

SEVAN K. GREENE

London: Nick Quinn – The Agency // 24 Pottery Lane // London W11 4LZ // 020-7727-1346 // nquinn@theagency.co.uk
www.sevangureene.com

PLAYS:

Forgotten Bread – 5M, 5W (with a possible expanded cast of 29 - 15M, 14W) – "History is not the past. It is the stories we tell about the past." - Grace Lee Boggs. An ode to the Armenian Genocide, *Forgotten Bread* is the volatile, and sometimes humorous, journey of a Lost Son trying to uncover his family's past and reclaim his cultural identity. Past and Present collide and melt into one another as he descends further down the rabbit hole of life, death, and survival pushed along by family secrets and historical truths. How can you undo the forced memory loss of survivors guilt to find your place in a world that has forgotten your people?

- 2014 Princess Grace Finalist
- 2010 William Saroyan Playwriting Prize finalist.
- Workshop reading with The Flea Theatre - Spring 2012.
- Presented in Noor Theatre's inaugural 2010 HIGHLIGHT series. Noor is the theatre-in-residence at the New York Theatre Workshop.

DOON – 5M, 5W – A family drama/comedy focusing on three generations of a Lebanese-Armenian family in New Jersey trying to heal old wounds while opening new ones on the eve of their patriarch's funeral. Not all goes as planned when the prodigal son returns and cultural obligations give way to personal agendas.

- Presented by |the claque| for their 2011 fall reading series.
- 2012 William Saroyan Playwriting Prize finalist.

Say Something – 4M, 2W – Joe is a terrorist. Or - is he? At least he looks like one. Or - does he? He's an angry young man. Or – no – wait - yes he is. But when his anger gets the best of him not even his "urban" cousin, Thumper, or fiancé, USAID legal assistant Anna, can stop him from going too far. Throw in a couple of Homeland Security agents and their booze-induced fashionista roommate Lyda and he's in for a hell of a weekend. But he's an American, so he'll be fine. Or - will he?

- Developed, workshopped, and presented to the public through Rising Circle Theatre Collective's inaugural 2010 InkTANK writers lab.
- Presented as a 29-hour workshop for Rising Circle Theatre Collective's 2011 Refinery series.

Narrow Daylight – 1M, 4W – Reeling from the death of her husband and the recent loss of her son in the Iraq war, Susan Davis is confronted with a surprise visitor at her doorstep – a young Iraqi girl named Lena who is more connected to her son than she could ever imagine. Not even her best friend, cookie-baking Jesus-loving Gloria and her wise ass daughter Anne-Marie, can avoid the tides of change as West meets East in sleepy Panama City, FL.

- October 2012 – Industry reading at Primary Stages with Tony-Award winners Victoria Clark and Randy Graff.
- Presented March 2012 as part of NYTW's Mondays @3 reading series.
- 2011 Actors Theatre of Charlotte New Voices Festival Finalist and Winner.

babel – 2M, 1W – Luke and Issa have found a friendship in the middle of an occupation war. Along with Issa's twin sister, Hayat, the three find comfort, security and a sense of family again. But as the insurgency grows, their triangle is tested to the limits. What is the price of friendship forged in wartime? And how far will they go to find their freedom?

- Workshop Production with The Blank Theatre – January 2014
- Presented in The Public Theater’s 2011 SPOTLIGHT series.
- Presented in Mixed Phoenix Theatre’s 2011 Fall reading series.
- PlayPenn 2013 Conference Finalist.

In the Name of Silence – 3M, 2W – When a children’s burial site is unearthed in 1993, Garo is forced to face the sins of his past by his curious granddaughter Ani in a journey that returns them to Lebanon and Turkey jumping to 1931 and 1916 as he searches for a sister he lost to the Turkification processes during the Armenian Genocide. But with The Virgin Mary and St. Joseph hunting him will he be able to hide all the truths and still find forgiveness and peace?

- 2014 William Saroyan Prize Armenian Commendation Finalist
- PlayPenn 2012 Conference Finalist.

The Nihilism of WHOOSH – 2M, 2W, 1 M/W – When Gaz starts acting a little weird, his roommate Anthony calls on Gaz’s long-time best friends, Therry and Steffy, to help him with an intervention to win his friend back. But Gaz doesn’t think there’s a problem. What’s not normal about listening to the neighbors have sex every day and talkswaying at 2AM? And so what if he likes hanging out with the Riverside Park transsexual prostitute in the afternoon? This new comedy explores what happens when we internalize the spirit of New York City and it begins to eat its way out. *WARNING: This is not an NYC apartment play about white infertile middle-aged married couples on the verge of divorce as one or both bend their sexual preferences while living on the Upper West Side.*

- April 2012 Lark Round Table reading.

This Time – 2M, 3W – In the sultry heat of 1960s Cairo, a clandestine love affair blooms between a married Egyptian woman and a Canadian professor ten years her junior. In a wintry Toronto house in the 1990s, an aging mother’s memories encroach on her recently divorced daughter’s attempts to restart her life. The past closes in, threatening to overwhelm the present. But what is real and what is illusion? Inspired by the memoirs of a Muslim woman who fought for her independence at a turning point in Egypt’s modern history, this is a play about regret, romance, and familial responsibility.

- Produced at The Sheen Center by Rising Circle Theatre Collective – May 2016
- Commissioned by director Kareem Fahmy for his NYTW directing fellowship.
- Presented as a closed reading at NYTW in March 2011.
- Presented as a workshop for the Between the Seas Festival in August 2012.
- Presented as a staged workshop produced by Rising Circle Theater Collective in October 2012.

STUFF – 1M, 3W – Widowed Edith is a hoarder. She doesn’t think there’s a problem, but when the city of Boston sends her an order to clean-up or vacate, she is forced to come to terms with some harsh realizations. Unfortunately, that includes the well-intentioned, but meddling, Dr. Meredith who drags Edith’s estranged children into the situation: Beth, a volatile self-abuser, and David, a socially awkward germaphobe. She’s got a weekend and all the odds are against her.

- 2014 Papatango Playwriting Prize Short List

Lucifer ex Machina – 5M, 1W, 3 M/W – For every 1000 years since his fall from grace, Lucifer has come to purgatory for a parole hearing of sorts. And for the last 3000 hearings he has been sent back to hell. But he’s found a loophole this time: A key witness who has been missing for two thousand years. Lucifer intends to prove his innocence even if it means the total destruction of the Heavens. You think you know the story behind Lucifer’s fall? Family drama and Christian mythology come to a violent head in a play that explores how we

define religious truth, familial obligation, and what the price of blind faith is.

- Excerpt presented at Vertical Line Theatre's LineUp.

The Greene Card: The Unbelievable, Yet Completely True, Story of a Brown Boy in a White World – 2M, 2W – Sevan must escape the ravages of the Gulf War for a chance at the American dream. Armed with a box of bootleg cassettes and his obsession with all things West, this brown boy stumbles on his journey to become his true self: a white American. He's already got a New Kids on the block T-shirt - how hard can it be? From the raucous parlors of African-American Florida to the uptight racist salons of white New York City, Sevan learns that it takes more than an encyclopedic knowledge of *The Little Mermaid* to be part of their world. Sevan Greene performs his story supported by a full band and 'black-up' singers. Drawn from the experience of his own harrowing reality, *The Greene Card* asks why it's easier to survive warfare, than to live as an immigrant.

- Presented at The Camden Fringe – August 2014
- Presented at The Space – September 2014

I Am Not Mine – 2M, 2W – Do revolutions truly change anything? After 13 years, Abdul-Rahim is released from captivity. Driven by the memory of his wife, he must find his two children, Qila and Mar, now young adults struggling to survive in the bleakest of refugee camp conditions. But the past cannot leave the present behind and screams for revenge: A blood oath must be paid by the parent or the child. Inspired by the current global refugee crisis, this new play examines the costs of personal freedom and familial obligation.

- 2016 Princess Grace Finalist
- 2014 William Saroyan Human Rights/Social Justice Prize Finalist

Fear in a Handful of Dust – 2M - A visceral look at the violent reality of WW1 trenches as seen through the eyes of two unlikely soldiers: Simon, an ex-pat raised in India, and Buck, a nationalist Irishman. This new play unveils the hidden and forgotten troops of the war and their personal struggles in a time of great upheaval and change. How can you survive the war when you're not sure if you can survive your trenchmate?

- Commissioned by Vertical Line Theatre
- Produced at COG ARTSpace - Dec 2014-Jan 2015

bi – 2M, 1W – A new cabaret-play about cultural obligations, religious trappings, and sexual awakenings in a Western world. Featuring pop, gospel, and musical theatre songs, *bi* explores how it's possible to feel alone in a city of 8 million people as you try to figure out what you are and who you want, so you can decide what you want and who you are. How does an Arab-Asian, Muslim-Christian bisexual fit in a world where the odds are against him?

- Presented at Rich Mix (March 2015) as part of the Small Story/Big City Festival.

Nahda: five visions of an Arab awakening – 4M, 5W – Who is the Arab today? Five visions explore modern Middle Eastern identities in the West: the confusion of second generation children of refugees; the struggle of British-Muslim soldiers killing their cultural siblings; the consumerist obsession with cultural food fetishism; and the politics of baby-naming in a post-911 world.

- Presented at The Bush Theatre (July 2015) as part of the Shubbak Festival.
- Presented in NOOR Theatre's 2015 Highlight Reading Series.

Sam-21 – 3M, 2W – A searingly brutal examination of sexual awakening in people with disabilities. A family's fight against normalcy is brought into question when a cure

for Down's Syndrome is announced. To what lengths will a mother go through to ensure her son has a 'normal' life? Can a loving, but absent, father keep pretending his son is just like everyone else? And when an older brother ushers you into manhood in the most misguided way what will be the aftermath of your newfound knowledge? Sam has all the possibilities and all the odds stacked against him. It's too bad no one has asked what he wants.

- 2016 Princess Grace Finalist

SHORT PLAYS:

Unexpected-Beautiful – 1M, 1W – It's Christmas Eve and things are not so great for Daphne or Phineas. A chance encounter between the two on a late night empty subway car turns into a soul-bearing session, each surprising the other with their confessions. They've internalized New York City and it's fighting to eat its way out of them, but it seems they might have found what they need in each other. Maybe.

- Presented in The Ghostlight's 2011 *Holiday Stucco* hosted by Horse Trade Theater at The Kraine Theatre.
- Presented at Access Theatre as a part of 2011 Access Short Works.
- Presented at Ghost Dog Productions' New Writing Showcase – January 2014

A Jedi Shall not Know Love; A Sith Shall Know Even Less – 1M, 1W – Cosmo is a sci-fi loving con-fanatic geek. His girlfriend Shironi is an advertising shark who loves her Louboutins. So how on earth have they been together so many years? A misstep on Shironi's part at Comic-Con threatens to pull them apart. Can their relationship really live steadily in their differences alone? Or is a little Wookie love all they really need.

- Presented in Ugly Rhino Productions' TinyRhino Valentine's Day Festival.

Star-Burst – 2M, 1W – It's the end of the world for childhood best friends Abel, Cass, and Dex. Sneaking a moment away the night of their high school graduation, the three sit in a field to recall their highs and lows. What they discover is the secrets we sometimes keep from those we love most. The transition to being an adult is never a smooth ride.

- Presented in aMios' 2012 June SHOTZ festival.

Shhh... – 3M/W – In the wake of wiretapping scandals, *Shhh...* explores the worker bees behind the well-intentioned espionage of superpower governments. But what happens when your conscience interferes with your directive?

- Presented in aMios' 2013 June SHOTZ festival.

The Remorse – 5M, 1W – What really happened the night before Jesus was crucified? For centuries, Judas has been demonized and accused of betraying one of the greatest figures in Christian mythology and human history. But what if the truth is something we never imagine? Using The Gospel of Judas as a jumping off point, this short play exposes the truth of Judas' crime.

- Commissioned by The Flea Theatre for their contemporary mounting of the York Mystery Plays, directed by Ed Sylvanus Iskandar, April 2014.

Trafalgar Dreams – 2M – Gideon has dragged his cousin Max to Trafalgar Square hoping to recreate a family photo moment in honor of his father. But it's been 20 minutes and there's no sight of a single pigeon. Max is tired and Gideon is unraveling. How do you connect to a cultural past you've spent years divorcing yourself from?

- Written for Theatre503's Rapid Write Response: Occupied (performed April 20/21,

2014).

Absentia – 1M, 1W – What happens in the moment right before life-changing decisions? *Absentia* is about tearing apart those traditional life milestones in favor of preserving our daily life. Joss and Suze are in that moment and need to decide whether they are ready to change. Will they survive each other let alone this moment?

- Presented in RCSSD's New Writing Night May 6/7, 2014.

Intifadaat – 5W – 'I am with the uprising...' Inspired by the work of Yalda Younes, Diala Haidar, Farah Barqawi and Sally Zohney, this choreo-poem examines the unheard voices of the Arab Spring women: their losses, their victories, their struggles. Using traditional Middle Eastern auralty, *Intifadat* reveals a side of the Arab revolutions we haven't seen through 5 generations of women bucking tradition and fighting against the Middle Eastern patriarchy.

Burden – 1M, 1W – It's a night they can never forget. But one of them doesn't remember it right. While the other wishes they could just forget it. Emma and Drew are about to have a reckoning and the truth won't be a welcome revelation.

- Presented in RCSSD's New Writing Night #2 Oct 22/23, 2014.

Brother's Keeper – 2M – Two brothers reunite after their father passes to say goodbye to their childhood home. But what surfaces are false memories and the truth of a brother's bond.

- Presented in RCSSD's New Writing Night #3 February 2015.

McArabia – 2M/1W – Forget about drones, and troops, and insurgencies. The real danger is about to drop right into the land of the crescent and the moon. There's no stopping the commodity food fetishism of the world's largest fast food chain. But how do you negotiate the Westernization of an identity with the feeding of the hungry?

- Presented in RCSSD's New Writing Night #4 May 2015.