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Seattle Rep Announces Casting for their Production of Sylvia Khoury's Suspenseful New Play, **SELLING KABUL**

By Sylvia Khoury
Directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton

A New York Times Critic's Pick; "a 95-minute thriller" - *The New York Times*

SEATTLE, WA (March 29, 2022) – Seattle Rep is excited to introduce its audiences to its [20x30](#) program's commissioned playwright **Sylvia Khoury** with its production of ***Selling Kabul*** opening next month. Directed by Seattle's **Valerie Curtis-Newton** (Seattle Rep: *Nina Simone: Four Women*; Seattle Rep [New Directions Commission](#)), Seattle Rep's production of *Selling Kabul* will be performed in the Leo K. Theater and begin previews on April 22 with opening night on April 27. Single tickets and digital access may be purchased online at [SeattleRep.org](#), or by calling the Patron Services Office at 206.443.2224.

Selling Kabul celebrated its World Premiere production in 2019 at Williamstown Theatre Festival and was a 2021 recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. This play tells the intense story of the human cost of refugee policy and the oft-overlooked legacy of America's longest war. Featuring performances from **Yousof Sultani** (The Repertory Theater of St Louis: *The Gradient*;), **Susaan Jamshidi** (Goodman Theatre, Arena Stage, Berkeley Rep), **Fatima Wardak** (Seattle Rep: *A Thousand Splendid Suns*), and **Barzin Akhavan** (Seattle Rep: *Romeo & Juliet* and *Twelfth Night*).

"This play speaks to our collective shame as Americans both through its content and its continued relevance today," Khoury explained in a previous statement. "What it depicts is an uncomplicated injustice: an American promise broken and a series of Afghan lives ruined. As a first-generation American, I am intimately acquainted with the promise and hope of living and working in this country. What is less often discussed is the uglier side to this American dream—particularly when it's falsely dangled in front of you, and the pursuit of it puts you in danger. This felt urgent to write, half a decade ago, because a play can depict—in a way that the news cannot fully embody—the devastating, far-reaching consequences of American policies abroad."

The creative team for *Selling Kabul* includes **Sylvia Khoury** (Playwright), **Valerie Curtis-Newton** (Director), **Lex Marcos** (Scenic Designer), **Dina El-Aziz** (Costume Designer),

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Geoff Korf (Lighting Designer), **D.R. Amromin** (Sound Designer), **Jeffrey K. Hanson** (Stage Manager), and **Humaira Ghilzai** (Cultural Consultant).

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AT SEATTLE REP

For the most up-to-date information about what to expect during your visit to Seattle Rep, please visit >> <https://www.seattlerep.org/plan-your-visit/covid-protocols/>

ABOUT SYLVIA KHORY (Playwright)

Sylvia Khoury is a New York-born writer of French and Lebanese descent. Her plays include *Selling Kabul* (Playwrights Horizons, Williamstown Theater Festival), *Power Strip* (LCT3), and *Against the Hillside* (Ensemble Studio Theater). She is currently under commission from Lincoln Center, Williamstown Theater Festival and Seattle Rep. Awards include the L. Arnold Weissberger Award, Jay Harris Commission, and a Citation of Excellence from the Laurents/Hatcher Awards. She is a member of EST/ Youngblood, a previous member of the 2018-2019 Rita Goldberg Playwrights' Workshop at The Lark, and the 2016-2018 WP Lab. Her plays have been developed at Playwrights Horizons, Williamstown Theater Festival, Eugene O'Neill Playwrights' Conference, Roundabout Theater Underground, Lark Playwrights' Week, EST/Youngblood, and WP Theater. She holds a BA from Columbia University, an MFA from the New School for Drama, and an MD from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

ABOUT VALERIE CURTIS-NEWTON (Director)

Valerie Curtis-Newton is the Head of Directing and Playwriting at the University of Washington's School of Drama, Valerie also serves as the Artistic Director for The Hansberry Project. Her recent work includes The Guthrie Theater, Seattle Rep, Intiman Theatre, Denver Center Theatre Company, West of Lenin, ArtsWest, Taper Forum, New York Theatre Workshop, among others. Valerie holds a BA from Holy Cross College and an MFA from the University of Washington. She has been awarded the National Endowment for the Arts/Theatre Communications Group Career Development Grant for Directors, the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation's Gielgud Directing Fellowship, Theatre Puget Sound's Gregory Falls Award for Sustained Achievement, Seattle Times' 13 Most Influential Citizens of the last decade, the Seattle Stranger Genius Award in Performance and the Crosscut Courage Award for Culture.

FOR EDITORS/PRODUCERS

WHAT:

Selling Kabul

By Sylvia Khoury

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Taroon once served as an interpreter for the U.S. military in Afghanistan. After the Americans have withdrawn, their promises of protection and safety are no longer there. He now spends his days in hiding from growing presence of the Taliban as he anxiously awaits news from the hospital on the eve of his first child's birth. What are the consequences of taking sides during wartime?

WHEN:

April 22-May 22, 2022

Performance times: Tuesday–Sunday

Select Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday matinees at 2:00 p.m. and evening performances at 7:30 p.m. (no matinees during previews)

Press Invite Night: Wednesday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE:

Seattle Rep's Leo K. Theater, located at Seattle Center at the corner of Second Ave. and Mercer St., Seattle, Washington

TICKETS:

Start at \$17 – ON SALE NOW

Discounted tickets for groups of 10+ may be purchased by calling 206.443.2224.

For ticket reservations, call the Seattle Rep Patron Services Office at 206.443.2222 or toll-free at 877.900.9285, or go online at seattlerep.org

Seattle Rep offers Pay What You Choose tickets for all of our performances.

Pay What You Choose seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis with a minimum donation of \$5 per person over the phone, and a minimum of \$1 in person. Tickets are also available with our digital partner TodayTix 24 hours in advance or you may pre-order your tickets by phone at 206-443-2222. In-person purchases are now available.

There is a limit of 4 Pay What You Choose tickets per person. (Full price tickets may be reserved in advance in any quantity.)

PHOTOS:

Production images will become available in the coming weeks. For available pre-production images or artwork, please visit our online [Press Room here >>](#)

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About Seattle Rep

Seattle Rep puts theater at the heart of public life. Founded in 1963 and winner of the 1990 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre, Seattle Rep is currently led by Artistic Director Braden Abraham and Managing Director Jeffrey Herrmann. Over a season and throughout the year, Seattle Rep collaborates with extraordinary artists to create productions and programs that reflect and elevate the diverse cultures, perspectives, and life experiences of the Pacific Northwest. Seattle Rep's nationally recognized programs include the New Play Program, Seattle Rep's Public Works, Youth Engagement programs, Pay What You Choose ticketing options, and numerous audience enrichment and engagement opportunities including post-play panels, discussions, and community events and presentations.

The Producing Partner for Selling Kabul is Nancy Ward & Toby Bright. The Production Sponsor is Microsoft. The 2021/22 Season Sponsor is ArtsFund.

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For more information:

Michelle S. Leyva, Michelle Sanders Communications
(206) 595-1151

michelle@michellesanderspr.com