

# A play for our time

by NASSIM SOLEIMANPOUR

*It has been over a decade since I wrote «White Rabbit Red Rabbit». I was 27, full of hopes and energy as I wrote it. I was happy but stuck in Iran. Someone later described it as a «frozen scream in time», this is exactly how I feel about it.*

*A decade later on the verge of becoming 40, living more freely in Berlin. I look back and see, many things have changed since my twenties. ISIS filled us with terror, Britain experienced Brexit, Trump surprisingly took the Oval Office, the extremists proliferated around the globe and Covid-19 proved us even more vulnerable and fragile. The world is even more of a mess as it was back then. And Rabbit is even more of a play for our time. Since it opened in August 2011, its global audience flattered me with thousands of kind emails, expressing their sympathy with Iran, mentioning that they live in a safer and better country.*

*Years later, same audience wrote to me to admit that Rabbit is the story of their lives: as thousands of Brits marched against Brexit in London, protested against the police brutality in the US and left their once – beautiful and now – shattered homes in Aleppo to seek asylum across Europe. Same was and still is happening all around the globe: Brazil, China, Germany, France, Malaysia, Hong Kong and so on.*

*So, I ask myself [in reference to Rabbit]: What is democracy if it is not the scintillations of a diamond-hard light shining in its surrounding darkness? How isn't it brittle if its shimmer does only appear in contrast with the eternal shadows threatening to come?*

NASSIM SOLEIMANPOUR ist ein iranischer Theaterautor, Theaterschaffender und künstlerischer Leiter der Berliner Theatercompany Nassim Soleimanpour Productions. Er wurde in seinem Heimatland Iran unter Hausarrest gestellt, da ihm aufgrund seiner Militärdienstverweigerung der Reisepass verwehrt blieb. Als Antwort auf diese staatliche Machtdemonstration schrieb Soleimanpour mit «White Rabbit Red Rabbit» eines der aufregendsten Theaterexperimente des vergangenen Jahrzehnts. Der Text wurde international mehrfach ausgezeichnet, seit seiner Premiere 2011 in über 30 Sprachen übersetzt und weltweit in über 50 Ländern aufgeführt. Das Stück für eine\*n Schauspieler\*in verhandelt auf unterhaltsame Weise Macht, Manipulation und Vertrauen. Ungeprobt und ohne Regieanweisungen.

«White Rabbit Red Rabbit» tourt im November durch Graubünden:

5. November  
Kurhaus Bergün  
Gian Rupf

6. November  
Kulturschuppen Klosters  
Ursina Hartmann

7. November  
Fundaziun Nairs Scuol  
Tonia Maria Zindel

12. November  
Schloss Maienfeld  
Nikolaus Schmid

13. November  
Sela cumünela Samedan  
Lorenzo Polin

18. November  
Teatro Sociale Bellinzona  
Margherita Saltamacchia

20. November  
Cinema Sil Plaz Ilanz/Glion  
Marina Blumenthal

21. November  
Lostello palestra Val  
Mesolcina  
Annina Sedlaček

26. November  
Hotel Fravi Andeer  
Anita Iselin

27. November  
Arosa Kulm Hotel  
Christian Sprecher

28. November  
Theater Chur  
Bruno Cathomas