



AMIR REZA KOOHESTANI

Amir Reza Kohestani, born on June 8, 1978, in Shiraz, Iran, is one of the most celebrated contemporary Iranian theater makers and playwrights. His early passion for literature led to publishing short stories in local newspapers at the age of 16. Initially pursuing a career in cinema, he later shifted his focus to theater, where his distinctive voice and storytelling have gained international recognition.

Amir became the artistic director of Mehr Theatre Group in Tehran in 2001. His breakthrough came with *Dance on Glasses* (2001), which was lauded internationally and established him as a key figure in modern theater. This success was followed by numerous acclaimed productions, including *Recent Experiences* (2003), *Amid the Clouds* (2005), *Dry Blood & Fresh Vegetables* (2007), *Quartet: A Journey North* (2008), *Where Were You on January 8th?* (2009), and *Hearing* (2015). His works are known for their poetic narratives, nuanced critique, and exploration of personal and political themes.

Amir's contributions extend beyond directing and writing. He has conducted workshops at prominent institutions, including La Manufacture (*On Narratives and Aesthetics in Contemporary Theater*), CIFAS (2016 Workshop: *Constructing Theater from Personal Narratives*), and the International Forum at Berliner Festspiele, fostering dialogue and innovation in contemporary theater-making. These engagements reflect his dedication to nurturing creative talent and advancing the global arts community.

Amir's plays have been showcased at prestigious festivals, including the festival d'Avignon and Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Under the Radar (New York). His recent work, *Blind Runner* (2023), premiered in Brussels and has been received with critical acclaim internationally.

Amir's work continues to inspire and challenge audiences worldwide, blending the deeply personal with the universal, and offering a unique perspective on the intersection of Iranian and global contemporary theater.