

HAMID RAHMANIAN

Narrative biography

Hamid Rahmanian is a 2014 John Guggenheim Fellow and the recipient of the 2020 United States Artists Fellowship. His work centers on theater, moving image, and graphic arts and has been exhibited in international competitions and publications. His films have screened at Venice, Sundance, Toronto, Tribeca, and IDFA film festivals and broadcast on PBS, Sundance Channel, IFC, Channel 4, BBC, DR2, and Al Jazeera.

Rahmanian undertook the task of illustrating and commissioning a new translation and adaptation of the tenth-century Persian epic poem *Shahnameh* by Ferdowsi, titled *Shahnameh: The Epic of the Persian Kings* (2013). The resulting best-selling 600-page art book, lauded by the Wall Street Journal as a “masterpiece,” is currently in its second edition (Liveright Publishing). In 2017, Rahmanian released an immersive audiobook version of *Shahnameh: The Epic of the Persian King*, with an introduction by Frances Ford Coppola. In 2018, he released a pop-up book titled, *Zahhak: The Legend of the Serpent King* (Fantagraphics Books) in English and French which received the Meggendorfer Prize for the Best Pop Up-Book and was hailed “Simply breathtaking” by Le Monde.

In 2014, Rahmanian shifted his focus to theater arts, working with shadows and digital media. To date, he has created four theater pieces: *Zahhak: The Legend of the Serpent King* (2014), *Mina’s Dream* (2016, Commissioned by the Onassis Foundation), UNIMA-USA award-winning *Feathers of Fire* (2016) which premiered at Brooklyn Academy of Music and toured in 23 cities around the US and abroad to an audience of 100,000. In 2019, he was commissioned by Yo Yo Ma’s Silk Road Ensemble to create a video animation for the multimedia project, *Heroes Take Their Stand*. Most recently, Rahmanian created the full-length stage production, *Song of the North*. *Song of the North* was awarded a 2021 National Theater Project grant and will premiere in March, 2022 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.