ROUGH DRAFT FESTIVAL

belongs to LPAC

laguardiaperformingarts.org
A window into the creative process, The Rough Draft Festival is a showcase of exciting new work currently under development by LPAC and other companies. All RD events are about the process and thus followed by interactive Q&A sessions.
**RD International**
For Opening Night and World Theater Day, RD International features a panel hosted by Roberta Levitow (co-founder of Theatre Without Borders) and will stream International festival makers via SKYPE into the conversation to discuss their festivals.

**RD in Production**
The result of a long-term residency, RD in Production is a finished piece that has been developed and work-shopped on the LPAC stages.

**Red Wednesday** by Built for Collapse

**RD Lab**
The RD LAB is dedicated to artist/companies who have been rewarded with shorter LPAC residencies.

**Speak!** by Natalie Birriel,
**Could You Please Look into the Camera?** by Mohammad Al Attar.
**The eMANcipation Proclamation of GoGo Gadget**, Alberto Dennis
RD New Play Development
Two LAB resident playwrights debut new work.
Naveen Bahar Choudhury
Sarah Sakaan

RD Reading
Inja o Oonja by Matthew Spangler
GUN COUNTRY by Houses on the Moon Theater Company
Grey Skies by J Carlos Arenado
The Strangest by Betty Shamieh

RD Workshop
“Art Imitates Life” Workshop
by Hala Alyan
“Writing Race and Religion” Workshop
by Rehana Mirza
Workshop by Alberto Denis
Workshop by Ping Chong & Company

For more info on these programs and ticketing details for the Rough Draft Festival go to laguardiaperformingarts.org.
This event in conjunction with World Theater Day aims to establish a greater understanding of international theater. This year Rough Draft focuses on the theater festivals abroad. A panel hosted by Roberta Levitow (co-founder of Theatre Without Borders) will bring festival makers via SKYPE into the conversation to discuss their festivals.
Against the brutality of time and politics, RED Wednesday seeks to rescue and redefine our civilization’s legacy. Confessions of unrest, reformation, decadence, and loss conspire to provide conclusive evidence of the glamor of an era that is dying and the valor of a new age that is emerging. Inspired by the controversial story of Sadegh Ghotbzadeh, Iran’s Foreign Minister during the 1979 hostage crisis, and written by his great-niece, the production pays special attention to those left to clean up the mess when we blow each other up.
Sat, March 28, @ 7:30pm
Little Theater
Speak!

by Natalie Birriel
Directed by Andreas Robertz

Have you ever experienced that moment in life when something holds you back from saying what you really, truly wanted to say? For some, it’s fear that holds them back, for others it’s a language barrier, for me it was stuttering. In Speak!, not only do you get to bare witness to the journey of a stutter trying to find her voice, but you also get to
Could you Please look into the Camera? by Mohammad Al Attar is based on testimonies by detainees of the Syrian regime in the early stages of the revolution. In doing this piece we ask: how do we perform testimony? What is our responsibility to remember in a world where war becomes
Midway through Camus’s classic *The Stranger*, an unnamed Arab is killed. Leaping from this moment and working backwards through possible histories of tangled romance, ethnic conflict, and random violence, playwright Betty Shamieh has crafted a new play inspired by this unknown character. Infused with elements of Middle Eastern oral storytelling traditions, *The Strangest* is an absurdist murder mystery about three Algerian brothers who vie for the love of the same woman. Their bitter rivalry ends with one brother being inexplicably gunned down by a French stranger.

Q & A with Betty Shamieh moderated by Marvin Carlson, The Sidney E. Cohn Distinguished Professor of Theatre, Comparative Literature and Middle Eastern Studies.
Tue, March 31,  
@ 7:00 pm  
Little Theater  
Rough Draft Open Mic

The evening will include performances by poets and spoken word artists within LaGuardia Community College, as well as a select number of diverse, accomplished poets from the greater New York community. The theme of this year’s series is Art in Muslim societies, and poetry will encompass a range of empowering and creative voices.

**Hala Alyan**, Curator of the Fringe Verses Open Mic Series was awarded the 2013 Arab-American Book Award in poetry.

**Art Imitates Life Workshop**  
by Hala Alyan  
@ 5:00 pm  
Little Theater
Grey Skies

Written by J Carlos Arenado
Directed by Stefanie Sertich

When tragedy occurs, a Pakistan family is thrown into disarray as they attempt to keep their dreams from spiraling away. Grey Skies tells the story of Bilal and Fahkira as they try to raise a family while living under the dual terror of American suspicions and drone strikes.

The Art of Hijab, Kohl Black and the Right Way to Pray

Written by Sarah Sakaan

Inspired by Sakaan’s upbringing in the Bible Belt of America and an online cache of religious and beauty tutorials for the Muslim woman, this play explores feminism, freedom and oppression in Islam through multi-media and live performance.
Joseph, a Bangladeshi American college freshman, falls in love with his dormmate, Lee, a closeted Southerner from a conservative family. While he encourages Lee to come out about his sexual orientation, Joseph has secrets of his own that threaten their relationship. An exploration of homosexuality within Muslim culture, pre-9/11 Islamophobia, and the intersection of multiple identities.

Wed, Apr 1 & Thu, Apr 2, @ 5:30pm
“Writing Race and Religion” with Rehana Mirza
Inja o Oonja, by Matthew Spangler, is an adaptation of stories about Iranian immigration to the United States. The play explores the multi-sited nature of “home” within an Iranian immigrant community. The stories adapted here include: Jasmin Darznik’s “Masquerade” and Persis Karim’s “Something to Pray For.”

Q & A with Persis Karim following the reading.
Fri, Apr 3, @ 8 pm
Little Theater
Gun Country
By Houses on the Moon

An evening of true stories told by people whose lives have been touched by guns AND “1000 words” (working title) a new play about an English professor and one of her students, whose provocative writing leads her to believe he may have been involved in her own son’s murder.
The 2015 Rough Draft Festival is presented in conjunction with the “Beyond Sacred” year. LaGuardia Performing Arts Center (LPAC) presents an interdisciplinary artistic and academic program entitled Beyond Sacred: Unthinking Muslim Identity for the entirety of its’ 2014-15 season. The goal of “Beyond Sacred” is to create a cohesive cultural program that illuminates life experiences of culturally identified Muslims in 21st century, post 9/11 New York City, and results in greater understanding among Muslim and non-Muslim communities in NYC.

@lpaconthemap
#BeyondSacred