

THE TANK 


**ONLY PLACE
I BELONG**

A New Queer Folk Musical!

written by

M. CAN YASAR

directed by

COLEMAN RAY CLARK

AUGUST 3 & 4, 2022

**312 W 36TH ST, 1ST FL, NEW YORK, NY 10018
212.563.6269 | WWW.THETANKNYC.ORG**

ONLY PLACE I BELONG

CREATIVE TEAM

M. Can Yasar.....Writer & Composer
Coleman Ray Clark.....Director
Maddie Milligan.....Producer
Nathanael Myers.....Choreographer
Brant Zheng.....Production Stage Manager
June Adams-Pallais.....Costume Designer
Eric Cheung.....Scenic and Prop Designer
Allison Newcombe.....Lighting Designer
Blake Ortiz-Goldberg.....Sound Designer
Daniel Shevlin.....Music Arrangement

CAST

M. Can Yasar.....Can
Randell Benford.....Arda & others
Danny Bryck*.....Dad, Francis, Joe & others
Artemis Zara Gültekin.....Reva & others
Devi Peot.....Sister, Nicole & others
Mercedes Riegé.....Mom & others
Daniel Shevlin*.....Lui & others

*These Actors are appearing courtesy of Actors Equity Association. Equity approved showcase.

BAND

Craig Long.....Piano/Conductor
Brian Cudina.....Drums
Artemis Zara Gültekin.....Violin
Daniel Shevlin.....Cello

Run Time: 1 hour 50 minutes, no intermission
Setting: New York City/Ankara, Turkey/on the road



A NOTE FROM M. CAN YASAR

When I was 21, I left Turkey out of necessity to begin a journey to live my most authentic life. The start of that journey led me to New York City, where I performed my first solo show, a play I started as my graduate school thesis. That experience altered my life. I grew to understand the importance of the stories I share for immigrant Muslim people. We are not alone. We have a place in the American theater.

Flash forward to now. In *ONLY PLACE I BELONG*, I've combined my catalog of indie-folk music with stories from growing up in Turkey and moving to New York City. It's a search for belonging, love, and wholeness split between two homelands.

Alongside an incredible team of fellow artists, this experience is one I will not soon forget. Everyone you see in this program made sacrifices to share my stories with you, and without them, I wouldn't be here. It's a special thing to work on theater in this way with artists you love. It rarely comes in an artist's life, and even less frequently for immigrant artists like me. I hope to open your awareness of that tonight.

Thank you,
Can

Content Warning: There is a story being told about a seven-year-old getting circumcised.

Please note: All the characters in this production are fictitious representations of real life.

FEATURING



**M. CAN
YASAR**



**RANDELL
BENFORD**



**DANNY
BRYCK***



**ARTEMIS ZARA
GÜLTEKIN**



**DEVI
PEOT**



**MERCEDES
RIEGÉ**



**DANIEL
SHEVLIN***

M. CAN YASAR (*writer, composer, Can*) is an actor, playwright, and songwriter from Ankara, Turkey. As a solo performer his plays include Smoke Point (Interrobang!/? New Works Festival, The Brick Theater) as a part of , A Hundred Dollar Bill (United Solo Show Festival, Theatre Row) which won the Best Autobiographical Show award, and A Hundred Dollar Bill (New Works Series at TADA Theatre). Most recently he debuted some of his original music at Don't Tell Mama directed by Lennie Watts.

RANDELL BENFORD (*Arda & others*) is a current student of the Boston Conservatory, and a recent graduate of Interlochen Center for the arts. He would like to thank his family and mostly his dog teddy @randellbenford.

DANNY BRYCK* (*Dad, Francis, Joe & others*) is an actor, playwright, and dialect coach. Select theatre: Be the Death of Me (The Civilians), Next Fall (Stomping Ground Theatre), Just Outside the Door (Broadway Bound Festival), Chill (Merrimack Repertory Theatre), The Cherry Orchard (Actors' Shakespeare Project), RENT (New Repertory Theatre), The Donkey Show (A.R.T.). dannybryck.com.

ARTEMIS ZARA GÜLTEKIN (*Reva & others, violin*) (she/her) is a Turkish actor, singer, dancer, and theatremaker based in New York. She is currently majoring in Drama in New York University (Playwrights Horizons Theatre School, Stonestreet Studios, The Classical Studio). Notable credits: Tales from the Other Country (Playwrights Downtown); Ghost Quartet (Playwrights Downtown).

DEVI PEOT (*Sister, Nicole & others*) is an Atlanta native who is honored to be a part of this cast! Regional Credits: BHANGIN' IT: A BHANGIN New Musical (La Jolla Playhouse)! Love to Take 3 Talent, the fam, and the creative /production team! OUMT.

MERCEDES RIEGÉ (*Mom & others*) is thrilled to be making her NYC debut in a musical! Born and raised in Rosario, Argentina, Mercedes played Veronica Sawyer in Heathers: The Musical (Teatro Broadway); Summer in School of Rock (Teatro Broadway). She moved to the city, attended AMDA's Conservatory of Musical Theatre, and graduated last May. www.mercedesriege.com.

DANIEL SHEVLIN* (*Lui & others, cello/music arrangement*) has made a multi-skilled career as an actor, singer, and cellist living in New York City. Most notably, he is the cellist of Well-Strung, the singing string quartet. He has performed in various venues across the globe and have been seen on "The Today Show", "The Amazing Race" and "Watch What Happens Live!" He has also appeared Off-broadway in "The Sandbox" (written and directed by Edward Albee), has toured the U.S. and Asia in productions of "Cabaret" and "Rent", and has worked regionally both as an actor and cellist in many theaters including the Arvada Center (CO), the Maltz-Jupiter Theater, Riverside Theater (FL), and Mason Street Warehouse (MI), to name a few.

CRAIG LONG (*piano/conductor*) is a New York based musician and actor. He holds a BFA in Acting from Marymount Manhattan College and is studying classical technique with pianist Jarred Dunn. Always thanks to my parents, my sisters, and Keith.

BRIAN CUDINA (*drummer*) is your typical former sportscaster turned theatermaker. He is a drummer, lyricist, writer and performer living in Brooklyn (as of 1 month ago). He has been drumming in various musicals around his home state New Jersey, and is thrilled to help bring back live theater to a NY stage.

BRANT ZHENG (*production stage manager*) is a current drama student at NYU Tisch. He was previously ASM/Wardrobe Tech for the off-broadway musical *Here There Be Dragons* (dir. Austin Harleson), and SM for studio productions of *The Wolves* (dir. Malika Samuel) and *Earth and Sky* (dir. Shanga Parker). He is extremely grateful for this opportunity!

COLEMAN RAY CLARK (*director*) loves developing new plays and musicals. Recent directing includes *PAPA* (New Hazlett Theater), *Blue Marble: Or The Owen Play* and *Bare: A Pop Opera* (The What Co.), *Waze* (Playdate Theatre), and *Parade* (The 24 Hour Plays: Viral Monologues). He's had the pleasure to work with Can on multiple iterations of *A Hundred Dollar Bill* and *Master of Time*. Alumn of the Manhattan Theatre Club Jonathan Alper Directing Fellowship. Graduate of Marymount Manhattan College.

NATHANAEL MYERS (*choreographer*) is an interdisciplinary creator from the wild west. Earning a BFA in Studio Art from the University of Arizona, his time as a company member of *Artifact Dance Project* and *Artistic Fellowship* with *Dickie's* and *COLLAB Innovation Lab* forged a passion for site-specific choreography, installation, and stained glass.

JUNE ADAMS-PALLAIS (*costume design*) is a seamstress and visual artist born and raised in Hell's Kitchen. She's inspired by old school New York, women over 50, and her mom. She's grateful to be working with such a talented, beautiful cast of people to help create the world of OPIB.

ERIC CHEUNG (*scenic and prop design*) is thrilled to be working on another production directed by Coleman after

working together on *BARE In The Church*. So excited to collaborate with Can and the amazing cast and creative team to bring this awesome piece of theatre to life!

ALLISON NEWCOMBE (*lighting design*) is a New York-based lighting designer for theatre, dance and architecture. She earned her MFA at the University of South Carolina, where she met and worked with Can Yasar on multiple film and theatre projects including *Eurydice*, and *Waiting for Godot*. She is thrilled to be teaming up with Can again in the big apple.

BLAKE ORTIZ-GOLDBERG (*sound design*) does sound for live events and documentary film shoots. He also makes music under the name *Blaketheman1000*. His music has been featured in *Rolling Stone*, *Office Magazine*, *Artnet*, and *The Daily Beast*.

MADDIE MILLIGAN (*producer*) is a producer and nonprofit administrator. Co-founder of artistic residency, *The Aris Project*, she is now the Individual Giving Associate at *Playwrights Horizons*. New York producing credits include *Decky Does a Bronco* (*Royal Family Performing Arts Space*) and *A Night of New Works* (*The Aris Project, Playwrights Downtown*). Alumn of UNCSA.

THE WHAT CO. (*producer*) is a collaborative artist-based theater-making collective founded in 2018 by Coleman Ray Clark and Bailey Lee. Past projects include the 2019 sold-out site-specific production of *Bare: A Pop Opera* (St. John's Lutheran Church), *PAPA* by Bailey Lee (New Hazlett Theater), *Blue Marble: Or The Owen Play* by Chris Holtkamp, Bailey Lee, and Coleman Ray Clark (Fayetteville, Arkansas), and *Prairie* by Cricket Brown and Bailey Lee (Lincoln Center Education). @thewhatco & www.thewhatco.org.

THIS PROJECT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY

David Alderman, Enes Can Arslan, Frank Auletta, Frances Bendert, Frank Berry, Fatih Celebi, Ben & Christine Clark, Michael Delaney, Timothy Douglas, Robert Dutiel, Morganne Evans, Benjamin Goldstein, Rosalind Grush, Brooke Haney, Paul Harness, Sean Leehan, Alyssa Morales, Lisa Morales, Meagan Morales, Susan Neuffer, Glen Proebstel, Raymond & Dianne Raphael, Phil Reno, Marcia Roney, Nazil Sarpkaya, Will Suhrbur, Julien Toum, Bugra Yasar, Tugba Yasar, Di Zhu, and many anonymous supporters.

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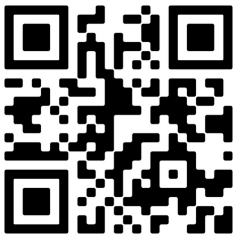
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SPECIAL CREDITS

Production photos by Grace Copeland @gcope.nyc
Rehearsed at A.R.T/NY Studios
Sound Equipment rented from Gotham Sound

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If you'd like to support this production even further, give a gift today to directly help our artists and creative team.



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