

THE FORGOTTEN KINGDOM — SAND STORIES

AN INTRICATE MULTIMEDIA THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE

PERFORMED BY GUY MENDILOW ENSEMBLE WITH SAND ANIMATION BY KSENIYA SIMONOVA



“This kind of thing is perfect ... between the live music, the story narrative, and the fascinating creation of these fleeting images in the sand. I totally recommend it.”

— Dan Barnard, Director, Bailey Hall, Davie, FL



History and emotionality collide as theatrically projected sand animation, a riveting live musical score, and radio-theatre stories bring to life snapshots of multi-ethnic splendour of the former Ottoman Empire, obscured by world wars and mass migrations.

The Forgotten Kingdom evokes a travelogue through an unraveling Mediterranean world at the turn of the 20th century, glimpsed in settings of Ottoman Sephardi women's songs portraying the visceral, personal experience of ordinary people caught up in revolutionary dramas.

Sand artist **Kseniya Simonova** creates, morphs and obliterates recorded sand imagery, crafting flowing narratives and set-pieces for **Guy Mendilow Ensemble's** live storytelling and music. The sweeping, cinematographic score draws on traditional tunes, techniques, and tales but in elegant arrangements and radical reframing. The bittersweet rawness of Tango, gorgeous vocal harmonies and the rhythmic fire of classical Arabic percussion intensifies the emotionality of Western classical music. The projected sand follows the live musical and narrative performance, like a play.

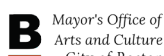
Audiences traverse breathtaking landscapes of sand, from cosmopolitan ports like Salónica to Balkan countrysides. In an adventure that “*explodes with artistry, refinement, and excitement*,” (Hebrew Union College, OH) *The Forgotten Kingdom* moves audiences with questions about struggles we too face today.

Siegel
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GME's tours & programs supported by funding awards from:



QUICK FACTS

- English narration with song lyrics in Ladino, an endangered blend of archaic Spanish with Turkish and Greek.
- **GME** is recipient of multiple funding awards from foundations like the **National Endowment for the Arts** for its artistry, cultural preservation and the strengthening of communities through the arts.
- Sand Artist **Kseniya Simonova** is winner of *Ukraine's Got Talent* and **Golden Buzzer** winner of *American's Got Talent The Champions*. Her videos have 40+ million views.

HOMEBASE

- **GME**: Based in Boston, MA/ New York, NY, USA, **GME** is “an international tour de force” (*Bethlehem Morning Call*) from the Middle East, South and North America

PACKAGE WITH

- Breadth & depth of community/ campus engagement
- *Around the World in Song* — interactive global adventure for grades K-4.