

# VICTORY?



Juliette Caton & Raza Jaffrey

Rick Friend's controversial musical, *Victory?* deals with the Arab-Israeli conflict. Friend directed *Victory?* as a workshop charity performance, at the Donmar Warehouse Theatre in 2004, with actors Juliette Caton, (leading actress in the Cameron Mackintosh musical *Martin Guerre* and Martin Scorsese's film *The Last Temptation of Christ*), Raza Jaffrey (leading actor of *Bombay Dreams* and BBC's *Spooks* and *Mistresses*) and Bertie Carvel (leading actor in the Donmar's *Parade*). The Musical Director was Andy Smith of *We Will Rock You* and *The Lion King*. *Victory?* was produced by Production Friend, with producer Daniella Gonella of DG Productions.

## Synopsis

When English dancer Gina travels to the United Arab Emirates, she meets Ahmed, a disenfranchised Palestinian exile. Six months later, her work takes her to Israel where she meets Uri, an Israeli writer. Gina finds that she is not only caught in the middle of a complex love triangle, but also an enormous political divide where her allegiances are tested to the limit.

## Background

*Victory?* was conceived in October 2003. The book was written around research material and songs that Rick Friend had composed - a couple with musicians Denise Marsa and Robert Bond. He then wrote new songs and the book, with additional material devised by the cast in rehearsal. David Watts, who has worked at the RSC and for Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber in the West End, was brought in to do the vocal score arrangements. 12 weeks after its conception, *Victory?* was performed at the Donmar Warehouse.

The action takes place in Abu Dhabi, Jerusalem and Ramallah on the West Bank, between 2001 and 2002.

In the 1980's Rick Friend, who is himself Jewish, performed for three months, as a young singer, for Palestinians in the United Arab Emirates...

**Victory? - World Premiere**

First Performance - Donmar Warehouse Theatre, London  
4th January 2004

**Cast**

*Gina* - Juliette Caton  
*Ahmed* - Raza Jaffrey  
*Uri* - Bertie Carvel

**Credits**

*Writer/Director/Composer* - Rick Friend  
*Producer* - Daniella Gonella  
*Co-Producer* - Rick Friend  
*Musical Director* - Andy Smith  
*Assistant Musical Director* - Elliott Ware  
*Vocal Score Arrangements* - David Watts

**Management**

*(For Donmar Warehouse)* - Collette McEntree, Ruth Close  
*Lighting* - Stuart Craine (Donmar Warehouse)  
*Master Carpenter & Props* - PJ (Donmar Warehouse)  
*Stage Manager* - Julia Slienger  
*Assistant Stage Manager* - Sharon Sooker  
*Sound Engineer* - Chris Braclik  
*Wardrobe* - Sarah Sharp

**Band**

*Piano* - Andy Smith  
*Keyboards and Flute* - Elliott Ware  
*Guitar* - Hugh Davies  
*Bass* - Trevor Barry  
*Drums* - Gareth Roberts  
*Backing Vocalists* - Bekki Chana, Jodie Jacobs, Jai Ramage

All songs written by Rick Friend except:

*Victory & A Fine Line* - written by Rick Friend & Denise Marsa\*  
*Men In A Dream* - written by Rick Friend & Robert Bond

### **Charity Performance**

All profits from the first public performance at the Donmar Warehouse were dedicated to 2 charities which deal with reconciliation between Jews and Arabs: Seeds of Peace and The British Friends of Neve Shalom - Wahat al-Salam - Oasis of Peace.

*Seeds of Peace* - since 1993 has graduated over 3,500 teenagers representing 25 nations from its internationally recognized conflict resolution and co-existence program. *Seeds of Peace* works to foster negotiation skills so that the future leaders of participating nations have the tools to make their own peace. *Seeds of Peace* has received international support from governments and leaders alike, receiving the UNESCO Prize for Peace in 2001.

*Neve Shalom - Wahat al-Salam* - is the only place in Israel where Jewish and Arab families, all citizens of Israel, have chosen to live together, committed to working through problems and differences. On site there is a bi-lingual Kindergarten and Primary School for over 300 children. The out-reach educational body of the village is represented by The School for Peace providing conflict resolution programmes for Jewish and Arab youth.

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