



PRESS RELEASE

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FUEL PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF A SOLO DEBUT PLAY, *NOWHERE*, BY THE ACTOR AND ACTIVIST KHALID ABDALLA

- **WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY KHALID ABDALLA AND DIRECTED BY OMAR ELERIAN**
- **SET AGAINST SEISMIC WORLD EVENTS, *NOWHERE*, IS A SURPRISING JOURNEY INTO ABDALLA'S OWN LIFE**
- **THE PRODUCTION WILL PREMIERE AT BATTERSEA ARTS CENTRE 1 - 19 OCTOBER, FOLLOWED BY HOME, MANCHESTER 22 - 26 OCTOBER. PRESS NIGHT WILL BE ON 4 OCTOBER 2024**

Star of *United 93*, *The Kite Runner* and *The Crown*, Khalid Abdalla, in his writing debut, has created an intricate and playful solo show, inspired by his involvement in the Egyptian revolution of 2011, and his experiences of the counter-revolution that followed. Commissioned and produced by Fuel, *Nowhere* will premiere at Battersea Arts Centre, followed by HOME, Manchester. It is directed by Omar Elerian (*Misty*, *NASSIM* and *ECHO: Every Cold-Hearted Oxygen* at the Royal Court this July as part of LIFT) and performed by Abdalla, who will take audiences on a surprising journey into his own history, set against a cartography of seismic world events.

From the histories of colonialism and decolonisation; friendship and loss; protests and uprising against regimes across the world; to the violence in Gaza following the events of 7 October 2023, Khalid brings together the personal and the political in an act of anti-biography that asks how we got here and how we find agency amidst the mazes of history.

Khalid Abdalla said: "*When I had my first conversation about Nowhere, Egypt, where I was living, was in the heart of a counter-revolution, with a military dictatorship purging another future. Back in London I started writing weeks after George Floyd's murder, while the world was in lockdown. And now, as we approach opening, we live in a world in which for people in Gaza, nowhere is safe, and we live in the shadow of that everywhere.*"

If you want to live another future now, where can you be? And how do you find it in yourself?

Nowhere is my attempt to respond to our world of intersecting crises, tracking where they live inside me, while searching for a shared space in which to explore how we got here, and what we have to reckon with to reach beyond it.

I could not have dreamed of a better creative team to accompany me on the journey of developing this project into the theatrical experience I hope it will be. Theatre is the home through which we encounter each other in a world increasingly atomised. I am beyond excited to bring Nowhere to audiences and find out where we take each other through its life onstage."

Omar Elerian, Director: *"I am really excited to be working with Khalid, Fuel and an extraordinary creative team on this timely, profound and deeply personal show, interrogating themes that are very close to my heart both as an artist and as an individual confronting the complex questions around identity and belonging in an increasingly polarized world."*

Khalid Abdalla is an actor, producer, writer and filmmaker. *Nowhere* is his first play. He is known most notably for his performances in *The Crown* as Dodi Fayed, Marc Forster's *The Kite Runner*, and in the Paul Greengrass features *United 93* and *Green Zone*. He produced and starred in the Egyptian feature *In the Last Days of the City*, directed by Tamer El Said, and in Tala Hadid's *The Narrow Frame of Midnight*, and appears in Jehane Noujaim's Oscar nominated documentary about the 2011 Egyptian revolution *The Square*. He has recently completed filming on his next role in a remake of *The Day of the Jackal*; and is currently in rehearsals for *Mnemonic* with Complicité at The National Theatre. Khalid is a founding member of three cultural initiatives in Cairo – Cimatheque, Zero Production and Mosireen. He is also an Honorary Fellow of Queens' College Cambridge. Brought up in the UK to Egyptian parents, Cairo and London are his two cities.

Tickets for the run at Battersea Arts Centre will go on sale on 24 June at 10am and for HOME, Manchester are on sale now. For further information and to purchase tickets please visit www.fueltheatre.com

***Nowhere* is commissioned and produced by Fuel. Supported by Arts Council England and CVC.**

**For further information please contact Bread and Butter PR
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Notes to Editors

Fuel presents

Nowhere

an anti-biography

Written and performed by Khalid Abdalla

Directed by Omar Elerian

Set & Costume Design Ti Green

Lighting Design Jackie Shemesh

Sound Design Panos Chountoulidis

Video Design Sarah Readman

Choreography Omar Rajeh

Dramaturgy Ruth Little

Writing Mentor Chris Thorpe
Photography Manuel Vason

Battersea Arts Centre
1-19 October 2024
19:30 (14:00 matinees 5, 12 & 19 October)
Press Night 4 October 2024 at 19.30
Pay what you can (£8-£24)
bac.org.uk

HOME, Manchester
22 - 26 October
Press night 23 October
19:45 (14:15 matinee 26 October)
Prices: £10 / £15 / £20
homemcr.org

Cast and Creative team biographies can be found [here](#)

About Fuel

Fuel leads the field in independent producing in the UK's live performance sector, working with brilliant artists to explore urgent questions, to shine light on how we relate to each other and the world around us, and to tell untold stories by under-represented voices. From theatres to car parks, from schools to public spaces, Fuel produces high quality new theatre that reaches diverse audiences across the UK and internationally. Fuel collaborates with outstanding theatre makers with fresh perspectives and approaches who produce shows, performances or experiences which have direct and playful relationships with their audiences.

Fuel is celebrated for its pioneering producing model that develops innovative ideas through attentive collaboration, a spirit of curiosity, and an emphasis on trust. Fuel has developed a reputation for spirited and surprising new theatre, deep relationships with a wide range of artists, and passionate commitment to inclusion and care for young and diverse audiences.

Fuel was founded in 2004 and is led by Kate McGrath. Since its story began, Fuel has produced shows, festivals, films, installations, podcasts, apps and books. In doing so, Fuel has supported the artistic development of over 120 lead artists or companies and reached more than 1.5 million people, live and digitally, hosted over a hundred internships and been recognised with awards for its work. Fuel is currently working with artists and companies including Will Adamsdale, Travis Alabanza, Common Wealth, Inua Ellams, Alan Lane, Hannah Lavery, Racheal Ofori, Toby Olié, Keisha Thompson, Uninvited Guests and Melanie Wilson. Fuel is supported by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation, the Leche Trust, the Garrick Trust, the Backstage Trust, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, and the John Ellerman Foundation.

Fueltheatre.com

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