

Aurash

by Bahram Beyza'i

Translated and adapted by Soheil Parsa and Brian Quirt

Directed by Soheil Parsa

"...wings contemporary resonance from a story that's old as time itself."
- The Toronto Star

Aurash is a Persian myth dating back over one thousand years. In the 1970s the fable was adapted into a short story by the prominent playwright and film director **Bahram Beyza'i**. His adaptation updated the myth with strong humanist and pacifist themes. In Beyza'i's story, Aurash, a naïve and human stablehand, becomes an unwilling player in his country's post-war border treaty. He must determine his people's fate by firing an arrow from the top of a mountain. In 1998, **Soheil Parsa** and dramaturge **Brian Quirt** worked this short story into its present form, a mixture of story-telling and physical theatre with stirring soundscape and lights.

Aurash was first produced with Toronto Theatre Passe Muraille in 1998 and received Four Dora Mavor Moore nominations for: **Best Direction** (Soheil Parsa), **Best New Play** (Translation and Adaptation) (Soheil Parsa and Brian Quirt), **Best Lighting** (Philip Cygan), and **Best Sound Design** (Richard Feren).

Aurash has since become Modern Times' most traveled production being directed by Mr. Parsa at the Centro Cultural Bertolt Brecht in Havana, Cuba in 1999 and the 20th Fajr International Theatre Festival, Tehran in 2002.

Mr. Parsa has also introduced *Aurash* to artists and audiences in Colombia and Bosnia, using it as the basis for lectures and workshops. Everywhere *Aurash* is presented, its resonance crosses borders. Modern Times uses *Aurash* as the centerpiece of **The Dialogues Project**, an initiative that bridges communities worldwide by introducing them to this powerful Persian fable.



Modern Times presents *Aurash*
July 17-20, 2008 at The Tirgan Festival,
Harbourfront.



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