Halal House is a story about three Arab women, a mother and two sisters, who have escaped violence their entire life and struggle to move forward as a family. When Mariam, who had broken away from her family years ago, ends up fleeing her abusive partner, she attempts to reconcile and make things right at home. Together again, the women explore what it means to be Arab women in America, what it means to be free, and what it means to heal.

"HALAL HOUSE is a perennial story, but one that is rarely met with the grace of being listened to. It is a story of Muslim women holding each other, lifting each other, moving forward with one another in a world where they must always prove their humanity. Depictions of Muslim and Arab women in media often subscribe to a violent binary of ‘victim or terrorist’; this play is unabashedly a story of the real women whose identities are taken and skewed into caricatures for a xenophobic white audience. This is a story about me, my mother, my sisters, my fellow Muslim women, bound together by faith and the shared experience of simply existing in our bodies. This is not a story of ‘voiceless’ people – this is a story about a population who have consistently and explicitly been silenced. I hope for this production to be a space in which Muslim and Arab people feel no pressure to prove anything - because we do not need to prove our humanity to deserve it in return." –Ahlaam Moledina, Director.

characters

MARIAM (MA-ree-em) - 23 years old, Arab-American, hijabi, reverted Muslim.

JENNIAH (jeh-NYE-uh) - 27 years old, former hijabi, practicing Muslim. Mariam’s sister.

MAHMOUD (maH- MOOD) - 10 years old, their brother. Played by the same actor as AHMAD.

MINNA (MEE-na) - 50 years old, mother to Mariam, Mahmoud and Jenniah, devout Muslim.

AHMAD (aH-med) - 9-10 years old, their neighbor, a nuisance.

AISHA (’AY-sha) - 9-10 years old, Mariam’s student, Ahmad’s crush.

IBLIS (ib-LEES) - 40 year old man, will play multiple characters (Stranger, Father, Adam).
As noted in the descriptions, two actors will play multiple characters.

This is a play which centers Arabs and Muslims. As such, we would love to extend an invitation to people who belong or have proximity to either or both of these groups to audition - even if you are not a theater major, or have no acting experience. Proximity to the subject matter is experience enough.

This is a play which centers people from underrepresented groups. As such, we enthusiastically encourage Black and Brown people, members of the LGBTQ community, and FGLI people to audition, as well as any person from any background which has been historically excluded from such processes. We invite gender non-confirming, genderqueer, nonbinary, and transgender people to audition for any role you feel drawn to.