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The Wit's End Theater Project  
presents

Philip Kreyche's

The Legend of  
**Siyâvash**

Based on the "Shâhnâme" by  
Hakim Abdul Qasim Firdusi al-Tusi

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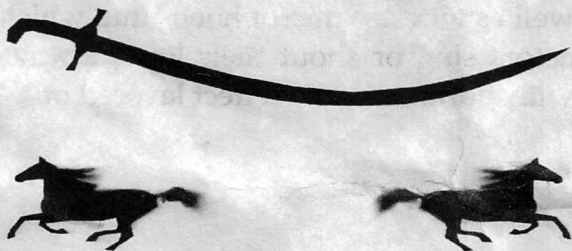
THE CAST

Kâvus, Shah of Irân	...Simon Day
Rostam, the Mighty	...Nick Edwards
Siyâvash, Prince of Persia	...Philip Kreyche
Sudabeh, Queen of Persia	
Farigis, Princess of Turân	...Nicole Barnes
Efrâsyâb, Khan of Turân	...Ryan Manning
Garsivaz, Turkish prince	...Sebastian Garcia

Directed, written, produced by  
Philip Kreyche

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The story of Siyâvash is only one of dozens which comprise the "Shâhnâmeh" or "Book of Kings," written by Firdusi (or Ferdowsi), who started the work in 977, and completed it in 1010. It is the longest poem ever written by a single man. The Shâhnâmeh is a record of Persia's pre-Muslim legends and myths, from the creation of the first man all the way to the Sassanian dynasty, which was finally destroyed by the Muslim armies in the 7th century AD. Though Irân became a thoroughly Muslim country, Persians were and are still proud of their ancient legends and traditions, and this national pride was what drove Firdusi to spend thirty three years writing these poems.

The style of this particular production is inspired in large part by traditional Iranian theater, particularly bardic storytelling (*naghali*) and passion theater (*ta'ziyeh*). The style is very big, grandiose, operatic, and stylized. When one is angry, they clench their fists and shout in the air; when one is sad, they cover their face and weep. When actors are not in the scene, they stand or sit off to one side of the stage, in full view of the audience, and drink tea or otherwise wait til their next part comes up. Unlike this play, *ta'ziyeh* performances can last for hours and hours and include actual armor, weapons, fire, and horses, as well as wireless microphones into which actors sing or shout their lines, always with a dramatic echo effect layered on.