

# ?INTERROBANG

THEATRE PROJECT

presents  
the Chicago premiere of

## I CALL MY BROTHERS

By  
Jonas Hassen Khemiri

Translated by  
Rachel Willson-Broyles

Directed by  
Abhi Shrestha

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LIGHTING DESIGN

Michelle E. Benda

MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Blake Cordell

DRAMATURG

Nadya Naumaan

SCENIC & PROPERTY DESIGN

Eleanor Kahn

STAGE MANAGER

Shawn Galligan

SOUND DESIGN & ORIGINAL MUSIC

Jeffrey Levin

HOUSE MANAGER

Max Spitz

MOVEMENT DRAMATURG

Alec Silver

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MARKETING MANAGER

Nancy Payne

PRESS RELATIONS

David Rosenberg



5779 N. Ridge Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60660

From the team of I Call My Brothers

## RARE

Jonas Hassen Khemiri's navigation of identity, memory, and community is something that we don't often get to see on stage. A brilliant examination of how fear gets internalized, and how a community is challenged by outside forces, Khemiri interrogates the anxiety inherent in the idea of being watched, judged, and profiled while balancing the repercussions of isolation in a place that should feel like home.

## RELEVANT

At a time when the global socio-political climate is saturated with weaponized vernacular and physical violence against people who look like the characters you see -- folk who wear keffiyehs, and hijabs, and are brown and have beards, with soft eyes that stare sharply at a history of injustice -- this play illustrates what internalized trauma looks like on an individual level as well as a communal level.

## RAW

Khemiri invites us to be vulnerable in a space and time where vulnerability feels like a resource we have to ration. The play asks us consider:

What are the limits of your empathy?  
What ghosts walk with you, and why do you allow them to?  
"What do you do when the wind howls?"

A few questions in a sea of many.

This process has been one of communal frustration, pain, understanding, and healing. We thank you for being in this space with us as we try to figure out how to navigate a society that is scared of us.

TIME - 2010  
 PLACE - Stockholm, Sweden  
**THERE WILL BE NO INTERMISSION**

Cast

Amor ..... Salar Ardebili  
 Ahlem, Amplifier, Supervisor, Tyra ..... Tina El Gamal  
 Shavi, Amplifier, Bully, Salesman ..... Chris Khoshaba  
 Valeria, Amplifier, Bully, Karolina ..... Gloria Imseih Petrelli



**SALAR ARDEBILI** (Amor) is a Chicago-based actor and proud ensemble member with Interrobang Theatre Project. He has worked regionally around the country and with many theatres in the Chicago area. In 2017 he received a Jeff Award nomination for his work in *THE NORTH POOL* (Best Actor in a principal role, Interrobang). TV appearances include NBC's *CHICAGO P.D.* and a recurring role on Amazon's *PATRIOT*. He is represented by Shirley Hamilton Inc. For more info, visit [www.SalarArdebili.com](http://www.SalarArdebili.com)



**TINA EL GAMAL** (Ahlem, Amplifier, Supervisor, Tyra) is a Chicago-based actor, and theatre artist. She is thrilled to be making her Interrobang Theatre Project debut in *I CALL MY BROTHERS*. Tina is a recent graduate of University of Illinois at Chicago, where she received her BFA in Acting. Her most recent credits include: *CASH COWS - A Staged Reading* at Artemisia Theatre's Fall Festival 2018, the world premiere of *THROUGH THE ELEVATED LINE* at Silk Road Rising, and *FLORISSANT & CANFIELD* at UIC Theatre. Tina is represented by NV Talent.



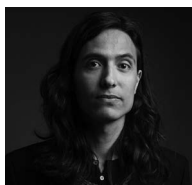
**GLORIA IMSEIH PETRELLI** (Valeria, Amplifier, Bully, Karolina) is absolutely thrilled to be playing Valeria and to be working with the lovely folks at Interrobang Theatre Project for the first time. She was most recently seen in Pegasus Theatre's 31st Young Playwrights Festival and *OUR PERSPECTIVE: ASIAN AMERICAN PLAY READINGS*. Gloria is deeply humbled to have worked on such an important, necessary project with a team committed to telling the stories of our cultures with honesty, tenacity, and vigor.

She is so grateful for her partner, friends, and family for the boundless support. Gloria hopes and works for a day where we can all call our brothers and just say hello.



**CHRIS KHOSHABA** (Shavi, Amplifier, Bully, Salesman) is honored to be making his debut with Interrobang Theatre Project. He has worked with theatres such as Silk Road Rising (*WE SWIM, WE TALK, WE GO TO WAR*), Rasaka/Vitalist (*MERCHANT ON VENICE*), and has performed at various venues, promoting mental health awareness and disarming stigmas around mental health with *Erasing the Distance* theatre. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

## Creative Team



**JONAS HASSEN KHEMIRI** (Playwright) is a celebrated author and playwright based in Stockholm. His novels have been translated into over 20 languages and his plays have been performed by over a hundred international companies on stages from Stockholm to Berlin to New York to London. Khemiri was awarded a Village Voice Obie Award for his first play *INVASION!*, which premiered in New York in 2011. His second play *GOD TIMES FIVE* toured Sweden and his third play *THE HUNDRED WE ARE* received the Hedda Award for best play in Norway. Khemiri's play = [ALMOST EQUAL TO] premiered at Dramaten in Stockholm in October 2014 to rave reviews and has been performed in Germany, Norway, Iceland and the U.S. His play *I CALL MY BROTHERS* began as an essay published in *Dagens Nyheter* in December 2010, one week after a suicide bombing in central Stockholm that shook the nation. The book was published to great acclaim and later became a lauded play that toured Sweden with Riksteatern in 2013 (directed by Farnaz Arbabi) and premiered in New York in January 2014. It has also been performed in Norway, Denmark, Germany (multiple theatres), Australia, San Francisco, France, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Finland and at the Gate Theatre in London, UK.



**RACHEL WILLSON-BROYLES** (Translator) is a freelance translator based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. She received her BA from Gustavus Adolphus College and her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her other translations include Jonas Hassen Khemiri's novels *MONTECORE* and *EVERYTHING I DON'T REMEMBER* and plays *INVASION!* and *I CALL MY BROTHERS*, Malin Persson Giolito's novel *QUICKSAND* and Jonas Jonasson's novels *THE GIRL WHO SAVED THE KING OF SWEDEN* and *THE ACCIDENTAL FURTHER ADVENTURES OF THE HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD-MAN*.



**ABHI SHRESTHA** (Director) is a Chicago-based director, movement dramaturge, and educator originally from Kathmandu, Nepal. Working at the intersections of decolonization and queer brown narratives, they are the Education Associate at Steppenwolf Theatre Company and Literary Manager and Director of Public Programming for Haven Theater, the Resident Dramaturge and Community Organizer for the Chicago Inclusion Project, and a content curator for Rescripted. They are currently working on exploring a personal history of the world as told by brown grandmas, in a performance installation called *THE BROWN GRANDMA PROJECT* (working title).



**GEORGETTE VERDIN** (Managing Artistic Director) has been working with ITP since 2014. She is also a freelance director, theater and speech educator and arts integration specialist. She was the founding theater teacher at Polaris Charter Academy, an Expeditionary Learning School in West Humboldt Park, where she taught full-time for eight years. For *Interrobang*, Georgette directed last season's Jeff recommended production of *GRACE* by Craig Wright, season seven's production of the 2013 Yale Drama Series winner, *STILL* by Jen Silverman, as well as season six's *KATRINA: MOTHER-IN-LAW OF 'EM ALL* by Rob Florence and the Jeff recommended *RECENT TRAGIC EVENTS*, also by Craig Wright. Other recent directing credits include Jeff Recommended *20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEAS* (Assistant Director, Lookingglass Theatre Company), Jeff Recommended *TIME STANDS STILL* (AstonRep), She recently closed *PHEOBE IN WINTER* (Assistant Director, Facility Theatre) and worked as Assistant Director on Goodman's *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*. She will be directing *UTILITY* by Emily Schwend for ITP in the spring. Georgette holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA and a Master in Directing from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.

**MICHELLE E. BENDA** (Lighting Designer) is a freelance lighting designer and assistant based in Chicago. Lighting design credits include EVERYBODY (Brown Paper Box Co.), HAMLET (The Gift Theatre), THE GENTLEMAN CALLER (Raven Theatre), COLLAGE OF A DYSTOPIAN MIDWEST, FRANKENSTEIN, (Bower Theatre Ensemble), FAILURE: A LOVE STORY (Illinois Theatre), and CABARET (No Stakes Theater Project). She has assisted lighting designers at Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and TimeLine Theatre Company. Michelle holds an MFA in Lighting Design and Technology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**SHAWN GALLIGAN** (Stage Manager) has acted, directed, and stage managed throughout the Midwest. Interrobang credits include: FOR THE LOYAL, RECENT TRAGIC EVENTS, REALLY REALLY, SPEAKING IN TONGUES, and TERMINUS. In addition to being a company member at Interrobang Theatre Project, Shawn is a company member and the Assistant Stage Manager for Northern Sky Theater in Door County, WI. He also served a few years as the company stage manager for Chicago Tap Theater and was a company member with Actors' Summit in Akron, OH. When not at the theater, you'll often find him playing a board game or riding a bicycle.

**ELEANOR KHAN** (Scenic Designer) is a freelance designer in Chicago. She most recently designed BOREALIS (House Theatre of Chicago); THE FLY HONEY SHOW (The Inconvenience); 33 TO NOTHING (A Red Orchid Theatre); 9 TO 5 and LIZZE: THE MUSICAL (FirebrandTheatre) and A STORY TOLD IN SEVEN FIGHTS (Neo-Futurists). Other scenic work includes: MACHINAL (Greenhouse Theatre); HAIRY APE, THE MOTHER, THE JUNGLE and WAITING FOR LEFTY (Oracle Productions) MOON MAN WALK (Definition Theatre); HER MAJESTY'S WILL (Lifeline Theatre); INTO THE EMPTY SKY (Trap Door); WHAT OF THE NIGHT (Stage Left and Cor Theatre); BOBBIE CLEARLY (Steep Theatre); THE WAY SHE SPOKE (Greenhouse Solo Celebration); FORTS!, THE VAN GOGH CAFE, FOG ISLAND, MONSTER IN THE HALL, and LIFEBOAT (Filament Theatre). She also did properties/set dressing for Southern Gothic at Windy City Playhouse and frequently works with The House Theatre and Chicago Childrens' Theatre as a props designer. Eleanor received her MFA in Scenic Design from Boston University. Her full resume and portfolio can be seen at [www.eleanorkahn.com](http://www.eleanorkahn.com)

**JEFFREY LEVIN** (Sound Designer & Original Music) is a composer, sound designer, and musician based in Chicago IL. Jeffrey is happy to be working with Interrobang Theatre for the first time. Jeffrey has contributed original music and sound designs for over 100 productions for many theaters in and outside of Chicago. Awards and recognitions include eight Joseph Jefferson Award nominations for Sound Design and Original Music and one win, Edes Award for Emerging Artists, the Michael Philippi Prize (2016), Kleinman Composition Competition Winner, Chicago Theatre Award (The Hawk Chicago), two Broadway World nominations, and a Wilde Award Nomination. Masters of Music DePaul University and Bachelors of Music Columbia College Chicago. [www.jeffreylevinmusic.com](http://www.jeffreylevinmusic.com)

**NADYA NAUMAAN** (Dramaturg) is honored to be serving as dramaturg for ITP's I CALL MY BROTHERS. She is also a writer, performer, and director, and ever eager to learn more. Previous work in Chicago includes Victory Gardens' LETTIE (ASM) and MIES JULIE (Floor Manager) as well as ATC's WELCOME TO JESUS (ASM) and WE'RE GONNA BE OKAY (ASM). Nadya's upcoming projects include PHOTOGRAPH 51 at Court Theatre (Assistant Director) and LANGUAGE ROOMS with Broken Nose Theatre (Assistant Director). In her spare time, she writes BUS THOUGHTS: THOUGHTS I HAVE ON THE BUS. Thank you to the generous people who have filled her first year in Chicago with joy! Much love to Abhi for all their light.

**ALEC SILVER** (Movement Dramaturg) is an actor and movement director from Brattleboro, Vermont. He draws inspiration from international theatre and dance, and looks to create cross-cultural, interdisciplinary work on the American and world stages. This is his first time working with Interrobang Theatre Project. Alec most recently performed in Jackalope Theatre's Living Newspaper Festival, and Haven Theatre's Director's Haven. He is currently playing Francis Flute in A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. He is represented by Grossman & Jack Talent.

**MAX SPITZ** (House Manager) is a proud member of the Northwestern Class of 2016, where he graduated with a B.A. in Theatre having dipped his feet in acting, directing, and set design. Since graduating he has been a part of 2nd Story as Communications Coordinator, as well as a producer and director. He is so grateful for the family they've created. He's so very excited to be a part of the ITP team as well!

? denotes ensemble member

## Staff

Managing Artistic Director	Georgette Verdin
Artistic Producer	Elana Elyce
Marketing Manager	Nancy Payne
Executive Creative Director	Zoë Verdin
Production Artist	Christopher Aaron Knarr
Senior Copywriter	Matthew Nerber
Casting Coordinator	Sarah Gise
Marketing Associate	Joe Lino
Marketing Associate	Jon-Paul Schaut
Marketing Associate	Salar Ardebili
House Manager	Max Spitz

## Ensemble Members

Georgette Verdin • Salar Ardebili • Brynne Barnard • Laura Berner Taylor • Elana Elyce  
 Shawn Galligan • Sarah Gise • Noël Huntzinger (artistic assoc.)  
 Christopher Aaron Knarr • Joe Lino • Matthew Nerber • Claire Yearman • Zoë Verdin

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### Interrobang Theatre Project

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