# Arabian Theatre Houston, Texas



- This season's theme is to put on plays written by Middle Eastern playwrights.
- These plays are historically and culturally important.
- We will be creating a space for marginalized people. Also, the characters will be portrayed by Middle Eastern actors.

Title: Abydos Passion Play

Playwright: Unknown

Category: Passion Play/ Drama/ Mythology

Date: 2500 BCE to 550 BCE



### **Synopsis**

The play is about the death of the King/ God Osiris by his brother Set. Osiris is then resurrected by his wife, Isis, and his son, Horus.

### Theme & Canon

- The play was written by ancient Egyptians. It is an important part of Egyptian history, representing ancient myths and rituals.
- traditional canon. It was one of the first recorded plays in history, yet recieves little attention.

# Play#Ilmages



Title: Al-Bakhil

Playwright: Marun al-Naqqash

Category: Drama

**Date: 1847 CE** 



### <u>Synopsis</u>

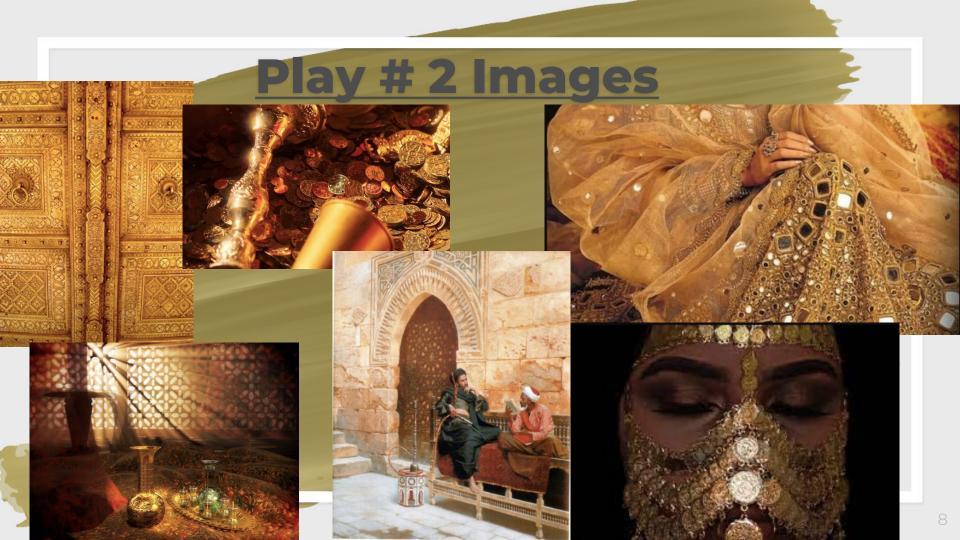
The play was based on Molière's *The* Miser. It is about a greedy Miser who competes with his son to marry a young lady for financial gain and forces his daughter to marry a wealthy man instead of the man she loves.

### <u>Theme</u>

Marun al-Naggash was one of the first Middle Eastern playwrights. -Also, Naggash and his family formed one of the first theatre troops in the Middle East, igniting the start of Arabic theatre.

#### <u>Canon</u>

This play is not a part of the traditional canon. It has recieved little attention and is not taught in schools.



Title: Madrast Al-Mushaghebeen

Playwright: Ali Salem

Category: Comedy

Date: 1973



### **Synopsis**

The play is about five students who are known for their pranks and mischievousness. The keep retaking their senior year of high school, but no teacher can put up with their behavior until one teacher tries a different approach.

### **Theme**

Ali Salem is a famous
Egyptian
playwright.
This is one of the most
popular plays in Middle
Eastern
culture.

#### **Canon**

- This play is not a part of the traditional canon. Although it is one of the most famous plays in the Middle East, it has received little attention in the west.

Play # 3 Images









Title: Mais el Reem (The Deer's Meadow)

Playwright: Rahbani Brothers (Assi Rahbani &

Mansour Rahbani)

Category: Musical

Date: 1975



### <u>Synopsis</u>

- The play is about a girl, Zayoun, whose car breaks down on the way to her cousins wedding. The only mechanic there is having problems with his fiancé and Zayoun attempts to help but matters quickly escalate.

### **Theme**

- The Rahbani brothers are Lebanese playwrights and composers who revolutionized Arab musicals and music.

### Canon

- This play is not a part of the traditional canon. The Rahbani brothers are well know in the Middle East and are a big part of Arab culture but have received little attention in the west.

