
AUTHORS

Reihaneh Youzbashi Dizaji (Germany)

Reihaneh Youzbashi Dizaji was born on 3 June 1983 in Tabriz, Iran. At the age of eight she fled with her family to Germany. Having completed her theatre studies, she now lives and works in Berlin. Her experience of theatre is by no means limited to plays; her intensive educational work with young people had a major influence on her during her first few years in Berlin. Motivated by the ideas underlying the documentary film *My Paradise*, she returned to Iran after many years' absence, and this journey was the inspiration behind her first play *Stuttgart. Tehran*.

Titles

STUTTGART.TEHERAN

A young woman enjoys her memories of her childhood in paradise, and of how the world around her looked, smelled and tasted. In those days she knew nothing of the dangers threatening her parents and herself, for political opponents of the regime in Iran were being persecuted. Then came the first Gulf War. But in her grandparents' steam bath the world seemed in perfect harmony. That came to an end in the air-raid shelter.

RABBIT COUNTRY

Sara is hanging around after school. She doesn't feel like going home, because her parents will either be out, having a row, or eating awful health foods from the organic shop. Sara hates those healthy brown bagfuls – she likes

chips! Ayhan is in no hurry either, because at home he has to look after his brothers and sisters. He finds family life generally miserable, because the women always wear headscarves and his dad can't speak German. Ayhan hates always being the odd man out. And so cautiously Sara and Ayhan approach one another, and make a game out of their likes and dislikes. In the short time between the end of school and making their way home, they discover similarities as well as differences between them. They then invent a world of their own, in which they are no longer boy and girl, German and Turk, but rabbit friends in Rabbit Land. But then Sara's parents move house again, as they always do just when she's made some friends - this time it's to Berlin, a long way away. And so Ayhan is left alone in Rabbit Land - until Hamid arrives.