

'Nostos' brings bite to Iranian politics



By **Glenn Sumi** Special to the Star



The cast of "Nostos."

Bahram Rameh

Nostos



Written and directed by Mohammad Yaghoubi. Until July 11 at Soulpepper Theatre's Michael Young Theatre, 50 Tank House Ln. fringetoronto.com

As two Iranian-Canadian half-sisters watch the fallout of the January 2026 uprising in Iran from the safety of Toronto, two talking dogs and a live-in android have plenty to say about the situation themselves.

That's the set-up of Mohammad Yaghoubi's play, a bold and absurd look at what it feels like to be thousands of kilometres away as life-changing events happen in your homeland.

Yaghoubi, who also directs, doesn't spoon feed the audience, making us work to discover the world we're in. One of the sisters, Beeta (Tina Bararian), is a social media influencer who uses dance videos to express her conflicted feelings. And the playwright obviously uses on a robot to wonder if, in such a divided world, impartial facts can exist.

The result is wholly engaging. If anything, the contrasting dogs (Aida Keykhahi and Mahsa Ershadifar) are more direct and straightforward than their human counterparts, as illustrated in a unique climax that is both funny and horrific.