

The first iteration of *Mahmoud* was performed under the guidance of Leah Cherniak as a ten-minute production at the University of Toronto's University College Drama Program in May 2009. A fifty-minute workshopped production was subsequently produced by Pandemic Theatre at the Tarragon Theatre Extraspace, Toronto, in March 2011, with the following cast and creative team:

Performer: Tara Grammy

Director: Tom Arthur Davis

Consulting director: Soheil Parsa

Sound design: Mike Conley

Stage manager: Jenna Koenig

Lighting: Linn Øyen Farley

Set and costume design: Tara Grammy and Tom Arthur Davis

Producer: Jessica Rose

Publicity: Alex Rubin

A full-length production was mounted by Pandemic Theatre in July 2012 as part of the Toronto Fringe Festival, where it was selected for Best of Fringe and the Patrons' Pick. It featured the same creative team as the fifty-minute production, but with the addition of Omar Hady as an assistant director, and Tom Arthur Davis and Jiv Parasram as producers.

The play subsequently toured to the New York International Fringe Festival in August 2012, where it won Overall Excellence in Solo Performance and was a part of the Encore Series. The play has since moved on to performances in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

CHARACTERS

Mahmoud
Emanuelos
Tara

PROLOGUE

Blackout. Drum roll. Cymbal crash. Lights up. The PERFORMER stands behind a Persian carpet, upon which sits a chair. The PERFORMER silently greets the audience, raises their hand in the air, and snaps their fingers, cueing the beginning of the show. The PERFORMER lowers one hand forward in a MAHMOUD gesture, and the rest of their body follows forward onto the carpet, turning the PERFORMER into MAHMOUD.

MAHMOUD: Hello, my friends! How are you? Nice to seeing you. Wow! Some very good lookers here tonight. If I am knowing everybody so good-looking, I would wearing something a little bit nicer—

MAHMOUD hears a dispatch call from his taxi.

Sorry, my friend. Taxi call me. I have to make the pickup. I be right back—

MAHMOUD walks off the carpet, turning back into the PERFORMER. The PERFORMER turns back to the audience and places one leg on the carpet in an EMANUELOS gesture. The rest of their body follows, turning the PERFORMER into EMANUELOS.

EMANUELOS: Hello, everybody! My name is Emanuelos de Mille Boneros Testosteronos. And I am the sexiest Spanish man you've ever seen. Oh my God, are you guys Persian? I can totally tell because everyone is wearing something designer! And you are smelling like the perfume counter at the Bay.

EMANUELOS starts to walk off the carpet.

Seriously. You wear too much perfume.

EMANUELOS moves off the carpet, turning back into the PERFORMER. The PERFORMER looks to the audience and moves their face forward, wearing the expression of TARA. The PERFORMER then steps onto the carpet, turning into TARA. TARA moves to sit cross-legged on the chair.

TARA: Hi, um, I'm Tara, and um, okay so, tomorrow's the audition for *Peter Pan*, and I really want to be Tinker Bell, and all I've ever wanted to be is a singer slash songwriter slash actress slash UN ambassador, but I'm never even going to be that because Iranian girls become doctors. Really. Hairy. Doctors.

TARA hears her mother calling her.

Coming!

TARA scurries offstage.