

THEATRE INCONNU

The Shoemaker's Son

Written & performed by
Amira Abdel-Malek

8pm June 1, 2, 3
2pm June 3, 4



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We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia

We acknowledge with respect that this show is produced on the ancestral territories of the ɫəkʷəŋən peoples, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt nations, as well as the WSÁNEĆ peoples, whose traditional relationship with the land continues today.

The Shoemaker's Son

Written by Amira Abdel-Malek

Performed by Amira Abdel-Malek

Directed by Timothy Gosley

Live musical accompaniment by Tim Personn

Music composed by Tim Personn with Amira Abdel-Malek

Thematic music development during rehearsals by Douglas Hensley

Illustrations by Sophie Fuldauer

Digital art service by Cinevolution

Lighting by Clayton Jevne

Running crew

Timothy Gosley

Richard Patterson

Steven Aleck

Box office volunteer

Jennifer Pritchard

Theatre Inconnu Artistic Director/General Manager

Clayton Jevne

Thanks to the ConVERGE micro-residency, and Puente Theatre and Intrepid Theatre, for mentorship, story development, and dramaturgical support from Mercedes Bátiz-Benét, Keshia Palm and Izad Etemadi; and thank you to Cinevolution's micro-grant and Sarah and Yun-Jou's mentorship.

Special thanks to Timothy Gosley and Petra Kixmoller for rehearsal space.

The play is about one hour long with no intermission

The Shoemaker's Son

What happens when you assemble the real-life experiences of a former refugee, who left Egypt in the 1970s, from the perspective of his daughter—a mixed kid who came of age in the pre-and-post 9/11 era? What happens when you take their stories, add some whimsy from the 1001 Nights, and infuse them with a bit of poststructuralist theory? Now put all this into a blender, together with a dash of the absurd, a pinch of melodrama, some light, shadow, and a projector—what do you get? Well, you get the zany hyper-world of *The Shoemaker's Son*. Using a variety of performance techniques, including object-puppetry, Amira brings to life this heart-warming tale inspired by her father's life.



The creator and performer, Amira Abdel-Malek

Amira is a graduate of UVic's School of Child and Youth Care's Master's program. Her research on accessibility and equity of medical services for children and families was conducted on behalf of the Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island. With over a decade of experience working, designing, and facilitating programs for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, Amira has always learned and invited creative expression as a significant part of her practice. She had the pleasure to be the shadow puppeteer for *Dead Man's Cellphone* (Inconnu 2019) and she has co-lead an applied theatre program with the Garth Homer Society (2019/2021). Amira began writing *The Shoemaker's Son* in 2020, and while raising her first baby she has had the opportunity to complete her work during a micro-residency with **Intrepid Theatre** and **Puente Theatre** (2022).



The musician and composer, Tim Personn

Tim is a writer and musician from Hamburg, Germany, who now calls British Columbia his home. He has a PhD in English/Cultural, Social and Political Thought from the University of Victoria, where he teaches literature and writing. Tim has collaborated with many musicians and artists in Europe and North America, most recently as a member of the Victoria-based band "Grimwood" and in his upcoming solo-project called "persons." His book of literary criticism, *Fictions of Proximity: Skepticism, Romanticism, and the Wallace Nexus*, is forthcoming with Lexington Books. His music and essays can be found at www.timpersonn.com

Those who have helped make this happen! (alphabetically)



Steven Aleck is a **Nuu Chah Nulth** visual artist and has been helping to paint sets and crew for Theatre Inconnu since 2012. Shows include: *The Walworth Farce*, *Kafka the Musical*, *In the Next Room*, *The Golden Dragon*, *Antigone*, *Jocasta Regina*, *Trad*, *Dog See God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*, *East of Berlin*, *Subway* and *Commencing*. Steven has also painted the set for Langham Court Theatre's *The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs*.



Sophie Fuldauer is an artist living and working in Victoria, BC. She is a painter and illustrator who works in theatre as a multi-disciplinary maker of puppets, masks, theatre sets, props and costume design. Sophie has worked for various people and groups including Story Theatre and Theatre Inconnu in Victoria. She's an alumni of Dawson City's SOVA and has taken courses with various art schools across Western Canada. Her watercolours are on display in "The Farmstand" in Fernwood.



Tim Gosley's four decades in puppetry includes a wide spectrum of projects. He just built and performed the lead puppet for a Toronto television pilot. He experiments autobiographical subjects through puppetry including *Le Bloke de North Hatley* (under development). He was festival director for *Puppets for Peace* with Theatre Inconnu. He is a Gemini Award winning puppeteer on TV series including the *Muppets Fraggles Rock*, and *Canadian Sesame Street*. Tim produced a 24 cast community mixed-nations performance of Roy Henry Vickers telling the Tsimshian tale, *Peace Dancer*, through Theatre Inconnu. In 2020 he had an artist-in-residence fellowship at the Center for Studies in Religion and Society at The University of Victoria.



Douglas Hensley trained as a classical guitarist at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, during which time he also studied Renaissance lute. His musical interests include classical Persian, Medieval to 21 C ensemble music, and Beatles. He has recorded with the Continuum Consort, Anima Medieval Music Duo, Ensemble Laude, Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra, Big Speck, and the quartet Steluța. In May 2022, his improvised banjo playing in David Zurick's documentary about the work of Jennifer Heller (Doug's sister), *Earth to Art: Basketmaker*, was a Finalist in the Best Original Music Award at the Oregon International Documentary Film Festival. He loves to collaborate with other musicians, choirs, puppeteers, dancers and theatre.



Clayton Jevne has headed Theatre Inconnu officially since 1987. Since then he has been involved as either actor, director or designer in scores of productions. He finds it exciting to further the development of Amira's show via Theatre Inconnu, and thanks all who have contributed to this delightful presentation. In this production, he has had some fun playing with the lights.



Richard Patterson started acting in theatre in Toronto 50 years ago. After Toronto Richard split his time between Edmonton and Victoria, getting to play Macduff and a tightrope walker challenging Niagara Falls (*Blondin*) on tour, and a pirate in *Pieces of Eight* and a Clown at the Citadel Theatre and on tour in California. Eventually Theatre Inconnu offered Richard some of the best characters he's ever had. Richard helps around Inconnu and is on the board, and is working with great friends.