**Tahweel (Transformations): Conversations on Beirut Theatre**

Sahar Assaf, a director, activist and theatre professor at AUB; Nada Saab, a translator and professor of Arabic literature at LAU; Sany Abdul Baki, a classically trained actor, activist and drama instructor at LAU; Raffi Feghali, an activist, actor, sound designer and percussionist; and Robert Myers, a playwright and translator whose works focus on political issues and a professor at AUB, will discuss the contemporary Beirut theatre scene, especially the recently established Tahweel Ensemble Theatre.

The speakers are in New York for the world English-language premiere *The Dictator* at the Between the Seas Festival. This play by Issam Mahfouz written in 1969 tells the story of a tyrant under the illusion that he is humanity's long-awaited savior. Produced by Tahweel, this absurdist play with minimal staging echoes the present turmoil in the Middle East.

This event will include live scenes from *The Dictator* and film clips of the group’s recent Beirut productions of *The Rape*, which was staged at LAU’s Irwin Theatre, and *Rituals of Signs and Transformations*, both by Sa’dallah Wannous; *Watch Your Step*, a devised, site-specific piece about the Lebanese Civil War in Beirut’s Khandak al Ghamik neighborhood.

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**Between the Seas Festival presents: The Dictator, by Issam Mahfouz**

Thur. 9/10 at 9pm & Sat. 9/12 at 2pm, @ the Wild Project, 195 E. 3rd St.

Tickets: $20; $15 (students/seniors). For tickets visit:

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**Co-sponsored with the Lebanese American University (LAU), New York Academic Center and the American University of Beirut (AUB)**