English production

of ***A Moment of Silence***

by

*Mohammad Yaghoubi*

directed by

*Azadeh Mohammadi*

at the **Theatre DISK on 14th, 15th and 16th June**

An unexpected contemporary play from a culture we do not meet every day, **A Moment of Silence** by the foremost Iranian playwright **Mohammad Yaghoubi**, that premiered in 1999, charts the recent history of the country of which we hear plenty on the news but about which we do not know that much. There are elements of Pirandello in the play: it’s 1998, and an author writes a play featuring a family of three sisters that starts almost twenty years earlier. Personal stories of his characters are inextricably linked to historical and political events in Iran after the Islamic Revolution of 1979: mass emigration of intellectuals and artists, the new order imposed by the Muslim government (perhaps one of the few that link religion and politics), Iraq-Iran war of 1980 – 1989, plus the strange “chain murder” affair lasting ten years from the end of that war until the beginning of the play, during which artists and intellectuals striving for change in the society were killed by most various means, very probably by people working for the government. All of this we see through the eyes of ordinary Persian people caught in the loop of the history, with their everyday family problems, with their rituals that might seem strange and unfamiliar to a Western audience, even though we can quickly warm up to them.

**A Moment of Silence**, in English translation from the original Farsi, is a graduation project of Tehran-born director and actor **Azadeh Mohammadi** for her MA studies of directing course in English language at the Theatre Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts (DAMU) led by Jakub Korčák. By it, Azadeh wants to mediate a meeting of the cultures (she sees a parallel of what was happening in the Czech Republic in the late seventies under Communism and what was happening at almost the same time in her native Iran). The play is performed by native English or bilingual professional actors living in Prague; there will be three performances at DAMU’s **theatre DISK** in Karlova Street on **June 14th, 15th and 16th**. It is the first, and probably pilot, foreign language project of its kind for DAMU; and a rare opportunity to encounter both new writing in Persia and the ways that country lives nowadays.

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