



Omar Offendum's **Little Syria** - September 24<sup>th</sup> 2022



**SUBLETSERIES@HERE**

# SUBLET SERIES @HERE

#HERE @HEREARTS



## Welcome!

Thank you for coming to Omar Offendum's production of *Little Syria* a SubletSeries presentation. This program provides artists with discounted space and equipment, as well as technical support.

HERE also supports the work of artists at all stages in their careers through our HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP), which develops and produces the work of our 10 resident artists, and Visiting Artist presentations for adult and family audiences. Please check out our other performances and events at [HERE.org](http://HERE.org).

Like all the work at HERE, this SubletSeries presentation was curated based on the strength and uniqueness of the artist's vision.

We hope to see you HERE again soon.

Best,

*Kristin*

**KRISTIN MARTING**

Founding Artistic Director

## ALSO AT HERE

HARP

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NOW – OCT 1

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PLAY TO ESCAPE

NOW – OCT 29

HEREart

ARTFUL POST

NOW – OCT 29

### HERE SUPPORT

HERE is extremely grateful for the support and encouragement of an important group of Foundations, Corporations, Government Agencies, Elected Officials, and dedicated individuals. We would not be HERE without them.

### GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

HERE'S programming is made possible with Public Funds from: National Endowment for the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the New York State Legislature; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, Office of the Mayor of New York, and Speaker Corey Johnson; The Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer; and New York State Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick. We are extremely grateful for the support and advocacy of all of our dedicated elected officials: Senator Charles E. Schumer, Senator Kirsten R. Gillibrand, Representative Jerrold L. Nadler, Mayor Eric Adams, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and the Cultural Affairs Committee of the City Council, and State Senator Brad M. Hoylman.

### PRIVATE AND CORPORATE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

Alliance of Resident Theatres/ New York, Axe-Houghton Foundation, Booth Ferris Foundation, Edison Properties, Fund for the City of New York, Howard Gilman Foundation, Jerome Foundation, Inc., Jim Henson Foundation, Joseph and Joan Cullman, Foundation for the Arts, Leon Levy Foundation, mediaThe Foundation, Mental Insight Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, Select Equity Group, Inc., The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Barbara Bell Cumming Charitable Trust, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Scherman Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Venturous Theater Fund of the Tides Foundation, and the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

HERE, in partnership with Resident Playwright Taylor Mac, is a participant in the Mellon Foundation's National Playwright Residency Program administered in partnership with HowlRound. HERE is a proud member of the Hudson Sq Connection & Lower Manhattan Arts League & The National Opera America Center & TCG.

## About the Show

Dearly Beloved,

We are gathered here today to celebrate the wellspring of diasporic inspiration provided by the late 19th / early 20th century immigrants from Bilad Al-Sham — Syria/Palestine/Lebanon/Jordan—who called this Lower West Side neighborhood of Manhattan home.

There, down on Washington Street between Rector & Albany, thousands of Arabic-speaking Levantine women & men settled for well over 50 years—including poets, peddlers, priests, musicians, newspaper publishers, coffee shop owners, cigarette rollers, shisha smokers, shawarma slicers, falafel fryers, pistachio pushers, baklava bakers, barbers, butchers, bankers, belly dancers, textile weavers, doctors, lawyers, importers, exporters, hustlers & dreamers—all coming together to lay the foundation for Arab-American life as we know it. It is our hope that this show not only honors our elders, but also gives our young people a chance to feel rooted, seen and proud . . .

For as my Shami mama would often say, a “Little Syria” can go a really long way.

Sinsyrianly,  
Omar Offendum

## About the Creators : **Omar Offendum**



## About the Creators : **Omar Offendum**

**Omar Offendum** (creator and performer) is a Syrian-American rapper, poet & wor(l)d-builder. Known for his unique blend of Hip-Hop & Arabic poetry, he's been featured on prominent world news outlets (Aljazeera, BBC, PBS, LA Times), lectured at a number of prestigious academic institutions (Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Northwestern, UT-Austin, UCLA, SOAS, American University of Beirut), collaborated with major museums & cultural organizations (LACMA / Penn Museum / Ithra / Shangri-La / Arab-American National Museum), and helped raise millions of dollars for various humanitarian relief groups (Islamic Relief, Karam Foundation, Syrian-American Medical Society).

Offendum was recently named a Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow, an Arab America Foundation "40 Under 40" award recipient, and a member of both the Pillars Fund cohort for Muslim Narrative Change & the RaceForward Butterfly Lab cohort for Immigrant Narrative Strategy. He currently resides in the great state of New York with his wife & two little children, while daydreaming about the jasmine tree-lined streets of Damascus.

Follow @offendum

## About the Creators : **Ronnie Malley**



## About the Creators : **Ronnie Malley**

**Ronnie Malley** (performer) is a Palestinian-American multi-instrumentalist musician, actor, composer, sound designer, producer, playwright, and educator. Recent theatre credits include: Scenes From 73 Years sound design (Medina Theatre Collective), The Shroudmaker musician (Medina Theatre Collective), The Band's Visit actor/musician/Arabic dialect coach (North American Tour), American Griot co-author/composer (MVCC/Silk Road Rising | Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Award 2020), Macbeth Hecate/musician (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), Great Expectations composer/sound designer (Silk Road Rising/Remy Bumppo | Jeff Nominated for Best Original Music), Ziryab, The Songbird Of Andalusia author/solo performer (Silk Road Rising), The Jungle Book musician/consultant (Goodman, Huntington Theatres), The White Snake co-composer/musician (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), The Sultan's Dilemma actor/composer/associate producer (International Voices Project), Arabian Nights musician (Goodman, Arena Stage, Berkeley Rep Theatres).

Ronnie has a BA in Global Music Studies from DePaul University and is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Linguistics at the University of Chicago. He is a teaching artist with Chicago Public Schools, an artist researcher with Chicago Arts Partnership in Education, and a guest lecturer at universities. Ronnie is an international artist and has performed with the music groups Allos Musica, Apollo's Fire, Diwan Al-Han, EMME, Lamajamal, Mucca Pazza, Newberry Consort, Surabhi Ensemble, the Toronto Chamber Choir, and the University of Chicago Middle East Music Ensemble. Ronnie is a member of Actors Equity Association and the American Federation of Musicians.

Follow @ronniemalley

About the Creators : **Thanks Joey**





## About the Creators : **Ronnie Malley**

**Thanks Joey** (performer) is an LA based music producer & owner of multimedia arts label, Colours Of The Culture. Born in Brooklyn to Syrian immigrants, Joey has crafted a sound focused on integrating music from around the world. He released his first instrumental album entitled "On Beats" inspired by the works of Khalil Gibran in 2018. Joey has collaborated with and produced for many prominent figures in Hip-Hop & is currently working on his second instrumental album inspired by his grandfather's music. You can stream his songs everywhere by searching "Thanks Joey" and support Colours Of The Culture at [www.itsColours.com](http://www.itsColours.com).

Follow @thanksjoey

## Cast & Crew

Creator : **Omar Offendum**

Performers : **Omar Offendum, Ronnie Malley &**

**Thanks Joey**

Director : **Ridwan Adhami**

Producer : **Carla Troconis**

Line Producer / Production Manager : **Charlotte**

**Guerry**

Costume Designer : **Randa Eid**

Fashion Designer : **Zaid Farouki**

Production Designer : **Karin Elgai**

Assistant Costume Design : **Embla Bara**

Lighting Designer : **Tuçe Yasak**

Lighting Programmer : **Roya Abab**

Master Electrician: **Sarai Frazier**

Electricians : **Emma McManus,**

**Robin Ediger-Seto & Sarazina Stein**

Production Assistants : **Claire Hilton & Jasiel**

**Lampkin**

Audio Engineer / Mixer : **Travis Wright**

Translation Consultants : **Salma Nassar &**

**Rasha Ajalyaqeen**

This show is co-sponsored by Race Forward's Butterfly Lab, in support of building new narratives for a pro-immigrant future.