

Summer 2018

Public Programs and Engagement

The Inaugural Columbia University School of the Arts International Play Reading Festival

Featuring **N. Riantiarno** (Indonesia), **Raeda Taha** (Palestine), and **Rinat Tashimov** (Russia)

FRIDAY–SUNDAY, JUNE 15–17, 2018



N. Riantiarno (Indonesia)



Raeda Taha (Palestine)



Rinat Tashimov (Russia)

Organized by **Dean Carol Becker** and **David Henry Hwang**, the Inaugural Columbia University School of the Arts International Play Reading Festival will present readings of three plays by living international playwrights that were not originally written in English.

The Lenfest Center for the Arts, Columbia University
615 West 129th Street, between Broadway and 12th Avenue

arts.columbia.edu
lenfest.arts.columbia.edu

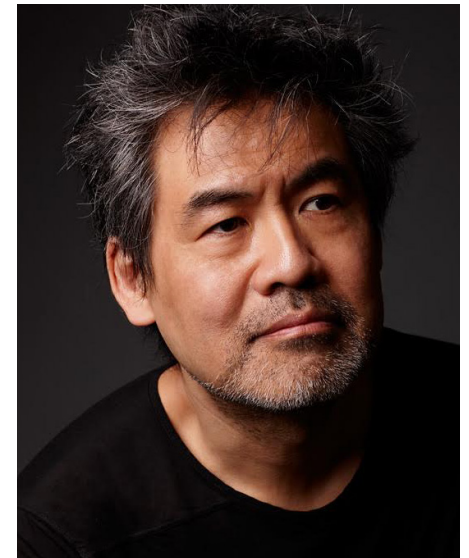
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

“We are thrilled to have a state-of-the-art flexible performance space in our new Lenfest Center for the Arts, which gives us an opportunity to fulfill the dream of bringing international play readings to Columbia University, the neighborhood, and to the City. We hope to generate enthusiasm for these international plays by playwrights whose work may not as yet be known in New York and to fulfill our mission as a global and local arts center.”

–Dean Carol Becker, Columbia University School of the Arts

“In these volatile times, the theatre can play an invaluable role to help us understand and embrace people from around the globe. Yet US theatre for the most part remains dangerously myopic. When was the last time you saw a new non-American play from anyplace besides the UK or Ireland (perhaps Canada or Australia)? With this festival, Columbia University School of the Arts starts to fill the void, by bringing exciting international plays by living authors to New York, works which give audiences the opportunity to see our world anew.”

–David Henry Hwang, Festival Director



Friday, June 15, 2018, 7 pm

Time Bomb

By **N. Riantiarno** (Indonesia)

Translated from Indonesian by **Barbara Hatley**

Directed by **Ed Sylvanus Iskandar**

Dramaturg: **Cobina Gillitt**

Consultant: **Jason Williamson**

Music Director: **Enrico de Trizio**

Stage Manager: **Daniel Vaughn**

Associate Stage Manager: **Tzipora Reman**

Featuring: **Jorja Brown, Debbie Christine*, Karl Josef Co*, Kim Fischer*, Sevan Greene*, Megan Masako Haley*, Katie Lee Hill*, Frank Licari, Paolo Montalban*, Aaron L. Morishita*, Kate Rigg***

**Appearing courtesy of Actor's Equity Association*

Flexible Performance Space, Lenfest Center for the Arts



This is a story about those who are marginalized. A story of those living under bridges and in foul sewers, who can only stare up at the moon and speculate on their fortunes, daydreaming about the luxurious lives stowed away behind bright shop windows. When the state comes to raze their small riverside town in order to develop the land, these villagers—forgotten, abused, oppressed—find their bodies and spirits in danger of being buried underneath the demolished rubble.

Born in Cirebon, Indonesia, in 1949, **N. Riantiarno** founded Teater Koma in Jakarta in 1977. His over-140 stage and television productions include *The Cockroach Opera Trilogy*; *Sorry.Sorry.Sorry*; *Succession*; *Sampek Engtay*; *The Primadonna Opera*; *Burisrawa The Corporate Mogul*; *Semar Protests*; *Constipated Opera*; *The Republic of Bagong*; *The Republic of Togog*; *The Republic of Petruk*; *Metaphore of Love*; and the *Siejinkwie* tetralogy. He is the author of the novels *Evening Romance*; *Red Mirror*; *Clear Mirror*; *Love Mirror*; and *Primadonna*.

List of Characters:

Jumini, woman who has lost her husband and child
Roima, good-looking young gangster
Julini, transvestite, Roima's girlfriend
Kumis, security guard
Bleki, security guard
Abung, mad philosopher who lives in a tree
Tarsih, pretty and popular prostitute
Kasjah, prostitute
Turkana, Jumini's companion and admirer
Tibal, young villager newly arrived in the city
Tuminah, Tibal's sister
Sawil and Bilun, pair of dreamers & schemers
Subdistrict Head, government bureaucrat
Secretary, subdistrict head's secretary
Singer
Prostitute 1
Prostitute 2
Other Prostitutes
Diners
Beggars
Guards

Setting: A fetid slum under a bridge along a Jakarta canal. On a higher level and visible throughout the play, five diners of apparent wealth are seated at a table at a fine restaurant. Statue-like, they eat their sumptuous meals without speaking.

Saturday, June 16, 2018, 7 pm

Shaitan Lake

By **Rinat Tashimov** (Russia)

Translated from Russian by **Bela Shayevich**

Directed by **Brian Kulick**, Theatre

Stage Manager: **Christina Marie Woolard**

Featuring: **Alma Cuervo***, **Stan Demidoff***, **Roberta Maxwell***,
Judith Roberts*, **Daniel Morgan Shelley***, **Anne Troup***, **Ching
Valdes-Aran***

**Appearing courtesy of Actor's Equity Association*

Flexible Performance Space, Lenfest Center for the Arts



In a small village between a river, a forest, and the cursed Shaitan Lake, a mother, Latifa, is visited by her youngest—and only living—son, Marat. Marat, recently returned after two years in prison, has buried a stack of money outside of their small home, and insists on seeing Rimma, the woman Latifa blames for the death of her fourth son. In this town where even the water is cursed, Latifa and Marat find themselves threatened by their own choices as much as the supernatural.

Rinat Tashimov was born in 1989 in the Tatar village of Incess in Sibera. Before attending school, he did not speak the Russian language. At age 15, he began acting on the professional stage. In 2013, he joined the Kolyada Theater in Yekaterinburg, where he studied under Russian playwright Nikolai Kolyada and wrote his first play. In 2014, he began working at the Center of Contemporary Drama, where he created over ten performances of modern and classical plays. He currently directs the film school Masterskaya Kinolook, where he teaches the film and documentary production.

Sunday, June 17, 2018, 2:30 pm

Where Can I Find Someone Like You, Ali?

By **Raeda Taha** (Palestine)

Translated from Arabic by **Fayez Kanafani** and **Ismail Khalidi**

Stage Manager: **Jessi Cotter**

Featuring: **Raeda Taha**

Flexible Performance Space, Lenfest Center for the Arts



This monologue is the narrative of a Palestinian family that was left behind, a journey that deals with grief and loss from various perspectives. The crux of the story is portrayed in the heroic acts of Suheila, who's illiterate and labeled as Antigone of Palestine. Suheila makes an oath not to sleep covered—in sun or rain—until she brings back the body of her brother Ali from the coldness of an Israeli morgue.

Raeda Taha was born in Jerusalem in 1965 and raised in Beirut. Between 1987–94, she was the Press Secretary of Chairman Yasser Arafat. Currently, she is the Chairperson of the Sakakini Cultural Center in Ramallah, Palestine, and a member of Administrative Committee of the Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation in Beirut. Her book *Ali* chronicles the life of her father, a Palestinian freedom fighter. She has played the leading role in three of her plays: *Petra Rocks*; *Return to Haifa*; and *80 Steps*; and written, produced, and performed her 2015 one-woman show *Where Can I Find Someone Like You, Ali?* Taha holds a BA in Speech Communication and Journalism from George Mason University.

Sunday, June 17, 2018, 3:30 pm

Translator Panel Discussion: How Did This Play Get into English?

The Lantern, Lenfest Center for the Arts



Mais Taha



Cobina Gillitt



Susan Bernofsky

Translating for the stage is a special skill, and sometimes plays pass through several hands on their way from their original language (such as Arabic, Indonesian, or Russian) into English. In this brief conversation, **Bela Shayeveich** (translator of *Shaitan Lake* by Rinat Tashimov), **Cobina Gillitt** (Indonesian theater translator and dramaturg), and **Mais Taha** (who oversees the translation of Raeda Taha's plays) will speak about the challenges of bringing each of the Festival's three plays into English. Moderated by **Susan Bernofsky**, Writing.

Cobina Gillitt is a scholar, dramaturg, and translator of Indonesian plays, several of which appear in her edited anthology *Islands of Imagination: Modern Indonesian Plays* (University of Hawaii Press, 2015), which also includes Barbara Hatley's translation of *Time Bomb* by N. Riantiarno. She teaches in the Theatre and Performance Program at SUNY Purchase.

Bela Shayeveich is a Soviet-American translator, writer, and artist. Her translation of Nobel laureate Svetlana Alexievich's *Second-Hand Time* was awarded the 2018 First Translation Prize by the Translators Association (Society of Authors) in the UK.

Mais Taha is the production and tour manager for Raeda Taha's monodramas *Where Can I Find Someone Like You, Ali?* and *36 Abbas Street, Haifa*. A certified Image Consultant, her design credits include the first Palestinian passport as well as commissions from Saatchi and Saatchi and the World Bank.

Sponsored by the Columbia University School of the Arts Writing Program/ Literary Translation at Columbia.

Sunday, June 17, 2018, 4:15 pm

Playwright Panel Discussion

The Lantern, Lenfest Center for the Arts

International Playwrights **Raeda Taha** (Palestine), **Rinat Tashimov** (Russian), and **N. Riantiarno** (Indonesia) in conversation with Columbia University School of the Arts International Play Reading Festival Director **David Henry Hwang**, Theatre.

Followed by a reception.



Festival Directors

Carol Becker, Professor of the Arts and Dean, Columbia University School of the Arts

David Henry Hwang, Concentration Head, Playwriting, Theatre MFA Program

Selection Committee

Susan Bernofsky, Director, Literary Translation at Columbia, Writing MFA Program

David Henry Hwang, Concentration Head, Playwriting, Theatre MFA Program

Morgan Jenness, Theatre MFA Program

Kate Loewald, Theatre MFA Program and The Play Company

Christian Parker, Chair, Theatre MFA Program

Nominating Bodies

The Lark

The Play Company

Sundance Institute

Under the Radar at the Public Theater

Director of Events and Public Programs

Gavin Browning

Notes

Production Manager

Kirk Laing

Casting Director

Matthew Wise

Interpreters

Cobina Gillitt (also Dramaturg for *Time Bomb*)

Bela Shayevich

Student Producer

Paloma Estévez, MFA Theatre Management & Producing

Literary Managers

Johnny Lloyd, MFA Playwriting

Kaitlin Premus, MFA Dramaturgy

Poster and Program Design

Alicia Meier, Communications & Global Programs Manager