

## **Nowadays Theatre Presents the World Premiere of *Nostos* at the 2026 Toronto Fringe Festival.**

### **About Nowadays Theatre:**

Nowadays Theatre is a Toronto-based not-for-profit company founded by Aida Keykhai and Mohammad Yaghoubi in 2016, with nearly two decades of acclaimed work in Iran under its Farsi name Inrooz-ha, meaning “Nowadays.”

The company prioritizes socially relevant works that foster cross-cultural dialogue and celebrates diversity by translating Canadian plays into Farsi and Iranian plays into English. It collaborates directly with multicultural theatre artists and employs artists of colour.

Since its founding, Nowadays Theatre has developed and presented a wide range of productions across Toronto’s leading theatre festivals and institutions. As the 2018–19 RBC Emerging Company-in-Residence at Canadian Stage, the company presented *The Only Possible Way* by Mohammad Yaghoubi. Its productions have also been featured at SummerWorks Festival, where *Swim Team*, directed by Aida Keykhai, was recognized on NOW Magazine’s Best of the Fest list, including a 5N rating and received an honourable mention in the Canadian Stage Awards for Direction; and at the Next Stage Theatre Festival, where the company premiered the English-language productions of *Winter of 88* (2020) and *Heart of a Dog* (2022), supported by the Canada Council for the Arts and the Toronto Arts Council. These works, among others, have earned critical acclaim, major awards, and strong audience response, helping to establish Nowadays Theatre as a vital voice in Canada’s contemporary theatre landscape.

Most recently, in February 2024, *Earworm*, written and directed by Yaghoubi, had its world premiere, presented in association with Crow’s Theatre. Performed bilingually in English and Farsi, the show’s success extended its run until March 3, with 21 English and 9 Farsi performances. The production earned a Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination, glowing reviews, and a Critic’s Pick accolade from The Globe and Mail.

To date, NOWADAYS THEATRE has performed twelve plays in Canada, continuing to provide a vital platform for diverse voices and transformative storytelling that resonates both locally and internationally.

## Mohammad Yaghoubi

Born and raised in Iran, Mohammad Yaghoubi is a playwright, director, and screenwriter. After moving to Canada in 2015, he co-founded the Toronto-based NOWADAYS THEATRE company in 2016. His plays have been translated into seven languages and produced internationally, including in Canada, the US, France, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Russia, the Czech Republic, Turkey, Australia, and Kurdistan.

Recent credits include *Earworm* (Crow's Theatre, 2024) and *Winter of 88* (Next Stage Theatre Festival, 2020).

Selected Awards: The Promising Pen Prize (*Persimmon*, Cahoots Theatre); Winner of the Toronto Fringe New Play Contest (*A Moment of Silence*); the Iranian Playwrights Society Award (*A Moment of Silence*); The National Theatre Critics Society Awards for Outstanding Play (*Drought & Lies*), Outstanding Writing (*Geraniums*), and Outstanding Direction (*Dance of Torn Papers*); and the Tehran Theatre Festival Award for Outstanding Direction and Writing (*Winter of 88*).

## Aida Keykhaii

Aida Keykhaii is a Canadian Iranian Dora Award nominee, actor, director, producer, and theatre instructor with over a decade of experience in the industry. She holds an M.A. in Theatre Directing and a B.A. in Acting from the University of Tehran. She is the co-founder of NOWADAYS THEATRE. Her recent credits include the stage production *Earworm* at Crow's Theatre and the feature film *Afterlove*. Aida is thrilled to be part of Nostos and to share this unique story with Fringe Festival audiences.

**Select Theatre and Film Credits:** *What we do in the Shadows* (F.X.), *Coroner* (CBC), *Fertility Slippers*, *Children of Fire*, *Heart of a Dog*, *Winter of 88*, *The Only Possible Way*, *Swim Team*, *The Pillowman*, *Iceland*, and *we are All fine*.

For more: <https://www.nowadaystheatre.org/aidakeikhaii-cv2/>