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## U.S. World Theatre Day Message 2018

### Heather Raffo Bio

**Heather Raffo** is an award-winning playwright and actress who has spent the last decade performing off Broadway, off West End in regional theater and in film. Her work has taken her all over the world, from the Kennedy Center to classrooms in Iraq. She is best known for bridging her Iraqi and American roots with the award-winning play *9 Parts of Desire*, which *The New Yorker* called “an example of how art can remake the world”. The play ran off Broadway for nine months and has played across the U.S. and internationally for over a decade. She authored the libretto for the opera *Fallujah* and her newest play, *NOURA*, recently premiered in Washington D.C. with future productions forthcoming in Abu Dhabi and New York City at Playwrights Horizons. Raffo has taught and spoken at universities across America and the Middle East. Through her many university collaborations, Raffo created the *Places of Pilgrimage* narrative workshop, a story telling process highlighting the tremendous personal accounts entrusted to her by women from the Middle East and her desire to hear them shared with countless others, in their own words.