

A man and a woman are seated at a bar. The woman on the left is wearing a white, off-the-shoulder, lace-trimmed top and has her hair styled in a large, colorful, braided updo. She is holding a wine glass. The man on the right is wearing a denim jacket over a yellow shirt and is leaning on the bar with his arm. He is also holding a wine glass. In the background, a glowing neon sign in a circle reads "DIDO'S Bar". The scene is lit with warm, reddish-orange light.

DIDO'S  
*Bar*

#DidosBar

# WELCOME TO DIDO'S BAR

Dido's Bar is inspired by my encounter with the Kurdish Iranian musician **Marouf Majidi** in 2017 in Helsinki. The story of his flight and attempt to find a place where he might belong in Europe was so compelling that I needed to find a way to tell it.

And so fast forward through a few years of research and dead ends, I recalled the Aeneid, the tale of Aeneas, a refugee of Troy who travels across the Mediterranean to Italy, written in Latin more than 2000 years ago. With the recollection, I had a eureka moment – this was how we'd tell Marouf's story – mapping the old epic tale of Gods, wars and mortals on top of Marouf's own musical journey west, searching for a place he might continue his career. I found the playwright **Hattie Naylor**, our wonderful fellow collaborator, and we set off together into the world of Dido's Bar.

It is one of the privileges of my life to be dreaming this project into a reality, working with such a fabulous team, and to have the show's generous composer at the heart of the rehearsal process and live with us on stage for every show. Dido's Bar has become a home for our wonderful family of artists, creative and production teams, and I hope that it will feel like home for you too.

***Josephine Burton***

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## SONG LIST

### **Act 1**

Smoky Nights | Love Me Always  
100 Moons | Blue Green Birdy  
Sour Cherries | Look No More  
Love Spell | Goddess of Marriage  
Panic Boats

### **Act 2**

Smoky Nights (reprise) |  
The Light and Youth | Queen of Another Land  
A New Beginning | The Moon Had A Lover  
I Know This Heart | Oi Maani This Is My Land  
The Rivers and The Tides

# CAST

## PRISCILLE GRACE AS VENUS



Priscille is a French actress and singer who graduated from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (BA Acting-Musical Theatre). She came to London after having studied classical music in the conservatoire of Paris for 10 years as well as Theatre In English at the Bilingual acting workshop. Previous work includes Original Cast of Reputation at the Other Palace and Singer in Gospel Touch International.

## GEORGINA WHITE AS JUNO



Georgina trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Credits include Madeleine in *The Beauty Parade* (Wales Millennium Centre), Circe in *Hansel and Gretel* (Rose Kingston), Morgana Le Fay in *The Sword in the Stone* (New Wolsey Theatre), Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Theatr Clwyd), Sister George in *Forever Young* (Nottingham Playhouse), Rosalind in *As You Like It* and Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Stafford Gatehouse Theatre).

## LOLA MAY AS DIDO AND MARCO



Credits include *The Southbury Child* (Chichester Festival Theatre/The Bridge Theatre); *Hymns and Caskets* (Belgrade Theatre/ Shoot Festival); *Here's What She Said to Me* (Utopia Theatre UK Tour); *Three Sisters* (The National Theatre); *1991* (Africa Utopia Festival/The Southbank Centre); *Water Bread Salt* (Tangle UK Tour) and *#Haters* (Odd Eyes Theatre UK Tour). Her one-woman show includes *The Therapy Chronicles* at The Bread & Roses Theatre.

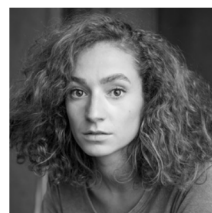
# CAST

## LAHCEN RAZZOUGUI AS AENEAS



Lahcen is a French-Moroccan actor who has been acting for more than 20 years between London, Paris and Casablanca with many directors such as Wajdi Mouawad, Lucien Bourjeily, Tarek Iskander, Poppy Burton-morgan, Ghassan El Hakim, Fida Mohissen and recently with Bruno Bernardin & Khadija El Mehdi. Razzougui has also worked for French television and cinema and in 2014, he directed his first short film entitled Mussar.

## GEMMA BARNETT AS MATINA



Gemma is a theatre maker/actor/writer based in London. Her piece 'The Front Desk' won the 'Poetry for Good' prize and was featured on BBC Woman's Hour. She was a winning finalist of BBC Words First in 2021. Credits include A Hundred Words for Snow (Trafalgar Studios/winner Office Best Actress); Dr. Korczack's Example (Leeds Playhouse); Lola (VAULT Festival); Salty Irina (The Yard Theatre); Goggles (Pleasance Edinburgh).

## TUUKKA LEPPÄNEN AS TURNUS



Tuukka has been working in Helsinki City Theatre's ensemble since 2005. Credits include Bert in Mary Poppins, Figero in Wicked, Juri Zhivago in Doctor Zhivago (and Daniel Daréus in As it is in Heaven). The latest production, still ongoing, is Once, where he's playing the role of Guy, both in Swedish and Finnish. He's releasing a Swedish speaking album "En Morgon Vid Havet" as a soloist with composer Maija Kaunismaa in October.

# INTERVAL ACTS

Dido's Bar will feature locally connected music talent during the interval. Artists include: Akin Soul, Briana Williams, Chloe Armstrong, Don Kipper ft Dunja Botic and Tim Karp, Nayana, Nomadic Libaax, Skye Francis and Tim Wall.

# BAND

## BEN SUTCLIFFE MD ON VIOLIN, GUITAR, PIANO, VOCALS



Ben is a music director, composer and performer for a number of theatre companies including Kneehigh Theatre, the Minack Theatre, Rogue Theatre, O-Region and Owdyado Theatre. He is also a member of Stiltskin Children's Theatre in Devon. Ben is the co-founder, violinist and singer for the urban-roots project "The People's String Foundation" which tours internationally as a Duo, a festival band and an Orchestra.

## SIMON EDWARDS ON ELECTRIC BASS, DOUBLE BASS, SYNTH, VOCALS



After moving to London from Bristol in the 1980's, Simon played in many Rock, Folk and Jazz bands and his love of World Music led him to playing Salsa with Roberto Pla and North African bass on the soundtracks to Casino Royale and The Naked Lunch. As a founder member of Fairground Attraction, they had a number 1 single and album and won 2 Brit awards. He recorded 2 albums with Talk Talk, and has had continual session and touring work with artists such as Billy Bragg, David Gray, Brian Eno, Roy Orbison, Ray Davies, and many others.

## PHILIP WILLIAMS ON DRUMS, PERCUSSION, ELECTRICS, VOCALS



Philip studied at the Royal Northern College of Music, where he studied with Dave Hassell and graduated with a BMus (Hons) in Popular Music Performance in 2018. Since then, he has gigged extensively throughout the UK and internationally as a freelance drummer and percussionist. Previous theatre productions include Anyone Can Whistle (Southwark Playhouse), RENT (Hope Mill Theatre), RAGS The Musical, Pippin and Yank! (Aria Entertainment and Hope Mill Theatre); other credits include Bonnie & Clyde (Arts Theatre), Club Tropicana The Musical (UK Tour 2019) and Little Miss Sunshine (UK Tour 2019); and many others

# CREATORS

## JOSEPHINE BURTON DIRECTOR



Josephine is an artist and director of over 80 new pieces of award-winning cross-art-form work nationally and internationally over the last 18 years. Recent highlights include *The Great Middlemarch Mystery*, part of Coventry City of Culture, creation and direction of *Dash Arts Dacha*, *Dash Euroquat* and *Dash Arts Forum* (Dash Arts' unique immersive installation and performance spaces), new work with Hofesh Shechter and Olivier-Award-winning *Babel* by Sidi Larbi Cherkooui; the installation *Lyrical Alliance*, an ensemble of rappers from across the Arabic speaking region and *Renegade Orchestra* with an ensemble of musicians and performers from across the Post-Soviet States. She is co-founder and Artistic Director of *Dash Arts*, a music adviser for PRS Foundation and a professional vocalist.

## MAROUF MAJIDI COMPOSER & BAND MEMBER



Marouf is a Persian classical musician and composer. He studied Persian Classical music at the Tehran Sureh University in 2000 and Turkish Folk Music in Isparta, Turkey. After seeking asylum and settling in Finland, Marouf attained a BA in Finnish Folk Music from the Sibelius Academy, Helsinki and went on to study Turkish Folk Music at Codarts Rotterdam University of the Arts, returning to Helsinki to attain a Masters in Global Music from the Sibelius Academy. He is an accomplished Kurdish *Tanbur*, Persian *Tar* and guitar player. As a composer, musician, and singer his work combines and crosses cultural influences from all over the world. His recent project *Marouf* has roots in Middle Eastern tradition but is inspired by the Scandinavian Jazz influence of his new homeland.

## HATTIE NAYLOR WRITER



Playwright and Librettist Hattie's credits include *The Night Watch* (Manchester Royal Exchange) and *Going Dark* with *Sound&Fury* (Fuel/Young Vic). *Ivan and the Dogs* (Soho Theatre/ATC) was nominated in the Olivier Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre and won the Tinniswood Award in 2010. Her work as a librettist includes *Picard in Space* with Will Gregory (Goldfrapp) for Southbank 2012 and BBC Radio 3. She has written extensively for BBC Radio 4 including *The Aeneid*, nominated for Best Radio Adaptation, BBC Audio awards 2013. Hattie studied Fine Art at the Slade School of Art specialising in sound and performance and is a Senior Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University.

# CREATIVES & PRODUCTION

Concept and Direction **Josephine Burton**  
Writer **Hattie Naylor**  
Composer **Marouf Majidi**  
Sound Design/ Arrangement/ Co-Composition  
**Riku Kantola**  
Music Director **Ben Sutcliffe**  
Sound Designer **Sebastian Frost**  
Set and Costume Designer **Bryan Woltjen**  
Lighting Designer **Peter Small**  
Movement Director **Ayse Tashkiran**  
Fight Director **Natalia Bogdanova**  
Producer **Charlie Bunker**  
Production Manager **Andy Reader**  
Company Manager **Nicola Donithorn**  
Deputy Stage Manager **Fodhla O'Brien**  
Technical Stage Manager **Vicki Cox**  
Assistant Director **Xinxi Du**  
Costume Supervisor **Lucy Howarth**  
Wardrobe Assistant **Firdest Karaca**  
Penguin Media Technical Team **Sonny  
Evans, Dan Balaam**  
Production Electrician **James Smellie**  
Voice Coach **Lucy Potterton**  
Venue Managers **Emma Cameron & Tom  
Brocklehurst**

Front of House Manager **Bobby Wilkinson**  
Front of House Hosts **Hugo Crick-Furman,  
Vikesh Godwani**  
**Valeriya Miller, Nikhita Nistala,  
Shannon Reed-Martin & Xinyou Zhang**  
Husk Bar Staff **Marta Van der Vyver,  
Christian Van Der Vyver, George  
James, Mike Pickering & James  
Anthony**  
Dido's Travelling Bar designed by **Manuel Di  
Francesco**  
Graphic Design **Jane Showell & Natalie  
Sired**  
BSL Interpreters **Deborah McLeod &  
Hyacinth Powell**  
Set and Costume Assistant **Isabel Nouchi**  
MA Placement (Music) **Calum Sherriff**  
MA Placement (Design) **Scott Payne**  
Community Programme Producers **Emma  
Cameron, Cristina Catalina**  
Associate Producer **Gabby Vautier**  
Set construction **Set Blue Scenery,  
Richard Hackney, Joe Iredale**  
Additional Scenic Art **Rah Petherbridge**  
Technical Equipment Provider **Penguin  
Media Solutions**

# DASH ARTS

Artistic Director and Chief Executive **Josephine Burton**

Producer **Cristina Catalina**

General Manager **Veronica Revuelta Garrido**

Head of Development **Emma Warren-Thomas**

Head of Marketing Communications **Jane Showell**

Marketing Assistant **Natalie Sired**

Podcast Producer **Rachael Head**

# ROYAL DOCKS TEAM

Head of Cultural Programme and Partnerships **Kate Anderson**

Creative Programmer **Sarah Barrow**

Creative Producer **Alex Jamieson**

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS & CHAMPIONS:

Community Links, Britannia Village / West Silvertown Foundation and Joanna Dong.

# WITH THANKS TO:

The Royal Docks Team, imPOSSIBLE Producing, Penguin Media Solutions, Husk Brewery, Projekt, The Factory, Tate & Lyle, Mammoth Productions, Luke Bannister, Meidän Festivaali and Global Art Point



Dido's Bar is co-produced with the Royal Docks Team, OCM (Oxford Contemporary Music), and Journeys Festival International and co-commissioned by OCM, with additional support from Arts Council England, Backstage Trust, The Foyle Foundation, Projekt, Cockayne – Grants for the Arts, The London Community Foundation, Genesis Foundation, Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland, The Marchus Trust, TINFO – Theatre Info Finland, Austin and Hope Pilkington, Royal Victoria Hall Foundation, The Leche Trust and individual donors.

Dido's Bar is produced by **Dash Arts** with **imPOSSIBLE Producing**.

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You will also be able to visit Dido's Bar in  
Manchester 11-12 Oct  
Leicester 18-19 Oct  
Portsmouth 22-23 Oct  
Oxford 27-29 Oct

FIND OUT MORE  
[DASHARTS.ORG.UK](http://DASHARTS.ORG.UK)



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**THE MARCHUS TRUST**




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