

DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA, THEATRE, DANCE AND FASHION

Chair	Meghan E. Healey
Head of the Acting Program	Claudia Feldstein
Associate Chair and	Edisa Weeks
Director of Undergraduate Dance	
Director of Graduate Dance	Yin Mei Critchell
and International Programs	
Director of Fashion and	Emily Ripley
Design Program	
Administrative Assistant	Christina Stahl
College Assistant	Orit Zilka
Production Manager	Ralph Carhart

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UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Ride The Cyclone

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Brooke Maxwell and Jacob Richmond
Directed by Galia Backal

The Goldstein Theatre
March 27-April 6, 2025

The Student Choreography Showcase
Directed by Edisa Weeks

The Goldstein Theatre
May 8-11, 2025

The Department of Drama, Theatre, Dance and Fashion provides a comprehensive study of the liberal arts, balanced with rigorous training in both the theoretical and experiential aspects of each discipline. The Department presents a wide variety of productions including comedies, classic and modern plays, new productions, musicals, operas, and dance concerts. The goal is to foster the development of knowledgeable world citizens, while preparing students for careers as artists and educators, in addition to providing a foundation for graduate study. The program's vibrant course offerings, taught by leaders in the field, empower students to realize their unique potential and become arts professionals capable of making significant contributions to the cultural landscape and creative economies.

DONATE

If you enjoyed the performances, please support future productions by the Queens College Department of Drama, Theatre, Dance and Fashion by making a tax-deductible contribution online at www.qc.cuny.edu > **MAKE A GIFT**

Next to "designation" select "other" and write "Department of Drama, Theatre, Dance and Fashion."

If you prefer to mail a check, please make it payable to the Queens College Foundation earmarked for Drama, Theatre, Dance and Fashion, and send to:

Queens College
65-30 Kissena Boulevard
Kiely Hall - 9th Floor
Queens, NY 11367-1597

The Department of Drama, Theatre, Dance and Fashion wishes to acknowledge that our facilities are placed on the traditional homelands of the Lekawe, Matinecock, and Munsee Lenape people. We acknowledge the past, present, and future generations of Native people who care for this land as a sacred trust, and we support their efforts to bring attention to Native and Indigenous communities.

To learn more about the Lenape tribes from this region, please visit www.nanticoke-lenape.info.

To learn how to support the Native American communities residing in New York City, please visit aich.org.



THE DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA, THEATRE, DANCE AND FASHION IS PART OF THE KUPFERBERG CENTER FOR THE ARTS, QUEENS COLLEGE.



THE DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA, THEATRE, DANCE AND FASHION
AND THE QUEENS COLLEGE SCHOOL OF ARTS PRESENT

KISS

Written by **Guillermo Calderón**

TARA AHMADINEJAD
Director

AFSOON PAJOUFAR
Scenic Designer

AVERY REED
Costume Designer

JEFF GREENBERG
Lighting Designer

BEN VIGUS
Sound Designer

MICHI ZAYA
Video Designer

SAMANTHA GOLDMAN
Production Stage Manager

ANIKO SZUCS
Dramaturg

HALA ABDELGHANY
Arabic Language Coach

RALPH CARHART & ALLISON QUEEN
Production Managers

Kiss was first produced in 2014 at Schauspiel Düsseldorf in Germany. The production was directed by Guillermo Calderón, with set and costume design by Anna Sophia Röpcke, dramaturgy by Almut Wagner, and lighting design by Konstantin Sonneson. The cast was Simon Soraya (Hadeel/Andrea), Marian Kindermann (Youssif/Daniel), Gregor Löbel (Ahmed/Martin), Anna Kubin (Bana/Laura), Nadin Jaroubi (Woman/Ameera’s Sister), and Katharina Leufin / Linda Marek (Interpreter).

THE CAST

Hadeel/Andrea	Kaylie Castellanos
Youssif/Daniel	Kat Pratt
Ahmed/Martin	Kamron Tursunboev
Bana/Laura	Aleksandra Miller
Woman/Ameera’s Sister	Soraya Mahieddine
Interpreter	Kristina Gomez-Shnorhokian

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Assistant Director	Jaelle Campbell
Scenic Charge	Laura Valenti
Assistant Stage Managers	Azairea Harris Simon Lucik
Technical Director	Will Griffith
Props Supervisor	Opal Elwell
Light Board Operator	Octavio Augusto Villena Villena
Sound/Video Operator	Rubin Hashmi
Run Crew	Audrey Gabriel Gross
Wardrobe	Melissa Algoo Kasi Thompson
Graphic Design/Artwork	Alexandra Alvarez

Additional assistance provided by
the students of DRA 115, 218 and Dance 290.

Eating and drinking are prohibited in the theatre.
Smoking is forbidden everywhere in the building.
No photography or recording is permitted during the performance.

Please turn off all noisemaking devices, especially cell phones.
Texting is not allowed during the performance and may result in the patron being asked to leave the theatre.

Dramaturg’s Note

A group of friends in Damascus, Syria, gathers to watch their favorite TV show. They are young and passionate, falling in and out of love with each other as if the telenovela were their own lives. But the brutality of the Syrian civil war is the backdrop, and they cannot keep the violence and suffering outside their walls. A darker, more heartbreaking plot emerges beneath the surface of exaggerated emotions and melodramatic gestures.

A group of U.S.-based artists from around the world stages *Kiss* in Queens, New York, for a similarly diverse audience. Arabic sentences are translated into English, then perhaps into Spanish, Persian, Chinese, Hindi, or Hungarian in our minds—each translation subtly shifts the original meanings and intentions expressed by the characters.

What mediatized frameworks, implicit biases, and prior knowledge shape how these characters are represented and received in this context? What gets lost, and what new layers might be uncovered through translation? How can we, artists in the Global North, ethically tell the stories of those enduring civil wars, famine, and oppression far from us? Should we even attempt it, given how easily we may misperceive or misrepresent their experiences? *Kiss* is Chilean playwright Guillermo Calderón’s thought-provoking exploration of this dilemma. The play brings attention to the brutal civil war in Syria to compel the global artistic community to take on these challenges.

Syria, a formerly colonized French territory, has been a battleground for many empires, most recently Russia and the U.S. The long-ruling dictator, Bashar al-Assad, was ousted in December 2024. Weeks and months of celebrations followed as Syrians who had endured harsh oppression in recent years embraced their newfound freedom, while millions of displaced individuals began their return home. After decades of violence and destruction, rebuilding this once-majestic historical nation will require a global effort. Through the production *Kiss*, we encourage our audiences to follow and support Syria’s transformation into a more democratic and equitable nation in the 21st century.

You can support Syrians in returning to their homeland and rebuilding their country through the following organization:
Hand in Hand for Syria.

—Aniko Szucs