

# THE KAY BOURNE ARTS REPORT

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(pictured: Megan Sandberg-Zakian)

## "1001" N.E. PREMIERE

"I knew I wanted to be a director since I was 4 years old ordering my brother around" says MEGAN SANDBERG-ZAKIAN, director of Jason Grote's production of "1001."

The Company One production at the Boston Center for the Arts retells the story of 'One Thousand and One Arabian Nights,' as well as a romance between a Jewish man and an Arabian woman. Megan shared that "1001" is a unique play with an interesting combination of a love story and social political commentary.

Although the play explores some challenging topics, as a woman who comes from an Armenian- Jewish heritage herself, Megan can relate to genocide, oppression, and human tragedies and felt gripped by the challenge of providing clarity around complex issues through her direction of "1001".

Megan joins the cast with over 10 years of overall directing experience; many of those years were spent working as an Associate Director at the Providence Black Repertory Company. Megan's goal has been to bring people together who love live music, dance, and productions. Some of

her favorite directing projects include "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" and "Harriet Jacobs" (which was also nominated for an IRNE in Best Actress and Best Ensemble categories).

Although Megan knew at a very young age that acting was not for her, she did grow up in a theatre household, with her father being an acclaimed global playwright, R.N. Sandberg. Megan recalls how growing up around her father was very informative. In 2007, Megan was able to direct a play that her father wrote, "DONE," where Megan admits, "It was rewarding to work with someone that you have unconditional love for."

Like her father, Megan is avid about the treatment of social issues on and off the stage. She is interested in diversity and the art of storytelling. "It frustrates me the way storytelling is used in oppressive ways, in media, in some narratives and even jobs." It is clear that Megan sets out to combat those dominate narratives and continues to create and stand behind "the strong narrative of people."

Megan is proud of her work to date and looks forward to challenging herself even more as she continues to learn and grow. She is often known for directing culturally specific plays and wishes there were even more opportunities not just for herself, but for her peers and other great directors around her. The key for anyone who is looking to go into theatre is, "to figure out what is exciting to you and build your life around that impulse - feed the passion through community, storytelling and connect to that energy," she says passionately.

Let's support Megan alongside a wonderful and diverse cast, as she directs this New England Premiere of "1001" presented by Company One at the Boston Center for the Arts from July 15 through AUGUST 13.

by Shani Brown