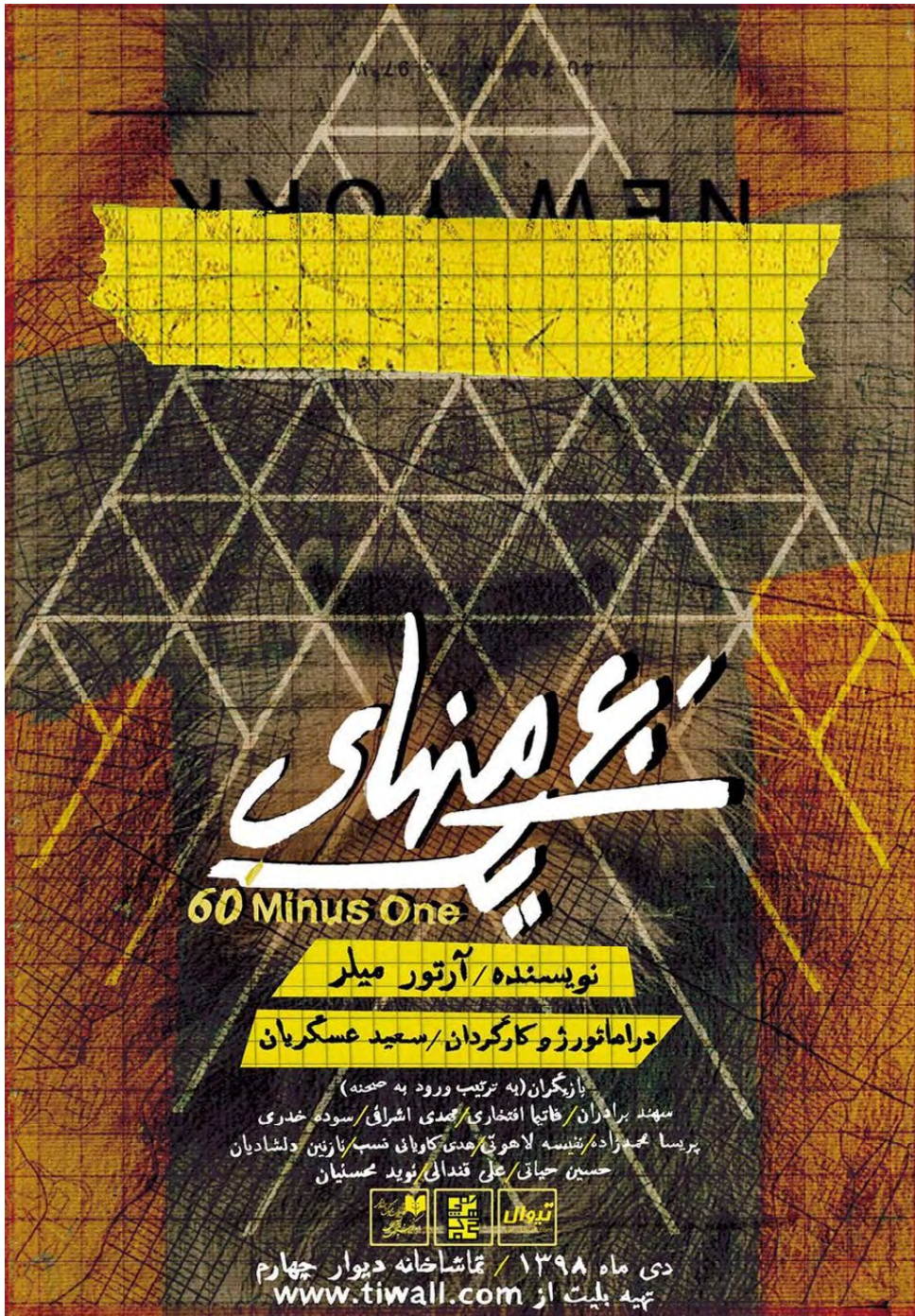
In July 2021, in Tehran's Ruberu Hall, I had the privilege of directing, stage designing, and performing in *Zendegani (Life)*. Inspired by Marina Abramovic's "The Artist Is Present," this performance art piece centered on Afghan immigrants in Iran. With a team of four performers, including myself, we fluidly exchanged roles on different days, creating a dynamic and immersive experience that delved into the complexities of life and migration.



HISTORICITY (SHORT FILM)

*Director and Screenwriter
Tehran, June 2020*

In June 2020, in Damavand City, Iran, I directed and wrote the screenplay for the short film *Historicity*. Leading a team of 23 cast and crew, including 11 cast members, we successfully filmed a 16-minute piece in a single day, designed to appear as a seamless “one-shot” sequence. With a focus on feminism and the portrayal of women in history, the screenplay was crafted with skill and sensitivity, aiming to provoke thought and inspire dialogue.



60 MINUTES MINUS ONE

Director and Dramaturge
Tehran, December 2019

In December 2019, I was director and dramaturge for *60 Minutes Minus One* in Tehran's Divar Chaharom Hall. Following six months of intensive rehearsal, this production, inspired by Arthur Miller's *The Ride Down Mt. Morgan*, ingeniously transformed into a condensed 60-minute play. Focusing on the final hour of the protagonist's life, we navigated themes of mortality and introspection, offering a compelling and poignant exploration of the human experience.



A MEMORY OF TWO MONDAYS

Director and Dramaturge
Tehran, August 2019

In August 2019, at Tehran's Shahrzad Hall, I undertook the roles of director and dramaturge for "A Memory of Two Mondays." Over a meticulous nine-month period, I conducted individual rehearsals with each of the 11 actors, ensuring their distinctiveness to enhance character authenticity. Drawing inspiration from Arthur Miller's play, this production delved deep into the complexities of human relationships.



A Memory of Two Mondays

نویسنده: آرتور میلر

مترجم: زهره خلیلی
کارگردان: سعید اسگریان

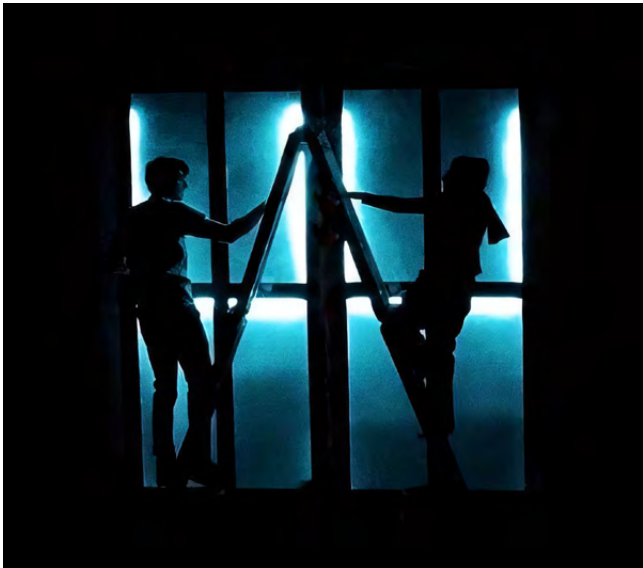
مشاور کارگردان: مرتضی اسماعیل کاشی

بازیگران (به ترتیب ورود به صحنه)
ارشیا پاکدل / برهام موسوی / شیدا پهلوان / شبنم جعفر پیشه
پارسا مزینانی / کبری معماری / نازنین دلشادیان / صدی اشراقی
نوید محسنیان / فرتاش دوراندیش / احمد فرهنگ نیا

اسفند ماه ۱۳۹۷ / پردیس تئاتر شهرزاد / تهیه بلیط از www.tik8.com









50/50

Actor
Tehran, February 2019



In February 2019, I had the honor of acting in 50/50 at Tehran's Hillaj Hall, directed by Morteza Esmail. Portraying a bilingual character, navigating Persian and German lines without prior knowledge of German was a challenge I embraced. My character embodied dual identities, representing both an Auschwitz prisoner and "Iberin" from Bertolt Brecht's Round Heads and Pointed Heads. Throughout the production, I engaged in ongoing negotiations with the writer to shape the Brechtian script. With over 10,000 audience members in attendance, the show left a lasting impact.



ACTING WORKSHOP FOR THE IRANIAN COMMUNITY

Calgary, February-April 2023

I facilitated an intensive Acting Workshop tailored for the Iranian community in Calgary, Alberta. Over 70 hours were dedicated to honing their craft, delving into the methodologies of renowned practitioners, including David Mamet, Stella Adler, Konstantin Stanislavski, Vsevolod Meyerhold, and Michael Chekhov. Through rigorous exploration and practice, participants gained invaluable insight into the art of acting, fostering creativity and skill development within the community.



FOOT CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Toronto, February 2024

I participated in the esteemed 32nd annual Festival of Original Theatre (FOOT) Conference hosted by the University of Toronto's Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies. Amidst this year's theme, "Handle With Care," I had the privilege to present my insights and theories on leveraging theatre and performance as tools for the integration of marginalized groups, particularly immigrants, into contemporary society.

