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## **THE DOMESTIC CRUSADERS**

A landmark Muslim American play

Staged Reading April 10 & 11

[www.domesticcrusaders.com](http://www.domesticcrusaders.com)

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the Center for South Asia Studies, and the Center for Southeast Asia Studies at the University of California, Berkeley,  
with funding support from the Social Science Research Council,

present a special staged reading of

## **"The Domestic Crusaders"**

[www.domesticcrusaders.com](http://www.domesticcrusaders.com)

A two-act Muslim American family drama

by acclaimed Pakistani-American playwright, Wajahat Ali

This staged reading, **about three generations of a Muslim Pakistani-American family**

features the widely acclaimed New York City cast,

fresh from their recent sold-out five week run at the renowned Nuyorican Poets Café.

- When:** Saturday, April 10: matinee at 2 pm & evening show at 7:30 pm  
Sunday, April 11: matinee at 2pm followed by Q&A with the Playwright,  
Director, Carla Blank, and Producer, Ishmael Reed.
- Where:** The Durham Studio Theater, University of California, Berkeley. For  
directions, please visit:  
<http://tdps.berkeley.edu/facilities/performance-venues/durham-studio-theater/#directions>
- Tickets:** \$10 general admission; \$7 for students and senior citizens.  
*Please note that ID will be required at the door for student admission.  
Children under the age of 8 will not be admitted.*

Purchase tickets online at: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/99893>

Co-sponsors include the Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies at UC Berkeley  
and the Arab Cultural and Community Center (ACCC) in San Francisco.

What the critics are saying about **The Domestic Crusaders:**

- "This play is brilliant. Moving. Shapely. Clever. Funny. And [the] cast is amazing!"  
— **Toni Morrison, Nobel Prize winning author**

- "From the deft irony of its title to the tender pain of its ending, **"The Domestic Crusaders"** is a moving story of one Pakistani family in America. But it's more than that. By engaging us in the family's conflicts, loves, fears and secrets, the play dissolves the easy assumptions and prejudices of the post 9/11 west. Touching; funny; important."  
— **BBC World, Harriett Gilbert, presenter The Word, BBC World Service**
- **"The Domestic Crusaders"** is what all high art aspires to do — spotlight complicated truths (and contradictions) without offering easy answers...one of the first major Muslim-American plays"  
— **San Francisco Chronicle, Jon Curriel**
- "The only play of its kind, **"Domestic Crusaders"** offers a fresh take on the family drama while demystifying that tense terrain between 'us' and 'them.' A true theatrical breakthrough."  
— **Newsweek's Lorraine Ali**
- **"The Domestic Crusaders"** is exactly the sort of theater we need today. The gulf that separates cultures must be bridged and Art is one of our best hopes. I'll be supporting this all the way - please join me and Wajahat in building this bridge!"  
— **Emma Thompson, Academy Award winning actress and screenwriter**
- "Wajahat Ali is a major new voice in American literature. **"The Domestic Crusaders"** is to Muslim American Theater what **"A Raisin in the Sun"** is to African American theater."  
— **Pulitzer Prize nominated author Mitch Berman**

Visit our [Online Press Room](#) for additional Reviews and Biographies of Wajahat Ali, the Cast, and more!

VIDEO: Watch **The Domestic Crusaders** on [NBC Weekend Today!](#)

[NBC Weekend Today](#)

[NEW YORK TIMES Feature on The Domestic Crusaders](#)

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### Play Synopsis:

**The Domestic Crusaders** is an authentic, revelatory, no-holds barred depiction of a contemporary Pakistani-American Muslim family. In this post 9-11 world, humor, tensions and sparks fly among three generations of family members culminating in an intense family battle. Each "crusader" struggles to assert and impose their respective voice, while trying to maintain and understand the unifying thread that makes them part of the same family.

This fully staged production is directed by Carla Blank and co-produced by the Before Columbus Foundation. The cast includes South Asian American actors: Adeel Ahmed, Kamran Khan, Imran Javaid, Monisha Shiva, Nidhi Singh and Abbas Zaidi.

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