

SILK ROAD SOLOS

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Thursdays | 7:30pm
Fridays | 8:00pm
Saturdays | 4:00pm
Sundays | 4:00pm

TICKETS

\$15 each.

To purchase tickets,
visit us online at
www.silkroadrising.org



October 1-4, 2015

YELLOW DRESS



Written and
Performed by
Marissa Lichwick

Directed by **Lavina Jadhvani**

Born out of her experiences growing up as a Korean-adoptee in a family of ten in upstate New York, this coming-of-age, one-woman show follows two orphans through the streets of South Korea, into the suburban American heartland, and their fortuitous journey back. Back to Korea, back to their past.

November 19-22, 2015

MY AMERICAN COUSIN



Written and
Performed by
Jameelah Shelo

My American Cousin is a one woman sketch comedy show with a unique view into the life of an American Middle Eastern Muslim woman from the south side of Chicago as she navigates her way through cultural pressures and societal assumptions. From arranged marriages to 9/11 and Ramadan to the age old question—"Why are most cabbies from the Middle East?"—nothing is off-limits.

February 18-21, 2016

ZIRYAB, THE SONGBIRD OF ANDALUSIA



Written and
Performed by
Ronnie Malley

Directed by **Anna C. Bahow**

A musical journey following the life and legacy of the ninth century musician and polymath, Ziryab, who rose from being a former slave to extraordinary fame throughout Islamic Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. His influence on music, fashion, and the culinary arts are still seen around the world to this day.



SILK ROAD SOLOS



Featuring A GREAT DIVE

Written & Performed by **PUJA MOHINDRA**
Directed by **ANDREW VOLKOFF**
Choreographed by **MONICA KAPOOR**

AUGUST 13-16, 2015

ComEd. The **BASS** Fund
Season Sponsor Production Sponsor

www.silkroadrising.org

A GREAT DIVE

Written and Performed by **Puja Mohindra**
Directed by **Andrew Volkoff**
Choreographed by **Monica Kapoor**

PRODUCTION TEAM

Jamil Khoury | Founding Artistic Director
Malik Gillani | Founding Executive Director
Puja Mohindra* | Playwright, Actor, Choreographer
Andrew Volkoff | Director
Monica Kapoor | Choreographer
Rafael Casal | Dramaturg
Corey Pond | Production Manager
Samantha Sorin* | Stage Manager
Yu Shibagaki | Set Designer
Kristof Janezic | Lighting Designer and Master Electrician
Eric Backus | Sound Design
Jesse Gaffney | Props Designer
Rachna Sheth | Marketing and PR Coordinator
Al Gillani | Box Office Manager
Kirsty Engelhardt | House Manager
Andrew Skwish | Poster Art Illustrator
Darrel Reese | Graphic Designer
Carol Goerne | Saints Coordinator

SPECIAL THANKS

To our gracious hosts at the **First United Methodist Church at The Chicago Temple**, who exhibit hospitality and generosity on a daily basis, and provide us space in which we can flourish and grow.

This project is partially supported by **The Joyce Foundation**.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the **Illinois Arts Council**, a state agency.

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States. a national theatrical labor union.



TEAM BIOS



Puja Mohindra (Playwright/Actor /Choreographer) is a writer, actor, and proud Chicago native. She is a graduate of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, the American Conservatory Theater's MFA Acting program, and the UCLA Professional Program in Screenwriting. The screenplay adaptation of *A Great Dive* was in final consideration for the 2013 Sundance Screenwriters' Lab and the 2012 Mumbai Mantra Screenwriters' Lab. Puja is currently adapting the story into a novel. She is most often recognized for her digital media work, including the comedic sketches she wrote and starred in: *Sh*t White Girls Say To Indian Girls* and *To Ashton Kutcher, Love Kimmy Patel*. Puja co-created, co-wrote, co-produced, and co-starred in the comedic web series, *Friendly Confines*. The show was an official selection of the 2013 Hollyweb Festival and the 2013 LA Web Series Festival, where it earned awards for Outstanding Achievement in Writing, Ensemble Cast, and Theme Song. Favorite theater credits include: Belle in *A Christmas Carol* at South Coast Repertory Theater and at the American Conservatory Theater; Tara in *A Widow of No Importance* at East West Players, and Mahwish in a workshop production of *The Who & The What* at La Jolla Playhouse. Special thanks to Malik, Jamil, Corey, Andrew, Rafael, Monica, and my family for their dedication, support, and fierce talent, as well as to Marti Lyons for directing and producing two workshop shows at Lookingglass Theater in Chicago in 2013.



Andrew Volkoff (Director) is Artistic Director of About Face Theatre, where he has directed the Chicago premieres of *Abraham Lincoln Was A F*gg*t* and *Brahmanli: A One-Hijra Stand Up Comedy Show* (a co-production with Silk Road Rising). Andrew served as Associate Artistic Director of Barrington Stage Company (BSC) in Massachusetts for five years and Genesius Theatre Group in New York City for three years. Andrew is a Drama League Directing Fellow, and an SDC member. Proud to be the first director chosen to participate in the U.S./Bulgaria Directors Exchange Project, Andrew directed the Bulgarian premiere of John Kolvenbach's *Lovesong* in Sofia at the Nikolai Binev Theatre, where it is still in repertory. He will direct the Chicago premiere of A. Rey Pamatmat's *after all the terrible things I do* in March 2016.



Monica Kapoor (Choreographer) As a performer, Monica spent 7 years on Broadway performing in the global smash hit *Mamma Mia!* She has appeared on NBC's *Smash* as a dancer and as a Bollywood expert assisting the Emmy Award winning choreographer, Joshua Bergasse. Monica has toured with the first national production of *Bombay Dreams* under the direction of Baayork Lee. As a choreographer, Monica has assisted Tony Award winner Andy Blankenbuehler on a workshop of his new original musical. Monica's other choreography credits include: *Broadway Bares*, Broadway's Easter Bonnet Competition, Artists for World Peace, and Cafe Mom's *I'll take that Dare*. She has worked with recording artists including Mariah Carey, P. Diddy, Thalia, and Carlos Santana. A native of Chicago, Monica has both a Bachelors and Masters degree in education with a specialization in Dance from NIU. Monica is currently on faculty at Steps on Broadway in NYC. To learn more about Monica please visit www.monikakapoor.com

SUPPORT NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT

Join us in commissioning and developing new plays from Asian and Middle Eastern Playwrights by making a donation today. Donation envelopes are enclosed for your use.