



For Immediate Release

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**ReOrient 2012 Festival and Forum Presents
RUMI X 7 = TALES FROM THE MANSABI
Sunday, November 18, at 2pm at Z Space**

**Family-friendly circus extravaganza directed by Hafiz Karmali
Is presented as part of ReOrient Forum (Nov. 17–18),
which includes panel discussions, readings and special presentations
featuring international artists, activists and scholars.**

“At a time when the Middle East dominates the headlines, ReOrient aspires to forge clarity out of chaos. This timely festival incites us to look past the 24/7 media blitz to see the cycles of tragedy.” —San Jose Mercury News.

(San Francisco) October 12, 2012 — Rumi comes to life as never before through this lively adaptation of one of the world’s greatest poets in [RUMI X 7 = TALES FROM THE MASNAVI](#), a poetic circus extravaganza that is both entertaining and inspiring. Rumi’s timeless tales explore the ties that bind human kind to the natural world, to their dreams and to their infinite potential. Seven breathtaking vignettes fuse classical Persian poetry with a dazzling panorama of circus arts and commedia dell arte. Performed live by a seven-member ensemble of actors, acrobats, and musicians, the fables include familiar tales such as The Elephant in Darkness and The Grammarian and Boatman, as well as lesser-known gems. Together their stories celebrate the cycle of life and humanity’s universal bond. This a family-friendly circus extravaganza as part of its **ReOrient Forum** on **Sunday, November 18, at 2pm at Z Space** (450 Florida Street, San Francisco). Associate artist **Hafiz Karmali** (NIGHT OVER ERZINGA, ISLAND OF ANIMALS, ReOrient 2009) brings his interest in cross-cultural performances and indigenous performing arts of the Islamic world to this lively production. Following the RUMI X 7 = TALES FROM THE MASNAVI performance comes the exciting, “Re-Traditioning the Verse: Poetry in Performance.” **Tickets** are \$20 (discounts available) and can be purchased at goldenthread.org.

Featuring voices from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Tunisia, Egypt, England, and the U.S., Golden Thread’s [ReOrient 2012 Festival and Forum](#) once again promises to turn San Francisco into a Mecca for innovative, spirited, and thought-provoking theatre from and about the Middle East. The ReOrient 2012 plays are diverse in style and content from writers with remarkably different backgrounds. The playwrights include MacArthur “Genius” Award winner Naomi Wallace, Middle East America Award winner and recipient of 2012 Steinberg/American Theatre Critics Circle Best New Play Award Yussef El Guindi, leading modernist Egyptian playwright Tawfiq Al-Hakim, winner of the William Saroyan Prize Silva Semerciyan, and local writers Elizabeth Benedict and Farzam Farrokhi. ReOrient 2012 performs in two series: Series A runs November 1-18, 2012 at Noh Space (2840 Mariposa St., San Francisco) and Series B runs for only two special performances November 16 and 17, 2012, at Z Space (450 Florida Street, San Francisco). Tickets for the festival are \$20 (discounts available) and can be purchased at goldenthread.org.



To add to the conversation, [ReOrient Forum](#) draws together artistic, academic, and grass roots experts to address the powerful themes brought to light by the ReOrient Festival plays. Augmenting the theatrical aspect of life in the Middle East, the ReOrient Forum promises to engage in aspects of social justice, poetic expression, politics and current events, among other topics relevant to the Middle Eastern experience. Acclaimed author and distinguished scholar of Middle Eastern studies and comparative literature, Professor Hamid Dabashi of Columbia University will kick off the Forum with a keynote address. This year's Forum features provocative panel discussions on topics such as "The Arab Spring and Its Dramatic Reverberations," "Engaged Performance: Building Dialogue Through Artistic Exchange," "From 'War on Drugs' to 'War on Terror': Parallels in Latino/Chicano and Middle Eastern American Performance," and "Comedic Counter Terrorism." Other special performances include a staged reading Youssef El Guindi's Middle East America-commissioned play MUMMY AND THE REVOLUTION (Saturday, November 17, at 2pm) and the Closing Night Concert and Reception featuring Hafez Modirzadeh & Friends (Sunday, November 18, at 7pm). Tickets are available at [goldenthread.org](#).

Hafiz Karmali (Director) After pursuing his M.F.A. (Directing) at Carnegie-Mellon University School of Drama, Hafiz served an apprenticeship at the American Repertory Theatre at Harvard where he assisted internationally renowned directors Robert Wilson and Andrei Serban. While at the A.R.T., he was a Teaching Fellow in the English Department at Harvard University for courses taught by Professor Robert Brustein. Most recently, Hafiz remounted his favorite Sufi poem Conference of the Birds by Farid uddin Attar in Vancouver. Hafiz has directed Rumi x 7 = Tales from the Masnavi in circus style at Golden Thread Productions, San Francisco (2011). As a special event to commemorate Prince Karim Aga Khan's golden jubilee as spiritual leader, Hafiz co-wrote and directed an international touring theatre production, Ali to Karim – A Tribute to the Ismaili Imams (London 2008). Mr. Karmali has a special interest in cross-cultural performances, showcasing indigenous performing arts of the Islamic world.

EDUCATION AT GOLDEN THREAD PRODUCTIONS

Golden Thread's multifaceted education program includes the **Fairytale Players**, a dynamic ensemble that creates and performs a repertoire of educational theater performances based on stories and traditions from the Middle East; **student matinees**, which include pre- and post-performance visits to classes to contextualize the work; and training for educators on creating **theatre curriculum inspired by Middle Eastern arts and literature**.

Explore the cultures of the Middle East through dance!

These workshops will take you on a journey through Israel, Iran, Turkey and more through folk dance. Instructor Lisa Tateosian has been dancing for most of her life in the Bay Area. Her training includes ballet, jazz, modern, character dance and Musical Theatre. Among the various local companies she has performed with, Lisa has worked with Khadra International Dance Theatre and Ballet Afsaneh.

Each class will begin with a brief warm up, followed by movement across the floor inspired by classical Persian dance. All levels welcome. Dress comfortably for movement. Flat, soft-soled shoes preferred.

Kids class: 50 minutes, ages 6-12yrs.

Adult class: 60 minutes, ages 13 and up.

To Register: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/287716>

By providing theatre education rooted in Middle Eastern arts and literature, Golden Thread addresses the parallel needs of Middle Eastern youth and families for self-affirming performing arts programming as well as the broad community's need for a deeper understanding of the richness of Middle Eastern arts. Additionally, the program equips arts educators with much needed overview of the region and its culture. For more information on Golden Thread's thriving educational program, please visit [goldenthread.org/education](#).