BOARD & STAFF

Elisha Z. Bell, Board of Advisors, is the Program Financial Investment Partner: Global Health for The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She is a Senior Financial, Strategy, and Business Process Specialist with extensive experience in Non-Profit Industries.

Aaron Clements-Levin, Exec. Artistic Director, has been a theatre director for 47 years and has directed for theatres across the U.S. His productions have been nominated for the NY Drama Desk Award. He is a graduate of NC School of the Arts, UW & in London he studied under James Dodding & the RSC & The National Theatre.

Lois Greenberg, Associate Producer, has designed organizational change programs, created & implemented operational and strategic goals, & created collaborative partnerships for such companies as Starbucks, Citibank, and SafeCo.

Karen Kinch, Associate Artistic Director, was the Founder & Artistic Director of ArtsWest. She studied with the Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Paula Vogel. A member of The Dramatist Guild, she was one of 50 writers selected to be part of the Kennedy Center Playwrights Intensive.

Mehdi Masoumi, Board of Trustees, is a program manager for Microsoft, where he plans & strategizes datacenter development & portfolio globally. Having moved to this country in 2016, his background is in Industrial Engineering. He has been an arts enthusiast all of his life & currently sings in Puget Soundworks chorus.

David Nevens, Board of Trustees, was the controller of Seattle Theatre Group (The Paramount, Moore & Neptune Theatres) for 13 years & the Seattle Symphony Orchestra for 5 years. Prior to this he worked in corporate financial reporting & internal auditing for several local firms. He is a graduate of the Univ. of Wisconsin & Washington.

Naghmeh Samini, Ph.D., Board of Trustees, received her degrees in drama from the University of Tehran. She has taught at the Univ. of Tehran, Stanford, Saint Andrews Univ. in Scotland, Univ. of Kyoto, Univ. of Washington, etc. Her plays have been produced in Iran, France, England, U.S., etc.

Elaine Shen, Ph.D., M.B.A., Board of Advisors, joined the Allen Institute for Brain Science in 2006 as a Scientific Program Manager. Her project portfolio included the Allen Human Brain Atlas. Dr. Shen is now the managing owner of Seattle Changing Room where her focus is movement education.

Azadeh Zanjani, Board of Trustees, is an architectural designer for ZGF Architects LLP where she works on design development and construction drawings of a variety of buildings. Prior to this she worked as a graphic designer for Dialog, Sinclair Studio, & Sandalack & Assoc. in Canada. She is a graduate of the University of Calgary.

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BRIDGES STAGE COMPANY

EXPLORING OUR SIMILARITIES & CELEBRATING OUR DIFFERENCES

MISSION STATEMENT

Bridges Stage Company, a multi-ethnic theatre company, is dedicated to building awareness, understanding and acceptance of all people and cultures through programs that explore our similarities and celebrate our differences in the hope of bringing us closer together.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

The Puget Sound region is growing rapidly in population and diversity. With this growth brings not only new opportunities, but also new responsibilities and challenges. And as we've repeatedly witnessed, we understand little of each other's cultures, cultural histories or priorities.

What can help us bridge this chasm that exists between us? Part of the solution was suggested by the award-winning television journalist Robert MacNeil when he stated, "In a nation as heterogeneous, as diverse as this, the need may be greater than in the older more homogenous nations of Europe and Asia, to mediate tensions by portraying them and by revealing the common humanity underlying the differences."

Bridges Stage Company's Innovated productions focus on the social and cultural issues that we are all grappling with today. They help the diverse communities of this area to better understand each other, to learn to reach out and help each other through just such difficult periods as this. And to reflect the rich diversity of this area, we will bring together representatives from numerous cultures to act as trustees, advisors, committee members, staff, and artists.

A theatre company for the 21st Century that is truly centered on diversity, equity and inclusion!

YEARLY DONATION

A trustee's financial responsibility to the company is currently set at $1,500.00 a year.

FUTURE PRODUCTIONS:

To be performed at West of Lenin Theatre,
203 North 36th Street, Seattle, WA 98103

AMERICAN PREMIERE

RETURNING TO HAIFA

by Ghassan Kanafani

adapted for the stage by
Ismail Khalidi & Naomi Wallace

Oct. 13, 2021 to & Nov. 14, 2021

It's 1968, twenty years after the creation of the state of Israel and twenty years after Said and Safiyya, a Palestinian couple living in Israel, fled their home. But the gates to Haifa are once again open and so they go back to visit. Why? This internationally famous work presents a deeply human portrait of two families -- one Palestinian, one Israeli -- forced by history into an intimacy they didn't choose.

OUR LADY OF 121ST STREET

by Stephen Adly Guirgis

This acclaimed comic portrait tells the story of a diverse group of graduates from a Catholic school in Harlem who have reunited for the funeral of their beloved teacher, Sister Rose. Unfortunately, her body has been stolen from the casket, which sets everyone into a tailspin. Pulitzer-Prize winning Stephen Adly Guirgis has been hailed as one of America's most promising playwrights working today.

SEATTLE PREMIERE

36 VIEWS

by Naomi Iizuka

A rugged, American adventurer (and international smuggler) and a beautiful Japanese art historian discover a priceless, potentially history-making, ancient Japanese artifact. But is it real? As they seek to determine its authenticity, their cultural appropriation of this rare treasure becomes an erotic game of greed, love and mental hide-and-seek, trapping these lovers somewhere between pure truth and utter deception.