

Don't Miss Silk Road Rising's Next Show!



SILK ROAD RISING

2016
DECEMBER
01-23

CHRISTMAS AT CHRISTINE'S

THE WORLD PREMIERE

Written & Performed by
Christine Bunuan

Directed by **J.R. Sullivan**

This new **holiday musical revue** puts a Silk Road spin on the Christmas season. Chicago favorite Christine Bunuan invites you **into her world** with *Christmas at Christine's*. Journey from **California** to **Chicago** to the **Philippines** to a **Catholic-Jewish** household, as Christine sings her way through the holiday songbook and a lifetime of **yuletide memories**.

TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION AT
www.SilkRoadChristmas.org



September 6-25, 2016


SILK ROAD RISING
NEW AMERICAN THEATRE: ON STAGE / ONLINE

THE WORLD PREMIERE

Starring **AZHAR USMAN**

Directed by **AARON TODD DOUGLAS**

ComEd
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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
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www.UltraAmerican.org

ULTRA AMERICAN: A PATRIOT ACT

A World Premiere

Written & Performed by **AZHAR USMAN**

Directed by **AARON TODD DOUGLAS**

PRODUCTION TEAM

Jamil Khoury | Founding Artistic Director

Malik Gillani | Founding Executive Director

Azhar Usman | Playwright, Actor

Aaron Todd Douglas | Director

Corey Pond | Production Manager

Helen Colleen Lattyak | Stage Manager

Yeaji Kim | Set and Projections Designer

Kristof Janezic | Lighting Designer and Master Electrician

Katie Vaughters | Costume Designer

Eric Backus | Sound Designer

Alec Long | Props Designer

Ashley Osborne | Technical Director

Elyse Balogh | Scenic Painter

Deann Baker | Video Editor and Coordinator

Al Gillani | Box Office Manager

Nick Johnson | House Manager

Rachna Sheth | Social Media Coordinator

Brent Eickhoff | Education and Community Engagement 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.

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TEAM BIOS



Azhar Usman is a standup comedian, actor, writer, and producer from Chicago. He was called “America’s Funniest Muslim” by CNN and was named among the “500 Most Influential Muslims in the World” by Georgetown University. Formerly an attorney, he has worked as a performing artist and entertainment industry professional for over a decade. During that time, as co-creator of the internationally-acclaimed standup revue *Allah Made Me Funny—The Official Muslim Comedy Tour*, he has toured over twenty-five countries, as well as comedy clubs, campuses, and theaters all over the United States. Azhar has worked with many of his favorite comedians, including Jim Gaffigan, Hannibal Buress, Russell Peters, and Dave Chappelle. In fact, he has opened for Chappelle over 50 times over the past decade, becoming one of the comedy legend’s favorite opening acts and causing him to remark: “AZHAR USMAN is UNTOUCHABLE.” His work has been reviewed and/or featured by over 100 major media outlets worldwide, including *The New York Times*, BBC, FOX News, NPR, and *The Economist*. Besides standup, Azhar has also appeared on television and film. Azhar is widely regarded to be a pioneer among Muslim standup comedians, and his self-produced 2003 comedy *CD SQUARE THE CIRCLE: American Muslim Comedy of Distortion* became an underground classic among English-speaking Muslim communities around the world. His work as a solo comic, as well as with the *Allah Made Me Funny* collective, has inspired a generation of comedians – well over 50 performers – scattered across over a dozen countries.



Aaron Todd Douglas is a founding ensemble member of Congo Square Theatre Company. Directing projects include: *Ruined* (Eclipse Theatre, Jeff Award Nomination- Best Ensemble, Best Production), *Radio Golf* (Raven Theatre, African American Arts Alliance- Special Recognition for Direction), *The Nativity* (Congo Square/The Goodman), *12 Angry Men* (Raven Theatre, Jeff Award Winner Best Ensemble, Nomination Best Director), *Smash Hit* by Steve Broadnax (Cultural Conversations Festival), *Pill Hill* (Black Theatre Alliance Award – Best Director, Best Production ETA Creative Arts), *Talented Tenth* (Black Theatre Alliance Award – Best Production), *African Company Presents Richard III* (Congo Square Theatre Company).

Helen Colleen Lattyak is a freelance stage manager. Her credits include *The Secretaries*, *Le Switch*, *Abraham Lincoln Was A F*gg*t*, and *We Three Lizas* with About Face Theatre. *Sucker Punch*, *SAMSARA* and *Failure: A Love Story*, at Victory Gardens Theater. *Muthaland* and *The Hundred Flowers Project* at Silk Road Rising, *Brahman/i: A One-Hijra Stand Up Comedy Show* with About Face Theater and Silk Road Rising, *Freedom, NY* at Teatro Vista, *Betrayal* at Oak Park Festival Theater. Helen is a company member at TUTA Theater Chicago where she stage managed *Baal*, *The Wedding*, and *Uncle Vanya* with TUTA Theatre. Helen is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago and a member of the Actors Equity Association.