

Swimming Between Shores

a woman's journey through identity

Morag Galloway and Merit Ariane Stephanos

CAST

The Wanderer

Merit Ariane Stephanos - Voice

The Truth

Nilufar Habibian - Qanun

The Shapeshifters

John Cummins - Violin

Dan Hodd - Violin

Morag Galloway - Viola

Charlotte Bishop - 'Cello

The Travellers

Richard Oakman - Recorders/Saxophones

Katie Wood - Flutes/Saxophones

The Spirits

Carter Sligh - Counter Tenor

Toby Churchley - Tenor

Jack Comerford - Bass

The Muses

Chloe Gilgallon - Voice One

Rachel Dyson - Voice Two

Sarah Dickenson - Voice Three

Cathy Abbott - Voice Four

Elizabeth Towne Allen - Voice Five

Sound Technician/Design - Oliver Larkin and Ben Eyes

Lighting Technician/Design - John Rawling

SCENES/DREAMS

PRESET - This Is Me

‘This Is Me’ - Rumi
*This is me: Sometimes hidden and sometimes revealed,
Sometimes a devoted Muslim, sometimes a Hebrew and a Christian,
For me to fit inside everyone’s heart,
I put on a new face everyday.*

ماٲم ڪم ڪم نهان وڪم ٻڌائيم
ڪم مومن وڪم يهود وڪم ترڪائيم

تاين دل ماقلب هر دل ڪرڻ
هر روز بصورتى برون ميسائيم

ONE - The Beginning. The Creation. The

Question.

From ‘There’ - Etel Adnan/‘Der Kanzler’ (A Thanksgiving Creation Hymn)

‘Man Dodekh’ - Aramaic Chant
*I come from another time, thousands of years ago,
People then, as now, striving for love,
the joy and comfort and wholeness of love.
I bring a message
love is what we live for, the essence of life.*

‘Originally’ - Dame Carol Ann Duffy

TWO - The Flaw Of Space - Part One

From ‘There’ - Etel Adnan

From ‘The Flaw of Space’ - Sabah Zwein

THREE - Stunning Looks but Forbidden Love

‘Stunning Looks’ - Safiyya al Baghdadeyya (12th Century)
*I am the wonder of the world, the ravisher of hearts and minds.
Once you have seen my stunning looks, you are a fallen man.*

From ‘There’ - Etel Adnan

‘Forbidden Love’ - reworked from the ‘Song of Songs’, The Bible: New International Version

FOUR - Double Loves: My Lover and My God. My Mother and My Child.

'The Lavender Boy' - Anonymous (Umayyad Period, 661-750)

Three Excerpts from 'A Daughter of Isis' - Nawal El Saadawi

'Double Love' - Raabia' al-Adwiyya (Sufi Saint, 714-801)

I love You a double love: I love You passionately and I love You for Yourself

I love You for Yourself so You would drop Your shutters to let me see You

FIVE - From 'There' to 'Here'

From 'There' - Etel Adnan

SIX - The Flaw Of Space - Part Two

From 'There' - Etel Adnan

From 'The Flaw of Space' - Sabah Zwein

SEVEN - A Realisation. A Resolution.

'Realisation' - Maisun bint Bahdal (d. 700)

I would rather live in a small house full of life than in a grand mansion,

I would rather wear a simple, lovely garment than a chiffon dress,

I'd rather have breadcrumbs in my own house than a whole loaf in a palace,

All I want is to be in my country home, indeed it is a noble home.

'On Breath' - Rumi

*Not Christian or Jew or Muslim, not Hindu, Buddhist, sufi or
zen.*

Not any religion or cultural system.

I am not from the East or the West,

not out of the ocean or up from the ground,

not natural or ethereal, not composed of elements at all.

*I do not exist, am not an entity in this world or the next,
did not descend from Adam or Eve or any origin story.*

My place is placeless, a trace of the traceless.

Neither body or soul.

I belong to the beloved,

have seen the two worlds as one and that one call to and know:

first,

last,

outer,

inner,

only that

breath breathing human being.

چه تدبیری برای مسلمانان که من خود را ندانم
نه شرقی نه غربی نه بریم نه بخریم
نه از خاکم نه از بادم نه از آبم نه از آتش
نه از دینی نه از عقیبی نه از جنتی نه از دوزخی
مکانم لامکان باشد تشنم بی نشان باشد
دوئی از خود برون که می دیدم دو عالم
ز جام عشق سر ستم دو عالم رفت از دتم
اگر در عمر خود روزی می بی او بر آوردم
الا می شمس تبریزی چنان مسموم درین عالم
نه ترسا و یسودیم نه کبرم نه مسلمانم
نه ارکان طبیعتیم نه از افلاک گردانم
نه از عرشم نه از فرشتهم نه از کونم نه از کانم
نه از آدم نه از حوا نه از فردوس و ضلوعم
نه تن باشد نه جان باشد که من این جانانم
کی جویم کی گویم کی دایم کی خوانم
بجز رندی و قلاشی نباشد هیچ سانم
از آن وقت و از آن ساعت عمر خود بشانم
که جز مستی و قلاشی نباشد هیچ دانم

'Shoubho l'hwo qolo' - Aramaic Chant

From 'There' - Etel Adnan

DEDICATION

*To Ute for her indomitable joy and appetite for life,
and Ushi for forcing the identity crisis that needed to happen.
It is also for all the women who have shaped our lives thus far,
those who will do so in future, and the Arab women writers whose
courage and vision have powered this piece.*

The conic section is our homage to Hypatia.
It was purchased from: www.artmadera.com

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generosity in funding this Composer and
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collaboration possible, and enabled us to push
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