



Prisoner of Tehran

The Keynote for this performance is Marina Nemat speaking her story from her best seller book “Prisoner of Tehran”. The work is a spoken memoir within a landscape of movement with MOTUS O dance theatre followed by a Q & A with the audience.

MARINA NEMAT:

Marina Nemat was born in 1965 in Tehran, Iran. After the Islamic Revolution of 1979, she was arrested at the age of sixteen and spent more than two years in Evin, a political prison in Tehran, where she was tortured and came very close to execution. She came to Canada in 1991 and has called it home ever since. Her memoir of her life in Iran, *Prisoner of Tehran*, was published in Canada by Penguin Canada in 2007, has been published in 28 other countries, and has been an international bestseller. In 2007, Marina received the inaugural Human Dignity Award from the European Parliament, and in 2008, she received the prestigious Grinzane Prize in Italy. In 2008/2009, she was an Aurea Fellow at University of Toronto’s Massey College, where she wrote her second book, *After Tehran: A Life Reclaimed*, which was published by Penguin Canada in 2010. Marina regularly speaks at high schools, universities, and conferences around the world and sits on the Board of Directors at CCVT (Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture) and on advisory boards at ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture) and PEN Canada.

MOTUS O dance theatre:

Under the artistic direction of James and Cynthia Croker and Jack Langenhuizen, **MOTUS O** creates and performs works that bring magic, honesty and passion into communities of all sizes. With seventeen original creations to date, they’re an inventive and entertaining company that engages audiences of all ages wherever they perform. **MOTUS O** has been touring Canada, the USA, England and Australia since 1990 offering high-caliber, accessible performances and workshops for children and adults.

Prisoner of Tehran is a spectacular piece – perfect in length, message and delivery. There is enough historical context given in the opening video montage to set the scene after which Nemat’s own voice takes over. The dance is by turns athletic and nuanced as the four artists wind around Nemat’s words and her physical body. The narration, the movement, and the spaces between the two create a powerfully emotional experience for the audience. The piece is simply spectacular.

~ Kate Kostandoff

Head of Library

Bur Oak Secondary School, Markham Ontario Canada

260 Second St, Stouffville, Ontario Canada L4A 1B9

Phone: 905-640-8647

Email: motuso@sympatico.ca

www.motuso.com