



For Immediate Release
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WOOLLY MAMMOTH ANNOUNCES 'AS FAR AS MY FINGERTIPS TAKE ME,' A SPECIAL PRESENTATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

(Washington, DC) **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company**, in association with the **Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics** and the **Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University**, presents *As Far As My Fingertips Take Me*: a one-on-one performance piece by **Tania El Khoury** performed by **Basel Zaraa**. *As Far As My Fingertips Take Me* was

commissioned by "On the Move" LIFT 2016 in partnership with Royal Court Theatre, London. This production is made possible by generous support from the Share Fund.

As Far As My Fingertips Take Me will run from January 16, 2019 to February 3, 2019, with a one-on-one performance every fifteen minutes within specific intervals. Single tickets will be sold via a weekly online lottery held in partnership with TodayTix. Availability will be significantly limited.

In 2016, Tania El Khoury commissioned musician and street artist Basel Zaraa, who was born a refugee in Syria, to record a rap song inspired by the journey his sisters made from Damascus to Sweden. *As Far As My Fingertips Take Me*, the intimate theater-for-one experience that El Khoury designed around Zaraa's music, asks us whether we need to literally "feel" a refugee in order to understand the effect of border discrimination on peoples' lives.

At first, you won't be able to see who is behind the wall. You will reach through a hole, and allow your arm to be drawn on while you listen to a song. The drawing can be kept or washed away; the choice will be yours. You may not, however, be able to wash away the *experience*... or the connection you will make through that wall.

"Tania El Khoury is a trailblazer in creating transformative experiences through intimate encounters," said **Woolly Mammoth Artistic Director Maria Manuela Goyanes**. "I dare anyone to experience this show and not empathize with the plight of the thousands of refugees leaving their homes in search of asylum around the globe. *As Far As My Fingertips Take Me* is a testament to the humanity of ordinary people whose extraordinary struggles, unlike the ink on your forearm, can never be erased."

Tania El Khoury is a live artist whose work focuses on audience interactivity and is concerned with the ethical and political potential of such encounters. She creates installations and

performances in which the audience is an active collaborator. Her solo work has toured internationally. She is the recipient of the ANTI Festival's International Prize for Live Art, the Total Theatre Innovation Award, and the Arches Brick Award. Tania is associated with Forest Fringe in the UK and is the co-founder of Dictaphone Group, a research and performance collective in Beirut creating site-specific performances that question our relationship to the city and redefine its public space. She holds a PhD in Theatre Studies from Royal Holloway, University of London, where she was funded by Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Basel Zaraa is a spoken word artist and percussionist who writes on themes of exile and resistance. He has collaborated with a wide range of international artists including Akala, Guildhall youth project (Im)possibilities, Palestinian hip-hop group Katibeh Khamseh, Arabic fusion band Raast, and funk band Shokunin. He is part of the cast of PsycheDELIGHT's 'Borderline' satire about the Calais camp, in which he performs original music and DIY sound effects. He is also a visual and stencil graffiti artist and is currently touring with Tania El Khoury's *As Far As My Fingertips Take Me*.

The **Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics** harnesses the power of performance to humanize global politics. Since 2012, they have created and presented innovative, high-quality work from around the world that is at the intersection of politics and performance. The Lab's signature approach raises voices rarely heard in Washington, DC through compelling, authentic narratives, and engages policymakers, artists, and wider audiences in forums that cast critical issues in a new light. As a signature joint-initiative between the School of Foreign Service and the Georgetown College, The Lab is passionate about helping to train the next generation of innovators to use their artistry and voices to shape new understandings and to humanize others in pursuit of a better, more just world. In Spring 2019, The Lab will launch **CrossCurrents**, a DC-wide biennial festival dynamic, that will feature socially-engaged performances from around the world and will catalyze conversations around critical topics like the global refugee crisis, climate change, and the rise of hate and polarization. For more information, please visit: <http://globallab.georgetown.edu> or @TheLabGU.

The **Center for Contemporary Arab Studies** is an academic unit of the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and is dedicated to research and teaching on the Arab world. Founded in 1975, CCAS offers an MA in Arab Studies, engages in K-14 education outreach work, and hosts vibrant public events programming. Our interdisciplinary faculty, fluent in Arabic and specializing in politics, economics, education, culture, history, and the environment, benefits both the classroom and the larger community. For more information, please visit: <https://ccas.georgetown.edu/>

TICKETS

Tickets to *As Far As My Fingertips Take Me* are \$15 and will be sold via an online lottery in partnership with TodayTix starting Thursday, January 10, 2019. Woolly Mammoth subscribers can purchase tickets during the early access period starting Saturday, January 5.

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#FingertipsDC

ABOUT WOOLLY

Woolly Mammoth, a national innovator in the development and production of new plays, is one of the best known mid-sized theaters in the country and “the hottest theater company in town” (*Washington Post*). For almost four decades, Woolly has held a unique position at the leading edge of the American theater, earning a reputation for staying “uniquely plugged in to the mad temper of the times” (*New York Times*). We’ve garnered that reputation by holding fast to our unique mission: to create rousing, visceral, enlightening theater experiences that galvanize diverse artists and audiences to engage with our world in unexpected and often challenging ways.