

EPIC SHOWCASE



FEATURING PLAYS FROM SUMMER AND FALL 2019 RESIDENCIES

EPIC (Empathic Playwriting Intensive Course) is a year round arts learning program with Chicago Public School classrooms and older adult communities.

Learn more at www.LearnPlaywriting.org

EPIC TEAM

Director of Education | Tracy Strimple

Teaching Artists | Janyce Caraballo, Levi Holloway, Lindsay Hopkins,
Jarrett King, Víctor Maraña, Lexi Saunders, and Steph Vondell

Teaching Artist Assistants | Jaclyn Gessert and Shaina Toledo

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, Ste 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 | **Gordon Chow, Tina El Gamal, Vic Kuligowski, Teresa Kuruvilla, Destiny Strothers, and Mark West**

Stage Manager | **Kristin Mazzocca**

Box Office Manager | **Michael Mead**

House Manager | **Darby Fitzsimons**

Production Manager | **Andy Lynn**

GRATITUDE TO OUR DONORS

The following donors make it possible for us to bring EPIC to Chicago Public Schools and older adult communities:

After School Matters

Aroha Philanthropies

Robert and Isabelle Bass Foundation, Inc.

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Polk Bros. Foundation

Siragusa Family Foundation

TODAY'S SHOWCASE

Good afternoon and welcome to the EPIC Showcase!

For 8 years Silk Road Rising has been working with 6th-12th grade Chicago Public School students on the Empathic Playwriting Intensive Course, EPIC. Additionally, last year we branched out to offer EPIC, with great success, to the older adult community. This summer, we partnered with After School Matters to increase EPIC's reach to an additional 70 students from all over Chicago. This expanded outreach is incredibly exciting and there is only more to come in 2020!

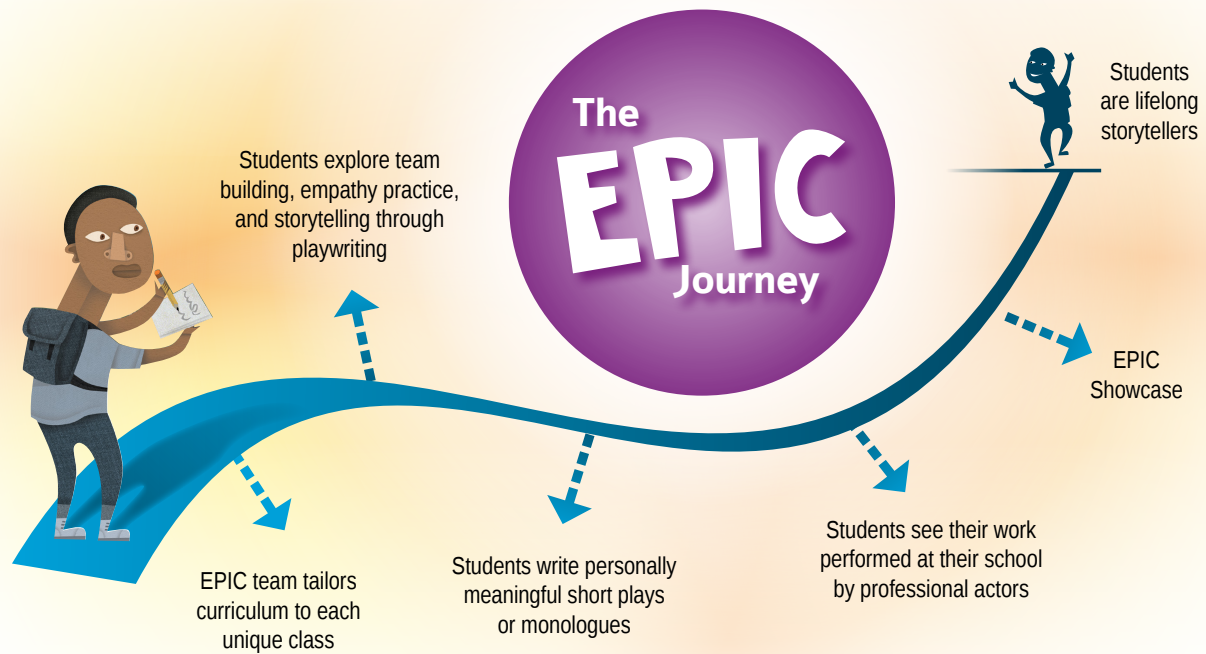
EPIC Showcase is our chance to highlight some of the creative, brilliant, and savvy students we had the pleasure of working with during the summer and fall. Over the course of 10 weeks, EPIC students work with a Silk Road Rising teaching artist to discover how to tell stories and practice empathy through the writing of a short play or monologue. 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 CPS students have limited exposure to theatre and almost no exposure to playwriting, while many of our older adult participants mistakenly think their creative days are behind them. During EPIC, we guide students to self empowerment by giving them the tools to become confident storytellers and stretch their creative muscles through the act of writing a play. Underestimating older adults and young people is common among our communities and sometimes their stories get stifled and unheard. However, we believe those voices 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 their creative voices to rise.

We would like to thank the more than 200 students who participated in EPIC this summer and fall and to congratulate our 8 playwrights who have been selected for the EPIC Showcase. They are proudly representing CPS schools Daniel Boone Elementary and Turner-Drew Elementary Language Academy, EPIC Playwriting at the Lutz Center for After School Matters, and Cantata-senior living community.

FEATURED PLAYS

1	<p><i>Karen Wants a Sprite Zero</i> By Justin Morris</p>	<p>Daniel Boone Elementary School 7th Grade ELA Community West Ridge Teaching Artist Víctor Marañá Classroom Teacher Sweetlana Israel and Pam Gady</p>
2	<p><i>Petra</i> By Patricia Ritacco</p>	<p>Cantata Senior Living Residence Community Brookfield, IL Teaching Artist Jarrett King Director of Client Hospitality Cheryle Hurtado</p>
3	<p><i>The Graveyards</i> By Idalia Rizvic</p>	<p>Daniel Boone Elementary 7th Grade ELA Community West Ridge Teaching Artist Lexi Saunders Classroom Teacher Halle Quezada</p>
4	<p><i>Toast to the Ones Here Today</i> By Maryna Isho</p>	<p>Daniel Boone Elementary 7th Grade ELA Community West Ridge Teaching Artist Lexi Saunders Classroom Teacher Halle Quezada</p>
5	<p><i>Opposites Attract</i> By Bill Voller</p>	<p>Cantata Senior Living Residence Community Brookfield, IL Teaching Artist Jarrett King Director of Client Hospitality Cheryle Hurtado</p>
6	<p><i>The Unsolved</i> By Edzhane Bills</p>	<p>Turner-Drew Elementary Language Academy 8th Grade Social Studies Community Princeton Park Teaching Artist Jarrett King Classroom Teacher Josephine Hatch-Skipper</p>
7	<p><i>One Piece Makes a Difference</i> By Khadeeja Ahmed</p>	<p>Turner-Drew Elementary Language Academy 8th Grade Social Studies Community Princeton Park Teaching Artist Jarrett King Classroom Teacher Josephine Hatch-Skipper</p>
8	<p><i>How the Hell Did I End Up Here</i> By Zoey Walsh</p>	<p>Lutz Center for After School Matters 9th Grade After School Matters EPIC Summer Community Kelvyn Park Teaching Artist Levi Holloway</p>



INVEST IN THE POWER OF STORYTELLING

At Silk Road Rising, we believe that storytelling is a healing art. All members of our society must participate in the act of telling our stories in order for us to get to know each other and overcome the biases that are so prevalent in today's society.

So that everyone can embrace this storytelling power, Silk Road Rising's professional teaching artists work with communities across the city to develop their creative skills. Ranging from working with youth to working with young professionals and retired individuals at places where they congregate (schools, churches, living facilities), we provide hands-on skills workshops so that each participant has the tools to help them tell their stories most effectively.

At the end of our training programs, each participant has created a ten-minute story expressing an issue that is meaningful to them. The power of our engagement comes from the fact that every participant is more skilled after our engagement. These playwriting skills stay with them so that over time, participants can develop more stories.

Visit our EPIC website at www.LearnPlaywriting.org

We invite you to join our efforts to share the power of storytelling across our city by making a gift today.

To make a gift online, visit www.silkroadrising.org/donate.

To donate by phone, please call associate producer Corey Pond at (312) 857-1234 x205.

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

