

Publicists: KUKER & LEE PR

Sandra Kuker-Franco: sjkukerpr@gmail.com 310.652.7222 or

Anita Lee: anitaleeagain@gmail.com 818-416-1628



For Immediate Release:



I ♥ MAROC

Written and Performed by Azo Safo

Developed with and Directed by Jessica Lynn Johnson

Los Angeles, CA (July 15, 2021) In the **World Premiere *I Heart Maroc*** Azo Safo introduces us to the lives of rural Moroccans who she worked with as a twenty-four-year-old Peace Corps volunteer during the height of the Bush Administration's war on Iraq. On the quest to find her life's purpose with the wide-eyed, innocent hope of changing the world, she is thrust into a culture she has to figure out using her Armenian-American immigrant sensibilities. Beginning with learning the Berber language that she is told she is too "Kesoula" to learn she must navigate anti-American sentiment and win over ALL the villagers while nurturing a budding romance with her Moroccan true love, Mohammed. Will she get through her two-year service in one piece, or will she obey her Armenian immigrant mother's wishes and move back to Glendale to marry an Armenian dentist?

Azo Safo's **World Premiere *I Heart Maroc***, is directed and developed by Jessica Lynn Johnson and opens in The **Hollywood Fringe Festival 2021** at the **Broadwater Theatre Black Box (6320 Santa Monica Blvd, 90038)** on Friday, August 6th at 7:30 p.m. With shows Sunday, August 15th at 3 p.m. and Sunday, August 22nd at 10:30 p.m. The performances will be a hybrid with both in person audiences (following LA County and CDC Covid protocols) and Livestream which can be viewed from anywhere in the world.

Tickets go on sale Friday, July 16th at <https://www.hollywoodfringe.org/projects/7091?tab=tickets>.

Azo Safo is an Armenian-American actor, writer and director who first started acting at the tender age of six and quickly realized her love for creating funny characters. Azo has worked both in film and theater. Her solo show, **I HEART MAROC**, was featured at the **Soaring Solo Salon** showcase in January 2021 and will make its World Premiere at the 2021 Hollywood Fringe Festival. Her show is an intimate look into her life and experiences as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco. Azo also served as Artistic Director of Play Club West for two years, where she worked to promote and support BIPOC and LGBTQIA artists. As an immigrant, Azo is also passionate about promoting cultural exchange and incorporates cultural themes in her plays. Her plays also explore themes of companionship, loneliness, overcoming obstacles, and finding one's purpose in life. As a playwright and actor, she has been featured in the Support Women Artists Now (SWAN) festival, which champions female identifying artists. In 2018, Azo co-wrote and directed the thriller/horror film, **PICTURE PERFECT**, for the 48 Hour Film Festival.

Jessica Lynn Johnson (Director and Developer) is a published playwright, recipient of Best National Solo Artist Award, Advisory Board Member of the LA Women's Theatre Festival, and Founder & CEO of Soaring Solo LLC. Jessica has aided in the development of over 150 solo shows (and is still going strong)! As a performer, Jessica has “edu-tained” international audiences touring her own one person shows *ZE* and *Oblivious To Everyone* for over 15 years. Jessica's projects have taken home awards such as Top Of Fringe, Hff Encore Producer Awards, Tvolution Best Solo Performance, Larry Cornwall Award For Musical Excellence & several other accolades! Jessica was also nominated for the Female Director of Distinction in Theatre by Girl Trip LLC at the 2018 Hollywood Fringe Festival. www.SoaringSoloStudios.com

Calendar Listing:

I ♥ MAROC

Written and Performed by Azo Safo

Developed with and Directed by Jessica Lynn Johnson

In the **World Premiere *I Heart Maroc*** Azo Safo introduces us to the lives of rural Moroccans who she worked with as a twenty-four-year-old Peace Corps volunteer during the height of the Bush Administration's war on Iraq. On the quest to find her life's purpose with the wide-eyed, innocent hope of changing the world, she is thrust into a culture she has to figure out using her Armenian-American immigrant sensibilities. Beginning with learning the Berber language that she is told she is too “Kesoula” to learn she must navigate anti-American sentiment and win over ALL the villagers while nurturing a budding romance with her Moroccan true love, Mohammed. Will she get through her two-year service in one piece, or will she obey her Armenian immigrant mother's wishes and move back to Glendale to marry an Armenian dentist?

Dates:

Fri, Aug 06, 2021: 7:30 pm

Sun, Aug 15, 2021: 3:00 pm

Sun, Aug 22, 2021: 10:30 pm

Where:

The performances will be a hybrid with both in person audiences (following LA County and CDC Covid protocols) and Livestream which can be viewed from anywhere in the world.

Broadwater Theatre Black Box
6320 Santa Monica Blvd.
Hollywood, CA 90038

Tickets go on sale 7/16: <https://www.hollywoodfringe.org/users/67319?tab=shows>