

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January through March 8, 2009

Media Contact: Serge Bakalian
serge@goldenthread.org
818 822.9395

COMPLETE CALENDAR LISTINGS ON LAST PAGE

Golden Thread Productions presents
The West Coast Premiere of Award-Winning Play

A Girl's War

An Armenian-Azeri Love Story
by Joyce Van Dyke

Directed by Torange Yeghiazarian
Featuring: Ana Bayat, Adrian Mejia, Zarif Sadiqi, Simon Vance*
and Bella Warda

February 14 to March 8, 2009
At the Thick House, 1695 18th Street, San Francisco

San Francisco— Golden Thread Productions is proud to present the West Coast premiere of Joyce Van Dyke's award-winning play, *A Girl's War* at the Thick House where the company will be in residence in 2009. This love story of opposite sides was first produced at Boston Playwrights' Theatre in 2001. Named one of the "top ten" plays of the year by the Boston Globe, *A Girl's War* won the John Gassner Playwriting and the Provincetown Theatre Company Playwriting Awards. In 2003, New Repertory Theatre produced the play, again to critical acclaim and sold-out houses. *A Girl's War* was nominated in 2003 for the prestigious American Theatre Critics Association Steinberg New Play Award, and published in the anthology *Contemporary Armenian American Drama* (Columbia Univ. Press, 2004).

"*A Girl's War* exemplifies Golden Thread's commitment to presenting the broad range of the Middle Eastern experience," says Founding Artistic Director, Torange Yeghiazarian, "It's a deeply moving love story just in time for Valentine's Day." Torange also directed the San Francisco premiere of Leslie Ayvasian's *Nine Armenians* to sold-out houses at the Magic Theatre in 2004. The Middle East is extremely diverse in its ethnic make up, far from uniformly Arab or Muslim, the region comprises a plethora of cultures, languages and religions. Armenians and Azeris have lives in various parts of the Middle East for centuries. While *A Girl's War* is set in the Caucasus, the conflict reverberated throughout the Middle East because the Armenian and Azeri populations are so deeply rooted throughout the region.

Post-performance discussion panels are scheduled on February 22nd titled, "Women, War and Nation-Building" led by Sunaina Maira, Professor of Asian Studies at UC Davis, and on March 1st titled, "Theatre of War Peace" led by Roberto Varea, Chair, Theatre Program and Performing Arts and Social Justice major at University of San Francisco.

During a stormy fashion shoot, Anna Sarkisian, a New York fashion model, learns that her younger brother has been killed by enemy soldiers in her native Karabakh in the Caucasus Mountains. In the Armenian enclave of Karabakh, formerly part of the Soviet Union, an unresolved civil war still smolders between Armenians and Azerbaijanis. The war has already killed Anna's older brother and driven her mother into the army. Anna decides to return home to her village for the first time in 15 years. Living with her fiercely partisan Armenian mother in the bombed ruin of her childhood home, Anna defiantly refuses to identify herself with the Armenian cause. Tensions ignite when, Ilyas, a young Azeri deserter shows up, claiming to be a former neighbor. Anna and Ilyas, powerfully drawn to one another, become lovers in secret. The competing desires of love and vengeance, fueled by jealousy, propel the characters toward an explosive climax with tragic consequences.

* Member Actors Equity Association

Artists' Biographies

Joyce Van Dyke (Playwright) is an American playwright of Armenian descent. Her maternal grandparents were born in Kharpert. Her grandmother was deported from Mezireh in 1915 and came to America; her grandfather came in 1912. Joyce grew up in Orinda, California, where her mother Rose still lives. She earned a Master's degree in playwriting from Boston University and a PhD from University of Virginia. She now lives in the Boston area with her husband and two sons. Since the success of *A Girl's War*, Joyce has gone on to win commissions and playwriting fellowships from Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York, the Huntington Theatre Company in Boston, and the MacDowell Colony. She is now working on a new play dealing with the intertwined lives of two women who come to America after the Armenian genocide.

Torange Yeghiazarian (Founding Artistic Director for Golden Thread Productions) is an Iranian-born theatre artist of Armenian heritage. She writes, directs and performs for theatre. Among her writing and directing credits are *AGABA*, *Publicly Resting*, *Call Me Mehdi*, *Behind Glass Windows*, *Dawn at Midnight*, *Operation No Penetration*, *Lysistrata 97!* and *Waves*. Torange received her Master's degree in Theatre Arts from San Francisco State University where she collaborated with The San Francisco Mime Troupe in creating the melodrama *Torch!* Her plays reflect the perspective of the culturally displaced in tackling today's world of contradictory realities and values. Torange is the Artistic Director of Golden Thread Productions, where she has devoted her professional life to exploring Middle Eastern cultures and identities through theatre arts.

Golden Thread Productions is dedicated to exploring Middle Eastern cultures and identities as expressed around the globe. This growing theatre company is rapidly gaining international recognition for excellence and innovation. Golden Thread Productions aims to create a world where the common human experience supersedes cultural and political differences by defining the Middle East not by geographical boundaries and political separations, but as the shared experience of the people, who throughout history have been touched by its tales, melodies and aromas. Founded in 1996, Golden Thread Productions exemplifies theatre's ability to transcend cultural and political boundaries and to encourage an active dialogue among Middle Eastern and non-Middle Eastern communities.

www.goldenthread.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 2008 to
March 15, 2009

Media contact: Serge Bakalian
818.822.9395
serge@goldenthread.org

WEST COAST PREMIERE
WINNER OF JOHN GASSNER PLAYWRITING AWARD AND
THE PROVINCETOWN THEATRE COMPANY PLAYWRITING AWARD
“A GIRL’S WAR”
By Joyce Van Dyke
AN ARMENIAN-AZERI LOVE STORY
SET AMID POST-SOVIET BORDER CONFLICTS

February 14 to March 8, 2009 AT THE THICK HOUSE

WHAT: *A Girl’s War – An Armenian-Azeri Love Story*
West Coast Premiere of Award-Winning Play

WHO: Written by Joyce Van Dyke
Directed by Torange Yeghiazarian
Produced by Golden Thread Productions.

WHERE: The Thick House, 1695 18th Street, San Francisco, CA 94107

WHEN: February 14 to March 8, 2009
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 5 pm
Previews: Saturday, February 14 & Sunday, February 15
Opening: Monday, February 16

Post performance discussions on February 22nd and March 1st.

Tickets: General Admission \$25
Students, Seniors, TBA members \$15
Previews and Thursdays are Pay-What-You-Can
Group Sales Available, Contact 415 626.4061

RESERVATIONS: 415 401.8081

ONLINE TICKETING: www.goldenthread.org

Post-performance discussion panels are scheduled on **February 22nd** titled; “**Women, War and Nation-Building**” led by Sunaina Maira, Professor of Asian Studies at UC Davis, and on **March 1st** titled, “**Theatre of War Peace**” led by Roberto Varea, Chair, Theatre Program and Performing Arts and Social Justice major at University of San Francisco.

###