PRESS RELEASE

**Thinkery and Verse
(New York, USA)
Bride of the Gulf
by J M Meyer**

New York City ensemble Thinkery and Verse presents Bride of the Gulf, a new play dedicated to the resilience of life in Basra, Iraq, and based upon a transnational collaboration with artists from Iraq's largest port city. Amid the violence that followed the British withdrawal from Basra in 2007, a sharp-witted Iraqi woman goes in search of her missing husband at the behest of her mother-in-law.

Bride of the Gulf began as a short play created for the Basra to Boston Project and the Fort Pointe Theatre Channel, and drew on transnational conversations, as well as the playwright's memories of Iraq in 2007 as a US soldier. Using the short play as a starting point, the ensemble then collaborated with Iraqi poet and painter **Elham Al Zabaedy**, and incorporated her ironic, religious perspective into the play's outlook to a create an original full-length play, *Bride of the Gulf*. American composer Sean Ullmer then collaborated with Iraqi composer **Kais Ouda** to score the show. When creating the play, **Thinkery and Verse** drew on transnational conversations that took place during our ongoing artistic process, but also on the playwright's memories of Iraq in 2007: the translators, the journalists, Iraqi citizens, the incoming fire, the kidnappings, the reunions, the violence—and the resiliency of the world's oldest civilisation.

With surprising humour and hard-earned insight, *Bride of the Gulf* explores what the invasion of Iraq felt like from the perspective of the people of Basra. Though it draws on the same theatrical vocabulary as plays like *Black Watch*, it provides a necessary corrective to the Western perspective. This is what transnational collaboration looks like at its best: well-informed, courageous, risk-taking, and profoundly theatrical.

www.thinkery-and-verse.weebly.com

Notes to Editors
The **Thinkery and Verse** creative ensemble draws on recent graduates from one of the top acting conservatoires in the world: the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. As a publicly funded university, the ensembles created at Rutgers are enriched by students from a wide variety of economic and ethnic backgrounds, enabling it to smash the barriers to working-class artists in a time of retrenched economic divisions. The creative team, including **Karen Alvarado**, **Abishek Nair**, **Jahsiah Musig**, and **Camila Cano-Flavia**, spent two years learning the Stanislavskian techniques of Sanford Meisner, and developing an ensemble-based approach to creating physical new work. They then moved to London to study Early Modern performance techniques with celebrated acting teacher Simon Dormandy at Shakespeare's Globe.
Playwright **J M Meyer** became the first playwright to make the long-list for the Dylan Thomas Prize in 2010, and now offers a play set in Iraq in 2007, a setting which coincides with his second deployment as a United States Army airborne ranger.

Listings Information
Venue	**C** cubed, Brodie's Close, Lawnmarket, EH1 2PS, venue 50
Dates	2-27 Aug (not 14)
Time	15:10 (1hr00)
Ticket prices	£9.50-£11.50 / concessions £7.50-£9.50 / under 18s £5.50-£7.50
C venues box office	0131 581 5555 / www.**C**theFestival.com
Fringe box office	0131 226 0000 / www.edfringe.com

venue 50
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For further information, images and interview availability please contact John Meyer at Thinkery and Verse on 07960 210811 / johnnyMmeyer@yahoo.com
or the **C** venues press office on 0131 581 5550 / press@cvenues.com