

State of Denial premiered in Montreal on March 16, 2012, at the J. Armand Bombardier Theatre at the McCord Museum with the following cast and creative team:

Hakan and Khatra: Davide Chiazzese
Sahana, Miriam, and Chorus: Rachelle Glait
Cleric, Colonel Kazim, and Chorus: Matthew Kabwe
Odette Uwera: Helen Koya
Reid Cooper and Zohrab: Olivier Lamarche
Sinam and Ismat: Natalie Tannous

Director: Deborah Forde
Assistant director: Logan Williams
Stage manager: Luciana Burcheri
Assistant stage manager: Chana Ellman
Set and costume design: Noémi Poulin
Assistant designer: Alex Smith
Assistant designer: Audrey Chikhani
Light and sound designer: Eric Mongerson

CHARACTERS

Odette Uwera: A twenty-five to thirty-year-old Rwandan Canadian. A researcher and filmmaker.

Cleric: A Muslim cleric.

Reid Cooper: A Canadian diplomat.

Hakan: A Turkish government official.

Sahana: An elderly Turkish woman.

Sinam: A nineteen to twenty-year-old woman.

Zohrab: Sinam's twenty to twenty-five-year-old lover.

Colonel Kazim: A colonel in the Turkish army.

Miriam: Kazim's wife.

Ismat: A thirty-year-old Canadian of Muslim Turkish origin.

Khatra: A Turkish gendarme.

Chorus: People at the funeral, in the death march, and elsewhere.

The play may be performed with doubling, but the same actor must not play both Sahana and Miriam.

PROLOGUE

Montreal.

ISMAT's home. ODETTE knocks on the door. ISMAT opens it.

ODETTE: Reid Cooper spoke to you about me. May I come in?

ISMAT steps back, allowing ODETTE to enter.

I just returned from Turkey.

ISMAT: That's my grandparents' country.

ODETTE shows ISMAT a photograph.

ODETTE: Do you know this person?

ISMAT: That is my grandfather. He passed away a long time ago. And the woman next to him, naturally, is my grandmother—he met her here in Canada. He always wanted to return to Turkey.

ODETTE: To die in his homeland, I presume?

ISMAT: For some reason he couldn't go back.

ODETTE shows ISMAT a document.

ODETTE: Do you recognize this name and this face?

ISMAT: Do I recognize this name?

ISMAT points to a photograph on the wall.

She is my mother.

She runs her finger over the other name.

And this is my father.

ODETTE: It's really your mother I came to see.

ISMAT: My parents died six years ago.

ODETTE: I'm sorry to hear that. So, you're the granddaughter.

ISMAT: Please, I want to know what's going on.

ODETTE pushes a photograph towards ISMAT.

ODETTE: That is not your grandfather.

ISMAT: You had better leave.

ODETTE: I've just come back from Turkey. Believe me. I have the story. The story that you don't know! I was working on a documentary.

ISMAT: Leave.

ODETTE: Let me tell you...

ISMAT: This is some kind of a joke.

A tense standoff. Blackout.