

# TORONTOIST

*A Moment of Silence*

Nowadays Theatre

VENUE: Factory Theatre Mainspace (125 Bathurst St.)



Image courtesy Nowadays Theatre.

The Canadian premiere of a performance that has been staged globally, *A Moment of Silence* memorializes the Chain Murders of intellectuals and artists in Iran in the 1990s. The intertwined narratives of a threatened playwright, and the play within a play they create, serve as an aching elegy for lives lost to nothing more than fear of creative impulse. The internal performance tells the story of a woman who sleeps away years' worth of family drama amidst Iran's tumultuous upheavals and wars in the 1980s. The character's troubles contrast with the struggles of her creator to live a life on her own terms. The use of slowly shrinking stage space helps the poignant, looming tragedies in the blending stories feel intimate, even as they create lasting testimony to defy our apathy towards events larger than ourselves.

*Mark Kay*