



MARCH, 2019  
FOR MORE INFO, PHOTOS, INTERVIEWS  
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The Cultch presents

## NASSIM

Bush Theatre (UK) and Nassim Soleimanpour Productions

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**WHEN: May 7 – 19, 2019**

May 7, 8PM: Opening

May 8 – 11, 14 – 18, 8PM

May 12, 19, 2PM

Post-show Artist Talkback: May 8, 12, 14

**WHERE: Historic Theatre, 1895 Venables St**

**TICKETS:** Tickets from \$24. Single tickets on sale now through The Cultch's Box Office: 604-251-1363 or [tickets.thecultch.com](http://tickets.thecultch.com).

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**Award-winning playwright Nassim Soleimanpour caps off The Cultch's 19/20 season with a show about language, friendship, and the illusive meaning of home.**

(Vancouver, BC) – The Cultch is thrilled to present acclaimed playwright Nassim Soleimanpour's NASSIM at the Historic Theatre May 7-19, 2019.

***Dear performer. I want to show you something...***

NASSIM follows Soleimanpour's globally acclaimed *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*, which has been translated into over 25 different languages, and performed over 1,000 times by names including Stephen Fry, Ken Loach and Whoopi Goldberg. This time the award-winning playwright takes the audience and performer—a different one each performance—on a surprising and intimate journey, as he introduces us to his own language, Farsi.

What starts as a simple lesson in Farsi—a way for Nassim to makes friends with the performer experiencing the script for the very first time—gently unfolds, and a beautiful story emerges; a story of love and belonging. NASSIM is the story about searching for connection, and longing for home. Touchingly autobiographical yet powerfully universal, NASSIM is a striking theatrical demonstration of how language can both divide and unite us.

Like *White Rabbit, Red Rabbit*, in NASSIM a different performer joins the playwright on stage as the script waits unseen in a sealed box. No stranger to The Cultch's three stages, local performers who have stepped up to this unique challenge, are among those most beloved by Cultch patrons: Carmen Aguirre, Adam Grant Warren, Maiko Yamamoto, Marcus Youssef, Craig Erickson, Christine Quintana, Dawn Petten, Pippa Mackie, Quelema Sparrow, Tetsuro Shigematu, Conor Wylie, and Donna Soares. Every show will be a unique experience, as each performer brings their own style and experiences to the performance.

**“This is probably the only show you will ever see that is also a lesson in speaking Farsi. Although the real lesson is, of course, in speaking the universal language of humanity”—The Guardian**

**“Surprising, disarming, and ultimately moving, *NASSIM* is a cleverly constructed theatrical game that forges a delicate connection between strangers in real time.” – Sydney Morning Herald**

**“*NASSIM* managed to challenge my way of thinking and impacted me deeply in that soft place in my heart where my childhood lives”—New York Theatre Guide**

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Writer and Performer: **Nassim Soleimanpour**

Performers—A new actor for every performance: **Carmen Aguirre** (May 7), **Adam Grant Warren** (May 8), **Maiko Yamamoto** (May 9), **Marcus Youssef** (May 10), Craig Erickson (May 11), **Christine Quintana** (May 12), **Dawn Petten** (May 14), **Pippa Mackie** (May 15), **Quelemia Sparrow** (May 16), **Tetsuro Shigematsu** (May 17), **Conor Wylie** (May 18), **Donna Soares** (May 19)

Director: **Omar Elerian**, Designer: **Rhys Jarman**, Sound Designer: **James Swadlo**, Lighting Designer: **Rajiv Pattani**, Production Manager: **Michael Ager**, Stage Manager: **Kacey Gritters**, Script Editors: **Carolina Ortega** and **Stewart Pringle**, Production Support: **Theatre Replacement**

*NASSIM* was originally commissioned and produced by the Bush Theatre and received its world premiere at the Bush Theatre, London, on 25 July 2017. Directed by Omar Elerian.

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#### **ABOUT NASSIM SOLEIMANPOUR:**

Nassim Soleimanpour (playwright and performer) is an independent multidisciplinary theatre maker best known for his multi award-winning play *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*. Nassim's play *BLANK* premiered in the UK at the Bush Theatre's RADAR festival in 2015, also playing in Amsterdam and Utrecht with further performances all over the world including at the Edinburgh Fringe and in Argentina, Australia and India. Further plays include *Blind Hamlet* which premiered at LIFT Festival 2014 prior to a UK tour and productions in Bucharest and Copenhagen. Nassim now lives in Berlin and has been commissioned to write a new play for Teater Momentum (Denmark) and the audiobook platform Audible.

#### **ABOUT THE CULTCH:**

Since 1973, The Cultch (formally the Vancouver East Cultural Centre) has been one of Vancouver's most diverse and innovative arts and cultural hubs. The organization operates three theatrical venues, a gallery, and various ancillary spaces in the heart of East Vancouver. The Cultch offers dynamic contemporary programming in theatre, dance, music, and the visual arts, bringing world-class cultural presentations to thousands of citizens each year through its own programming and through providing rental opportunities for community users. Our purpose is to provide a venue for performance that serves a diverse and engaged public and provides space for artistic experimentation and development, building an audience for local companies and presenting cutting-edge national and international work.