

Durango By Julia Cho **Directed by Carlos Murillo**

Featuring:

Joseph Anthony Foronda*, Dawen Wang, Walter Brody, Erik Kaiko, and Austin Campion

> Producers Malik Gillani and Jamil Khoury

Alexandra Herryman Production Manager Scenic Designer Marianna Csaszar

Rebecca A. Barrett Lighting Designer

Carol J. Blanchard U.S.A. Costume Designer

Composer and Sound Designer Robert Steel Props Designer Daniel A. Katz Isaac Sernoffsky Casting Coordinator

Publicity Consultant Cathy Taylor Public Relations

Assistant Director Rose Kruger Production Dramatura Lavina Jadhwani Stage Manager Jen Poulin

Assistant Stage Manager Claire Feeney Jason Pikscher Technical Director

DURANGO was commissioned by Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles, California. Originally produced at The Public Theater Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director; Mara Manus, Executive Director

The Long Wharf Theatre Gordon Edelstein, Artistic Director; Joan Channick, Managing Director

DURANGO by Julia Cho is presented by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., in New York.

www.srtp.org

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CAST - in order of appearance

Isaac	Dawen Wang
Boo-Seng	Joseph Anthony Foronda*
Jerry/Ned	Walter Brody
Jimmy	Erik Kaiko
Red Angel/Bob	Austin Campion

Understudies in alphabetical order

Boo-Seng	Gordon Chow
Jerry/Ned/Red Angel/Bob	lan Knox
Isaac/Jimmy	Dwight Sora

^{*} Denotes member of Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Carlos Murillo
	Malik Gillani and Jamil Khoury
	Alexandra Herryman
Scenic Designer	Marianna Csaszar
Lighting Designer	Rebecca A. Barrett
	Carol J. Blanchard
	Robert Steel
Props Designer	Daniel A. Katz
Publicity Consultant	Cathy Taylor Public Relations
	Rose Kruger
	Isaac Sernoffsky
	Lavina Jadhwani
	Kefah Crowley
	Jen Poulin
	Claire Feeney
	Laura Klauser
	Andrew Skwish
	The Stage Channel
	Jason Pikscher
	Tamar Daskin
	David Chrzanowski
	Amber Mack
	Raheal Hanna
	Richard Goerne

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DEDICATION

This production of Durango is dedicated to His Highness the Aga Khan on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee as the 49th hereditary Imam of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims.

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

To Jennifer Novack of the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad To DesignLab Chicago To Peter Anderson and Thomas Kim To Professor Keun-Sik Jung

Playwright Julia Cho thanks Chay Yew and Florence Yoo for their support and inspiration.

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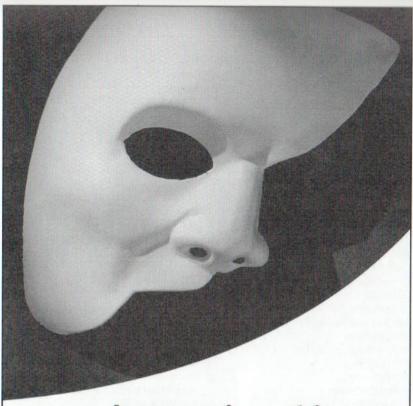
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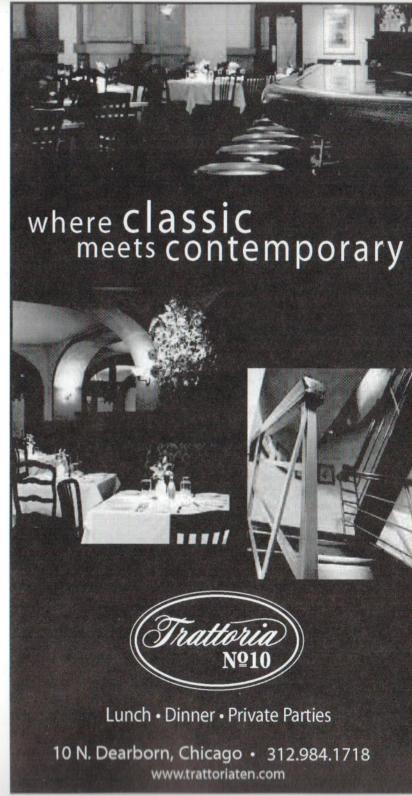
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ABOUT SILK ROAD THEATRE PROJECT

Mission - Silk Road Theatre Project showcases playwrights of Asian, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean backgrounds, whose works address themes relevant to the peoples of the Silk Road and their Diaspora communities. Through the creation and presentation of outstanding theatre, we aim to promote discourse and dialogue among multi-cultural audiences in Chicago.

The Silk Road Stretched From Japan to Italy. So Does Our Theatre. - The term "Silk Road" refers to the great trade routes that originated in China and extended across Central and South Asia, the Middle East, and into Europe, from the 2nd century B.C. until about the 16th century A.D. The dominant land routes connected China to Syria, and adjoined to sea routes, creating an East-West corridor linking Japan to Italy. These transcontinental caravans resulted not only in trade, of which silk was an important commodity, but also in tremendous cross-cultural interaction among the peoples of the regions; interaction that fostered the exchange of ideas and the fusion of art and aesthetics. The Silk Road is a legacy associated with rich traditions of oral narrative, epic poetry, and storytelling. Thus, the celebrated trade routes serve Silk Road Theatre Project both as a geographic guide as well as a metaphor for intercultural dialogue.

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Make a donation: The financial challenges of running an affordable, high quality, socially conscientious, multi-cultural theatre company are daunting! In order to continue producing such important works as Durango, we rely on the support and generosity of people like you. Support Silk Road Theatre Project! Send a donation today! Here are two easy ways: Via Internet: www.srtp.org/support/donate.html or Via snail mail: Silk Road Theatre Project, 680 S. Federal Suite 301, Chicago, IL 60605.

Join our Board of Directors: We are actively recruiting highly motivated individuals who believe in the mission and scope of Silk Road Theatre Project and can dedicate time and resources to raising money for the company. If you wish to discuss the possibility of joining our Board of Directors, please contact Malik Gillani at malik@srtp.org

Volunteer: Your time and energy are extremely important to the success of our productions and operations. Volunteers are always needed. Contact us today at info@srtp.org to find out how you can help.

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Contact Silk Road Theatre Project Administrative Offices:

Silk Road Theatre Project, 680 South Federal Street, Suite 301, Chicago, Illinois 60605

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FORONDA* (BooSeng) Silk Road
Theatre Project debut!
Chicago: A Big Blue
Nail, The Defiant
Muse, The Romance
of Magno Rubio at

Victory Gardens: The King & I at Drury Lane; A Year with Frog & Toad at Chicago Children's Theatre: Urinetown at Mercury Theater: Pacific Overtures- Jeff Award at Chicago Shakespeare; Let the Eagle Fly at the Latino Theater Festival; Miss Saigon at the Marriott (1st/2nd National Tours-Jeff Award). BROADWAY: Pacific Overtures at Roundabout (Amon Miyamato): Miss Saigon (Nicholas Hytner); SHOGUN: The Musical (Michael Smuin). UK: Pacific Overtures at Donmar Warehouse (Gary Griffin), REGIONAL: Miss Saigon at TUTS: King & I at Weston Playhouse: Making Tracks at San Jose Rep; The Fantasticks at East West Players (Mako). Love to family and friends.



WALTER BRODY (Jerry/Ned) was last seen in Stage Left's One Fine Day. Further afield he was a member of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival (Coriolanus,

Loves Labour's Lost, Othello) and Baton Rouge's Swine Palace Theatre (Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, You Can't Take it With You). Walter was also writer and director for Magnolia Memories, a unique nighttime presentation that allowed five spirits interred at Baton Rouge's oldest cemetery (1854) to come forth and tell their stories to an audience gathered at graveside. Outside of theatre Walter enjoys wearing his other hat as commercial casting director (with wife Jane) and remodeling his two-flat.



AUSTIN CAMPION (Red Angel/Bob) arrived in Chicago but scant months ago after graduating from Brown University with a degree in Theatre. Since then

he has been building sets, hanging lights, playing with fish and pudding puppets, capering for the amusement of children and forming short-lived improv groups. Most recently, he was seen at the Oak Park Village Players in *The Glass Menagerie* playing the role of Jim. He is very grateful for this, his first engagement with Silk Road Theatre Project.



GORDON CHOW (Boo-Seng Understudy) returns to Silk Road Theatre Project after understudying the role of Tieng-Bin in Golden Child last season. In addition, he

has performed in a number of SRTP staged readings and in their installment of Suzan-Lori Parks 365 Days/365 Plays. Some previous Chicago theatre credits include Struggling Truths (Prop Thtr), Around the World in 80 Days (Lifeline Theatre) and Dope (Defiant Theatre).



ERIK KAIKO (Jimmy) is thrilled to be making his Silk Road Theatre Project debut! He was most recently seen at the Bailiwick Repertory Theatre as 'Zack' in

bare: a pop opera and as 'Mike' in Zanna, Don't!, as well as having participated in Stages 2007 at the Theatre Building Chicago. At Northwestern, favorite shows and roles include: Jesus Christ Superstar (Peter), Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse (Wilson), Waa-Mu 2007: The Club (Featured Soloist), Children of Eden (Abel/Ham), and Romeo and Juliet (Benvolio). Thanks: family, roommates past/present, and the Gail Force.



IAN KNOX (Jerry/Ned/ Bob/Red Angel Understudy) is pleased to be making his debut with Silk Road Theatre Project. Since moving here a few years ago lan has worked

with many Chicago theatre companies; most recently he's been seen in Raven Theatre's *The Parington's* (workshop); Quest Theatre Ensemble's *Sword in the Stone*; and Tantalus Theatre Group's *Toy Chest* and *Ragnarok*. Ian is a graduate of the Professional Acting Program at East Carolina University (BFA). He has also trained with Act One Studios, The Open Door Theatre, and Comedy Sportz.

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We salute Silk Road Theatre Project for showcasing powerful work by diverse playwrights with the aim of addressing global themes and promoting dialogue among multi-cultural audiences in the greater Chicagoland community.



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DWIGHT SORA (Isaac/ Jimmy Understudy) is a River Forest native who returns to Silk Road Theatre Project for the first time since its 2006 reading of Cowboy vs.

Samurai. Dwight has also appeared onstage in Again at II Roman Senators; Treasure Island and The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe at Theatre-Hikes; A Thousand Cranes at Vittum Theater: The Normal Heart at Lincoln Square Theatre; and The Rape of Nanking: According to Minnie at Stockyards Theatre Project. He understudied for Frank Galati's adaptation of After the Quake at Steppenwolf Theatre, and fought onstage in the opera Romeo et Juliet at Lyric Opera of Chicago and Tribulation & the Demolition Squad at Chicago Dance Crash. For three years (2003-2006), he was a member of the Social Issues Ensemble of Imagination Theater.



DAWEN WANG (Isaac) is proud to be making his Silk Road Theater Project debut with Durango. A graduate of Northwestern University, his Chicago credits

include: Thoroughly Modern Millie at the Marriott Lincolnshire; The Awesome 80s Prom at RadioStar; and Sunday in the Park with George at Ravinia. Dawen was most recently seen playing guitar in The Light of Love at Promethean Theater where he is an artistic associate. Off the stage, Dawen performs solo as a singer/songwriter around the city. To hear his music, visit: dawenwangmusic.com or myspace.com/dawenwang. Thanks to family and friends, and Habibiti.



JULIA CHO (Playwright)
Julia Cho's plays
include The Piano
Teacher (Vineyard
Theatre, South Coast
Repertory); Durango
(Long Wharf Theater
& The Public Theater.

East West Players); The Winchester House (Theatre@Boston Court), BFE (Long Wharf Theater & Playwrights Horizons); The Architecture of Loss (New York Theatre Workshop); 99 Histories (Cherry Lane Alternative, Theater Mu); and Bay and the Spectacles of Doom (La Jolla Playhouse's POP Tour). Honors include the Barrie Stavis Award, the Claire Tow Award for Emerging Artists and the L. Arnold Weissberger Award. An alumna of the Juilliard School and NYU's Graduate Dramatic Writing Program, Julia is currently a resident playwright at New Dramatists. Her plays are available from Dramatists Play Service and www.playscripts.com.

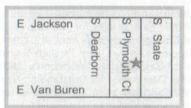


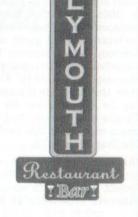
CARLOS MURILLO (Director) is a play-wright, director and Assistant Professor at The Theatre School of DePaul University. His play dark play or stories

for boys received its world premiere at the 31st Annual Humana Festival of New American Plays at Actors Theatre of Louisville in March 2007. The play will be published in spring 08 in New Playwrights: Best Plays of 2007 (Smith & Kraus) and Humana Festival 2007: The Complete Plays (Playscripts), and is currently being translated into Polish for publication in Dialog and into German for S. Fischer Verlag, Carlos' other plays have been produced in NY (NYC Summer Play Festival, En Garde Arts. Soho Rep, The Hangar Theatre Lab), LA (Theatre @ Boston Court, Circle X, Son of Semele), Chicago (Walkabout Theatre. DePaul University), Minneapolis (Red Eye), Seattle (The Group), and Austin (dirigo group). They have been developed at The Public, NY Theatre Workshop, Goodman Theatre, South Coast Rep. Portland Center Stage, Madison Rep, the Sundance Institute, The Playwrights' Center, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, A.S.K. Theatre Projects, the Chautaugua Conservatory, Annex Theatre, UC Santa Barbara and others. He was a Jerome Fellow at The Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis and has received grants from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Minnesota State Arts Board and is a two-time recipient of the National Latino Playwriting Award from Arizona Theatre Company. He has received commissions from The Public Theatre, South Coast Rep, En Garde Arts and Disney Creative Entertainment. As a director, he has staged productions and workshops of his own work in New

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York, Chicago and Minneapolis. He has also staged plays at Silk Road Theatre Project, The Walker Arts Center/ Intermedia Arts in Minneapolis, The Public Theatre New Work Now! Festival, the Mazer Theatre and Makor in NY. For DePaul he recently directed the world premiere of Isaac Holter's Good Worker for the New Play Showcase series, for which he has staged two previous productions (Andie Arthur's In Common Hours and Alex Perry's eikon). In spring of 2006 he staged David Edgar's Pentecost at The Merle Reskin Theatre. He recently was a guest artist at The Kennedy Center Summer Playwriting Intensive, the University of Iowa Playwrights Workshop and Arizona State University. He is currently working on commissions for Goodman Theatre and Berkeley Rep. Carlos is a proud member of New Dramatists and The Dramatists Guild.

JAMIL KHOURY (Producer) is Founding Artistic Director of Silk Road Theatre Project, a position to which he brings extensive experience as a producer,

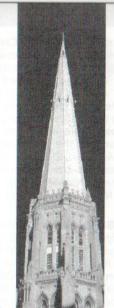
playwright, and cross-cultural consultant. He is honored to be promoting the cultural production of Silk Road peoples and to be fostering the exchange of ideas within Chicago's theatre community. Khoury's vocation as a playwright lends a valuable currency to fulfilling our mission as a playwright driven theatre. His plays focus on Middle Eastern themes and questions of Diaspora. He is particularly interested in the intersections of culture, national identity, sexuality, and class. Khoury holds a M.A. degree in Religious Studies from The University of Chicago Divinity School and a B.S. degree in International Relations from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He has over eleven years experience as a cross-cultural and international relocations consultant, and has developed courses in Middle East Studies for The University of Chicago Graham School of General Studies. Khoury's play Precious Stones won Gay Chicago Magazine's 2003 After Dark Award for Outstanding New Work and has been performed in ten

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cities across the U.S. His play Fitna was performed at University Theatre of The University of Chicago and his play Azizati was performed at Café Voltaire. Khoury serves on the Board of Directors of The League of Chicago Theatres.

MALIK GILLANI (Producer) is Founding Executive Director of Silk Road Theatre Project, a position to which he brings extensive experience in producing, management, and business development. He is thrilled to be promoting both the rich cultural legacy of the Silk Road and greater visibility for Silk Road artists. Gillani nurtured Silk Road Theatre Project from its embryonic stage into a celebrated theatre company, integrating business acumen and fiscal responsibility within an artistic mission. He studied at The University of Chicago Graduate School of Business majoring in marketing and small business management and earned a Bachelor's in Liberal Arts from St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, with an emphasis on the Great Books. Gillani has 14 years experience operating technology consulting firms where at various points in his career he was responsible for sales, marketing, negotiations, contract management, and human resources. Gillani is the recipient of the IBM Business and Technology Leadership Award. He was recently honored by Changing Worlds for Outstanding Contribution to the Arts.

ALEXANDRA HERRYMAN (Operations & Production Manager) came to work with Silk Road Theatre Project in 2005 as the stage manager for Ten Acrobats in an Amazing Leap of Faith. She quickly got addicted and hung around to Stage Manage Back of the Throat and Caravaggio, before being promoted to Operations & Production Manager in December 2006. Allie earned a B.A. in English and Theatre from St. Bonaventure University and credits her theatre training to the Chautaugua Theatre Company in upstate NY. She's held ladders, painted sets, run spotlights and made costumes around town, particularly with Tantalus Theatre Group, Porchlight Music Theatre, and Northlight's Open Door Ensemble.

MARIANNA CSASZAR (Set Designer) is grateful to have the opportunity to have her professional debut at Silk Road Theatre Project with Carlos Murillo. Completing her MFA in set and costume design at Northwestern University in June she is excited to become part of the Chicago theater community. Her most recent credits at Northwestern included set designs for Marisol by Jose Rivera and Spunk by Zora Neal Hurston. She is designing costumes for Amadeus opening in May. Marianna's work has been showcased at USITT's Young Designers' Forum in Houston, and Ming Cho Lee's Clambake in New York.

CAROL J. BLANCHARD (Resident Costume Designer) has designed costumes for over 200 stage/TV/video productions for companies such as Cleveland Symphony's Blossom Opera (Falstaff); Shakespeare in the Park (Much Ado About Nothing, The Winter's Tale); Skylight Opera (La Traviata); First Stage Childrens' Theatre (Seussical, Sleeping Beauty); Karamu Theatre (The River Niger, Tambourines To Glory); Fredonia Dance Ensemble; Center Repertory (Streamers); and Champlain Shakespeare Festival (The Importance of Being Earnest, Love's Labours Lost). Her Chicago credits include Victory Gardens Theater (Four Places, I Sailed With Magellan, Hanging Fire); Drury Lane Oakbrook(Barefoot in the Park, Of Thee I Sing); The Artistic (Street Scene); Bailiwick Home Theatre(First Lady Suite); Porchlight Music Theatre(Sweeney Todd, Assassins, The Teapot Scandals); Apple Tree Theatre (Match); PTAP (RIGHT, Iphigenia in Kingman, Einstein's Dreams, The Quiltmaker's Gift); and, of course, Silk Road Theatre Project (Caravaggio, Golden Child, Merchant on Venice) where she is Resident Costume Designer. Carol was honored with a Jeff Award for the costume design of Porchlight Music Theatre's Amadeus. She is a Professor Emeritus of The State University of New York.

ROBERT STEEL (Resident Composer and Sound Designer) Recent sound design and original music credits include Match at Apple Tree; Our Enemies and Merchant on Venice at Silk Road Theatre Project; Twelfth Night and Hound of the Baskervilles at City Lit; What Dreams May Come at Piven; Robin Hood at Oak Park Festival Theatre; Mad Dancers at Piven; Golden Child at SRTP; Jekyll and Hyde at



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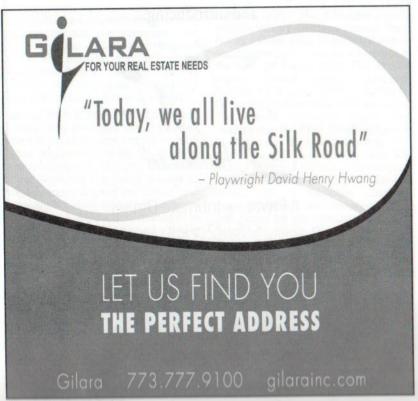
2419 W. 14th Street Chicago, IL 60608 City Lit; Caravaggio at SRTP; Back of the Throat at SRTP, Ten Acrobats in an Amazina Leap of Faith at SRTP; and Camp Nimrod for Girls at Live Bait. He is the Resident Composer and Sound Designer at Silk Road Theatre Project. He also composes for video and film and is on faculty at DePaul's Digital Cinema Department. He is a recipient of After Dark awards and awards from ASCAP and the Illinois Arts Council. Special thanks to Todd Lauterbach.

REBECCA A. BARRETT (Resident Lighting Designer) is excited to be a part of the fabulous production team for Durango, marking her fourth production with Silk Road Theatre Project. Rebecca graduated from Ithaca College in upstate NY with a B.F.A. in Theatrical Production Arts. Currently, she spends most of her time at Northwestern University as the Sound Assistant Lighting and Supervisor. In her free time she enjoys designing shows and spending time in the great outdoors. Favorite lighting designs include Golden Child with

SRTP; Dorian at the Bailiwick (co-design with Lee Keenan); New Anatomies and Impossible Marriage for Foreground Theatre Company; and Chicago at Pheasant Run Dinner Theatre.

DANIEL A. KATZ (Props Designer) is glad to be working for the Silk Road Theatre Project again after prop designing and painting Our Enemies and serving as a set design intern for Merchant on Venice. Other credits include props design for Candles to the Sun; Bee-Luther-Hatchee (Krannert Center for the Performing Arts); From Berlin to Broadway w/ Kurt Weill (Light Opera Works); The Adding Machine; and The Glass Menagerie (Oakton Community College). Over the summer he will be prop designing for the National High School Institute at Northwestern University.

ROSE KRUGER (Assistant Director) a recent graduate from Columbia College, is excited to be assisting Carlos Murillo for her first Silk Road Theatre Project production! She has previously assisted Joanie Schultz for Stone Cold





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Dead Serious at Circle theatre and Sean Graney for Ubu Roi at Columbia College. Recent directing credits include Night of the Iguana; Ghosts; and Little Red Riding Hood. She also stage manages. Recent stage managing credits include Midsummer Nights Dream (the opera) and Eat the Runt.

ISAAC SERNOFFSKY (Associate Producer and Casting Coordinator) couldn't be more proud to work for such a wonderful company. He started working for Silk Road Theatre Project as an intern for Caravaggio in the fall of 2006 and fell in love at once. Since then he has worked as an Assistant Production Manager (Golden Child and Merchant on Venice), Casting Coordinator (Our Enemies and Durango), and Producer (Staged Reading of Cleveland Raining) and is now proud to be called a company member. Most of all he wishes to thank Erin; he would never be where he is today if she wasn't in his life.

JEN POULIN (Stage Manager) is Chicagoland born and bred, and holds a Theatre BFA from University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign. For the past two years she has been teaching drama, music and dance to K-8, primarily in the North Shore. Moving to Chicago has brought her back to the production side of theatre, most recently with Wild Claw Theatre's inaugural production, The Great God Pan. Jen is very excited to be working with Silk Road Theatre Project and wishes to especially thank her fiancé, Glen, for his support and love, despite her crazy pursuits.

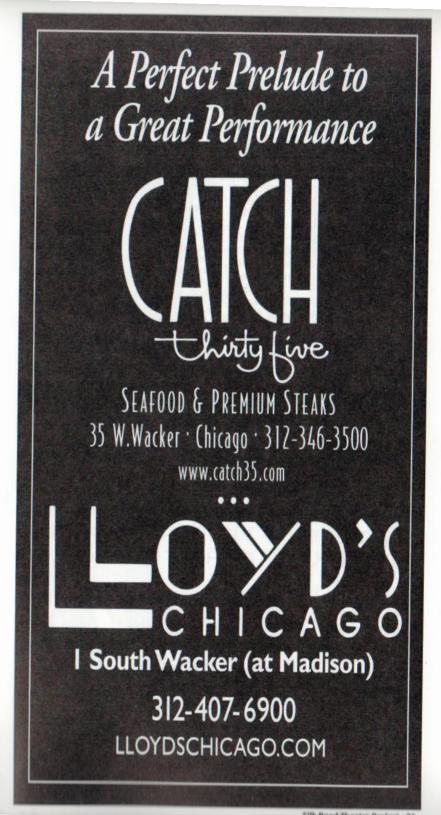
CLAIRE FEENEY (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be making her Silk Road Theatre Project debut with Durango! She has spent the last 6 years performing, stage managing, music directing, and puppet building in Chicago for various groups including: TinFish Theatre; Open Eve Productions: and Quest Theatre Ensemble (where she discovered an opera diva from lowa really can learn to love singing shapenote songs in a papiermache mask). Claire can be seen this summer in Ouest's newest spectacle, The People's History of the U.S. Big thanks to Allie for answering all my dumb questions and being an all around awesome girl.

JASON PIKSCHER (Technical Director) after being a touring actor and freelance director for the last two years, is thrilled to be back in the Chicagoland area and working on his second show with Silk Road Theatre Project. As a carpenter you may have seen Jason's work at Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre. Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, The Field Museum, The Museum of Science and Industry, as well as multiple other nooks, crannies, and theatres round town. Jason is thrilled to have been given this opportunity and can not express his thanks enough to the company.

KEFÁH CROWLEY (Assistant Production Manager) is thrilled to be working with Silk Road Theatre Project, Kefáh hails from New York where she has worked at The Public Theater. Since coming to Chicago Kefáh has stage managed for Tantalus Theater Group and interned for SRTP before becoming the Assistant Production Manager, Other theatrical credits include directing, producing and acting. She holds a BA in Theater Arts from Earlham College. She would like to thank everyone at SRTP for welcoming her with open arms and is excited to be a part of Durango, her second production.

LAURA KLAUSER (Wardrobe Supervisor) is a senior at Loyola University and is excited to be working on her third production here at Silk Road Theatre Project. Previously she was the wardrobe supervisor in Our Enemies and the production intern for Merchant on Venice. Laura would like to thank the amazing production staff for the opportunity to continue to work with them.

LAVINA JADHWANI (Dramaturg) is pleased to return to Silk Road Theatre Project, where she previously served as the dramaturg for Merchant on Venice (for which she received an LMDA Residency Award); Sankalpan; Golden Child; and Caravaggio. Other dramaturgical credits include The Piano Tuner (Lifeline Theatre); Miss Witherspoon (Next Theatre); and The Pillowman (Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre). Lavina received LMDA/Kennedy Center ACTF Dramaturgy Awards for her work on Arcadia and Urinetown at Carnegie Mellon University. As an assistant director, she has worked with Barbara

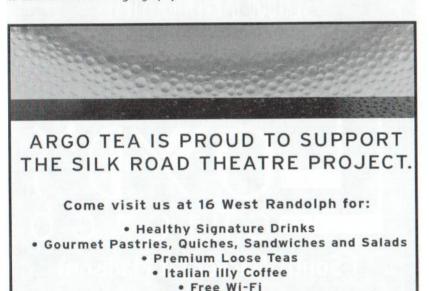


PROFILES

Gaines, Frank Galati and Di Trevis. Upcoming projects include work with Halcyon Theatre and Point of Contention Theatre Company. Lavina holds a BFA in Drama and Masters of Arts Management from Carnegie Mellon University.

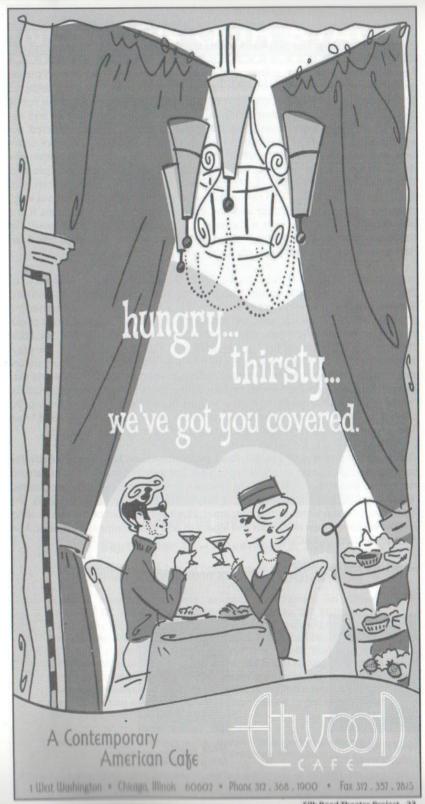
RAHEAL HANNA (House Manager) is a recent addition to the Silk Road Theatre Project staff as House Manager for Our Enemies: Scenes of Love and Conflict and presently Durango. A life-long lover of the humanities, she began her artistic journey with vocal training at Sherwood Conservatory of Music, South Suburban College, and Western Illinois University. Studious in various musical genres, her performance credits include Gilbert & Sullivan's Gondoliers and The Mikado; lead singer of American roots / Jug band Patent Medicine; and featured jazz singer at the CD Jazz Cafe in Beijing, China. In addition to vocal performance, Raheal is a published poet, writer, photographer, and is shamelessly addicted to cultural studies and geography.

AMBER MACK (Box Office & Group Sales Manager) is thrilled to be a part of Durango! She has been with Silk Road Theatre Project in differing capacities for about a year and a half. Starting at the end of the run of Our Enemies she took on the role of Box Office & Group Sales Manager. Before that Amber assistant stage managed both Golden Child and Merchant on Venice, and stage managed the staged readings of Merchant on Venice and Durango. From her beginnings as a "lowly" intern for Caravaggio, Amber feels SRTP has treated her quite well! Having recently graduated from Columbia College Chicago with a B.A. in Theatre Directing, Amber is happy to jump head first into the world of professional theatre. She would like to thank her entire family (you know who you are) for everything and hopes that you enjoy the show!



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LETTER FROM THE FOUNDERS

Points of Crossing: The Silk Road Meets the American Road Trip

Few experiences are more quintessentially American than the family road trip, an almost ritualized expression of American independence and mobility, depicted and romanticized in our literature, our pop culture, our memories, and our future plans. The family road trip exemplifies our collective desire for adventure and discovery, unfettered exploration (save the threat of speeding tickets!), acted out against a broad swath of mostly unsettled territory, those vast stretches of openness and expanse that characterize America's landscape. And it is within the American road trip, traversing desert terrains from Arizona to Durango, Colorado, that Julia Cho frames her tale of a Korean born father and his two American born sons. For us *Durango* is a 21st century play about Americanness and porous identities, the inherent instability of bridging cultures, places, and generations. It is a play about honesty, deception, and choice. It is also a play about the durability of the American mosaic, that post-melting pot phenomenon that we at Silk Road have a particular fondness for exploring.

In engaging *Durango* and the rich complexity of Julia's narrative, it occurred to us that the great American road trip is a rather splendid compliment to the historic Silk Road. Thus the decision to name our 2008 season *Road Trips*. For together, the Silk Road and the American road trip render a dialogue that is at the heart of our storytelling mission. We have often said that an overlooked aspect of Silk Road Theatre Project's identity is how quintessentially American our plays are. The playwrights we are drawn to each grapple, in their own way, with 21st century meanings of global citizenship and American nationality. And they do so in a world that is smaller, more overlapped, and more interdependent than ever before; a world of hybrid selves and transnational lives, of shifting borders and fluid attachments. As playwright David Henry Hwang notes, "Today we all live along the Silk Road." And figuratively speaking, he's absolutely right. We're also on one big road trip.

The great trade routes of the Silk Road created avenues for peoples of diverse backgrounds to discover one another, to trade not only in commodities, but also in stories and art forms and beliefs. And when we consider the immense geographic, regional, ethnic and racial diversity of the United States, in many respects, the American road trip yields similar outcomes, albeit with the aid of the automobile. So now we have a new metaphor and legacy to add to our company's mosaic. And for that we thank Julia Cho.

So sit back and enjoy the ride. You're bound to end up somewhere new.

Sincerely,



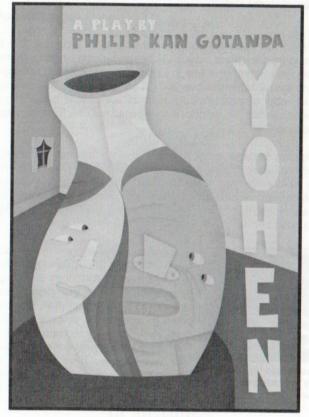
Jamil Khoury
Artistic Director



Malik Gillani Executive Director

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Silk Road Theatre Project at The Historic Chicago Temple Building 77 W. Washington St., Pierce Hall, Chicago

Tickets on sale now: www.srtp.org or call the Box Office at 312-857-1234 ext. 201

NOTES FROM THE DRAMATURG

Road Trips and American Culture

"What is the meaning of this voyage...? What kind of sordid business are you on now? I mean, man, whither goest thou? Whither goest thou, America, in thy shiny car in the night?"

-Jack Kerouac, On the Road

The open road has appealed to Americans for over a century. The first great American road trip took place in 1903 – H. Nelson Jackson piloted a Winton Touring Car from San Francisco to New York in 63 days. The trip cost Jackson approximately \$8,000 and the car expended over 800 gallons of gasoline. The modern road trip can trace its roots to post-WWII America; as automobile ownership increased amongst American families, vehicles became used not only for commuting, but for leisure trips as well.

As road-tripping became more popular, so did interstate highways, roadside motels and restaurant chains, with the intent of offering familiarity to travelers while they were away from home. In some ways, however, this consistency has made the American roadside appear more homogenous. For example, the historic Route 66, a major path of immigrants during the Dust Bowl, has officially been decommissioned and replaced by the Interstate Highway System.



An icon of early road tripping, Route 66 originally stretched from Chicago to Los Angeles.

As travel technologies have advanced, the road trip has become an increasingly inefficient way to get from point A to point B, particularly over long distances. Rather than being used primarily as a means for transportation, the road trip has come to represent a process of self-discovery, particularly in American culture. Via cult classics that range from Assassination Vacation to Little Miss Sunshine, we have watched characters explore themselves as well as the American land-scape – literally and figuratively – through the rearview mirror.

For many, the first road trip is a rite of passage – the notion of leaving home coupled with the freedom of exploring the open road creates a kind of coming of age. Often times road trips are unplanned; travelers will hop in a car without a particular path or destination in mind, but rather with the desire to lose themselves on the open road. Kerouac described this experience in his novel *On the Road*:

"I woke up as the sun was reddening; and that was the one distinct time in my life, the strangest moment of all, when I didn't know who I was I was far away from home, haunted and tired with travel, in a cheap hotel room I'd never seen, hearing the hiss of steam outside and the creak of the old wood of the hotel, and footsteps upstairs, and all the sad sounds, and I looked at the cracked high ceiling and really didn't know who I was for about fifteen strange seconds."

Hence, it has been said that great road trips are not about the destination, but rather the journey.

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