

Playwright, Co-Artistic Director of NOWADAYS THEATRE Company, Screenwriter, Theatre Instructor
<https://www.nowadaystheatre.org/mohammad-yaghoubi/>

Born and raised in Iran, Mohammad Yaghoubi is an award-winning playwright, director, screenwriter, theatre instructor, and the co-artistic director of Toronto-based NOWADAYS THEATRE company.

His plays have been translated into six languages and produced in Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Kurdistan, Russia, Sweden, The Czech Republic, Turkey, and the USA.

With over a decade of experience in theatre, Mohammad moved to Canada in 2015. After founding NOWADAYS THEATRE company in 2016, Mohammad Yaghoubi staged the English premiere of his play 'A Moment of Silence' at the 2016 SummerWorks Performance Festival. 'A Moment of Silence' has been anthologized as one of the new Iranian plays published by Aurora Metro (United Kingdom) in 2021.

In 2018, with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, he wrote his first play in English 'Persimmon'. Toronto Arts Council has also awarded him a grant in 2020 to write his second play in English titled 'Earworm'.

Recent Credits: Persimmon (360-degree videos), Heart of a Dog' (Online at the Next Stage Theatre Festival, 2022), and 'Winter of 88' (Next Stage Theatre Festival, 2020, Factory Theatre MainSpace).

Selected Awards: The Promising Pen Prize from Cahoots Theatre for his play 'Persimmon', 2021; The National Theatre Critics Society Award for Outstanding Play - Drought & Lies; First place winner of the Iranian Playwrights Society and third place winner of the New Play Contest in Toronto's Fringe Festival - 2016 for Outstanding Writing - A Moment of Silence; The National Theatre Critics Society Award for Outstanding Writing – Geraniums; The National Theatre Critics Society Award for Outstanding Direction- Dance of Torn Papers and the Tehran Theatre Festival Award for Outstanding Writing and Directing - Winter of 88.

Language: Farsi, English

SELECTED WRITING AND DIRECTING EXPERIENCE:

Aug 2022	Persimmon (360-degree videos) Playwright & Director, with the generous support of the Canada Council for the Art and Canadian Stage.
Jan 2022	Heart of a Dog (Online presentation, English Premiere), Playwright & Director, at the Next Stage Theatre Festival, Ada Slaight Hall, Daniels Spectrum, Toronto, Canada.
July 2021	Dance of Torn Papers (Online presentation, 360 Degree Video) Playwright, Director. The Toronto Fringe Festival, Canada.
Jan 2020	Winter of '88 (English Premiere), Playwright & Director, at Next Stage Theatre Festival, Factory Theatre MainSpace, Toronto, Canada.
March 2019	The Only Possible Way (English Premiere) Playwright, Director. At Canadian Stage, Toronto, Canada.
Nov 2018	Dance of Torn Papers (English Premiere), Playwright & Co-Director, at Studio 313, DanceMakers, Toronto.
Jun 2018	Angels In Iran , Playwright & Director, at George Ignatieff Theatre, Toronto, Ca.
Aug 2017	The Monsters (Naghmeh Samini), Director. At Fairview Library Theatre, Toronto.

Sep 2016	<p>The Pillowman (Martin McDonagh), Co-Directing with Aida Keykhaii. At Fairview Library Theatre, Toronto, ON, Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also performed on 06 of October 2016, at the second international festival of Martin Mcdonagh, Theatre U Mosta, Perm, Russia.
Aug 2016	<p>A Moment of Silence (English Premiere), Playwright & Director, SummerWorks Performance Festival, Factory Theatre, Toronto, ON.</p>
Feb 2016	<p>Proof (based on a play by David Auburn) Adapting and Directing. At Fairview Library Theatre, Toronto, ON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was also performed in Montreal in March 2016.
2015	<p>Drought & Lies (remount), Playwright, Director, on February 28th in Montreal, on March 8th in Vancouver, and on March 13th in Toronto, Canada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was also made into a film written by Mohammad Yaghoubi and directed by Pedram Alizadeh, in June 2015. <p>A Moment of Silence, Playwright, on 14th to 16th of June, Directed by Azadeh Mohammadi, Prague, The Czech Republic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also stage reading in French, on 1 March, 2014 by Théâtre de Poche in Brussels, Belgium.
2014	<p>Drought & Lies (remount) Playwright, Director. At Niavaran, Tehran, Iran, Tehran, Iran</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also performed at the International Theatre Festival in Adana (Turkey) in May and in Stockholm (Sweden) in June. <p>The Heart of a Dog, (based on a novel by Michael Bulgakov) Adapting and Directing, at IRANSHAHR Theatre, Tehran, Iran</p>
2011	<p>Winter of '88, (remount), Playwright, Director. At Theatre Shahr, Tehran, Iran</p>
2010	<p>Writing in the Dark, Playwright, Director. At Theatre Shahr, Tehran, Iran</p>
2009	<p>Drought & Lies Playwright, Director. At Theatre Shahr, Tehran, Iran</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also performed at the Theatre an Der Ruhe, Germany on October 22nd.
2008	<p>Machismo (based on the novel The Honorary Consul by Graham Greene) Playwright, Director. At Theatre Shahr, Tehran, Iran</p>
2004	<p>Geraniums, Playwright, Director. At Theatre Shahr, Tehran, Iran</p>
2001	<p>A Moment of Silence, Playwright, Director. At Theatre Shahr, Tehran, Iran</p>
1999	<p>'Till Tomorrow (Rima Raminfar), Playwright, Director. Theatre Shahr, Tehran, Iran Dance of the Torn Papers, Playwright, Director. Theatre Shahr, Tehran, Iran</p>
1998	<p>Winter of '88, Playwright, Director. At Theatre Shahr, Tehran, Iran</p>
HONOURS AND AWARDS	
1998	<p>The 16th Fadjr International Theatre Festival of Iran Awards for Outstanding Writing and Direction, 'Winter 88'.</p>

1999	-The National Theatre Critics Society Award for Outstanding Direction, 'Dance of Torn Papers'. -The 17th Fajr International Theatre Festival of Iran Awards for Outstanding Writing and Direction, 'Dance of Torn Papers'.
2000	The 18th Fajr International Theatre Festival of Iran Award for Outstanding Direction, 'Till Tomorrow'.
2001	The 19th Fajr International Theatre Festival of Iran Award for Outstanding Direction, 'A Moment of Silence'.
2002	The National Theatre Critics Society Award for Outstanding Direction, 'A Moment of Silence'.
2004	The National Theatre Critics Society Award for Outstanding Writing, <i>Geraniums</i>
2010	Theatre Critics Society Award at the Iran Theatre Forum for Outstanding Direction, 'Drought & Lies'.
2012	Iranian Playwrights Society Award at the Iran Theatre Forum, for Outstanding Writing, 'A Moment of Silence'.
2014	The National Theatre Critics Society Award for Outstanding Play, 'Drought & Lies'.
2015	Third place winner of the New Play Contest in Toronto Fringe Festival for Outstanding Play, 'A Moment of Silence'.
2016	The laureate diploma for the most original vision of the play 'The Pillowman' at the Second International Festival of Martin McDonagh, Perm, Russia.
2016	Awarded grant by Toronto Arts Council to direct English premier of his play 'A Moment of Silence' at SummerWorks Performance Festival.
2018	Awarded grant by the Canada Council for the Arts to write his first play in English 'Persimmon'.
2018	Awarded grant by the Ontario Arts Council and Toronto Arts Council to direct English premier of his play 'Dance of Torn Papers'.
2019	Received grant by the Canada Council for the Arts and the Toronto Arts Council to direct English premier of his play 'The Only Possible Way' with Iranian newcomers and refugees.
2019	Awarded grant by the Toronto Arts Council to write his second play in English 'Earworm'.
2021	The Promising Pen Prize from Cahoots Theatre for his play 'Persimmon'.

TRANSLATED PLAYS

A Moment of Silence (into English, French, Turkish and Kurdish)

Dance of Torn Papers (into English and Kurdish)

Drought & Lies (into English, German, Kurdish and Turkish)

Moon in the Water (into English, French, Turkish, Kurdish)	
Red and the Others (into German and Kurdish)	
The Only Possible Way (into English and Kurdish)	
Winter of '88 (into French, English and Kurdish)	
SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE	
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online writing workshop, NOWADAYS THEATRE; • Online Acting workshop (with Aida keykhaii for 6 months), NOWADAYS THEATRE.
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Acting workshop (with Aida keykhaii for 6 months), NOWADAYS THEATRE; • Online Play-reading workshop (with Aida keykhaii for 6 months), NOWADAYS THEATRE; • Online writing workshop, NOWADAYS THEATRE.
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Acting workshop (with Aida keykhaii for 6 months), NOWADAYS THEATRE; • Online writing workshop, NOWADAYS THEATRE.
Aug 2019	Acting & directing workshop (with Aida Keykhaii for 3 months), At OISE (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto).
March 2019	Acting & directing workshop (for 4 months), resulted in a theatre project in English with Iranian newcomers named "The Only Possible Way" for three days at Canadian Stage, Upstairs Theatre, Toronto, in March 29-31, 2019.
Nov 2018	Acting & directing workshop (with Aida Keykhaii for 4 months), resulted in a theatre project on stage named "Dance of Torn Papers" for three days at Studio 313, DanceMakers, Toronto, November 2-4, 2018
Oct 2017	Acting & directing workshop (for 4 months), resulted in a theatre project on stage named "Angels in Iran" for two days at George Ignatief Theatre, Toronto in June 2018
Sep 2016	Playwriting at New wave Artistic company, Future School, Toronto.
March 2016	Playwriting at New wave Artistic company, Future School, Toronto.
2014	Acting, directing, and playwriting at OISE (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto)
2012	Playwriting to MA students at Tehran University, Iran
2011	Playwriting to BA students at Tehran University, Iran
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE	
2010-2014	Member of the Managing Board at the Iran Theatre Forum
2004-2012	Member of the Managing Board at Iran's Playwrights Society
2002-2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Managing Board at the Iran Theatre Forum • Member of the Managing Board at Iran's Theatre Directors Society