

Pre show Information: Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World by The Javaad Alipoor Company

This information is to help you decide if Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World is for you. Content notes, including what happens in the show, are further in the document.

The Space

The performance space has a couple of levels and a lot of screens that slide in and out for projection.



The Performers

The performers are:

Javaad Alipoor





Raam Emami

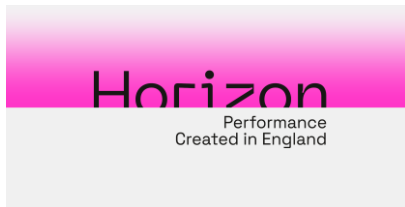


Asha Reid



Me-Lee Hay





Lighting and Sound

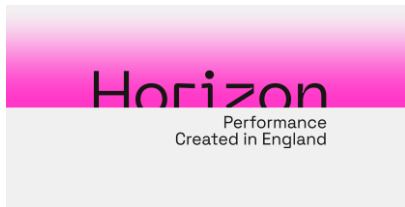
- There will be loud music and sudden loud noises.
- There will be speaking over music and sounds.
- There will be flashing lights throughout the performance.

Participation

- There will be audience participation.
- Javaad will ask you to look up something in Wikipedia on your phone.
- He will ask if anyone wants to share it.
- He will also ask if anyone from the global south can share their culture's Tom Jones.
- If you want to do this you can volunteer. If you don't want to do this don't volunteer.

Access Information

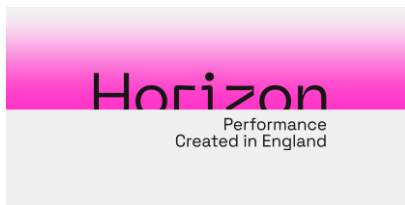
- The performance is 90 minutes long
- There is no interval
- The performance space has step-free access via a lift
- There are accessible toilets including gender neutral toilets on both levels.
- For more information about the venue go here:
<https://www.traverse.co.uk/your-visit/access-guide>
- All performances are Relaxed this means you can move or make noise if you need to and can go in and out of the performance space
- Latecomers will be admitted.
- There will be an audio described performance on Thursday 24th August. The describer is Christopher McKeddie.
- There will be a BSL interpreted performance on Friday 25th August. The interpreter will be Sumayya Si-Tayeb
- There will be captioned performance on 27th August with captions by Claire Hill.



Content Notes

Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World is about why we feel like we need to know things. In 1992 Iranian popstar and refugee Fereydoun Farrokhzad was murdered. We don't know who did it. But true crime podcasts and the internet let us feel like we know things. There are also differences, caused by colonialism and violence, in who has to know what.

There will be detailed descriptions of a crime scene and of violence by the Iranian government.



Detailed Content Notes:

The performance starts with Javaad telling you about his past work. Both his past shows are about people who are not like him. He wants to tell us a story about why a 'deep dive', or looking on the internet for information makes us feel like we know things.

He's going to tell us a story he knows, the story of Fereydoun Farrokhzad. Farrokhzad was a famous Iranian popstar. After the Iranian revolution, he had to leave Iran. He lived in Germany. In August 1991 the Germany police found his body in his flat. The case was never solved.

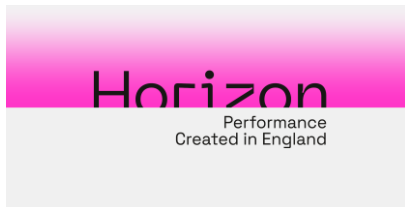
Javaad talks about the things we don't know. For Iranians, the thing you don't know is how and why Farrokhzad was murdered. For other people, there are other things you don't know, like Farrokhzad's songs, Iranian politics, what it's like to be a refugee.

There's a few ways Javaad does research for his shows. The first is the internet. Javaad asks you to search for something on Wikipedia and to search through the links in the articles. He asks people to share where they find themselves. Javaad explains that Wikipedia makes you feel like you know things.

Making stories is another way Javaad knows things. This story has to be a murder mystery podcast. Ash has put together a murder mystery podcast that looks at all the theories about Fereydoun Farrokhzad's murder.

Javaad talks about subalternity. Subalternity happens because of colonialism. Colonialism is when one group of people go somewhere they aren't from, use violence to control that place, and use it to make money. The people whose land was taken from them become an invisible culture inside the colonisers culture. They are ignored. So, Javaad has to tell you that Farrokhzad is the Iranian Tom Jones. He has to explain Fereydoun Farrokhzad but not Tom Jones. But these kinds of comparisons don't actually work. Farrokhzad is not Tom Jones.

Javaad introduces King Raam. King Raam is Iranian singer whose life, like Farrokhzad, became more political than he intended. King Raam introduces



himself and tells you about his life moving between America, Canada and Iran. He's super famous to Persian speaking people.

Ash starts her podcast. She talks to you about podcasts and that people like listening to podcasts because they make you feel knowledgeable. In each episode Ash will explore one theory about the murder of Fereydoun Farrokhzad. This episode she'll look at the theory that Farrokhzad was killed by a friend or a lover.

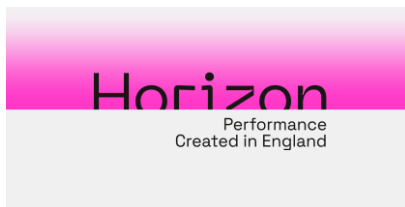
She explains how Farrokhzad's body was found in his flat. The oven was left on and there was food for a dinner. There was a rumour that Farrokhzad was murdered by his male lover. There were always rumours about Farrokhzad's sexuality.

King Raam talks about how his punk band became famous. He ended up in Los Angeles. He was sad and alone and then he fell in love. He wrote music with his girlfriend. She encouraged him to sing in Persian. He put a song called The Hunter on the internet.

In 2009 the Iranian Green Movement happens. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad became President by fraud. Many Iranians protested and many people were arrested and died. Kambiz Hosseini is an Iranian tv and radio host. He does a lot of commenting on politics. Hosseini used King Ram's song The Hunter in video that honoured the protesters.

Javaad comes out and watches footage of Farrokhzad on TV. Javaad explains that Farrokhzad spoke to everyone and did things that other people were not allowed to do.

Ash's podcast comes back. The Iranian government did not like Farrokhzad. Maybe the Iranian government killed him. A year before Farrokhzad died he did two sold-out concerts at St. Albert Hall. At these concerts he shared his anger with the Iranian government. Farrokhzad might have been part of the chain killings. The chain killings were when the Iranian government killed eighty people who had criticised them between 1988 and 1998. But the person who confessed to the chain killings didn't confess to Farrokhzad death.



Javaad feels lost. He's telling this story to help himself feel less lost. But he's telling himself he's doing it for you.

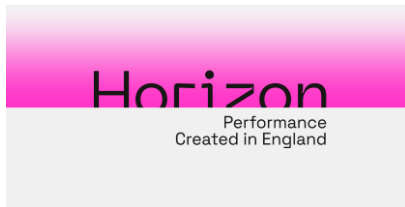
King Raam talks about how Iranian people started to tell him about how they were feeling. They would ask him, 'what comes next'? Another election happens and he's hopeful. The government arrests, tortures and kills his father. His mom was put under house arrest. Eventually she came to Canada. In 2019 there's another uprising. King Raam needed to do something. He started a podcast talking about his life and about other people's problems. A lot of people listen to the podcast.

Javaad tells us that there was a war on Wikipedia about Scots, which is a language. Between 2016 - 2018 an American teenager wrote most of the articles based on what they thought Scots sounded like. We think artificial intelligence is doing amazing things on the internet. But most of that is actually people working for between 7 and 25 cents per hour. These are examples of the ways when we don't understand something we try to make it make sense based on what we know.

Ash's podcast comes back. She explains another theory. This theory is that Fereydoun Farrokhzad was killed by someone called Mr. X, a man who was trying to make the Iranian government happy so he could return to Iran. Ash suggests all the reasons why Mr. X is a likely suspect. Mr. X was likely a friend, but also likely being used by the Iranian government.

King Raam explains that he lives in Vancouver now. The Canadian Secret Service came to tell him that the Iranian government is trying to kill people and his name was on that list. He's come to stand for a lot of different things. He did this by accident, by letting people talk openly. He reminds you of all the people who are fighting for freedom and justice right now.

Ash welcomes you to the bonus episode of the podcast. She talks you through all the comparisons that the show has made. She talks you through all the connections that she's made to make her feel like she understands Fereydoun Farrokhzad's murder. The connections become more and more strange. The podcast ends.



Javaad explains that facts fill the empty feeling. If you don't know who you are, you can at least know what you know. And sometime you know about the world and that makes you feel like you can change it. Even if that isn't true.

Ash reminds you of the facts of Farrokhzad's murder. She reminds you that you can't know anything more than that. Ash and Javaad talk through how Farrokhzad might have been murdered.

Javaad says that we might feel like we know more now, but we don't. There are so many stories out there that we don't know. The difference between us, here in England, and the people who have stories we don't know is that we can choose to ignore them. We can't know things. But we can choose to live knowing that we don't know everything.

King Raam and Me-Lee play a song. The performance ends.