## Political prisoner, dancers team up to share story

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A good piece of theatre has the audience asking what the performers are going to do and how are they going to do it, before the curtain goes up.

Motus O is once again pushing the boundaries of dance theatre by partnering with author Marina Nemat. Together, the local dance troupe and former political prisoner will tell Ms Nemat's story through lecture and dance in Prisoner of Tehran.

It will be performed May 3 at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park.

"She's imbedded into the human point power," said James Croker, one of Motus O's artistic directors.

Ms Nemat's memoir Prisoner of Tehran is the basis for her lecture, which she will give, while Motus O interprets her words through movement.

"I don't know it's ever been done before," Mr. Croker said.

## **CLOSE TO EXECUTION**

Ms Nemat was born in Tehran, Iran in 1965. After 1979's Iranian Revolution, when Ms Nemat was 16, she was arrested. She spent more than two years in Evin Prison.

During her incarceration, Ms Nemat was tortured and came close to being executed.

"Her whole spirit (is) very forgiving," Mr. Croker said.

"At the end of the day, it's about humanity," he said. Ms Nemat came to Canada in 1991.

In 2007 she received European Parliament's inaugural Human Dignity Award. In 2008, she was awarded Italy's Grinzane Cavour Prize.

Following the performance, there will be a Q&A with the author, artists and dancers.

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$20 for children. Show times are 2 and 8 p.m. For more information, go to nineteenonthepark.com



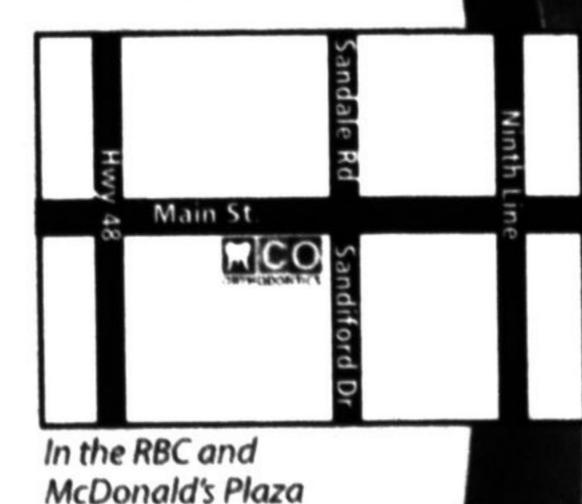
STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Former political prisoner Marina Nemat (from left) and Motus O dancers Jack Langenhuizen, Sarah Felschow, Laura Day and James Croker rehearse for their upcoming show, Prisoner of Tehran.



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