

## SZDT - TOUR PRODUCTIONS

**SASHAR  
ZARIF  
DANCE  
THEATRE**



*“My creation is a reflection of the process of embracing the unity of mind, body, emotion, and spiritual being. Working in the tradition of dance, my work has been an attempt to share with others the ideas, experiences, and emotions I have witnessed within my own cultural identity and history.”*  
-Sashar Zarif

### IN THE LETTERS OF MY NAME

(20 to 75 Minutes)

*“Only wisdom and knowledge of life could have produced this powerful work...” - Paul Citron*

In The Letters of My Name was originally commissioned by Dance Ontario and was the winner of the 2006 Paula Citron Award at the Toronto International Dance Festival (formerly fFIDA), when she described; “The wellspring of the piece is the 38 letters of Zarif’s full name which constitutes six different names in three different languages – Arabic, Persian and his native Azerbaijani. In impulses of movement and text, we get impressionistic glimpses of a life turned upside down, of a young boy who survived revolution, war, and a refugee camp. Horrors are intimated, but never explained. The choreography, much of it based on real life physicality, swings between graphic emotion and whimsical surrealism. The dancer is rendered completely vulnerable, whether executing tiny baby steps, absurd in a grown man, or crying out in passionate outbursts that are almost embarrassing in their anguish. This is a work which opens up the guts of an artist and exposes the raw soul. It is dance storytelling at its best, because it raises more questions than it answers... Take a superbly expressive and charismatic dancer (Zarif), and an intellectual and seasoned choreographer (Small), and the result is a haunting portrayal of the horrors of war in the old country and the struggles of the immigrant experience in the new. This piece, with its cunning mix of text, movement and evocative sound score by acclaimed composer John Oswald is as profoundly moving as it is provocative.”

The program length can be adapted as required for presentation.

Choreographers: Sashar Zarif & Holly Small

Music: John Oswald

Original Lighting Design: Arun Srinivasan

Costume Design: Sashar Zarif

Performer: Sashar Zarif

Setup and Running Times:

- approx 6hr load in and level settings
- approx 2hr dancer rehearsal
- one hour break prior to performance
- 20 to 75min running time with intermission

General Venue Requirements:

- Minimum 18’x18’ performance area
- Minimum 12’ grid height
- Black dance floor
- White cyclorama or equivalent
- Projector setup capabilities (projector supplied by artists)
- Warm and clean dressing rooms

Lights and Sound:

- House plots and sound plots to be forwarded to SZDT asap for planning

Props/Set:

- All sets and props travel with SZDT and are free-standing, not require rigging from the grid.

Special Notes:

- Most SZDT programs can be adapted to suit the needs and realities of all venues. SZDT works closely with all interested parties to ensure the optimal performance opportunity is realized.
- SZDT promotes community engagement opportunities and welcomes using local participants to perform in larger group production.