

BATCO

Bay Area Theatre Company

Site: <http://www.sfbatco.org/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/BATCOsf/>

INSTAGRAM: <https://www.instagram.com/sfbatco/>

NOTE: FULL CAST/TEAM BIOS FOLLOW RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MEDIA CONTACT: David Hyry 415-441-1992 daldenh@aol.com

BATCO Presents

One Googol and One

A modern re-imagining of the *Thousand and One Nights*

by Aidaa Peerzada

December 7th-22 (Previews Dec. 5th and 6th)

Brava Theater Center,

2781 24th Street, SF, CA 94110

The Bay Area Theatre Company opens *One Googol and One* by Aidaa Peerzada on Friday December 7 (preview Dec. 6th) running through December 22 2018 at Brava Theater Center. *One Googol and One* is a play about historical injustices and how each of our stories from the past shape our modern identities. Set in different times and places the production takes on various mediums of dialogue through contemporary verse (spoken word), classical verse, and naturalistic dialogue.

One Googol and One by Aidaa Peerzada has been developed as a Bay Area Theatre Company devised theater production directed by Aidaa Peerzada & Marcelo Javier. Pereira working collaboratively with a cast that includes Aidaa Peerzada, Linda Maria Giron, Natasha LaGrone, Lisa Hu, Isa Musni, Jocelyn Thompson, Adela Fornes, Mercedes White, Emon Elboudwarej, and Tonalli Vargas. The production team features music composed by Lisa Quoresimo, set & lighting design/ by Claudio Silva Restrepo, movement choreographed by Lauren Unbekant with costume design by Sehar Peerzada.

A modern adaptation of “The Thousand and One Nights” or “The Arabian Nights” *One Googol and One* takes the classic tale and places it into a modern day university. In this production the audience takes a journey with Sher, a multi ethnic Muslim-American creative writing student and Scheherazade a superheroine of the Islamic golden age. They move with a range of little-known historical figures including Zhang Quain, Al-Mamun, Abu-Bakr and Atahualpa building performance environments through physical theatre, dance, and music.

BATCO is committed to uniting artists and audiences through live theatre that is reflective of the authentic perspectives and history of the san francisco bay area. Our non-profit organization supports artists through creative development, full productions, and mentorships that aspire to engage a new generation of live theater supporters.

Aidaa Peerzada- Graduated with a BFA from the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama. At Carnegie Mellon she studied abroad at The Rhodopi International Theatre Laboratory in Somlyan, Bulgaria and with The Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop in Lahore, Pakistan. She is currently based in Chicago and a member of the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company.

Regional Credits include *The Liar* (Lucrece), *The Merchant of Venice* (Jessica), and *Othello* (Bianca) at The Utah Shakespeare Festival. *Between Riverside and Crazy* (Lulu U/S) and *BLKS* (Rye U/S) at Steppenwolf Theatre Company. *LINES* (Ensemble) at Theatre Lila *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Anne Page), *Pride and Prejudice* (Kitty Bennett) and *Othello* (Ensemble) at The American Players Theatre. *The Golden Dragon* (Young Woman) at Quantum Theatre. Her TV/Film credits include appearing on the HBO series *GIRLS*, the web series *Blank My Life*, and the film *Gorenos*.

As a writer, Aidaa was on the writing team for *LINES* which premiered at Theater Lila in Madison Wisconsin in the summer of 2018. In 2017 her play *Things Change* received a workshop at the UC Davis. She workshoped and performed *Grandma Science* as part of the 2018 Greenhouse Theatre Solo Lab. Her play *Scheherazade* was produced at the 2012 New York Fringe Festival and at the Carnegie Mellon's new student work festival *PLAYGROUND*. Her other works include *Remember Me, or Change*, and *Choreo-slam* which were also produced as part of *PLAYGROUND*.

Marcelo Javier Pereira- co-founded the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company (BATCO) in 2014. Before founding BATCO, he helped produce two Off-Broadway productions, *The Black Book* by Phil Blechman and *Rogerandtom* by Julien Schwab. Recent acting credits include *Not Another Holiday Show!* (BATCO), *Home for "all of" the Holidays* (BATCO), *Skippyjon Jones* (Theatreworks USA), *Rent* (Syracuse Stage), *A New Brain* (SU Drama), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bathwater Productions). Directing credits include *Celebrate 12th Night Joyfully With Kathryn Crosby* (NYPL at Lincoln Center), *Cinderella* (African American Shakespeare Co.) *Not Another Holiday Show!* (BATCO), *La Posarela* (BATCO 2017 & Community Music Center 2015), *The Complete History of America [Abridged]* (Black Box Players), *Between Dirt and Sky* (SFYT) and *Too Many Tamales* (Marsh Youth Theatre). Marcelo is an alumni of the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts.

###

**BATCO Presents
One Googol and One**

by Aidaa Peerzada

December 7th-22 (Preview Dec 6th)

**Brava Theater Center,
2781 24th Street, SF, CA 94110**

Performances: Thursday-Saturday 8 PM, Sunday 2 PM

\$45 General Admission
\$35 for individuals under 30
\$17 children and students with a valid ID
BRAVA10 for 105 off

Tickets: <http://www.sfbatco.org/googol/>
Photos: <http://www.sfbatco.org/googol/>
Press: <http://www.sfbatco.org/press-1/>

CAST/Team

Emon Elboudwarej (Ensemble) is Bay Area actor, excited to be making his BATCO debut. He studied theater at UC Berkeley and ACT's summer training congress. Recent acting credits include *Memoria Del Silencio* by Linda Giron (MCCLA), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* by Stephen Adley Guirgis (ACT MFA), *Wolves* by Steve Yockey (Theater Rhinoceros).

Lisa Hu (Ensemble) is a bicoastal Chinese-American performer, writer, and policy advocate committed to uplifting and empowering the voices and dreams of womxn of color. She has performed in several states and internationally at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival; she was most recently seen in the 2018 National Queer Arts Festival's *Performing Visible Resilience* (Resilience Archives), a showcase for queer and trans AAPI performers. Currently rooted in Oakland, Lisa works at The Greenlining Institute, a racial equity policy organization; serves on the Board for the GAPA Foundation; and advocates for foster youth in Alameda County. Lisa believes in the power of art in unlocking voice, identity, and liberation - and is thrilled to officially join the BATCO family.

Mercedes White (Ensemble) is the co-founder of Definition Theatre Company in Chicago. She grew up in one of Chicago's most vibrant neighborhoods, Pilsen and attended the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign where she achieved her BFA. She's excited to be making her BATCO debut. Past credits include *Lines: A Theatre Lila inventions*, *The Brothers Size*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Genesis* and *A Raisin in the sun*. You can catch her this fall on Comedy Central's latest television show *Southside*. Also, gentrification sucks.

Joaquin-Tonalli Vargas,(Ensemble) or Tonalli, is a both a rookie, and creative veteran. Before joining BATCO for the production *One Google One*, Tonalli graduated high school where he was student body co-president and an aspiring filmmaker. In school Tonalli created a series of promotional videos for student events, acted in student written productions, like, *Plot A Course for Moral High Ground* and *Hurricane Fifi*, installed an art exhibit titled *Look At Me!* based on perception and identity in a globalized world, and directed a multi medium one-act play comedy play titled *The Sopranos Are Dead*. Tonalli is working with the BATCO in the midst of a gap year, in which he deferred admission to NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, in order to raise funds and pursue a variety of creative projects.

Jocelyn Thompson-Jordan-(Ensemble) is excited and grateful for the opportunity to work with the BATCO team for the second time. Her previous shows include: *Cabaret*, *Spring Awakening*, *Godspell* *Little Shop of Horrors* (YPTMTC) and *I, Too, Sing America* (BATCO). Jocelyn would like to express her immense gratitude toward all of her friends and family for their love and support!

Adela Fornés (Ensemble) Originally from Spain started her studies in Fine Arts at a very young age. In 2013 she moved to San Francisco where she obtained her MFA in Acting at the Academy of Art University. Her recent credits include "Karen" in "Dinner with friends" by Donald Margulies; "Irma" in "Memoria del Silencio en el País de la Eterna Primavera" by Linda M. Girón which premiered at the

Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, in San Francisco; "Julia" in the stage reading of "Refuge" by Rachel Lynett at Z Space, and other projects and collaborations. She is thrilled to be part of this wonderful and magical story and would love to thank her family and close friends for the unconditional love and support.

Natasha LaGrone (Ensemble) is excited to join BATCO for the world premiere of *One Googol And One*, making it her fourth BATCO production! She was seen recently in *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When The Rainbow Is Enuf* as "Lady in Blue" (African-American Shakespeare Company). Her past BATCO shows include, *I, Too, Sing America*, *How To Be A White Man*, and *La Posarela*. Natasha has performed with A.C.T. in *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Every 28 Hours*, and *The Insurgents*. She was also spotted in the summer 2018 feature film *Sorry To Bother You*. Natasha is grateful to God for every blessing and to her parents, family and friends for their continued love & support.

Linda Maria Girón (Ensemble) is thrilled to join the incredible talents at BATCO once again! Recent credits include NCTC's *The Mystery of Love and Sex* (Charlotte), Utopia Theatre Project's *Seeds* (Emma), BATCO's *La Posarela* (María), Faultline Theater's *How To Be A White Man* (Jennifer), AEB's *Twelfth Night: An Acoustic Rock Musical* (Feste/Musical Director), UC Berkeley's *Chavez Ravine* (Richard Neutra/Nikki III/the band), Joe Goode's *Re-Entry: The Process of Resilience* (Navy Veteran) and BareStage's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Cecily). A Cal alum and rising playwright, Linda is the proud recipient of the Roselyn Eisner Prize for acting and playwriting and the TDPS Social Justice Award for *Memoria del Silencio en el País de la Eterna Primavera* which received its first production at the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts this summer. Infinite gratitude to her mom, dad, partner, la familia Girón and the BATCO fam for their unending generosity, love and support.
www.lindamgiron.com

Lisa Hu (Ensemble) is a bicoastal Chinese-American performer, writer, and policy advocate committed to uplifting and empowering the voices and dreams of womxn of color. She has performed in several states and internationally at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival; she was most recently seen in the 2018 National Queer Arts Festival's *Performing Visible Resilience* (Resilience Archives), a showcase for queer and trans AAPI performers. Currently rooted in Oakland, Lisa works at The Greenlining Institute, a racial equity policy organization; serves on the Board for the GAPA Foundation; and advocates for foster youth in Alameda County. Lisa believes in the power of art in unlocking voice, identity, and the future - and is thrilled to officially join the BATCO family.

Isa Musni (Ensemble) trained in musical theatre with San Francisco's ArtsEd and YPTMTC before committing to ODC's pre-professional dance company, the Dance Jam. Immediately after graduating from CalArts' School of Dance BFA program, Isa was cast as Bae Makiling in the Kularts production of Jay Loyola's *Bae Makiling*. Her recent credits include dancing in BATCO's production of *I, Too, Sing America* and featured ensemble in *La Posarela*, *Tribe Member* and *Dance Captain* in Landmark Musical Theatre's *HAIR*, and as the Moon in Mugwumpin's *In Event of Moon Disaster*. She would like to thank her family, her friends, her teachers, and the entire BATCO team for their support.

Aidaa Peerzada- (Director/Playwright/Ensemble) Originally from the Washington/Baltimore Area. Aidaa began her Acting training at The Baltimore School for the Arts, and Graduated with a BFA from the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama. During her time at Carnegie Mellon she studied abroad at The Rhodopi International Theatre Laboratory in Somlyan, Bulgaria and with The Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop in Lahore, Pakistan. She is currently based in Chicago and is a proud member of the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company.

Her regional Credits include *The Liar* (Lucrece), *The Merchant of Venice* (Jessica), and *Othello* (Bianca) at The Utah Shakespeare Festival. *Between Riverside and Crazy* (Lulu U/S) and *BLKS* (Rye U/S) at Steppenwolf Theatre Company. *LINES* (Ensemble) at Theatre Lila *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

(Anne Page), *Pride and Prejudice* (Kitty Bennett) and *Othello* (Ensemble) at The American Players Theatre. *The Golden Dragon* (Young Woman) at Quantum Theatre. Her TV/Film credits include appearing on the HBO series *GIRLS*, the web series *Blank My Life*, and the film *Gorenos*.

As a writer, Aidaa was on the writing team for *LINES* which premiered at Theater Lila in Madison Wisconsin in the summer of 2018. In 2017 her play *Things Change* received a workshop at the UC Davis. She workshopped and performed *Grandma Science* as part of the 2018 Greenhouse Theatre Solo Lab. Her play *Scheherazade* was produced at the 2012 New York Fringe Festival and at the Carnegie Mellon's new student work festival *PLAYGROUND*. Her other works include *Remember Me*, *or Change*, and *Choreo-slam* which were also produced as part of *PLAYGROUND*. The SF Bay Area Theatre Company will premiere her play *One Googol and One* in the winter of 2018.

Lisa Quoresimo (Composer) is Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre at Southern Utah University. As a composer, playwright, director and performer, her work has been seen at Bay Area Theatres such as Berkeley Rep, Shotgun Players, and The Marsh, as well as Off-off Broadway, across the country and internationally. She is a co-founder and director of the Ground and Field Theatre Festival, and served as the artistic director of Kairos Theatre in NYC. Her scholarly work has been published in *Theatre Topics*, *Analog Game Studies*, and the forthcoming *Hamilton, History and Hip-Hop: Essays on an American Musical*. Lisa holds a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from UC Davis and an M.A. from Carnegie Mellon.

Marcelo Javier Pereira (Director) - co-founded the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company (BATCO) in 2014. Recent acting credits include *I Too Sing America* (BATCO), *Not Another Holiday Show!* (BATCO), *Home for "all of" the Holidays* (BATCO), *Skippyjon Jones* (Theatreworks USA), *Rent* (Syracuse Stage), *A New Brain* (SU Drama), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bathwater Productions). Directing credits include *Celebrate 12th Night Joyfully With Kathryn Crosby* (NYPL at Lincoln Center), *Cinderella* (African American Shakespeare Co.) *Not Another Holiday Show!* (BATCO), *La Posarela* (BATCO 2017 & Community Music Center 2015), *The Complete History of America [Abridged]* (Black Box Players), *Between Dirt and Sky* (SFYT) and *Too Many Tamales* (Marsh Youth Theatre). Marcelo is an alumni of the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts.

Lauren Unbekant (Choreographer)

Lauren is Co-Artistic Director of Moveink, a multi-arts based touring performance company. As a movement artist Lauren has performed her original work nationally and internationally at such festivals as the Humorologie Festival in Belgium, The International Festival of Clown in Barcelona, Fira Tàrrega in Spain, The International Movement Festival in London, The International Buskers Festival in NYC, The Festival of International Art in Leon and Puebla, Mexico and Festival of Laughter in Singapore. For more than a decade she was the Director of Educational Outreach for Syracuse Stage, as well as Professional Practice Faculty for Syracuse University Drama where she taught devising, playwriting, and clown. Lauren holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Syracuse University, and has had the great fortune of working with some of the world's great masters in movement and clown. She is thrilled to be working with BATCO!

Emmett Van Slyke (Additional Music/Orchestration/Sound Design)

Is a composer, musician, producer and digital media artist. As a composer Emmett has scored various feature length films and shorts. His theatre compositions include, *Reflecting Poe*, *The Crucible* – for which he received a ACTF Kennedy Center Award, *Telling The Truth*, for The National Whistle Blowers Symposium, *Wolfskinder* and *Gemini Vanishing* with Moveink at the Sargent Theatre in NYC. He has toured regionally and internationally as a multi-instrumentalist, and has worked with Mike Stoller, Jerry Lieber and William Kotzwinkle, screen writer of *ET*. Emmett holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music and Literature from SUNY at Oswego. Emmett was an Artist in Residence and Master Teaching Artist for Syracuse Stage Education Department working with Syracuse Stage's progressive programs Arts

Emerging and the summer devising program Random Acts. Emmett is very happy to be working on this piece with BATCO.

Claudio Andres Silva Restrepo (Stage Manager/Set Design/Light Design) is thrilled to be a part of *One Googol and One*. He is a director, actor, stage manager and designer originally from Santiago Chile. He studied at Loyola University Maryland, and spent three years teaching and working at StarStruck Theatre & Academy in Stuart, FL before moving to San Francisco. He would like to thank BATCO for the opportunity to be part of this production. Thanks to his family for all their support. Previous Credits include: *American Mau(I)* (Set), *Champagne* (Stage Manager) *How to be a White Man* (SM/ Lights) *La Posarela* (SM/ Lights) *Waiting for Godot* (Estragon) *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Algernon), *Two Rooms* (Michael), *Death and the Maiden* (Director), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Set & Sound), *Into the Woods* (Set & Sound)

Emily Hill (Assistant Stage Manager)- most recently stage managed *Woman on Fire* (Those Women Productions). She has previously stage managed *Art*, *Macbeth*, *A Christmas Carol* (Freeport Factory Stage), and *The Tempest* (Freeport Shakespeare Festival). Recent acting credits include *Romeo & Juliet*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Kindertransport* (Pomona College Theatre).

Sehar Peerzada (Costume Designer) is a clothing and costume designer from Washington DC. She worked in the DMV for many years for dance companies, theater production and stage performers of all types including Sweet Honey in the Rock, Aretha Franklin , The LaVerne Reed Dancers, DC Civic Opera Company, The In Series Opera Company and others. Sehar has even designed costumes for puppet theater. Sehar has designed the costumes for the working versions of Sheherizade including its showing in the New York Fringe Festival. Her clothing lines Urban Masala and Roc the Bloc Have been featured in Nordstrom and many fine boutiques.

Rodney Earl Jackson Jr. (Artistic Director) made his Broadway debut in “The Book of Mormon” after graduating with a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Drama. He was last seen performing in the Temptations musical “Ain’t Too Proud,” and previously traveling North America in the 1st national tour of “Motown: The Musical.” An SF native who was discovered in his public elementary school at age 9 by SFartsEd (Emily Keeler & Danny Duncan), Rodney continued his theatre and performance education at Rec and Park’s Young People’s Teen Musical Theater Company (Diane Price, Anne Marie Bookwalter, & Nicola Bosco-Alvarez) and graduated from the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts’ theatre department (Phillip Rayher). As the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of BATCO, Rodney is a proud Art-Activist passionate about telling untold stories. @rodneyearljacksonjr

Kiara Montgomery (Associate Costume Designer) is the assistant costume designer for *One Googol and One*. This makes her third time collaborating with BATCO— *La Posarela* and *How to Be a White Man* being the past productions. Prior to this show, Kiara has designed the costumes for Oakland’s Ubuntu Theater Company (*Dance of the Holy Ghosts*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*) and worked as a costume production assistant for Netflix TV series *13 Reasons Why* and *Tales of the City*.

April Chelsea Mosley - is a Storyteller, Producer, Director, and Editor whom began working with BATCO as a producer in 2018 on *How to be a White Man* by Luna Malbroux. Working side by side with BATCO as winners for artists residency’s with the African American Art and Cultural Complex (AAACC). Before linking with BATCO for theater productions April Chelsea worked closely with local film collective scary cow. Her credits include 2017 *Rest Stop* by Dane Moe, *Stray* by Lisa Yadao, *Shadowy Lines* by Danishka Esterhazy, and *Strength and Fortune* by Eimanne Zein 2016 Television series *Whose Ride Is It Anyway* and *Diva Talk Tonite* by Keldamuzik Short Films *That Ain’t Chill Bro* by Alex and Eric Odland *A Girl Named Khan* by Jose Jovel 2015 *The Right to Remain Silent* by Guillermo

Gomez and her own short film Shelter 2014 Sophia by Viking Teng Her Roles in these projects included Producer (4) Director (2) Location Management (3) Writer (2) Art Director (1) AD (1) Actor (1) April Chelsea is also a Winner of the National Young Poets Award, Published in A View From the Edge, National Library of Poetry 1992 Winner Devoine Entertainment Award, Original Work Produced at McLaren Park Amphitheater 2000, San Francisco, CA, Winner Joyrce R. Whitley Award, Karamu Playhouse, Cleveland, Ohio 2004; Winner Theaterfest Yerba Buena Arts Playwriting Festival, San Francisco, CA 2007; Winner Reuven Jaffe Scholarship Award, SFWriter's Conference 2012

(30)