

**Freesheet**

**Makani** in association with **Park Theatre**  
presents the World Premiere of

# **I am Lysistrata**

By **Carmen Nasr** and devised with the company  
Directed by **Sepy Baghaei**





# I am Lysistrata

**'There is no beast, no rush of fire, like woman so untamed' Aristophanes, Lysistrata**

## An introduction to Makani

Makani works with women seeking sanctuary to overcome trauma, fight for their rights, and to transform their lives and the world around them. We do this through therapeutic arts projects, campaigning, and economic empowerment.

*I am Lysistrata* is Makani's second professional theatre project following *Antigone of Syria*, which premiered in Beirut in 2014.

## A note from the Writer & Director

*'This company of bold, intelligent and endlessly creative women have galvanised me as a writer. We have made a play that is unique, formally playful, and absolutely brimming full of heart and sisterhood. I'm already beyond proud to play a part in telling this story.'*

- Carmen Nasr, Playwright

*'It's an honour to be working with this company of ten brilliant women, alongside our talented playwright Carmen, to create a whole new play inspired by the themes of Lysistrata. When you come to see I Am Lysistrata, you can expect to laugh, to be challenged, and ultimately, to be moved by the unflinching honesty and power of the voices of our ten women performers.'*

- Sepy Baghaei, Director



## The Company

Niveen Abdi | Julianah Ajani

| Houda Fansa |

Anastasiia Hasparian | Joy

Mukendi |

Maria Obi | Shanzay Shah |

Noor | Rebecca | Sheila



# Creative Team



**Carmen Nasr**

**WRITER**

Carmen is a British-Lebanese playwright. Her most recent work, *The Climbers* premiered at Theatre by the Lake, Keswick, and *The Maladies*, made with the Almeida Theatre young company, premiered at The Yard Theatre.

In 2017, Carmen was a winner of the Channel 4 Playwrights' Scheme, on which she was attached to the Finborough Theatre, where her play *Dubailand* premiered. In 2015 her play *The House of my Father* was long-listed for the Bruntwood Prize.

Carmen is currently under commission for the Kiln,

Almeida Theatre, Hampstead Theatre, Sky Productions, and is adapting Booker Prize shortlisted novel *Burnt Sugar* by Avni Doshi, for the Lot Productions. She is also a creative writing teacher and is currently teaching on the Playwriting MA programme at Manchester University.



**Sepy Baghaei**

**DIRECTOR**

Sepy Baghaei is an Iranian-Australian theatre director based in London. She originally trained as an actor at the Australian Academy of Dramatic Art, before moving to London to complete an MA in Advanced Theatre Practice

at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. She has also trained on the National Theatre Directors Course. Sepy is primarily drawn to new writing, and has workshopped new plays with the National Theatre Studio.

Theatre credits as a director include: *Sokhan Begoo* (Royal Court), *Habibti Driver* (Octagon Theatre), *Little Women*, *Citizen*, *Wilde Tales* (The Space).

As associate/assistant director: *The Boy With Two Hearts* (National Theatre/Wales Millennium Centre), *Manor* (National Theatre), *Once Upon a Time in Nazi Occupied Tunisia* (Almeida Theatre), *Reasons To Stay Alive* (Sheffield Theatres/English Touring Theatre), *Othello* (English Touring Theatre), *As You Like It* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre).

Sepy is a recipient of the Ian Potter Cultural Trust Award and the Guildford Academic Associates Scholarship, and was longlisted for the 2019 RTST Sir Peter Hall Director Award.



**Itab Azzam**  
**PRODUCER**

Itab trained at Damascus University and Goldsmiths College.

Theatre credits include: *Antigone of Syria* (Al Medina Theatre, Beirut, Lebanon), *The Trojan Women* (National Centre for Culture and Arts, Amman, Jordan).

Film and television credits include: BAFTA-winning documentary *Exodus: Our Journey to Europe*.



**Sadeysa Greenway-Bailey**  
**SET & COSTUME DESIGNER**

Sadeysa trained at Rose Bruford College.

Theatre credits include: *Death of England: Closing Time*, *Death of England: Delroy*, and *Death of England* (National Theatre & Soho Place), *The Odyssey: Episode 5 - The Underworld* (National Theatre), *Tambo and Bones* (Theatre Royal Stratford East and ATC), *NW Trilogy* (Kiln Theatre), *Anansi the Spider* (Unicorn Theatre).

Television/digital credits include: *Twenty Twenty* (Young Vic Digital), *Anansi the Spider - Respun* (Unicorn Theatre Digital). Her awards include a Set Design Recognition from the Black British Theatre Awards and the UK Theatre Best Design Award 2023 for *Tambo and Bones*.



**Hanna Khogali**  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Hanna is a British Arab creative based in London. She is originally from the Midlands and studied at Durham University and Guildford School of Acting.

Recent directing credits include: *Instructions for a Teenage Armageddon* (The Garrick) and *The Wizard of Oz* (The Watermill).

Acting credits include: *You Bury Me* with Paines Plough (Bristol Old Vic and The Orange Tree), *Britannicus* (Lyric Hammersmith) and *Once* (UK Tour).

Hanna also works as a voice over artist. Recent projects include: *Dark Season* with Big Finish Productions.



**Rajiv Pattani**  
**LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Rajiv trained at LAMDA

Theatre credits include: *Some Demon* (Papatango/ Arcola Theatre), *Test Match* (Orange Tree Theatre), *Strategic Love Play* (Soho Theatre/Paines Plough Roundabout), *10 Nights* (Omnibus Theatre), *Echoes Through Time*, *The Story of Care* (Hoxton Hall), *Alice in Wonderland* (Poltergeist/ Brixton House).



**Anna Wood**  
**SOUND DESIGNER**

Anna trained as a composer at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Theatre credits include: *To Be Continued* (Little Fish Theatre), *Dance Nation* (ALRA), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Almeida Theatre/ West End), *Party Time/ Celebration* (Royal Central School of Speech and Drama), *A Christmas Getaway* (Lichfield Garrick Studio) *Romeo and Juliet* (Cambridge Arts Theatre), *Bang Bang Bang* (Royal Central School of Speech and Drama), *Laughing Boy* (Sound associate, Jermyn Street Theatre/Theatre Royal Bath) and *Smithereens* (Synergy Theatre).

**Natasha Hughes**  
**COMMUNITY COORDINATOR**

Natasha's community projects include: *Nothing in the Papers* interactive exhibition, (Central Saint Martins), *F/abled* Reimagining community spaces (Central Saint Martins), *Feather Dusting/ Future Lusting* online exhibition and events programme (Kleio Collective), *Fashioning Futures*, ARIT (Afghan refugees Islamabad team), Domestic Duster x Makani embroidery workshops for Culture and Arts, Amman, Jordan.

**Hannah Nicholls**  
**ASSOCIATE PRODUCER**

Hannah's theatre credits include: *Shall We Take This Outside*, (UK Tour). Other participatory projects include: *We Are Lightning*, (MAYK UK Tour), *Contact Gonzo*, (MAYK UK Tour) *Town Choir*, (MAYK UK tour).

**Tabitha Ross**  
**ASSOCIATE PRODUCER**

Tabitha's other participatory arts projects include *Antigone of Syria* (theatre, Lebanon) and photo diaries with refugee children in Lebanon and Gaza



# About Park Theatre

Park Theatre presents exceptional theatre in the heart of Finsbury Park. The building opened in 2013 and has had 9 West End transfers, two National Theatre transfers and 15 national tours in its first 10 years.

We work with writers, directors and designers of the highest quality to present compelling, exciting and beautifully told stories across our two intimate spaces. In everything we do we aim to be warm and inclusive; a safe, welcoming and wonderful space in which to work, create and visit.

[parktheatre.co.uk](http://parktheatre.co.uk) Registered charity  
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## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jez Bond

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Catherine McKinney

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# PARK

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Tickets: [ParkTheatre.co.uk](http://ParkTheatre.co.uk)

Phone: 020 7870 6876\* \*

📍 Finsbury Park

\*Telephone booking fee applies.