

The Javaad Alipoor Company and Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta
in association with Sydney Festival

THINGS HIDDEN

SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

by Javaad Alipoor



Riverside Theatres, Parramatta
14 – 23 JANUARY

RIVERSIDE | NATIONAL THEATRE
OF PARRAMATTA



THE JAVAAD ALIPOOR COMPANY AND RIVERSIDE'S NATIONAL THEATRE OF PARRAMATTA IN ASSOCIATION WITH SYDNEY FESTIVAL

THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

*BY JAVAAD ALIPOOR
WITH SHIRONG WU*

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer/Director /Performer	Javaad Alipoor	Creative Collaborators	Tanuja Amarasuriya and Kirsty Housley
Collaborator	King Raam, kingraam.com	Stage Manager	Ruth Horsfall
Dramaturg	Natalie Diddams	Production Manager	Daniel Holdsworth
Dramaturg	Chris Thorpe	Executive Producer JAC	Nick Sweeting
Production/ Lighting Designer	Benjamin Brockman	Executive Producer NTofP	Joanne Kee
Composer, Sound Design	Me-Lee Hay	UK Production Management	Dom Baker and The Production Family
Multimedia Designer	Mark Bolotin	Assistant to the Director, Creative Futures	Tiffany Wong
Content and Video Design	Limbic Cinema	Community Engagement	Mehran Mortezzai

Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World opened Friday 14 Jan, 2022 at Riverside Theatres, Parramatta.

Supported by the UK/Australia Season Patrons Board, the British Council and the Australian Government as part of the UK/Australia Season.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the Darug people.



A NOTE FROM THE ARTIST

It means a lot to share this first look at the development of this new show *Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World* at Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta, as part of the Sydney Festival. The story of Fereydoun Farrokhzad is one that sits in the hearts of almost all Iranians, and it's one that deserves to reverberate further. In this show we want to use that story to explore some contemporary problems - how we communicate between cultures and countries, what it means to live in world that seems so fundamentally divided, and what it means to provide sanctuary to refugees when the arms of the Iranian, or Chinese or many other secret police forces seem to stretch all over the world. As a contemporary theatre company, as artists who make political work, it's really important that we can share the work as we are making it so we can put our audience at the heart of it. That's why it means so much to be sharing it here at Riverside Theatres in Parramatta - a neighbourhood and a community that is truly international.

Javaad Alipoor,
The Javaad Alipoor Company



A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

A brave new world of uncertainty, yet we have hope as we embark on this international collaboration with The Javaad Alipoor Company. We welcome them to Australia, to share ideas, artistic practices and explore new ways of working both in real life and digitally. This is the birth of a shared new work and we look forward to its global reach for our audiences.

Joanne Kee
National Theatre of Parramatta



JAAVAD ALIPOOR

*Writer/Director/
Performer*

Javaad Alipoor is a British-Iranian, Manchester-based and Bradford-built artist, writer and founding Artistic Director of The Javaad Alipoor Company. The Javaad Alipoor Company takes stories beyond the stage through powerful multi-platform creations that explore the intersection of politics and technology in the contemporary world. Javaad was Resident Associate Director at Sheffield Theatres (2017-18), Associate Director at Bradford's Theatre in the Mill (2015-2017) and is an alumni of Arts Council England's Change Makers programme. Javaad's plays include *The Believers Are But Brothers*, *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran* (both published by Oberon) and *Made of Mannheim*, and his writing on international politics, cultural policy and art has been featured in The Guardian, The Independent and The Stage.



NATALIE DIDDAMS

Dramaturg

Natalie Diddams is a dramaturg, director and academic researcher based in the UK. Notable productions include *A Series of Metaphors About a Plague* (Home Manchester), *The Believers Are But Brothers* (International Tour), *BIRTH* (Royal Exchange Theatre), and *Thesmo* (National Tour). Natalie is a Teaching Fellow at Manchester Metropolitan University and University of Warwick. She is a leading voice on the intersection

between comedy and contemporary feminism, and regularly hosts workshops and performances aimed at empowering women through comedy. Natalie is an Associate Artist of The Javaad Alipoor Company, Trestle Theatre, the International Schools Theatre Association (ISTA) and the Royal Exchange Theatre.



CHRIS THORPE

Dramaturg

Chris Thorpe is a writer and performer from Manchester. His work has toured and is produced in the UK and worldwide. As a theatre maker he has ongoing collaborations with Third Angel, Forest Fringe, Yusra Warsama, Rachel Chavkin, China Plate, Rachel Bagshaw and Portuguese experimental company mala voadora. He works regularly with Javaad Alipoor, as dramaturg on *The Believers Are But Brothers*, *Rich Kids Of Tehran* and now *Things Hidden*. Recently Chris and Javaad also co-wrote and directed *Made of Mannheim* for Nationaltheater Mannheim in Germany. Current work includes development on a new TV series for the BBC, new performance piece *A Family Business* which deals with nuclear arms treaty negotiations, produced with Staatstheater Mainz and China Plate, directed by Rachel Chavkin and Lekan Lawal, and *Always Maybe the Last Time*, his third show for the Royal Court, exploring the psychology of the climate crisis.



SHIRONG WU

Performer

Shirong Wu returns to Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta after working with us on *White Pearl* (2019). Shirong Wu is delighted to perform as a part of *Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World* for Sydney Festival. She has previously graced the Belvoir stage, playing Marie in the Australian premiere performance of *Cursed* and Joy for the world premiere of *Miss Peony*. For the 2019 Sydney Theatre Company and NTofP's co-production of *White Pearl* by Anchuli Felicia King, she debuted as Xiao Chen. And on several Melbourne stages, she has appeared as Anne in *Between the Buildings* Theatre Company's *What Every Girl Should Know*, and Annie Wong in Dirty Pennies Theatre Project's *Flagman*. On screen she can be found in short films such as *What We're Owed* and *Mothertongue*; in television as Rachel Chen on *Neighbours*, and as Ying in award winning director Matthew Victor Pastor's upcoming film, *Pencil to the Jugular* which made its debut at the Moscow International Film Festival. Shirong is proud to have received the Best Supporting Actress award for playing the Cockroach in *I, Cockroach* for the Monash One Act Play Festival and Best Ensemble at the Sydney Theatre Awards as part of the 2019 *White Pearl* cast.



BENJAMIN BROCKMAN

*Production/
Lighting Designer*

Ben Brockman returns to Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta after working with us on *Launch Pad* (2021), *Lady Tabouli* (2020) and *Girl in the Machine* (2019), *The Girl/The Woman* (2018). Ben's lighting design credits include: *Legs on the Wall: Cat's Cradle, The Raft Development, Waters Edge*; Shaun Parker & Company: *In the Zone, King*; for Griffin Theatre Company: *Family Values, Splinter* (Nominated for Sydney Theatre Awards - Best Lighting Design for a Main Stage Production), *Replay, Diving For Pearls*, 2016 Season Launch, 2018 Season Launch; For Ensemble Theatre: *Tribes, The Big Dry, The Plant, Neville's Island*; For Darlinghurst Theatre Company: *Torch Song Trilogy, Broken, Detroit, Mother Fucker With a Hat, Tinder Box*; For Pinchgut Opera: *Farnace; For Apocalypse: Metamorphoses* (Winner of Sydney Theatre Awards - Best Lighting Design for an Independent Production 2018), *Angels In America part 1 and 2*; For Mad March Hare: *Cripple of Inishmaan, Eurydice. You Got Older, Bengal Tiger at Baghdad Zoo, Belleville, Dark Vanilla Jungle, Shivered*; For Bakehouse Theatre Company: *Coram Boy* (Nominated of Sydney Theatre Awards - Best Lighting Design for a Independent Production 2019), *Dresden, Visiting Hours, The Laden Table, Jatinga, Straight*; For Bontom: Chamber pot Opera (Sydney Adelaide Fringe and Edinburgh Fringe Festival); For Squabblogic: *Good Omens the Musical, Herringbone* (Nominated of Sydney

Theatre Awards - Best Lighting Design for a Independent Production 2019), *Grey Gardens The Musical, Mystery Musical, Man of La Mancha; For Spark Youth Theatre; Political Children, Haunted*; For Hayes Theatre Company: *Razorhurst, Carmen Alive or Dead; For Little Eggs Collective: Symphonie Fantastique.*



ME-LEE HAY

*Composer and
Sound Designer*

Me Lee Hay returns to Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta after working with us on *Launch Pad* (2021) and *White Pearl* (2019). Me-Lee Hay composes for film, TV, dance and theatre. A Malaysian born Chinese-Australian, she has had works shown across many platforms including Netflix, SBSOne, Network TEN and Channel Seven to mainstream cinemas across Australia plus international platforms such as UKTV and 360 degree dome planetariums. Off the screen, Me-Lee has been commissioned by leading arts companies of Australia such as Sydney Dance Company's PPY & Sydney Theatre Company (*White Pearl* currently on tour nationally). She has also performed and composed for *Yellow Yellow Sometimes Blue* (The Joan, Penrith) and *Eating Pomegranates* (Wentworth Fall School of Arts) and composed and sound designed for *Launch Pad* (National Theatre of Parramatta). Me-Lee is a graduate of the Australian Film Television & Radio School (AFTRS), is an Associate Composer Representative of the Australian Music Centre and the Vice President of the Australian Guild of

Screen Composers. She is published by Gaga music.



MARK BOLOTIN

Multimedia Designer

Mark Bolotin is an award-winning multimedia director, inventor and technologist, as well as the founder and artistic director of Synarcade Audio-Visuals and co-founder of the New York art technology company Hyphen Hub. Bolotin has created large-scale interactive and immersive multimedia work across the world including at the Sydney Opera House, New York Hall of Science, Museum of Modern Art (Zagreb), Stadstheater Arnhem (The Netherlands), 3LD Art Technology Centre New York, Sydney Festival, SXSW (Texas), MCA (Sydney), Burning Man, National Centre for Performing Arts (Beijing) and the Melbourne Arts House. Bolotin co-founded and co-directed the New York art-technology organisation Hyphen Hub and was appointed the Arts Co-Director for New York City's inaugural Creative Tech. Bolotin was also featured at TEDxSydney and named as an Australian delegate to the Future Innovators Summit in Ars Electronica (Austria). Recently, he completed a Masters of Directing at NIDA.



TIFFANY WONG
Assistant to the
Director, Creative
Futures

Tiffany Wong is an actor, director, and arts educator. She is the Artistic Director of Slanted Theatre, an assessor for the 2021 Silver Gull Play Award, part of KXT Step Up, and the Diversity & Inclusion Committee for Short + Sweet Sydney. As Director: Slanted Theatre: *Three Fat Virgins Unassembled* (with KXT bAKEHOUSE), *Ching Chong Chinaman*. As Assistant Director: New Ghosts Theatre Company: *Iphigenia In Splott*, New Theatre: *The Removalists*, be SEEDsational: *Season Warriors*. As Actor, she has performed with Sydney Festival, New Theatre, Sydney Comedy Festival, Sydney Fringe, Slanted Theatre, One Player Short 三缺一劇團 (Taipei), Training: Bachelor of Arts (Performance Studies, Music, Chinese Studies), The University of Sydney, and in 2021, Summer School in Traditional Chinese Arts (Shanghai Theatre Academy), Directors Mentorship with Damien Ryan (Sport for Jove), the Art of Directing with Pat Golden (HB Studio). Tiffany is a proud member of Actors Equity.



RUTH HORSFALL
Stage Manager

Ruth returns to Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta after working with us on *Take Two: Comedy of Errors* (2019), *The Red Tree* (2017), and *The Girl/The Woman* (2018). Ruth is a freelance Stage and Production Manager. Other theatre credits include: *Sorting Out Rachel*, *The Kitchen Sink*, *The Big Dry* and *Blood Bank* (Ensemble Theatre), *Nosferatutu or Bleeding at the Ballet*, *Thomas Murray and the Upside Down River* (Critical Stages/Griffin Independent), *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night*, *Hamlet*, *All's Well that Ends Well*, *Comedy of Errors*, *The Temest and Taming of the Shrew* (Sport for Jove), *Concert Cosmopolitana* and *Ghosts in the Scheme* (Big hART/Canberra Theatre Centre), *Platonov* (Mophead/ATYP), *Bite Me* (ATYP), *On the Shore of the Wide World* (Pantsguys/Griffin), and *Punk Rock* (Pantsguys/ATYP). Ruth is currently undertaking her PhD at UNSW, investigating the impact on wellbeing of beginners acting classes for women with refugee backgrounds in Western Sydney. Ruth is a proud member of MEAA.

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RICH KIDS: A HISTORY OF SHOPPING MALLS IN TEHRAN

Entitlement, consumption and technology collide

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE
22 - 23 JANUARY



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Photo: Javaad Alipoor, rehearsal room



Photo: Me-Lee Hayr, rehearsal room

RIVERSIDE'S NATIONAL THEATRE OF PARRAMATTA

Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta (NTofP) launched in November 2015 reflects the diversity of contemporary Australia. As the producing arm of Riverside Theatres we are *Putting the Nation on Stage* – raising the profile of performance and showcasing imaginative and creative ideas both in form and content.

NTofP presents bold, contemporary works, aiming to engage and take our audiences on inspirational and transformative journeys.

As a leading Western Sydney arts organisation NTofP contributes to Sydney's vibrant artistic community by fostering the creation of new works, building capacity in the arts by nurturing artists and producing works that resonate both locally and beyond.

THE JAVAAD ALIPOOR COMPANY

The Javaad Alipoor Company (JAC) seeks to make theatre compelling to audiences who are culturally engaged but don't see theatre as relevant to their lives. The company explores subjects that challenge expectations and provoke critical thinking. The work is always political, pushes the boundaries of the form, and focuses on 'liveness' and the power of story to change perceptions.

Established in 2017, JAC stands on the shoulders of Northern Lines, the first company founded by Javaad Alipoor – a British-Iranian, Manchester-based and Bradford-built artist and writer – and retains its commitment to making new work with diverse artists for diverse audiences and communities. Originating from Bradford and now based in Manchester, the Company was set up as a community theatre project engaging with 4,000 participants over four years in some of the most ethnically diverse and deprived wards in Bradford. We have since toured work internationally, produced digital stage to screen adaptations seen by over 100,000 people and are addressing the lack of diversity in theatre through co-creation and partnership. The company is celebrated for its innovative, inclusive, high-quality work.

In 2017, Javaad began writing a trilogy of plays about how technology, resentment and fracturing identities are changing the world. *The Believers Are But Brothers* (2017) opened in Edinburgh where it won a Fringe First Award, before transferring to London's Bush Theatre. It has toured nationally and internationally, and in 2019 was commissioned for television by the BBC and The Space and adapted and produced by the Company as its first screen project. The play's sequel – *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran* (2019) – premiered at the Traverse Theatre, winning a Fringe First Award. Its London transfer and subsequent national tour was postponed by Covid-19, inspiring the creation of a new digital version for online audiences. This new version was commissioned by Battersea Arts Centre and Norfolk & Norwich Festival and has been shown by a wide range of national and international partners.

THE TEAM

NATIONAL THEATRE OF PARRAMATTA

Executive Producer Joanne Kee

Acting Associate Producer - Production Daniel Holdsworth

Company Coordinator Sarah Mott

Project Officer Leigh Russell

RIVERSIDE THEATRES RIVERSIDE

Director Craig McMaster

Marketing & Communication Team Leader Sophie Anderson

Operations Manager Mike Brew

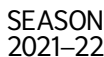
Executive Producer, National Theatre of Parramatta Joanne Kee

Business Manager Sainesh Moss

Program Manager Catherine Swallow

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