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UHM's Department of Theatre and Dance Presents *The Butterfly*

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Butterfly (Traci Oya) is entranced by Fly's (Joanna Mills) performance in Kennedy Theatre's Primetime production of *The Butterfly*, opening Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m.
photo: Chesley Cannon

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"The Butterfly" takes flight in Earle Ernst Lab Theatre

Persian fairytale kicks off Kennedy's 2015/16 Season

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Department of Theatre and Dance is proud to present Bijan Mofid's play *The Butterfly*, directed by MFA Directing candidate Maseeh Ganjali, in the Earle Ernst Lab Theatre. Public performances

will take place Sep. 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m., and Sep. 20 at 2:00 p.m.; a free post-show rap will be held with the cast and director on Friday, Sep. 18.

In this delicate Persian fantasy set in the insect world, *Butterfly* (played by Traci Oya) becomes trapped in a dark barn and gets entangled in the web of Spider (Sharon R. Garcia Doyle). Fearing for her life, *Butterfly* strikes a deal with Spider: let her go, and she'll lure other insects into the web in her place. This promise sends *Butterfly* on a journey, where she encounters Grasshopper (Angie Anderson), the Cockroach Children (Kelsey Faamasuli and Susan Bowyer), Auntie Cockroach (Jocelyn Ishihara), Lighting Bug (Joanna Mills), Bee (Taylor Purvis), and Fly (Joanna Mills). On this journey, the *Butterfly* realizes the worth of others and gains a new perspective of beauty, freedom, and the true meaning of sacrifice.

Ganjali, last seen in Kennedy Theatre's award winning production of "La`ieikawai," has high hopes for *Butterfly*. He states, "I chose this Iranian children's play for its beautiful message. It speaks to all people, regardless of age, background, or location." Throughout his artistic career, Ganjali has directed and performed in other Persian plays and created photography exhibitions with his images from Iran. However, this particular production comes at an important time. "With my art, I provide a perspective into a different place, a perspective that is rarely available and accessible here," shares Ganjali, "My goal is to create communication and understanding between the people of different cultures, people who have been separated by political difference and cultural distinctions. The aim of this production is to present a people who are often misrepresented and to understand a people who are oft misunderstood."

Tickets to *The Butterfly* go on sale beginning Sep. 14 and may be purchased online at www.etickethawaii.com, by phone at (808) 944-2697, at official outlets, and at the Kennedy Theatre Box Office during sale periods only.

EVENT:

The Butterfly Adapted by Bijan Mofid and translated by Don Laffoon

PRESENTED BY:

UHM Department of Theatre and Dance

WHEN:

Sep. 18* and 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Sep. 20 at 2:00 p.m.

* Free post-show rap with the director and cast

WHERE:

UHM's Earle Ernst Lab Theatre
1770 East-West Road, Honolulu

TICKET PRICES:

\$18 general admission

\$16 seniors / military / UH faculty and staff

\$13 students

\$8 UHM students with validated Fall 2015 UHM photo ID

Ticket prices include all service fees.

PURCHASE INFO:

Tickets are available, starting Sep. 14, online at etickethawaii.com, by phone at (808) 944-2697, at participating outlets, and at the Kennedy Theatre box office; the box office is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday during show weeks, with extended hours on performance dates.

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