



### RealTime Interventions' Mission

RealTime Interventions is the creative partnership of playwright/ experience designer Molly Rice and director/producer Rusty Thelin. RealTime creates theatrical events and public experiences that depend upon the immediate nature of live and real-time art: events that come to life when people

come together. We seek to generate human connection, curiosity and wonder with our work, and to help audiences "re-see" the world in unexpected ways. RealTime conspires with a broad range of collaborators, from theater artists to scientists to rock bands to social workers to our neighbors down the street. We create small, vibrant "companies" with every new project, peopled by individuals from diverse walks of life and realms of experience who are bound by the creative impulse driving each piece, and their stake in the story we are telling together.

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### Our Goals for This Project

One goal of Khurāki is to make the women of Pittsburgh's Afghan refugee population feel welcomed into the greater Pittsburgh community, through telling their stories and sharing their food. Your presence here tonight is helping achieve that goal. Thank you.

Our other goal is to help the women start their own food business. They have received training and developed potential partnerships as part of this project, and a large portion of Khuraki's proceeds will go directly to "seed money" for their new venture.

### How You Can Help

- \* **Donate** to our Khuraki joby campaign online at: <https://www.joby.org/project/khuraki>.
- \* **Sign up** for the RealTime mailing list, or **like** us on Facebook. We'll keep you up to date on the development of their business (and how you can order food from them!) as well as other RealTime projects.
- \* **Donate** directly to their business tonight at the box office.
- \* Have expertise that could help them get started? **Connect** with us at [realtiminterventions@gmail.com](mailto:realtiminterventions@gmail.com)

**Thank you for being here!**



# Khurāki

*A Celebration of Afghanistan in Pittsburgh*

## Partners

In addition to the Office of Public Art, the extraordinary partners for this project include: Becky Johnson, Refugee Resettlement consultant; NAMS Community Assistance and Refugee Resettlement Department (closed Dec. 2018); the City of Pittsburgh's Welcoming Pittsburgh initiative and the Department of City Planning; La Dorita Kitchen Share; the students of CMU's Audience Engagement class, taught by Monique Mead & Jennie Dorris; New Sun Rising; The Union Project; The Islamic Center of Pittsburgh; City of Asylum @ Alphabet City; Jen Saffron, owner of Sprezzatura Catering; Aldo's Food Service; Pixelab Studios; Point Park University; Allegheny County Department of Human Services; Washington Boulevard UHaul; Katy DeWent; Karen Hart; MIMI's Kinder Connection; and the Afghan community of Pittsburgh.

## Office of Public Art Residencies

Office of Public Art residencies are produced with support by the City of Pittsburgh, The Fine Foundation, The Buhl Foundation, The Pittsburgh Foundation, The Opportunity Fund, Pittsburgh Partners for the Arts, and the Our Town program of the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Additional funding support has been provided by a Community Development Block Grant and Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts.

*Event sponsored in part by Aldo's Foodservice and U-Haul Moving & Storage @ Washington Blvd, where your first month of storage is free!*

At **Aldo's Foodservice**, we believe in building community through food. By partnering with local restaurants, caterers, schools, and other businesses, our goal is to grow alongside our neighborhoods by tying our success directly to our community's success. Started almost 70 years ago, Aldo's is still truly a family owned and-operated business. We take our motto, "You're with family now!" to heart with every order we fulfill. Many things have changed in the Pittsburgh region since 1950, but Aldo's family approach to business isn't one of them. Phone: 724-378-7535



## The Musicians

**Theresa Seguritan Abalos** is a classical flutist from San Jose, CA. She is currently a Junior at Carnegie Mellon University, where she studies Flute Performance with Alberto Almaraz. In addition to Global Studies and Creative Writing, Outside of the US, she has performed in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Italy, and Austria. This past summer, she studied with renowned flutists in Chile and Argentina.

**Evan Tegley** is a Master's of Music performance student at Carnegie Mellon University, studying oboe with the incomparable Pittsburgh Symphony Principal Oboist, Cynthia Koleda Dealmeida. Also a graduate of Boise State University, he has earned a Bachelor's of Music Performance where he studied for four wonderful years with Dr. Jeanne Bely.

**Jennifer Sternick** is a freelance violinist who jumps at every opportunity to perform: from symphonic concert stages and new music scene galleries, to tango dance halls, and even while perched in the back of moving school buses. Visit [www.jennifersternick.com](http://www.jennifersternick.com) to learn more.

## Real Time Interventions

**MOLLY RICE (Playwright/ experience designer)**'s work has been developed/ produced in NYC (the Public, Playwrights Horizons, Rattlestick, Women's Project, NYTW, Clubbed Thumb, etc.) and nationally: Publications: American Theater Magazine, Dramatics Magazine, Kenyon Review, Heinemann Press, Clarkson Potter Press, Play: A Journal, Indie Theater Now, Commissions: NYU/ Tisch MFA Acting, New Georges, Montclair & Pace Universities (with Rachel Chavkin and Orion Johnstone). Honors: Brown University's Weston Prize, Women's International Theater Festival (winner), Princess Grace Award, PONY Award and O'Neill Playwrights Center (finalist); New York IT Awards and Kesselring Fellowship (nominee). Recent productions: Angelmakers: Songs for Female Serial Killers (Pittsburgh 2017; NYC's 54 Below 2018); Futurity (book co-writer, additional text and story) at ART and Soho Rep/ Ars Nova (Lucille Lortel Award, Best New Musical, 2016); and THE SAINTS TOUR, a site-specific play occurring across the country since 2009. Co-founder/ Artistic Director of RealTime Interventions. MFA: Brown University under Paula Vogel. Molly teaches in the MFA Writing for Screen and Stage program (Cinema Dept.) and in the Theater Department of Point Park University. She is eternally grateful to the Office of Public Art for the opportunity to create work for and with these extraordinary women.

**TOBY "RUSTY" HELIN (Director/ producer)** graduated from the Broadway League's Commercial Theater Institute, and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and Playwrights Horizons Theater School. Producer: The GrooveLily's ERNEST SHACKLETON LOVES ME (Seattle Rep, 54 Below); FUTURITY (American Repertory Theater 2012; Lucille Lortel Award for Best New Musical, 2016); SOMETIMES IN PRAGUE and STRUCK (New Ohio Theater's Ice Factory; CANNARY by Molly Rice, dir. Rachel Chavkin (New York Theater Workshop). Director: YOUR LITHOPEIDION (The Brick), ROSALEE WAS HERE (NYFringe) and Molly Rice's THE SAINTS TOUR and ANGELMAKERS. SONGS FOR FEMALE SERIAL KILLERS. Rusty spent ten years in Savannah, GA, first as the City of Savannah Theater Specialist, then teaching at the Savannah Arts Academy, and finally as Associate Artistic Director of the Savannah Shakespeare Festival. Co-founder/Artistic Director of RealTime Interventions.

## *The Artists*

**TRESSA GLOVER (Mastoorah)** is honored to be working on this incredible project with these incredible women. Her theatre credits include Pittsburgh Public Theater, City Theatre, Quantum Theatre, Bricolage, PICT, Pittsburgh Playwrights, Microscopic Opera Co., Chicago Dramatists, Chicago Scriptworks & Speaking Ring Theatre, among others. Film, TV and web credits include *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* (Oct. 2019), *\$1 Breakage*, *My Date With Adam*, *Lightweight* and *I'll Call You*. Tressa is Producing Artist, Director of No Name Players Theatre Co., Founder of SWAN Day Pittsburgh and Creator of the live sitcom/web series *The Sisters Sorella*, which she is now adapting for television. She is also an Acting Instructor and has led Master Classes for Bodigraphy Contemporary Ballet and Propelle. A Pittsburgh native, Tressa is a graduate of Penn State University.

**KRYSTAL RIVERA (Nafisa)** is currently a Senior Performance & Practices major with a concentration in Acting and a Musical Theatre minor at Point Park University. She was most recently seen as Patricia in *The Time of The Butterflies* at Prime Stage. You may have also seen her as Jasmine in *Pipeline* at City Theatre and Amelia in *The House of Bernarda Alba* at Point Park University Pittsburgh Playhouse. She is very grateful for this opportunity to work with such an incredible Women. She wants to give a big shout out to Rusty and Molly for letting her be apart of this amazing project. Also to Nafisa for choosing her to tell her story! She also wants to thank her family and friends for always supporting her when it comes to achieving her dreams.

**KELLY TRUMBULL (Nelab)** is an actor, an educator, a director, and a Pittsburgh native. She's thankful to be a part of this unique production and is honored to help these amazing women share their stories. Local acting credits include work with Pittsburgh CLO, Quantum Theatre, The Rep, Bricolage, No Name Players, and City Theatre Company. Kelly serves on the faculties at the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University's School of Music. She has numerous commercial, TV, and film credits. She holds a BFA in Acting from Syracuse University and a master's degree in Educational Theater in Colleges and Communities from New York University. Proud member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA. Love to Brad, Sadie, and her parents. [www.kellytrumbull.com](http://www.kellytrumbull.com)

**ALEX MANALO (Gul)** is overjoyed to be a part of this unique show that is Khuruki. Even though she was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, Alex stems from an immigrant family from the Philippines. She has a love for traditions and cultures and enjoys learning about them and experiencing them as well (thanks to her mother!). She is a graduate from Point Park University where she majored in musical theater and has many different jobs within this field. Her favorite performance credits are *South Pacific* (Liat), *A Musical Christmas Carol* (Fran/Alice), *Big Fish* (Mermaid), *Luna* (soledad), and *Brewed (Colette)*. When Alex isn't performing she can be seen teaching theater for the Pittsburgh CLO, City Theatre, Quantum, Vincenzian Academy, Beaver County Christian School, and Paragon Studios. She would like to thank Rusty, Molly, cast, crew, and all of the wonderful women who allowed us to share their stories. Also, many thanks to Joe, family, and friends for their endless love and support. Mabuhay!

**ASHLEY LOREN WILLIAMS (Haida)** couldn't be more thrilled to share this empowering, enlightening, and encompassing piece with all of you. Ashley is currently a senior at Point Park University, and she will graduate with honors in April with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts: Performances and Practices and a minor in business management. Point Park theatre credits: *Identity*, *You on the Moors Now*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Allister Cromley's Fairweather Belle*, *Conversations We Could Have Had*, and *Silent Sky*. Point Park film credits: *Pact of the Apocalyptic Virgins* and *Still Holding On*. Ashley thanks God first; what is for you won't pass you. She thanks the fierce and beautiful Haida for choosing her to share this story. She extends the utmost gratitude to Rusty, Molly, and the entire production team for the opportunity to create and connect. Finally, Ashley thanks her family and friends for their everlasting love and support.

## *Creative Team*

**Conceived and created by Molly Rice and members of Pittsburgh's female Afghan refugee community:**

**Gul, Haida, Mastoorah, Nafisa, & Nelab,**  
with support from

**Alia, Humaira, Helay, Khadijah, Mursal, & Zermina**

**Written by:** Molly Rice (Resident Artist, Office of Public Art)

**Directed by:** Rusty Thelin

**Performed by:** Tressa Glover, Krystal Rivera, Kelly

Trumbull, Alex Manalo, Ashley Loren Williams

**Production Coordinator:** Emma Wagner DeFrango

**Refugee Resettlement Partner:** Becky Johnson

**Marketing Associate:** Allie Reefer

**PR Associate:** Liana Wool

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Jennifer Schaupp

**Catering Consultant:** Jen Saffron

**Facilitators:** Sarah Carleton, Becky Johnson, Hazel LeRoy, Allie Reefer, Jen Schaupp, Jen Stover, Alison Weisgall, Liana Wool, & the children of the Afghan refugee community

## *Event Program*

Commissioned by the Office of Public Art as part of their Artists in Residence program, \* produced by RealTime Interventions, and supported by the refugee resettlement community, **Khūrākī** (meaning "eat" or "meal" in the Afghan language Dari) celebrates the beauty of Afghan culture, music, and food through "theatrical portraits" of five strong women who will forever be Afghan but have recently become Pittsburghers as well.

What do they miss about their homeland? What have they been able to preserve in the flight from home--in their traditions, in their cooking, in their hearts? What do they hope to cultivate here in Pittsburgh? And what do they want you to know about the beautiful country where they were born?

Tonight's program centers around the way Afghan culture honors major life changes (birth, death, marriage), as well as traditions related to the Islamic month of Ramadan, a period of introspection, prayer and fasting.

## *Special Thanks*

Allie, Ally, Amy, Ariel, Ikuma, Jaime, Liana, Nigel, Paige & Pralad at CARR; the husbands of the Afghan women, including Baheen, Fazy, Mohammadi, Neromand, Sohrab, Tabee & Waris; RealTime board members Melanie Gulasy, Becky Johnson and Brooke Mullin; fellow OPA resident artists Christine Bethea, Lindsey Scherloum and Mary Tremonte; Adrienne Ferguson, Alex Williams, Avery Rausch, Lindsay Goranson, Madeleine Hughes, Marta Napoleone, Matthew Fawcett, Michelle Yanefski, Mimi Schermann, Pam Harding, Vince Bevilacqua at UHaul, Heather Mull, and every single one of our extraordinary volunteers.

## *Reims & Food*

Your meal tonight is made by Gul, Haida, Mastoorah, Nafisa, Nelab, and Zerrina.

### **Mastoorah's House**

#### **Medjool Dates**

**Soup (vegetarian):** Chick peas, green cabbage, carrots, sweet peppers, cornstarch, mushrooms, green peas, corn, herbs & spices.

### **Nafisa's House**

**Quabuli Palaw:** rice, raisins, carrots, almonds, lamb meat.  
**Orange Fanta**

### **Nelab's Room**

**Saffron tea:** Fine Herat saffron, cardamom.  
**Afghan fruit and nuts:** includes walnuts, pistachios, almonds, tooth berries, yellow raisins, semian.

### **Gul's House**

**Apple,** similar to those grown in Wardak province.  
**Bolani (vegetarian):** Flour, zucchini, walnuts, onion, green onion, garlic, jalapeño (mild), spices.  
**Chutney:** **Spicy!!!** Jalapeño, fresh coriander, tomato, lemon, garlic.

### **Haida's House**

**Aushak (vegetarian):** Flour, egg, leeks, kidney beans, parsley, tomatoes, tomato paste, green onions, garlic, spices.  
**Leeti (vegetarian):** Flour, walnut, sugar, ginger, cardamom.