



Contact: Davidson & Choy Publicity | Tim Choy t.choy@dcpublicity.com
Peter Goldman p.goldman@dcpublicity.com | 213-500-8532

Rachyl Spacca (*She/Her*) Chief Marketing & Communications Officer:
rspacca@pasadenaplayhouse.org / 626-792-8672 Ext. 301

**"BRINGING A PERSIAN EPIC TO THE WORLD,
WITH HELP FROM 483 PUPPETS"
– *The New York Times***

**Pasadena Playhouse presents
Hamid Rashmanian's
*SONG OF THE NORTH***

**Featuring a cast of 483 handmade puppets
and a talented ensemble of actors and puppeteers
created, designed, & directed by
Hamid Rashmanian**

**Plus Free Student Performances for Thousands of
Pasadena Unified and Los Angeles Area Students**

March 21-29, 2026

Tickets at pasadenaplayhouse.org or by calling 626-356-7529

January 7 2026, Pasadena, CA | Pasadena Playhouse shares a first look behind the scenes of Hamid Rashmanian's *Song of the North*, an epic love story with a cast of 483 handmade puppets and a talented ensemble of actors and puppeteers, all coming together to create powerful theater for young minds ready to explore heroism, heritage, and imaginative storytelling. Created, designed and directed by Hamid Rashmanian, *Song of the North* is a spectacular theatrical experience for children ages 6+ and their whole family to enjoy. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the new video trailer for the production.

In addition to public performances on the Playhouse Mainstage March 21-29, 2026, Pasadena Playhouse will bring thousands of students from Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) and

other schools in the greater Los Angeles area to free student performances. Additionally, PUSD students will receive in-school workshops to deepen their learning experience.

Created by visionary artist Hamid Rahmanian, this stunning multimedia production uses shadow puppetry and projected animation to reimagine the Persian epic *Shahnameh*. At its heart is Manijeh, a fierce heroine navigating a world of mythical beasts who must use all her strengths and talents to rescue her beloved, Bijan, from a perilous predicament.

The graphics are inspired by the visual culture that evolved around *Shahnameh*, with influences from miniature paintings and etchings. The puppetry style has roots in Indonesian-style shadow play. In terms of style, inspiration is drawn from Lotte Reiniger's "Adventures of Prince Achmed", the choreography of the performers adapts Persianesque gesticulations and composers Ramin Torkian and Azam Ali create a Persian-nuanced bright and bold soundtrack.

The storytelling is modern, implementing cinematic tricks like cuts, zooms, tilts, pans, and tracking shots. The show uses a combination of almost 500 handmade puppets, 9 performers, and audio/visual components that create the environments wherein the puppets and actors interact.

All of this action is performed behind a giant screen (16x35) set up at the edge of a proscenium. The audience watches the entire show projected onto the screen, giving them the feeling of being immersed in a live animation adventure.

Tickets are available at pasadenaplayhouse.org, by phone at 626-356-7529, and at the box office at 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101.

This is the third year of Pasadena Playhouse's expanding Youth & Family Program and Hamid Rahmanian's ***Song of the North*** is the fourth offering for families since the program's launch. In addition to theatrical productions for families, the Playhouse offers numerous youth classes and camps year round serving thousands of children in Pasadena and the greater Los Angeles area.

Pasadena Playhouse's Youth & Family Programming and Hamid Rahmanian's ***Song of the North*** would not be possible without the generous support of the Fitzberg Foundation, L.L. Foundation for Youth, Rose Hills Foundation, Helen and Will Webster Foundation, and Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts.

Hamid Rahmanian (Creator, Designer, Director)

Hamid Rahmanian is a 2014 John Guggenheim Fellow and the recipient of the 2020 United States Artists Fellowship. His work centers on theater, moving image, and graphic arts. His work has been exhibited in international competitions and publications. His films have screened at Venice, Sundance, Toronto, Tribeca, and IDFA film festivals and broadcast on PBS, Sundance Channel, IFC, Channel 4, BBC, DR2, and Al Jazeera.

Mr. Rahmanian undertook the immense task of illustrating and commissioning a new translation and adaptation of the tenth-century Persian epic poem *Shahnameh* by Ferdowsi, entitled *Shahnameh: The Epic of the Persian Kings* (2013). This best-selling 600-page art book, which the Wall Street Journal lauded as a "masterpiece," is currently in its second edition (Liveright Publishing). In 2017, he released an immersive audiobook version of *Shahnameh: The*

Epic of the Persian King, with an introduction by Frances Ford Coppola. In 2018, he released a pop-up book, entitled *Zahhak: The Legend of the Serpent King* (Fantagraphics Books) in English and French, which received the Meggendorfer Prize for the Best Pop-Up Book and was hailed as “Simply breathtaking” by Le Monde.

In 2014, Rahmanian shifted his focus to theater arts, working with shadows and digital media. To date, he has created five theater pieces: *Zahhak: The Legend of the Serpent King* (2014), *Mina’s Dream* (2016), commissioned by the Onassis Foundation), and UNIMA-USA award winning *Feathers Of Fire* (2016) which toured in 23 cities around the world to an audience of over 100,000. In 2019, he was commissioned by Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Ensemble to create a video animation for their new multimedia project, *Heroes Take Their Stand*. Mr. Rahmanian completed his latest stage production, *Song of the North*, which premiered at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 2022 and is currently touring around the world. His most recent project, the new pop-up book, *The Seven Trials of Rostam*, is now available.

ABOUT PASADENA PLAYHOUSE

Pasadena Playhouse, the official State Theater of California and recipient of the 2023 Regional Theatre Tony Award, is one of the most prolific theaters in the country. The Playhouse has staged thousands of original productions since its founding in 1917 including premieres of works by Tennessee Williams, Eugene O’Neill, Suzan-Lori Parks, Gloria Calderon Kellett, and hundreds more. For decades, its pioneering School for Theater Arts was a training ground for actors and theatermakers who went on to make significant contributions to the entertainment industry. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman since 2016, Pasadena Playhouse’s productions and community programs are centered on its founding idea of being a living force in its community, making theater for everyone. pasadenaplayhouse.org.

CALENDAR LISTING

Hamid Rashmanian’s ***Song of the North***

created, designed and directed by Hamid Rashmanian

Venue: Pasadena Playhouse, 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

Dates: March 21 - March 29, 2026

Tickets: Starting at \$34
Member Price: 20% off
Online -- PasadenaPlayhouse.org
By phone at 626-356-7529
In person -- Pasadena Playhouse Box Office, located at 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

Performance Schedule: Saturdays - 2:00 PM, 7:00 PM; Sundays – 2:00 PM

Ages: Children ages 6-12 and their families