

*Back of the Throat* by Yussef El Guindi  
Directed by Mickey Handwerger

March 6-8 and 12-15, 2009  
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday performances at 8:00PM  
First Sunday performance at 7:30PM  
Second Sunday performance at 2:00PM

Press Release

Dignity Players opens its 2009 season of plays about the psychological and spiritual impact of war on individuals and societies with *Back of the Throat* by Yussef El Guindi during which you watch a likeable, comedic, Arab-American writer become the object of a cruel interrogation at the hands of two Homeland Security officials.

The part of Khaled is played with subtle, growing anxiety by the well-known local actor Chris Haley. As an American citizen, he is asked to freely accept the infringement and embarrassment of being investigated for possible terrorist intentions due solely to his being of Arab descent. The result of his cooperation is an often humorous, yet very troubling interrogation by two Homeland Security officials played by Mark Hildebrand and Dan Kavanaugh. Drawing on interviews they had with a local librarian (played by Niji Ramunas), Khaled's ex-girlfriend (played by Becki Placella), and an exotic dancer (played by Alicia Sweeney), the two officials force Khaled to question his allegiance to the U.S. and his very innocence.

As a post-911 audience, *Back of the Throat* forces you to consider whether to accept and support the arms of the law in a time of war, or to hold steadfast to your belief in American justice where one's civil liberties are a god-given right and the principle of "innocent until proven guilty" rules the land.

Directed by Dignity Players Artistic Director Mickey Handwerger, *Back of the Throat* also stars Pete Garvey as Gamal Asfoor, the supposed mastermind of the terrorist plot, and promises to leave you questioning the true purpose of the U.S. Patriot Act and the sacrifices we all must make in the name of freedom and civil liberty.

Ticket prices: Friday and Saturday: \$20.00, Thursday and Sunday: \$15.00

Students and Seniors: \$5.00 discount for all performances.

Reservations: 410 266-3044 ext 127 or online at: [www.dignityplayers.org](http://www.dignityplayers.org)

Performances are held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, 333 Dubois Road, Annapolis, MD 21403.