



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 10, 2024

500 shadow puppets bring ancient Persian princess legend to life

Song of the North to dazzle audiences with a family-friendly cinematic experience

Vancouver, BC—**The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts** announced that with the support of the Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation as lead sponsor, it will present **Song of the North** on **Saturday, May 10** at **8PM** as part of the Director’s Cut Series. The multi-media performance combines manual shadow puppets with stunning animation and original music to create an immersive, family-friendly experience. **Tickets for this event go on sale to the general public on October 11 at noon.**

The *New York Times* “Critic’s Pick” tells the courageous tale of Princess Manijeh, a heroine from ancient Persia, who must defy her father and use her superpowered voice to save her beloved Bijan and prevent a coming war. The epic love story is adapted from “The Book of Kings” (Shahnameh), and is created by Guggenheim Fellow Hamid Rahmanian with original compositions by Ramin Torkian and Azam Ali.

“*Song of the North* is an inspirational story that resonates with people of all ages,” says Pat Carrabré, Director of the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts and curator of the Director’s Cut. “Whether you’re a little girl who sees themselves as the brave Princess Manijeh, or you’re an adult who is just mesmerized by the spectacular craft of these painstakingly made shadow puppets, this show has something for everyone. With a story that demonstrates that there is strength in peace, there is a lot to take away from Hamid Rahmanian’s work.”

483 handmade puppets are brought to life by nine performers acting behind a screen with 208 animated backgrounds and projected audio, giving audiences the feeling of being immersed in a live animation adventure. *Song of the North* showcases the stunning breadth of beauty and creativity in contemporary Iranian art, using Princess Manijeh’s 1000-year-old tale as a vehicle to tell a larger universal story of perseverance, unity, and collaboration.

Hamid Rahmanian is the recipient of the 2020 United States Arts Fellowship. His film work has been shown at the Toronto, Sundance, and Venice film festivals and broadcast on PBS, BBC, Al Jazeera and more. Rahmanian has committed himself to expanding Westerners’ view of Iran and its culture. In 2013, he commissioned and illustrated a new translation and adaptation of the tenth-century Persian epic poem *Shahnameh* by Ferdowsi, titled *Shahnameh: The Epic of the Persian Kings*. The 600-page best-selling art

book was lauded by the *Wall Street Journal* as a “masterpiece,” and is currently in its second edition. *Song of the North* continues Rahmanian’s mission of showcasing the full spectrum of Iran.

Event Listing

Chan Centre Director’s Cut: Song of the North
SATURDAY, MAY 10 at 8PM
Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

An ancient legend comes to life with 483 shadow puppets and colourful animation. *Song of the North* is a cinematic, family-friendly production that tells the story of the courageous Princess Manijeh. Endowed with an enchanting voice, she must defy her father to rescue her beloved, Bijan, and summon all her strength and cunning to prevent a devastating war.

Created by 2014 Guggenheim Fellow Hamid Rahmanian, this *New York Times* “Critic’s Pick” is an adaptation of “The Shahnameh” (The Book of Persian Kings), written over 1,000 years ago.

Experience shadow puppets like never before with this epic love story.

The Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation is the lead concert sponsor of this event

Ticketing

General Public tickets go on sale Friday, October 11 at noon.

Ticket Office: chan.tickets@ubc.ca or 604.822.2697
Website: chancentre.com

Link to assets

Chancentre.com/press-downloads

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