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Evolution Theatre Company
The Abbey Theater
Dublin, OH



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Evolution Theatre Company

The Abbey Theater

PRESENTS

ANDY WARHOL IN IRAN BY BRENT ASKARI

with

Mark Phillips Schwamberger *

Fuse Jenniings

Director

Ben Hartwig

Stage Manager	Designer	Designer
Aaron Mendoza **	David Crone	James Ziolkowski
Box Office	Box Office	Box Office
Sue Rapier	Leslie Robinson	Lauren Wong

- * Member of Actor's Equity Association.
- ** Working under a contract with Actor's Equity Association.

Andy Warhol In Iran is presented through special arrangement with TRW PLAYS 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. www.theatricalrights.com

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Andy Warhol in Iran is presented without an intermission and is approximately 90 minutes in length.

CREDITS

Cast Members

Andy Warhol ..... Mark Phillips Schwamberger *

Farhad ..... Fuse Jenniings

Production

Director ..... Ben Hartwig

Stage Manager ..... Aaron Mendoza **

Designer ..... David Crone

Designer ..... James Ziolkowski

Box Office ..... Sue Rapier

Box Office ..... Leslie Robinson

Box Office ..... Lauren Wong

In 1976 Andy Warhol, having re-invented himself as the portrait painter of the rich and famous, travels to Tehran commissioned to take polaroids of the Shah's wife. Amidst taking in the Crown Jewels and ordering room service caviar, Warhol encounters a young revolutionary who throws his plans into turmoil and opens the pop icon's eyes to a world beyond himself. A fictionalized portrait of the artist's famed visit to Iran that leaves you asking, "Who was the artist and who was the revolutionary?"

WHO'S WHO

Bios



Mark Phillips Schwamberger *

Andy Warhol

Mark Phillips Schwamberger (Andy Warhol) Mark’s theatrical career spans over forty years. His passion for theatre began during his undergraduate studies at The University ofLouisville and continues to this day. He has performed in productions at both Off and Off – Off Broadway venues as well as performing in New York and Michigan, he has also been in various musicals, comedies and dramas in Kentucky, Florida and Ohio. Mark is a member of Actor's Equity Association and the Dramatist Guild.



Fuse Jenniings

Farhad

Fuse Jennings (Farhad) is making his debut in the professional acting world with this production. He has participated in multiple plays for school such as *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE* (Pablo Gonzalus) at Columbus state and *MURDER IN MANHATTAN* (Detective Charlie Dollen) at south high school. He would like to thank Frank Barnheart for providing him with this opportunity as well as Versace, a cat that is not his, for keeping his morale up.

WHO'S WHO

Bios



Ben Hartwig

Director

Ben Hartwig is an accomplished actor, director, and artist educator who has been immersed in the Columbus theater community for over a decade. Over the past ten years, Ben has dedicated his career to both performing on local stages and shaping the next generation of theatrical talent behind the scenes. Audiences may recognize him from his many appearances with Evolution Theatre Company, including memorable roles in *Priscilla Queen of the Desert, The View UpStairs and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.* As a director, he is known for bringing fresh, collaborative visions to life, and he is absolutely thrilled to direct tonight's production of *Andy Warhol in Iran.* Ben is incredibly proud to continue making art, fostering community, and sharing the transformative power of storytelling right here in Columbus.



Aaron Mendoza **

Stage Manager

Aaron Mendoza (Stage Manager) Aaron is originally from Colorado but has proudly made Ohio his home. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre with a minor in Arts Administration from Otterbein University, and has furthered his training through the National Theatre Institute's Advanced Directing program. Aaron has been a dedicated member of Evolution Theatre Company for four years, past credits include *Being Seen*(SM), *Silver Foxes*(SM), *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat(SM),* and *The Inheritance, Parts 1 & 2* (SM). He is deeply grateful for everything Evolution has offered him and looks forward to continuing to grow with the company. He would also like to give a special thank you to his family, friends, and partner, Jacob. Thank you for coming and enjoy the show.

WHO'S WHO

Bios

David Crone

Designer

Technical staff member of the Abbey Theater of Dublin.

James Ziolkowski

Designer

Technical staff member of the Abbey Theater of Dublin.

About the Playwright…

Brent Askari is a Persian-American writer and actor. He is the winner of the NNPN Smith Prize for Political Theater for his play The Refugees, which will be produced at Gulfshore Playhouse in 2024. Barrington Stage Company commissioned his play Andy Warhol In Iran, producing its world premiere in 2022; the play won Berkshire Theater Critics Award for Best New Play of the season. Chicago's Northlight Theatre produced a second production of Andy Warhol In Iran in early 2023 and it will be part of City Theatre of Pittsburgh's 2023-2024 season. He was part of HBO's New Writers Project and has written screenplays for several companies including Paramount Pictures, Marvel Films, MTV, and Reveille Entertainment. He is an ensemble member of Mad Horse Theatre Company and an affiliate artist of the NNPN.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO....











Evolution Theatre Company announces plans for a new shared home! Evolution Theatre Company is collaborating with Open Door Columbus to create a 60+-seat thrust stage performance space that will become the new shared home for Evolution Theatre Company and Open Door Columbus Stage and Screen. The theatre will be located in the Open Door Columbus facility located on Industrial Mile Road. “Both Evolution Theatre Company and Open Door Columbus realize the need for more theater space in central Ohio. This led to our joint decision to carve our own path and find a place to call our own,” said Mark Phillips Schwamberger, Evolution Theatre Company’s Executive/Artistic director. “We are still in the planning stages but hope to be operational in 2027. We look forward to sharing more details about the project in the coming months.” “Both Open Door Columbus and Evolution Theatre Company understand the power of storytelling to build connection, foster understanding, and create lasting change,” said Rebecca Sharp Porter, Executive Director of Open Door Columbus. “As organizations dedicated to uplifting voices that have too often been overlooked, this partnership is a natural fit. We are excited to create a shared home where creativity, inclusion, and artistic expression can flourish while bringing artists, audiences and communities together.” Evolution Theatre Company was established as a non-profit organization in 2012 and since then has been operating as a successful professional theatre company. Since their inception Evolution Theatre Company’s mission has been to lift up the voices of the LGBTQ+ community. www.evolutiontheatre.org Open Door Columbus was established as a non-profit organization in 1979 empowering adults with disabilities by offering innovative services that foster independence. Since its inception, Open Door Columbus has advocated for the recognition of the valuable contributions each individual brings to the central Ohio community. Both Evolution Theatre Company and Open Door Columbus strive to create a world where everyone is valued and respected and has the opportunity to thrive and shine.