

Crescent and Star: A Radiant Season of Arab and Muslim Journeys



January 19, 2016
**PANIC INTERSECTING:
MOSQUES, ZONING,
AND ISLAMOPHOBIA**

Moderated by **Jamil Khoury**

A panel discussion featuring zoning attorney Mark Daniel, civil rights attorney Rabya Khan, and DuPage County Board Member Tony Michelassi. The panelists will discuss their experiences confronting resistance to proposed mosques in the Chicagoland area.

Take an enchanting musical journey back to 9th century Islamic Spain where we meet Ziryab, a former slave who rose to extraordinary fame in the court of Abd ar-Rahman II. Witness Ziryab's story: a musician, poet, and polymath whose contributions—like Leonardo da Vinci's in centuries to come—helped shape the world we live in today.

February 18-28, 2016
**ZIRYAB, THE SONGBIRD
OF ANDALUSIA**

Written and Performed by
Ronnie Malley

Directed by **Anna C. Bahow**



March 24-May 1, 2016
MOSQUE ALERT

Written by **Jamil Khoury**
Directed by **Eddie Torres**

Mosque Alert tells the story of three fictional families living in Naperville, Illinois, whose lives are interrupted by a proposed Islamic Center on the site of a beloved local landmark. *Mosque Alert* explores the intersections of zoning, civil rights, and Islamophobia, with humor, family drama, and raw honesty.

This entertaining film creates a dynamic way of engaging the multi-dimensional ideas surrounding the four hijabs—visual, spatial, ethical and spiritual—outlined within Dr. Manal Hamzeh's book, "Pedagogies of Deveiling: Muslim Girls and the Hijab Discourse."

June 2016
AN ANIMATED SHORT
THE FOUR HIJABS

by **Dr. Manal Hamzeh & Jamil Khoury**
Directed by **Liz Wuerffel**
Animated by **Anna Hayden-Roy**



September 6-25, 2016
**UN-AMERICAN:
A PATRIOT ACTS**

Written and Performed by
Azhar Usman

Famed comedian Azhar Usman takes to the stage with this brutally honest, unflinching one-man show exploring the tensions and paradoxes surrounding the complex identities and double consciousness of American Muslims today.

To purchase tickets and learn more,
visit us online at www.silkroadrising.org
or call us at (312) 857-1234 ext. 201.



SILK ROAD RISING

SILK ROAD SOLOS



Featuring

MY AMERICAN COUSIN

Written & Performed by **JAMEELEH SHELO**
Directed by **JESSICA MITOLO**

NOVEMBER 19-22, 2015

ComEd. The BASS Fund
Season Sponsor Production Sponsor

www.silkroadrising.org

MY AMERICAN COUSIN

Written & Performed by **JAMEELEH SHELO**

Directed by **JESSICA MITOLO**

PRODUCTION TEAM

Jamil Khoury | Founding Artistic Director

Malik Gillani | Founding Executive Director

Jameeleh Shelo | Playwright, Actor

Jessica Mitolo | Director

Corey Pond | Production Manager

Jill Yetsky* | Stage Manager

Lauren Nigri | Set Designer

Kristof Janezic | Lighting Designer and Master Electrician

Jesse Gaffney | Technical Director

Vinnie Pillarella | Music Director

TBD | Projections Assistant

Rachna Sheth | Marketing and PR Coordinator

Taylor Brown | House Manager

Andrew Skwish | Poster Art Illustrator

Darrel Reese | Graphic Designer

Phil Shayne | 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.

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



TEAM BIOS



Jameeleh Shelo (Playwright/Actor) is a native Chicagoan and proud Southsider (Go Sox!) She is a happy Middle Eastern American and a happier Muslim. She is an Emmy award-winning writer and a producer, but her first love will always be comedy. She apologizes to her husband for the previous statement and thanks him for his support. She attended Columbia College Chicago where she earned a B.A. in Television Writing and Production, this degree gave her the skills necessary to become a waitress. Since no one would trust her to handle food she became a TV producer. As a creative outlet she began doing improv, sketch and stand-up. She has performed with Second City's Brown Co., improvised at iO and Annoyance theater, and performed *My American Cousin* at UCB, Magnet and PIT in NYC. She is also a regular at the New York Arab American Comedy festival and Arab-iss. Jameeleh is very lucky to have interned and worked for some very funny people in her career. She interned at Late Night with Conan O'Brien and worked for Stephen Colbert, Lisa Lampanelli and Cedric the Entertainer. If you ask any of these people about her they will pretend to remember her. In addition to that, she has produced from TBS, Comedy Central, HGTV and DIY Network, Harpo, and TLC.



Jessica Mitolo (Director) is originally from Youngstown, Ohio, and received her degree in Acting and Directing from Bowling Green State University. Since moving to Chicago, Jessica has studied, performed and directed at various schools and venues throughout the city. Her most recent directing credits include *Nostalgia Sucks: But It Used To Be Awesome!*, *Second Day Party Hair* and *Forty Winks*. Jessica is proud to have worked as Assistant to the Director on Second City Mainstage production, *South Side of Heaven*.

SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PLAYS

Please donate to Silk Road Rising and help us commission, workshop, develop, and produce new plays.