

# THE INVISIBLE HAND

theaterworks

May 24 - June 23

**Rob Ruggiero // Producing Artistic Director**

I've been itching to do one of Ayad Akhtar's plays since I read **DISGRACED**. I think he's a great writer with really powerful stories to tell. It's part of TheaterWorks mission and my goal as artistic leader to bring our audiences stories of people we don't often see. As witnessed by the play's Pulitzer Prize, **DISGRACED** beautifully tells of the complicated interactions we face when people of completely different backgrounds are thrown together for a dinner party.

In that play we were flies on the wall witnessing explosive interactions. Ayad does it again with **THE INVISIBLE HAND**, this time we are engrossed in the bowels of a hostage situation. His "no holds barred" aesthetic gets a perfect outlet here, as he attempts to craft a story that makes us examine our assumptions.

Raw and honest are some of my favorite adjectives, and ones that are apt when discussing Ayad's work — specifically **THE INVISIBLE HAND**. Like the characters in the story, there is nowhere to run, as we are assaulted with the realities of global power and the consequences of our personal ambitions.

It is my pleasure to bring to you this remarkable play — by many of the artists that created the award-winning Westport Country Playhouse production. Their finesse and nuance help to spin a tale that is both challenging and transforming, enlivening the brilliance that is Ayad Akhtar.

**This story takes place somewhere in Pakistan.**

**There will be one intermission**

**This production was originally produced at  
Westport Country Playhouse.**

**This set was adapted from the original design  
by Adam Rigg**

**Lead Producing Partner  
David J. Holmgren**

**Producing Partner**  
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# THE INVISIBLE HAND

by Ayad Akhtar

## THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

Dar	<b>ANAND BHATT</b>
Nick Bright	<b>ERIC BRYANT*</b>
Bashir	<b>FAJER KAISI*</b>
Imam Saleem	<b>RAJESH BOSE*</b>

Set Design	<b>KRISTEN ROBINSON</b>
Costume Design	<b>HARRY NADAL</b>
Lighting Design	<b>MATTHEW RICHARDS</b>
Sound Design	<b>FITZ PATTON</b>
Dialect Coach	<b>LOUIS COLAIANNI</b>
Fight Choreographer	<b>MICHAEL ROSSMY</b>
Casting	<b>TARA RUBIN CASTING</b>
	<b>LAURA SCHUTZEL, CSA</b>
Assist. Director	<b>ERIC ORT</b>
Assoc. Lighting Design	<b>CAITLIN SMITH RAPOPORT</b>
Assoc. Sound Design	<b>JOEL ABBOTT</b>
Production Manager	<b>BRIDGET SULLIVAN</b>
Stage Manager	<b>KATE J. CUDWORTH*</b>

Directed by  
**DAVID KENNEDY<sup>†</sup>**

Originally Produced by  
THE REPERTORY THEATRE OF ST. LOUIS  
Steven Woolf, Artistic Director  
Mark Bernstein, Managing Director

**THE INVISIBLE HAND** had its New York premiere at New York Theatre Workshop,  
Jim Nicola, Artistic Director, Jeremy Blocker, Managing Director in 2014

**THE INVISIBLE HAND** is presented by special arrangement with  
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

\* Member of Actors' Equity Association, Union of Professional Actors  
and Stage Managers in the U.S.

<sup>†</sup> Member of SDC, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

TheaterWorks is celebrating its 32nd season as a non-profit,  
professional theater company. Founded in 1985.

**THE INVISIBLE HAND**  
is the 4th production of the 2017-2018 Season.

TheaterWorks • 233 Pearl Street • Hartford, CT 06103 • 2018



who



**ANAND BHATT** (Dar) is making his **TheaterWorks** debut. Anand is a Chicago based actor. Select credits include *Merchant on Venice*, *Multitudes* (Vitalist/Rasaka), *The Invisible Hand* (Steep Theatre); *Great Expectations* (Remy Bumpo/Silk Road), *A Disappearing Number* (TimeLine Theatre), *Mosque Alert* (Silk Road Rising), *A Widow of No Importance*, *Washer/Dryer*, *A Nice*

*Indian Boy* (Rasaka). In addition to acting, Anand is also well versed in Martial Arts, Dance, Acrobatics and Parkour stunts. Anand has worked on a number of indie films. He was awarded Best Actor in 2017 by Broadway World for his role as Pip in *Great Expectations*. Anand also holds the title of Mr. Desi IL 2012 and Mr. India IL 2013. While working on other projects, he also runs AB Entertainment Productions.



**RAJESH BOSE** (Imam Saleem) is making his **TheaterWorks** debut. Most recently, Rajesh played Alfred Doolittle in Bedlam Theatre's Off Broadway production of *Pygmalion*. Other Off-Broadway credits include *Indian Ink* (Roundabout Theatre Company) and *Against the Hillside* (Ensemble Studio Theatre). Regional favorites: *Mary Stuart* (Folger Theatre);

*Guards at the Taj* (Capital Stage); *Disgraced* (Playmakers Rep, Huntington Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre - Connecticut Critics Circle Award, IRNE Nomination); *The Who & The What* (Gulfshore Playhouse); *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre) and *The Invisible Hand* (Westport Country Playhouse). Film & Television: *Quantico*, *Blue Bloods*, *Elementary*, *Damages*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Madame Secretary*, *The Good Wife*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Criminal Minds*, the series finale of *The Sopranos*, and the Academy Award nominated film *Frozen River*.



**ERIC BRYANT** (Nick Bright) returns to **TheaterWorks** having last appeared in the 2013 production of *Almost, Maine* (CT Critics Circle Award-Outstanding Ensemble). New York credits include the Off Broadway revival of *Angels in America* (Signature), *Cut Throat* (Abingdon), *The Pillow Book* (59E59), *Even Maybe Tammy* (Flea), and *Billy Witch* (APAC). Regional:

*The Invisible Hand* (CT Critics Circle Award-Outstanding Actor), *Room Service* (Westport Country Playhouse), *Bachelorette* (Studio Theatre, DC), *The Mousetrap* (Walnut St), and Lewis Black's *One Slight Hitch* (NY Stage and Film). Film and TV: *Mr. Robot*, *The Blacklist*, *The Following*, *Blue Bloods*, and *Deception*. Education: MFA, Yale School of Drama. BA, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



**FAJER KAISI** (Bashir) is making his **TheaterWorks** debut. He is thrilled to be reprising his role as Bashir. Select credits include Richard in *The Humans* at St. Louis Repertory Theatre; Amir in *Disgraced* (Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, international China tour); Oberon in *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Tantrum





Theatre, Ohio); Aeneas in *Troilus and Cressida* and Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival) and Shahid in *Aftermath* (NYTW). Film credits include appearances as the interpreter in *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk* by Ang Lee and as Kareem in *I'll Come Running* by Spencer Parsons. TV credits include *Law and Order*, *Nurse Jackie*, *30 Rock*, *Person of Interest*, *Madam Secretary*, *Unforgettable*, *Deadbeat*, *Search Party*, *The Good Wife*, and *Blacklist*. Fajer is also an accomplished audiobook narrator and has over 100 titles on audible.com. @dearfajer

**AYAD AKHTAR** (Playwright) was born in New York City and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is the author of *American Dervish*, published in 25 languages worldwide and a 2012 Best Book of the Year at Kirkus Reviews, Toronto's Globe and Mail, Shelf-Awareness, and O (Oprah) Magazine. He is also a playwright and screenwriter. His play *Disgraced* played at New York's Lincoln Center Theater in 2012 and premiered at the Bush Theater in London in May 2013. *Disgraced* won the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. His play *The Invisible Hand* was nominated for the ATCA/Steinberg Award, and won Best New Work 2013 from the St. Louis Theater Critics Circle. As a screenwriter, he was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for Best Screenplay for *The War Within*. He has received commissions from Lincoln Center and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He is a graduate of Brown and Columbia Universities with degrees in Theater and Film Directing.



**DAVID KENNEDY** (Director) has served as Associate Artistic Director of Connecticut's Westport Country Playhouse since 2009, where he has directed *Appropriate*, *The Invisible Hand* (Connecticut Critics Circle Awards for Outstanding Production and Outstanding Director), *And a Nightingale Sang*, *Nora*, *Loot*, *Tartuffe*, *Suddenly Last Summer*,

*Beyond Therapy*, and *Dinner With Friends*. He previously served as Associate Director at Dallas Theater Center from 2004-2007 and as Acting Artistic Director for their 2007-08 season. He has also staged productions at the Wilma Theater, Clarence Brown Theatre Company, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, 78th Street Theatre Lab, Prospect Theatre Company, and Kitchen Dog Theater, among others. He was a founding Artistic Director of The Lunar Society in Toronto and Milkman Theatre Group in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Kennedy teaches in the graduate directing program at the University of Alberta and is a former Phil Killian Fellow at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, a Drama League Directing Fellow, and a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.



**ROB RUGGIERO** (Producing Artistic Director) has been part of **TheaterWorks** artistic leadership for 25 years. He has directed over 50 shows, including *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, *Constellations*, *Next to Normal*, *Relativity*, *Sex with Strangers*, *Christmas on the Rocks*, *The Other Place* and *Time Stands Still*. His Broadway credits include *Looped* (starring Valerie Harper in a Tony-nominated performance) and *High*



who

(starring Kathleen Turner). Off-Broadway, he conceived and directed the musical revue *Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn* (Nominated for Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards). Rob conceived and directed *Ella*, a musical portrait of Ella Fitzgerald, which has been seen at 24 regional theaters and on National Tour. His work has received multiple awards in Connecticut and around the United States. In his tenth collaboration with Goodspeed Musicals, Rob directed *Rags*. He also directed highly successful productions of *La Cage aux Folles*, *Fiddler on the Roof* (Connecticut Critic's Circle Award for Best Direction), *The Most Happy Fella* (Connecticut Critic's Circle Award for Best Direction), *Carousel* (Broadway World Award), *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Camelot*, *Big River* and *1776*. His adaptation of *Show Boat* is now being licensed by the Rogers & Hammerstein Organization. [www.robruggiero.com](http://www.robruggiero.com)

**KRISTEN ROBINSON** (Set Design) is making her **TheaterWorks** debut. She is a NYC based set designer whose work ranges from site-specific installations to outdoor Shakespeare. Selected credits include: *A Flea In Her Ear* (Westport Country Playhouse), *Ethel*, (Alliance Theater), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Great Lakes Theatre/Idaho Shakespeare Festival/Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival) *Porto* (WP Theater), *Company* (Barrington Stage Company), *Heart of Darkness* (Baryshnikov Arts Center), *Minor Character* (Under the Radar Festival). Her design for Westport Country Playhouse's *Nora* has been featured in *Chance Magazine* Issue 4, and her design for *Rapture Blister Burn* at The Wilma Theatre won the 2015 Barrymore Award for Best Set Design. A Princess Grace Fellow, she holds her MFA from Yale. [www.kristenrobinsondesign.com](http://www.kristenrobinsondesign.com), USA 829

**HARRY NADAL** (Costume Design) **The Invisible Hand** marks Harry's fifteenth production at **TheaterWorks**. Most recently *Fade* and *Third*. New York: The Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Atlantic Theater Co., Lincoln Center Institute, LAByrinth Theater, INTAR, Theater for The New City, HOME for Contemporary Theater and Arts, HERE Arts Center, Miranda Theater, Pregones/PRTT, and Ensemble International Theater, among many. Regional and International: *A Raisin in The Sun* at Arena Stage (Washington, DC), Boise Contemporary Theater, UrbanArias (Arlington, VA), Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, Open Stage (Harrisburg, PA), Danza Del Alma (Cuba), and Edinburgh Fringe Festival, among others. Broadway: Paul Simon's *The Capeman* (Assistant Designer); *A Class Act* (Assistant Designer). Education: MFA, NYU-Tisch. [www.harrynadal.com](http://www.harrynadal.com)

**MATTHEW RICHARDS** (Lighting Design) **TheaterWorks**: *Shakespeare's R&J*, *American Buffalo*, *Souvenir*, *Speech & Debate*, *The Seafarer*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Doubt*, *Woman Before a Glass*. Broadway: *Ann*. Opera: *Macbeth* at L.A. Opera. Off-Broadway: *Is God Is* at Soho Rep; *Absolute Brightness...*, and *The Curvy Widow* at Westside Arts; *The Killer*, *Tamburlaine*, and *Measure For Measure* at Theatre For a New Audience; *A Funny Thing ...* at MCC. Regional: Actor's Theater of Louisville; Arena Stage; Baltimore Center Stage; Cincinnati Playhouse; Cleveland Play House; Dallas Theater Center; Ford's Theatre; The Goodman; Hartford Stage; The Huntington; La Jolla Playhouse; Long Wharf; The Old Globe;

Shakespeare Theatre; Westport Playhouse; Williamstown Theatre Festival; Yale Repertory Theatre.

**FITZ PATTON** (Sound Design). Upcoming Broadway: *Bernhart/Hamlet, Torchsong, Choir Boy*. Current Broadway: *Three Tall Women*. Broadway: *Meteor Shower, Present Laughter, The Little Foxes, The Humans* (Drama Desk Award), *Our Mother's Brief Affair, Blackbird, The Father, An Act of God, It's Only a Play, Airline Highway, The Other Place, I'll Eat You Last: A Chat With Sue Mengers, Outside Mullingar, Casa Valentina, The House of Blue Leaves, Brighton Beach Memoirs*, and *Broadway Bound*. Off-Broadway: *Torch Song; Napoli, Brooklyn; Yen; Prodigal Son; The Other Place* (Drama Desk nomination); *When the Rain Stops Falling* (Drama Desk; Lucille Lortel Awards). He is the founding editor of *Chance Magazine*, a serialized art book on performance and design.

**TARA RUBIN** (Casting) **LAURA SCHUTZEL, CSA** Selected Broadway: *King Kong* (upcoming), *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical, The Band's Visit, Prince of Broadway, Indecent, Bandstand, Sunset Boulevard, Miss Saigon, Dear Evan Hansen, A Bronx Tale, Cats, Falsettos, Disaster!, School of Rock, Les Misérables, The Heiress, The Phantom of the Opera, Billy Elliot, Shrek, Spamalot, ...Spelling Bee, The Producers, Mamma Mia!, Jersey Boys* Off-Broadway: *Jersey Boys, Love, Loss and What I Wore, Here Lies Love*. Selected Regional: Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, The Old Globe, Asolo Rep [www.tararubincasting.com](http://www.tararubincasting.com)



**ERIC ORT** (Assistant Director) joined **TheaterWorks** in 2016, but has been affiliated with the theater for four seasons. He opened this season directing *The Wolves* and has been assistant director for several shows, most recently *The Legend of Georgia McBride, Next To Normal* and *Midsummer*. Eric was director of theater at Miss Porter's School for six years where favorite productions included: *The Children's Hour, The House of Bernarda Alba, Metamorphoses, The Secret Garden* and *Working*. Other directing projects have included work at Brooklyn College, the Brooklyn Museum of Art and the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. Eric has taught at Brooklyn College and is currently an adjunct faculty member at The Hartt School, University of Hartford. Eric is a graduate of Brooklyn College, The University of Chicago and Vassar College. [www.ericort.com](http://www.ericort.com)

**CAITLIN SMITH RAPOPORT** (Associate Lighting Designer) is making her **TheaterWorks** debut. She is a Brooklyn based lighting designer for theater, dance, opera, art and architecture. Recent work has been seen at REDCAT, Yale Repertory Theatre, Theater Row, Ars Nova, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Theater Squared, Cape Fear Regional Theatre, Totem Pole Playhouse, Soho Rep Walker Space, The Wild Project, Stonybrook Opera, Columbia University, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Yale School of Drama, and on tour in Europe and the US with Wakka Wakka Puppet Theater's *MADE IN CHINA*. BA UMASS Amherst, MFA Yale School of Drama. [caitlinsmithrapoport.com](http://caitlinsmithrapoport.com)



# 18/19

the renovation season

## **THE RIVER**

by Jez Butterworth

October 4 - November 11

## **A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2**

by Lucas Hnath

January 18 - February 24

## **FULLY COMMITTED**

by Becky Mode

March 21 - April 2

## **ACTUALLY**

by Anna Ziegler

May 23 - June 23

## **TBA**

July 25 - August 25



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Photo by Erik Williams



**JOEL ABBOTT** (Associate Sound Designer) is making his **TheaterWorks** debut. He has designed and assisted on shows on Broadway and at Long Wharf, Barrington Stage, McCarter Theatre Center, Roundabout, Bay Street Theatre, Playhouse On Park, Yale Rep, St. Michael's Playhouse, Vermont Stage, and Manhattan Theatre Club. His television music has been heard on *The Vampire Diaries*, *Southern Charm*, and *Pawn Stars*. He is originally from Atlanta, Georgia, and he received his MFA from the Yale School of Drama.

**BRIDGET SULLIVAN** (Production Manager) is enjoying her third season with **TheaterWorks**. Her experience includes production and project management, as well as many years in the world of props. Head of production for the Weston Playhouse Theatre Company in Vermont for 7 years, Bridget's past work also includes managing celebrity concerts at North Shore Music Theatre and Project Manager for Barbizon Lighting Company. Highlights of her props and management credits also include City Theatre Company in Pittsburgh and the Santa Fe Opera. Bridget also supported Capital Community College's new theatre major as adjunct faculty last semester. She is a proud graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, VA., Bridget has a BA in Theatre Arts and hails from Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

**KATE J. CUDWORTH** (Stage Manager) has enjoyed four seasons and 29 productions with **TheaterWorks** including *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, *Constellations*, *The Wolves*, *Fade*, *Next to Normal*, *Sunset Baby*, *Relativity*, *Midsummer*, *Woody Sez* and *Becoming Dr. Ruth*. Off-Broadway: *Freud's Last Session*, [title of show]. NY/Regional: Barrington Stage Company (8 seasons including *Freud's Last Session*; *Dr. Ruth*, *All The Way*; Joe Iconis' *The Black Suits*), Atlantic Stage Company, Hartford Stage, Manhattan School of Music (4 seasons), Yale Opera, York Theatre Company, Bronx Opera Company, Fringe NYC, NYMF.

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Sincere Lawson

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Sophia DeLeo

Holly Hill

Lydia Pettigrew

Melanie Phaelnuf

Katie Walsh

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Michael DiMauro

Alexandra Lenihan

Alec Montgomery

Adam Pilat

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Michael Staffa

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