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I Am Sherazade: Devising the Arabian Nights

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Poster Presentation P18

I AM SHERAZADE: DEVISING THE ARABIAN NIGHTS

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The goal of this project was to create a functional piece of theatre based off the *Tales of the 1001 Arabian Nights* and the central figure of Sherazade. The early stages of the project were devoted to research about the *Tales* themselves, the many faces, incarnations, and associations of Sherazade herself, and the practice of devising a theatrical performance that is based not on a script but rather on a body of research, a collection of themes, and a story set. The second stage of the project was working on the performance: rehearsal began with seven actresses and a designer on a six-week process of exploration based on research followed by a five-week process of development based on discovery. The end result was given public performances in early April. The contents of this presentation will include how themes and staging ideas were gleaned from research, what the rehearsal process was like, and materials from the final performances.