El Guindi, Yussef (1960- )

  
<http://www.wilmatheater.org/production/language-rooms/artists/665>

Yussef El Guinid is an Egyptian/Arab American playwright. He was born in Egypt, educated in London and is currently a resident of Seattle, USA. He received his B.A. degree from the American University in Cairo and MFA in Playwriting from Carnegie-Mellon University. He writes about cultural and political collisions of ethnic minorities, especially Arab-Americans. Most of his plays are about Arab-American trying to fit in the American way of life and some of the clashes that arise as a result.

One of his notable playsis ***Back of the Throat*** (2005), a play about a young Arab American who is subjected to government scrutiny and visited by two government agents after a terrorist attack. El Guinid brings to the foreground racial profiling and the terror that gripped America in the wake of 9/11 terrorist attack.He mixes humour with surrealism when he employs flashback technique. ***Jihad Jones and the Kalashnikov Babes*** (2009) is about an Arab-American actor who has to choose between his ethics and the lure of fame and money as he plays a terrorist in a movie and struggles with Hollywood stereotypes. In ***Language Rooms*** (2010), an Arab American who works as translator at a high-security detention center begins to suspect that he himself is under surveillance. Expressionistic technique also colours this play, particularly the dream sequences.

El Guindi’s plays are often thought-provoking yet full of witty sarcasm to lighten the tone as he frequently blends humour with his subject matter. His play ***Pilgrim Musa and Sheri in the New World*** (2011) won the Steinberg/American Theatre Critics Award and was the recipient of the 2010 Middle East America Distinguished Playwright Award. Inspired by the Arab Spring, **The *Mummy and the Revolution*** (2012) El Guindi’s latest, is a farce with the recent Egyptian Revolution as a backdrop.

**Key works:**

***Back of the Throat*** (2005)

***Such a Beautiful Voice is Sayeda’s*** and ***Karima’s City*** adapted from Salwa Bakr’s short stories.

***Jihad Jones and the Kalashnikov Babes*** (2009)

***Language Rooms*** (2010)

***Pilgrim Musa and Sheri in the New World*** (2011)

**The *Mummy and the Revolution*** (2012)

Sally Hammouda