



2017 Capital Fringe
Festival
and
Videotaped Production

About this Production: This play is based on the testimonies of Israeli soldiers from the Israeli organization, Breaking the Silence. BtS has given us permission to create a theatrical production of *Our Harsh Logic: Israeli Soldiers' Testimonies from the Occupied Territories, 2000-2012*, compiled by BTS and published by Picador in 2012. This book includes testimonies from Israel Defense Forces (IDF) veterans who were responsible for intimidation of the Palestinian population; maintaining a segregated structure through control, expropriation, annexation and a dual law enforcement system for territories and settlements; and controlling and disrupting Palestinian civilian life.

The play consists of monologues taken verbatim from the soldiers' testimonies interspersed with scenes that dramatize their stories of interaction with Palestinians. It takes place in 2 times: 1) the Debriefing in the present, and 2) the scenes in the Occupied Territories in the past. In the Debriefing, the **VOICE** in the audience interrogates the soldiers about their experiences and how they feel about them today.

The Characters: Most Israelis are required to do military service after high school—2 years for women and 3 for men. In other words, it is a conscripted military. The **3 SOLDIERS in this play**—one possibly female—are composites of the many soldiers in the book. Each soldier has a specific personality: **Shaul/Sarah** was naïve before conscription and has become angry at what s/he learned about Israel's policies; **Avram** believed the Occupation was justified and became seduced by the power he was given; **Ilan** felt torn between doing his duty and questioning what he was being asked to do. All of them are changed by their experience serving in the Occupied Territories, and we see this change through the scenes.

The **CIVILIANS** populate the past and are played by 5 actors: a middle-aged man; a woman, 20-40; a man, 20-35; and a boy and girl, ages 6-10. They usually play Palestinians in various scenes. Near the end of the play, they also play Jewish settlers. The actors playing the civilians must be able to convincingly play different characters, and establish themselves quickly.

Director/Writer Pamela Nice is an award-winning independent filmmaker and theater director currently living in Washington, DC. She has been the recipient of 3 Fulbright grants, including one to Morocco to teach theatre of the oppressed techniques at the national theatre institute (ISADAC). She writes and directs multimedia dance/theatre/film productions, has directed or written over 50 plays, and was the Artistic Director of two theatres in Minnesota. She has lived in Morocco and Egypt, has been a film and literature critic for Al Jadid Magazine, and has taught Arab film and literature at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. (www.pammnice.com)