



Visit our EPIC website at www.LearnPlaywriting.org

SUPPORT ARTS LEARNING FOR ALL

Each year, 500 students benefit from Silk Road Rising's EPIC arts learning program.

Currently, we're also offering EPIC to tenants of senior housing communities.

This year, we're bringing EPIC to Chicago's West Ridge neighborhood.

A group of West Ridge residents will work with our teaching artists to learn the skills of writing a play so as to express their stories. These stories will be staged in December 2019 as part of Silk Road Rising's West Ridge Story Festival.

We believe EPIC can make meaningful impact with all members of society.

To help us continue to bring EPIC to more people and more communities, please make a donation today.

To make a gift online, visit www.SilkRoadRising.org/Donate

To donate by phone, call executive director Malik Gillani at 312-857-1234 x202.

To make a gift by mail, send to
Silk Road Rising, 150 N Michigan Ave, #1970, Chicago, IL 60601



FEATURING PLAYS FROM FALL 2018 CLASSROOM RESIDENCIES

EPIC (Empathic Playwriting Intensive Course) is an arts learning program integrated into classrooms across Chicago Public Schools.

Learn more at www.LearnPlaywriting.org

EPIC TEAM

Director of Education | Tracy Strimple

Teaching Artists | Tali Ariav, Levi Holloway, Lindsay Hopkins,
Jarrett King, TJ Simba-Medel, and Steph Vondell

Teaching Artist Assistant | Janyce Caraballo

Executive Director | **Malik Gillani**

Artistic Director | **Jamil Khoury**

SILK ROAD RISING

Performance Venue | 77 W Washington St, Lower Level, Chicago, IL 60602

Administrative Offices | 150 N Michigan Ave, #1970, Chicago, IL 60601

312-857-1234 | www.SilkRoadRising.org

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We respectfully recognize the Potawatomi, Miami, and Peoria People, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We acknowledge that we are on occupied land that was forcibly taken from its original owners. And we affirm that while we cannot change history, we can work for justice, and that justice begins with recognition and acknowledgement.

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Director | **Corey Pond**

Assistant Director | **Tracy Strimple**

Cast | **Melissa Canciller, Gordon Chow, Víctor Maraña, Krystel McNeil, Ayssette Muñoz, and Londen Shannon**

Stage Manager | **Casey L. Peek**

Box Office Manager | **Al Gillani**

House Manager | **Darby Fitzsimons**

GRATITUDE TO OUR DONORS

EPIC is provided free of charge to schools that are unable to fund residency expenses. The following donors make it possible for us to bring arts learning to Chicago Public Schools:

Robert and Isabelle Bass Foundation, Inc.

Lloyd A. Fry Foundation

Polk Bros. Foundation

Siragusa Family Foundation

TODAY'S SHOWCASE

Good afternoon and welcome to the first ever EPIC Showcase!

For seven years Silk Road Rising has been working with 6th-12th grade Chicago Public School (CPS) students on the EPIC (Empathic Playwriting Intensive Course). This school year we want to take the opportunity to highlight some of the creative, brilliant, and savvy CPS students we have the pleasure of working with last semester. Over the course of twenty in-classroom sessions, EPIC students work with a Silk Road Rising teaching artist to discover how to tell stories and practice empathy by writing a short play. The students make connections and build trust through theatre games and activities that encourage them to think outside themselves and look at the world through other perspectives.

Many of our students have limited exposure to theatre and almost no exposure to playwriting. We guide students to self-empowerment by giving them the tools to become confident storytellers and creative problem solvers through the act of writing a play. Underestimating student voice is common among our communities and sometimes their stories get stifled and go unheard. However, we believe the voices of the students are sometimes the most important and enlightening voices in the room. Come with us on a journey of community fellowship as we give space for the student voice to rise.

We would like to thank the more than 500 students who participate in EPIC annually and to congratulate our seven playwrights who have been selected for the EPIC Showcase. They are proudly representing Crown Community Academy, Oscar DePriest Elementary, John Hancock College Prep, Kelvyn Park High School, and Turner-Drew Elementary.

FEATURED PLAYS

Choosing a Side

By **Taylor Woods**

Turner-Drew Elementary Language Academy

8th Grade Social Studies

Community | **West Chatham**

Teaching Artist | **TJ Simba-Medel**

Classroom Teacher | **Josephine Hatch-Skipper**

Sunshine

By **Destiny Mendez**

Kelvyn Park High School

12th Grade English

Community | **Hermosa**

Teaching Artist | **Tali Ariav**

Classroom Teacher | **Christopher Montoya**

The One Who Helps

By **Lakyla Turner**

Oscar DePriest Elementary School

6th Grade English Language Arts

Community | **Austin**

Teaching Artist | **Levi Holloway**

Teaching Artist Assistant | **Janyce Caraballo**

Classroom Teacher | **Cyntria Richardson**

No Way Out!

By **Shavez Rodgers**

Crown Community Academy

7th Grade Community Class

Community | **North Lawndale**

Teaching Artist | **Jarrett King**

Classroom Teacher | **Cherise Treadwell**

What Could Have Happened

By **Susan Cisneros**

John Hancock College Prep

11th/12th Grade Theatre

Community | **West Elsdon**

Teaching Artist | **Lindsay Hopkins**

Classroom Teacher | **Sarah Baranoff**

United Devastation

By **Marcel Carter**

Oscar DePriest Elementary School

6th Grade English Language Arts

Community | **Austin**

Teaching Artist | **Levi Holloway**

Teaching Artist Assistant | **Janyce Caraballo**

Classroom Teacher | **Cyntria Richardson**

Untitled

By **Diamond Torres**

Kelvyn Park High School

12th Grade English

Community | **Hermosa**

Teaching Artist | **Lindsay Hopkins**

Classroom Teacher | **Christopher Montoya**