

# پارسیان

THE

# PERSIANS

## کمدی راجح به جنگ

a comedy about war

## با پنج هنگ

with five songs

**"Brilliant."**

*New York Times*

**"Wrenching."**

*Time Out New York*

**"Relentlessly entertaining."**

*Village Voice*



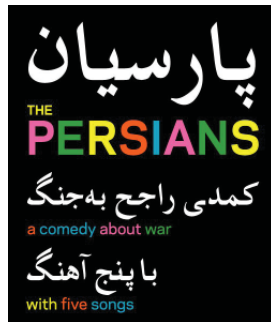


# Waterwell

2007 Culture Awards (NY Mag)  
*One Of The Best New Musicals*

2007 Drama Desk Nominee  
*Outstanding Direction Of A Play*

2006 NY IT Award Nominee  
*Outstanding Production Of A Musical*  
*Outstanding Original Music*  
*Outstanding Choreography*



# The Persians...

a comedy about war with five songs

"Brilliant, original and inspired. Alive enough to surprise even the performers themselves."  
*New York Times*

"Dynamic, resourceful and relentlessly entertaining."  
*Village Voice*

"Wrenching. A miracle of topicality."  
*Time Out New York*

"Mesmerizing and deeply moving. It artfully stakes a claim on our collective conscience."  
*Theatermania*

"Breathtaking. Hugely entertaining and enourmously affecting."  
*NYTheatre*

"A lively and utterly engaging evening of theatre."  
*Back Stage*

"I've found out where the next generation of theatre-goers are hanging out. Catch it."  
*New York Theatre Guide*

"A gut-wrenching tour-de-force. A veritable cornucopia of American entertainment."  
*New York Theatre Wire*

"There's no way a written description can do justice to their blazing energy and inventiveness."  
*TheatreScene*





waterwell

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

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info@waterwell.org

### Ensemble

Happy Anderson  
Hanna Cheek  
Lauren Cregor  
Rodney Gardiner  
Brian McMullen  
Arian Moayed  
Joe Morse  
Nicole Parker  
Elizabeth Payne  
Tom Ridgely  
Kevin Townley

### Board of Directors

D. Andrew Criss  
Mason Granger  
Peter March  
Arian Moayed  
Lynn Peterson  
Tom Ridgely  
Anne Mollegen Smith  
Maria Somma  
Shanta Thake

### Advisory Board

Ali Farahnakian  
Kathryn Grody  
Wynn Handman  
Tony Kushner  
Tracy Letts  
Charles Mee  
Omar Metwally  
Mandy Patinkin  
Daniel Stern

**Waterwell** (creator) Waterwell is a New York-based company of artists dedicated to the collaborative creation of new works for the theatre. It was founded in 2002 and since then has created eight original plays, two cabarets and a staged reading. Its continually evolving body of work encompasses original plays, adaptations of classic texts, solo shows and performance pieces. For each venture the actors, writers, directors, composers, musicians and designers work collectively to build the piece from the ground up. The *Village Voice* has called them, "Dynamic, resourceful and relentlessly entertaining." And *TheaterScene* says, "There's no way a written description can do justice to their blazing energy and inventiveness." Using a combination of research, improvisation and source texts, the ensemble devises each drop over the course of an extended rehearsal period. The resulting mixture of drama and vaudeville uses music and comedy as access points to address larger issues of power, class and race. The *New York Times* hails the work as, "Brilliant, original and inspired. Alive enough to surprise even the performers themselves," and *Theatermania* writes, "Waterwell has artfully staked a claim on our collective conscience."

**Hanna Cheek** (Atossa) With Waterwell, Hanna has devised and performed in *Chill & Serve*, *Sweetness & Light*, *The Persians... a comedy about war with five songs*, *Marco Millions (based on lies)* and *The/King/Operetta*. With The Pumpkin Pie Show: *Junta High* (PS122), *Cardiac Shadow* (PS122), *Saint Hanna...* (The Kraine Theater), *Ringside Seats* (Belt Theatre), *Rise Perverts Rise* (Red Room), *Big Top* (Red Room) and *The Birds and the Bees* (Red Room). Other NYC Credits: *The Amulet* (78th Street Lab), *First You're Born* (Playwrights Horizon) and *Broken Boughs* (Blue Heron Arts Center). London credits: *Lady Macbeth* (Bridge Lane Theatre). TV credits: *The West Wing*, *Titus* and MTV's *Undressed*.

**Lauren Cregor** (composer/musical director) is a composer, singer and piano player. As a composer, she works with award-winning SettonSun Productions, SYREN Modern Dance, and has collaborated with Waterwell on *Fuenteovejuna*, *Stuck*, *Sweetness & Light*, *The Persians... a comedy about war with five songs* (NY IT Nomination), *Marco Millions (based on lies)* and *The/King/Operetta*. As a singer/songwriter, she performs regularly with her band at such venues as Joe's Pub, Knitting Factory and Fez. Her music was showcased last year's Midwest Music Summit. Her second album, *No Time For Shy* (Ten Good Records), won rave reviews from many, including New York's own WFUV-FM. [www.laurencregor.com](http://www.laurencregor.com)

**Rodney Gardiner** (Darius) With Waterwell, Rodney Gardiner has devised and performed in *Stuck*, *Chill & Serve*, *Sweetness & Light*, *The Persians... a comedy about war with five songs*, *Marco Millions (based on lies)* and *The/King/Operetta*. He has performed his "Episodes in Blue", a portion of *Chill & Serve*, at the Lower East Side Festival, The GAWK II Festival and high schools around the tri-state area. Other NYC credits: *Pennsylvtucky* and *Watbanaland* (Epiphany Theatre Company). Regional credits: *Master Harold... and the Boys* (GableStage), *Man of La Mancha* and *Cymbeline* (Utah Shakespearean Festival). He also spent six years with The Colored Boy Crew doing guerilla theatre in Miami's inner city, performing in jailhouses, hospitals, rehab facilities, and street corners.

**Arian Moayed** (Xerxes) NYC: Charles Mee's *Queens Blvd.* (Signature), *Masked*(DR2), *American Pilot*(MTC, dir. Lynne Meadow), Jeff Daniels' *Apartment 3A*, *Kite Runner*(dir. Wynn Handman), *Paradise, Again and Against*(New Georges) and *Homebody/Kabul*(BAM). Regional Credits: *Homebody/Kabul*(Steppenwolf), *As You Like It* and *Othello*(Utah Shakespearean Festival) TV: *MONY*(Series Regular, dir. Spike Lee) , all the *Law & Order's*, *Six Degrees*, and *Late Nite with Conan O'Brien*. Films: *Arranged*(upcoming), *The Christians* (upcoming), *Philiene Says Sorry* and *Church Story*. He also reads for NPR's Selected Shorts. Arian also is a Waterwell co-founder, he has acted/direct/devised *In On It*, *Lost in Yemen*, *Fuenteovejuna*, *Chill & Serve*, *Sweetness & Light*, *The Persians...*, *Marco Millions (based on lies)* and *The/King/Operetta*.

**Tom Ridgely** (Herald) is a Waterwell co-founder and has directed *Life In Pink*, *Sweetness & Light*, *The Persians...a comedy about war with five songs*, *Marco Millions (based on lies)* [Drama Desk Nomination, Outstanding Director] and *The/King/Operetta*. Other NYC credits: *The Apple Sisters* (Gatewood, Johnson & Lowe) at the PIT; *The Play About The Coach* (Paden Fallis) at the Tank; and *Paradigm* (Rob Reese) at Gotham City. Also for Waterwell: *Choo! Choo!*(actor/writer), *In On It*(actor), *Lost in Yemen; or the Bizarre Bazaar* (actor/writer), *Fuenteovejuna*(actor/writer), and *Stuck*(actor/writer). Regional: *Twelfth Night* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park); *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *Li'l Red* and *Oh, Jack!*(Little Apple Theater Co.); and *Those Funny Little People* (Chicago, IL).

**Kevin Townley** (director) With Waterwell, has written/acted in *Marco Millions (based on lies)* and *The/King/Operetta* and directed the remount of *The Persians...a comedy about war with five songs*. He recently played the high school incarnation of Eddie Izzard's character, Prof. Bedlam, in Ivan Reitman's *My Super Ex-Girlfriend*. Recent credits include *Shockheaded Peter*(Playwrights Horizons) and John "Lypsinka" Epperson's *My Deah*(Abingdon). He has performed his one person show, 'Let's Get Lost: Amelia Earhart Sings the Blues' at Joe's Pub and Ars Nova. Kevin also sings in the band Electric Fiction: [www.electricfiction.com](http://www.electricfiction.com)



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## BEHIND THE SCENES

### Staff

Arian Moayed	Artistic Director
Tom Ridgely	Executive Director
Stacey Boggs	Lighting Supervisor
Jon Dimond	Press Representative, <i>O &amp; M Co.</i>
Elizabeth Valentina	Legal Counsel, <i>Jenner &amp; Block</i>

### Board Of Directors

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Nicole Parker  
Elizabeth Payne  
Tom Ridgely  
Kevin Townley

D. Andrew Criss	Account Manager, <i>SmartTix</i>
Jeff Devine	Assistant Vice President, <i>Axis Capital</i>
Mason Granger	Producer, <i>Broadway and Off-Broadway</i>
Peter March	Senior Experience Design Specialist, <i>Molecular</i>
Sarah Martin	Program Director of Production, <i>Adelphi University</i>
Arian Moayed	Artistic Director, <i>Waterwell</i>
Lynn Peterson	Co-Director, <i>SYREN Modern Dance</i>
Tom Ridgely	Executive Director, <i>Waterwell</i>
Anne Mollegen Smith	Principal, <i>Qwerty Communications</i>
Maria Somma	Spokesperson, <i>Actors Equity Association</i>
Shanta Thake	Associate Director, <i>Joe's Pub at the Public Theater</i>

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Daniel Stern

### Advisory Board

Ali Farahnakian	Winner, <i>Writers Guild Award</i>
Kathryn Grody	Winner, <i>Obie Award</i>
Wynn Handman	Winner, <i>Obie &amp; Lortel Awards</i>
Tony Kushner	Winner, <i>Pulitzer Prize, Tony Award</i>
Tracey Letts	Finalist, <i>Pulitzer Prize</i>
Charles Mee	Winner, <i>Obie Awards</i>
Omar Metwally	Nominee, <i>Tony Award</i>
Mandy Patinkin	Winner, <i>Tony &amp; Emmy Awards</i>
Daniel Stern	Actor, <i>Breaking Away, Home Alone, etc.</i>