

TWENTY-FOUR EXITS

(A closet drama)

A theater. White noise from the speakers, white light under the curtains. They part to reveal a large, brightly lit screen.

[applause]

MALE VOICE (center): I know my entire state is looking forward to heat...*[tape cut]*

heat without humanity

[tape scrub]...heat without humidity.

[applause]

heat by steam production
commensurate with fuel-rod insertion

kept from our neighbors to the east.

[wild applause]

MALE VOICE (left): Things happen...*unnaturally*.

MALE VOICE (right): Traffic's always...*[static]*.

“Like a hot knife to butter,” the ENGINEER chirps.

[enters stage left, thumbs through a file]

“Motorcycles overheat. Gasses leak. Uranium’s a mysterious business.” *[HE exits]*

The reel begins, the audience shifts.

PICTURE START

8 7 6 5 4 3 *[beep]*

[pompous music]

On-screen: A montage. Bodies in labcoats. Flags and brass bands.

ENGINEER’S VOICE (stage left, in an echo): Majid Shahriari, Ardeshir Husseinpour, Massoud Mohammadi, Darioush Nejad.

*Wiping her brow at the heart of intelligence
the SECRETARY’s knuckles in blue.*

[cut]

*Dust blowing. Cracked dirt and shrubs.
An envelope changes hands.*

[music out]

THE MOSSAD: Go.

STUXNET: Going.

CENTRIFUGE: Whatever you say.

[wild applause]

The aisles light up. The screen goes white.

INTERMISSION

*The aisle lights flash. The audience settles.
The screen fades on, white, over one chair.*

PICTURE START

8 7 6 5 4 3 [beep]

On-screen: Int. Diner and gas station.

*[MAN in glasses & white taqiyah
enters stage left, moves center toward the chair]*

MAN (sitting): Put this in your underwear.

Three men at a table, eating.

FEMALE VOICE (right): This is JSOC to flight control.

MAN: Belligerents
who also happen

to be

U.S. citizens
do not enjoy

immunity where
non-citizen belligerents

are valid military objectives.

*On-screen: Ext. Dirt road. A Jeep weaving.
Hills and roving crosshairs.*

MALE VOICE (right): *Saba* reports

FEMALE VOICE (left): Al-Awlaki killed.

MALE VOICE (right): Two weeks later, at a cookout...

FEMALE VOICE (left): ...his 16-year-old son.

The screen pans out to frame another. A sharp tilt, then, an explosion.

FEMALE VOICE (right): Fox 2. Splash!

FEMALE VOICE (left): *Fox News* reports...

MALE VOICE (right): Abdul-Rahman...

FEMALE VOICE (left): his 21-year-old son.

[*pause, then applause, building up to a crescendo*]

MALE VOICE (right): *Saba*—

[*MAN exits*]

FEMALE VOICE (left): ...a number of his fellow [*static*]—[*applause*]. Samir Khan,
a U.S. citizen...

MALE VOICE (right): ...to *Inspire* magazine:

MALE VOICE 2 (offstage, un-mic'd): I am proud to be a traitor to America...

[*curtains*]

“...If you give Satan an inch, he’ll be a ruler.”

notes and acknowledgements

This work takes quotes from Saturday Night Live, Season 1: Episode 1, “The Impossible Truth” (Headline: Israel and Georgia Trade Places); Israeli Army Lt. General Benny Gantz; Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan; *The New York Times* article “Iran Reports Killing of Nuclear Scientist in ‘Terrorist’ Blast” (1/11/12); *The New York Times Magazine* feature “Will Israel Attack Iran?” (1/25/12); *The New York Times* article “Obama Order Sped Up Wave of Cyberattacks Against Iran” (6/1/12); *The New York Times* visual feature “How a Secret Cyberware Program Worked” (6/1/12); *The Huffington Post* article “Anti-War Movement Successfully Pushes Back Against Military Confrontation With Iran” (7/31/08); *The Washington Post* article “A ‘proud traitor’: Samir Khan reported dead alongside Aulaki [sic] (Alice Fordham, 9/30/11); Jeh Johnson (Pentagon General Council, Feb. 2012, public record); *Saba* article “US-most wanted Al-Awlaki killed in Yemen airstrike” (9/30/11); *Fox News/Associated Press* article “Al-Awlaki’s Son Among Al Qaeda Militants Killed in Yemen Air Strike” (10/15/11); *Inspire* issue II, fall 2010 interview with Samir Khan (as reported by the *Washington Post*); and from Samir Khan’s 2003 yearbook quote (as reported by the *Washington Post*).

Thank you to the editors and staffs of *Artifice Magazine* and *La Petite Zine*, for first publishing acts I and II, respectively.

Thank you to Allyson Paty and Dolan Morgan for their suggestions regarding the text.

Thank you to Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama; Secretaries of State Colin Powell, Condoleeza Rice, William Burns, Hillary Clinton, and John Kerry; Secretaries of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Robert M. Gates, Leon E. Panetta, and Chuck Hagel; Attorneys General John Ashcroft, Paul Clement, Peter Keisler, Michael Mukasey, Mark Filip, Eric Holder, and Loretta Lynch; Directors of Central Intelligence Michael V. Hayden and Leon E. Panetta; Directors of the National Security Agency Michael Hayden, Keith B. Alexander, and Michael S. Rogers; all their staffs; and the ever-growing list of U.S. Senators and Congressmen and women, without whom this work would not have been possible:

Wayne Allard
George Allen
Max Baucus
Evan Bayh
Robert Bennett
Joe Biden
Kit Bond
John Breaux
Sam Brownback
Jim Bunning
Conrad Burns
Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Maria Cantwell
Jean Carnahan
Tom Carper
Max Cleland
Hillary Clinton
Thad Cochran
Susan Collins
Larry Craig
Mike Crapo
Tom Daschle
Mike DeWine
Christopher Dodd
Pete Domenici
Byran Dorgan
John Edwards
John Ensign
Michael Enzi
Dianne Feinstein
Peter Fitzgerald
Bill Frist
Phil Gramm
Chuck Grassley

Judd Gregg
Chuck Hagel
Tom Harkin
Orrin Hatch
Jesse Helms
Ernest Hollings
Asa Hutchinson
Kay Bailey Hutchison
Jim “Shitkicker” Inhofe
Tim Johnson
John Kerry
Herb Kohl
Jon Kyl
Mary Landrieu
Joseph Lieberman
Blanche Lincoln
Trent Lott
Richard Lugar
John McCain
Mitch McConnell
Zell Miller
Frank Murkowski
Bill Nelson
Ben Nelson
Don Nickles
Harry Reid
Pat Roberts
Jay Rockefeller
Rick Santorum
Charles Schumer
Jeff Sessions
Richard Shelby
Bob Smith
Gordon Smith
Olympia Snowe
Arlen Specter
Ted Stevens
Craig Thomas
Fred Thompson
Strom Thurmond
Robert Torricelli
George Voinovich
John Warner

*

Gary Ackerman
Robert Aderholt
Todd Akin
Rob Andrews
Dick Armev
Spencer Bachus
Richard H. Baker
Cass Ballenger
James Barcia
Bob Barr
Roscoe Bartlett
Joe Barton
Charlie Bass
Ken Bentsen
Doug Bereuter
Shelley Berkley
Howard Berman
Marion Berry
Judy Biggert
Michael Bilirakis
Sanford Bishop
Rod Blagojevich
Roy Blunt
Sherwood Boehlert
John Boehner
Henry Bonilla
Mary Bono
John Boozman
Robert A. Borski, Jr.
Leonard Boswell
Rick Boucher
Allen Boyd
Kevin Brady
Henry Brown
Ed Bryant
Richard Burr
Dan Burton
Steve Buyer
Sonny Callahan
Ken Calvert
David Lee Camp
Chris Cannon
Eric Cantor
Shelly Moore Capito

Brad Carson
Michael N. Castle
Steve Chabot
Saxby Chambliss
Bob Clement
Howard Coble
Susan Collins
Larry Combest
John Cooksey
Christopher Cox
Robert E. Cramer
Phillip Crane
Ander Crenshaw
Joseph Crowley
Barbara Cubin
John Culberson
Randy “Duke” Cunningham
Jim Davis
Jo Ann Davis
Tom Davis
Nathan Deal
Tom DeLay
Jim DeMint
Peter Deutsch
Lincoln Diaz-Balart
Norman D. Dicks
Cal Dooley
John Doolittle
David Dreier
Jennifer Dunn
Chet Edwards
Vern Ehlers
Robert Ehrlich
Jo Ann Emerson
Eliot L. Engel
Phil English
Bob Etheridge
Terry Everett
Mike Ferguson
Jeff Flake
Ernie Fletcher
Mark Foley
Randy Forbes
Harold Ford

Vito Fossella
Rodney Frelinghuysen
Martin Frost
Elton Gallegly
Gret Ganske
George W. Gekas
Dick Gephardt
Jim Gibbons
Wayne Gilchrest
Paul Gillmor
Benjamin A. Gilman
Virgil Goode
Bob Goodlatte
Bart Gordon
Porter Goss
Lindsey Graham
Kay Granger
Sam Graves
Gene Green
Mark Green
James C. Greenwood
Felix Grucci
Gil Gutknecht
Ralph Hall
James V. Hansen
Jane Harman
Melissa Hart
Dennis Hastert
Doc Hastings
Robin Hayes
J.D. Hayworth
Joel Hefley
Wally Herger
Baron Hill
Van Hilleary
Dave Hobson
Joseph M. Hoeffel
Peter Hoekstra
Tim Holden
Steve Horn
Steny Hoyer
Kenny Hulshof
Duncan Hunter
Henry Hyde

Johnny Isakson
Steve Israel
Darrell Issa
Ernest Istook
William J. Jefferson
William L. Jenkins
Christopher John
Nancy Johnson
Timothy V. Johnson
Sam Johnson
Walter B. Jones
Paul Kanjorski
Ric Keller
Sue W. Kelly
Mark Kennedy
Patrick J. Kennedy
Brian D. Kerns
Ron Kind
Peter T. King
Jack Kingston
Mark Steven Kirk
Joe Knollenberg
Jim Kolbe
Ray LaHood
Nick Lampson
Tom Lantos
Tom Latham
Steve LaTourette
Jerry Lewis
Ron Lewis
John Linder
Frank LoBiondo
Nita Lowey
Ken Lucas
Frank Lucas
Bill Luther
Steven Lynch
Carolyn Maloney
Donald Manzullo
Ed Markey
Frank Mascara
Jim Matheson
Karen McCarthy
Jim McCrery

John M. McHugh
Scott McInnis
Mike McIntyre
Howard McKeon
Michael R. McNulty
Marty Meehan
John Mica
Dan Miller
Gary Miller
Jeff Miller
Dennis Moore
Jerry Moran
John Murtha
Sue Wilkins Myrick
George Nethercutt
Bob Ney
Anne Northup
Charlie Norwood
Jim Nussle
Tom Osborne
Doug Ose
C. L. Otter
Mike Oxley
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Mike Pence
Collin Peterson
John E. Peterson
Tom Petri
David D. Phelps
Chip Pickering
Joseph R. Pitts
Todd Russell Platts
Richard Pombo
Earl Pomeroy
Rob Portman
Deborah Pryce
Adam Putnam
Jack Quinn
George Radanovich
Jim Ramstad
Ralph Regula
Denny Rehberg
Thomas M. Reynolds
Bob Riley

Tim Roemer
Hal Rogers
Mike Rogers
Dana Rohrabacher
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Mike Ross
Steve Rothman
Ed Royce
Paul Ryan
Jim Ryun
Max Sandlin
H. James Saxton
Bob Schaffer
Adam Schiff
Edward L. Schrock
Jim Sensenbrenner
Pete Sessions
John Shadegg
Clay Shaw
Christopher Shays
Brad Sherman
Don Sherwood
John Shimkus
Ronnie Shows
Bill Shuster
Rob Simmons
Michael K. Simpson
Joe Skeen
Ike Skelton
Nick Smith
Chris Smith
Lamar S. Smith
Adam Smith
Mark Souder
John Spratt
Cliff Stearns
Charles Stenholm
Oklahoma Sullivan
John E. Sununu
John E. Sweeney
Thomas G. Tancredo
John S. Tanner
Ellen Tauscher
W.J. Billy Tauzin

Gene Taylor
Charles H. Taylor
Lee Terry
Bill Thomas
Mac Thornberry
John Thune
Karen Thurman
Todd Tiahrt
Pat Tiberi
Patrick J. Toomey
Jim Turner
Fred Upton
David Vitter
Greg Walden
James T. Walsh
Zach Wamp
Wes Watkins
J.C. Watts
Henry Waxman
Anthony Weiner
Dave Weldon
Curt Weldon
Jerry Weller
Robert Wexler
Ed Whitfield
Roger Wicker
Heather Wilson
Joe Wilson
Frank Wolf
Albert Wynn
Don Young
Bill Young

Mashinka Firunts & Danny Snelson, eds.
The Block Museum | Northwestern University
Department of Art History | Mellon Dance Studies
The Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities
<http://sites.northwestern.edu/present>