



RE-SPiCED: A SILK ROAD CABARET

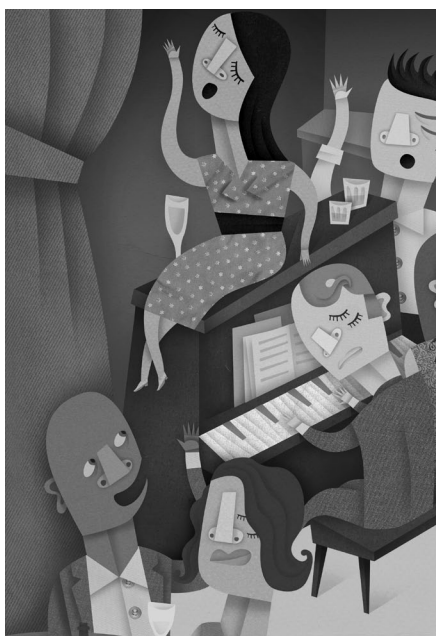
DEvised BY JAMIL KHOURY

A WORLD PREMIERE APRIL 4 - MAY 6, 2012

RE-SPiCED: A SILK ROAD CABARET

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	Cast List and Production Team
4	Cast Bios
6	Production Team Bios
9	<i>Letter from the Co-Founders</i> by Malik Gillani and Jamil Khoury
10	<i>Artistic Ruminations</i> by Jamil Khoury
12	About Silk Road Rising
13	Company Members and Board of Directors
14	Sponsor Acknowledgements and Special Thanks
15	Supporting Donations
17	Neighborhood Partners



Silk Road Rising is working under general licensing agreements from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) and Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI) for the purposes of this production.



CAST LIST

Jaii Beckley | Ensemble
Danny Bernardo | Ensemble
Joel Kim Booster | Ensemble
Christine Bunuan | Ensemble
Dipika Cherala | Ensemble
Joyee Lin | Ensemble
Evan Tyrone Martin | Ensemble
Amira Sabbagh | Ensemble
Ghuon “Max” Chung | Understudy
Stephenie Park | Understudy

PRODUCTION TEAM

Jamil Khoury | Creator, Song and
Narrative Selection
Malik Gillani | Producer
Steve Scott | Director*
Ryan Brewster | Musical Director
Brenda Didier | Choreographer
Neal Ryan Shaw | Dramaturg
Kate Guthrie | Stage Manager
Dan Stratton | Set Designer
Michael Stanfill | Lighting Designer
Jeremy W. Floyd | Costume Designer
Jason Pikscher | Technical Director and
Production Manager
Corey Pond | Assistant Director and
House Manager
Allison Raynes | Assistant Stage Manager
Mike Evans | Assistant Musical Director
Becca Knights | Casting Director
Brandon Allen | Music Acquisitions
Coordinator
Al Gillani | Box Office Manager
Christina Pinnell | Box Office Attendant
Stephen Combs | Video Producer
Sarah Ibis | Program Editor
Caitlin Duerinck | Assistant Production Manager
Deann Baker | Video Intern
Noelle Matthews | Public Relations and
Media Intern

* The Director is a member of the Stage
Directors and Choreographers Society,
a national theatrical labor union.

CAST BIOS



Jaii Beckley (Ensemble) has worked with such directors as Hal Prince, Christopher Renshaw, and Sheldon Patinkin on shows including *Showboat* and *South Pacific*. Her work in theatre has taken her from

Australia to Asia, eventually bringing her to the United States. She has appeared in cabaret and in concert at venues such as Don't Tell Mama (New York), the Claudia Cassidy Theatre (Chicago) and Davenport's (Chicago), where she debuted her solo cabaret show, *Collaborations*. Eternal love to T.



Danny Bernardo (Ensemble) returns to Silk Road Rising where he assistant directed *Yellowface*, performed in last fall's Threads of Silk Gala, and began development of his play *Mahal*. Previous credits

include *Disney's Aladdin* for Emerald City, *Scooter Thomas* for Team Venture, *5th of July*, for Oak Park Festival, *Piano Tuner* for Lifeline, and *Pacific Overtures* for Porchlight (where he is an artistic associate) as well as work with About Face, Victory Gardens, Rasaka, and Collaboraction. Love and thanks to all involved. For information and updates, visit www.dannybernardo.com.



Joel Kim Booster

(Ensemble) is honored to perform with the talented ensemble of Silk Road Rising's *Re-Spiced!* A Chicago-based actor, writer, and comedian, Joel Kim Booster has worked with a

number of theatres including The Promethian Theatre Ensemble, The Idea Place, The Hollow Tree, Pavement Group, Waltzing Mechanics, and The New Colony where he is a company member. Love and thanks to family and friends for their support, and gratitude to Jamil and Steve for giving him such a wonderful opportunity.



Christine Bunuan

(Ensemble) is honored to work with Silk Road Rising! She was in the first national tour of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* as well as the world premiere of *Kafka on the Shore* at Steppenwolf

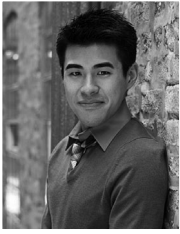
Theatre and *Jade Heart* at Chicago Dramatists. She has worked at other Chicago companies, including The Goodman, Chicago Shakespeare, Marriott Lincolnshire, and Drury Lane Oakbrook. Visit www.christinebunuan.com for more information. Special thanks to her parents for their love and support and her husband, Sean, who makes her feel like the luckiest lady in the universe. XOXO!



Dipika Cherala

(Ensemble) is honored to be working with Silk Road Rising again. Dipika, a Chicago-based singer and dancer, studied Opera Performance and Musical Theatre at Northwestern

University, and is currently a graduate student in Speech Language Pathology. Favorite roles include Anita in *West Side Story*, Sarah in *Ragtime*, Dinah in *Trouble in Tahiti*, and The Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Dipika would like to dedicate this performance to her family for their boundless support.



Joyee Lin (Ensemble) is truly grateful for this opportunity to perform with Silk Road Rising. Previous credits include *Year Zero*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Miss Saigon*, and

other projects for the Music Institute of Chicago, Steppenwolf, the Chicago Humanities Festival, and the American Music Theatre Project. Joyee Lin is an AEA Member and Northwestern University Alum. Thank you to Steve and Jamil for the opportunity, to Mom for her support, and to Bureiku for all the above.



Evan Tyrone Martin (Ensemble) is so excited to be a part of the Silk Road Rising Cabaret! Evan graduated from Ashland University with a BA in Theater and Vocal Performance. Recent

Chicago credits include *Some Enchanted Evening* (Theo Ubique), *Flick in Violet* (Bailiwick Chicago), and *Good Night Moon* (Chicago Children's Theater). Evan would like to thank his friends, his family, Marisa Paonessa, and God for being so incredible. EKM WJR: this is, and will continue to be, for you! www.evantomartin.weebly.com



Amira Sabbagh (Ensemble) is thrilled to be at Silk Road Rising again. Previously seen in *Merchant On Venice*, she has also performed with SSR in staged readings and can be seen in *The Balancing Arab*,

Jamil Khoury's online video play. Recently, she appeared in Eclipse Theatre's *The Fever Chart: Four Visions of the Middle East* and with Theatre Seven, Court Theatre, Vitalist Theatre, and Erasing The Distance. She has dabbled in children's theatre, improvisation, and has shot several commercials and industrial videos. Sabbagh loves to dance, play the violin, and chill out with friends. Thanks to all who worked on this project!



Ghuon "Max" Chung (Understudy) happily joins the cast of *Re-Spiced*. He has sang, acted, and sometimes even danced across stages in Chicago, the Chicago suburbs, as well as in Sullivan, Illinois and

Indianapolis, Indiana. He is a proud member of SAG, AFTRA, and Actors' Equity Association, and a company member of A-Squared Theatre Workshop. He made his cabaret debut in *Secret Asian Man...a Korean Kabaret*. As always, he is grateful for the love and support from his family and friends.



Stephenie Park (Understudy) is delighted to return to acting after spending several years in the food industry, international human rights, and the law. Favorite credits include Julie in *Carousel* and Juliet in

Romeo and Juliet. *Re-Spiced* is her Chicago theater debut. Many thanks to everyone who supported her career switch.

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS



Malik Gillani (Producer) is Founding Executive Director of Silk Road Rising. He is thrilled to be advancing both the rich cultural legacy of the Silk Road and greater visibility for Silk Road

artists. Gillani nurtured Silk Road Rising from its embryonic stage into a celebrated theatre company, integrating business acumen and fiscal responsibility within an artistic mission. He established Silk Road's arts integrated education program, Myths to Drama, which has been heralded as one of the finest elementary school arts education programs in the Chicago Public Schools system. Gillani is the recipient of the IBM Business and Technology Leadership Award and was honored by Changing Worlds for Outstanding Contributions to the Arts. Recently, he received the prestigious and highly selective Chicago Community Trust Fellowship Award. As a part of his CCT Fellowship, Gillani received mentorship from the leaders of ethnically specific and multicultural theatre companies across the United States. Gillani earned a BA from St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland. He is a Kellogg Executive Scholar and has been awarded a Certificate of Professional Achievement in Nonprofit Management. He is currently enrolled in North Park University's Graduate School of Business and Non Profit Management.



Jamil Khoury (Creator, Song and Narrative Selection) is Founding Artistic Director of Silk Road Rising. Khoury's plays focus on Middle Eastern themes and questions of Diaspora, as well as the intersections of culture,

national identity, sexuality, and class. Khoury is currently writing a new play, *Mosque Alert*, which he is developing as part of a first-of-its-kind, online, interactive, new play development and civic engagement process. He devised the highly successful *Silk Road Cabaret: Broadway Sings the Silk Road*. He also conceived of and was a featured playwright in *The DNA Trail: A Genealogy of Short Plays about Ancestry, Identity, and Utter Confusion*. His short play, *WASP: White Arab Slovak Pole*, has inspired the online video play *both/and* and the documentary video *Not Quite White: Arabs, Slavs, and the Contours of Contested Whiteness*. Khoury's 2003 play *Precious Stones* has been performed in ten cities across the United States. Khoury holds an MA in Religious Studies from The University of Chicago and a BS in International Relations from Georgetown University. He is a Kellogg Executive Scholar and has been awarded a Certificate of Professional Achievement in Nonprofit Management. Khoury is the 2010 recipient of the 3Arts Artist Award for Playwriting.



Steve Scott (Director) returns to Silk Road Rising, where he directed *Yohen*, *The DNA Trail*, and *Yellowface*, and where he was recently named Artistic Advisor. Steve Scott is the Associate Producer of the

Goodman Theatre, where he has overseen more than 150 productions; he is also a member of the Goodman's Artistic Collective. He has directed

productions at a wide variety of Chicago theaters, including the Goodman, Shattered Globe, A Red Orchid Theatre, the Next Theatre Company, Porchlight, Theatre Wit, Theatre at the Center, Organic Touchstone, Lifeline, the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists, Redtwist, and Eclipse, where he is a company member. He is a member of the faculties of Act One Studio and the Theatre Conservatory at the College of Performing Arts of Roosevelt University. Steve Scott has received five Jeff nominations, an After Dark Award, and the Award of Honor from the Illinois Theatre Association.

Ryan Brewster (Musical Director) is thrilled to be working with Silk Road Rising for the first time. He has worked in New Hampshire (Weathervane Theatre), Guatemala (Romance, Romance, ArtBridge), New York (Associate Musical Director, *Flanagan's Wake*), and Chicago. He has received Non Equity Jeff Awards for the musical direction of *Evita* and *Chess* for Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre. Ryan Brewster is on the Adjunct Faculty at Roosevelt University's Theatre Conservatory and writes material with *The Cupid Players* musical sketch comedy group.

Jason Pikscher (Technical Director and Production Manager) is happy to be working with Silk Road Rising once again. His fabrications have been seen all over the country, from the Kennedy Center to Six Flags, Microsoft, and TLC; he has built scenery for just about everyone. You will also find his work in Chicago's various theatrical nooks and crannies, including Wildclaw Theatre, First Folio Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre, and Drury Lane Theatre Oak Brook. He is the Technical Director for the Broadway series at the Paramount Theatre in Aurora. Jason Pikscher would like to thank his wife, Andrea, for her undying support and for her tolerance of his work schedule.

Kate Guthrie (Stage Manager) is originally from St. Louis. Guthrie earned a BA degree in Theatre from Loyola University. As a Redtwist Theatre company member, she stage managed *Waiting for Godot*, *The Pillowman*, *Shining City*, and *Bug*. Last season she stage-managed *Thieves Like Us* for the

House Theatre of Chicago and *Seven* for Silk Road Theatre Project.

Brenda Didier (Choreographer) is thrilled to collaborate with Steve Scott again and to be making her Silk Road Rising debut! Brenda Didier is a multiple Jeff Award and After Dark Award recipient in direction and choreography. Choreography credits include *The Second City*, *Cirque Shanghai*, and many musicals and industrials, including the National TV Commercial, T-Mobile's "Home for the Holidays." Her proudest accomplishment is being the owner and director of the Lincolnshire Academy of Dance, now in its 14th season. Love to Mike and to Mom!

Neal Ryan Shaw (Dramaturg) is a dramaturg and writer and was recently named Silk Road Rising's Resident Dramaturg. Recent credits include productions with Silk Road Rising, Halcyon Theatre, and Nothing Special Productions. He is a member of the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas, and holds an MA from Illinois State University and a BA from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Becca Knights (Casting), C.S.A., has worked with Silk Road Rising on *The DNA Trail*, *Yellowface*, and *Scorched*. Other credits include work with Asolo Rep, Cleveland Playhouse, Fox Valley Rep, Indiana Rep, Maltz Jupiter, Milwaukee Rep, Syracuse Stage, Provision Theatre, Writers Theatre, the Lyric Opera, Broadway in Chicago (including *Working* and *Peter Pan*), and the Tony Award Winning *Million Dollar Quartet*. She is a proud member of the Jeff Committee and an Associate for TV and Film at Simon Casting, where she most recently cast *Boss* for Starz and *Contagion* for Warner Brothers.

Michael Stanfill (Lighting Designer) holds a BFA in lighting design from Southern Oregon University and has completed the MFA design program at Northwestern University. Favorite lighting work in the region includes *Becky Shaw* and *The Mandrake* for A Red Orchid, *State of the Union* for Strawdog, *Seven Days* for Steep, *Sunset Boulevard*, and *Children of Eden* for Timber Lake Playhouse, and *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan*

Toomey for Provision. As Projection Designer, he recently designed *The Gingerbread House* for Red Tape and *The Life & Times of Tulsa Lovechild: A Road Trip* for Roosevelt University.

Dan Stratton (Set Designer) has an MFA from Northwestern University's stage design program and a BFA in sculpture from the University of Michigan. Dan Stratton teaches set design and production at North Central College in Naperville. He recently designed the sets for Steep Theatre's *Love and Money*, *Lake Boat*, and *Festen*. Other regional scenic design credits include *Peter Pan: A Play, As You Like It*, *Suicide Inc.*, *Abigail's Party*, *Kill the Old Torture their Young*, *R.U.R.*, and the New York/San Francisco productions of Fools Fury's *The Devil on All Sides*.

Jeremy W. Floyd (Costume Design) is pleased to be working on his first production with Silk Road Rising. He recently completed his course work for his MFA at Northwestern University. Some of his most recent designs include *Murder for Two* and *Short Shakes! Macbeth* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, *Harriet Jacobs* at Kansas City Repertory Theatre, *A Chorus Line* at Paramount Theatre, *Becky Shaw* at A Red Orchid, and *Godspell* at Northwestern. His upcoming projects include *Twelfth Night* with Wheaton College and *Hamlet* with Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival. www.jeremywfloyd.com

Corey Pond (Assistant Director and House Manager) is thrilled to be working with Silk Road Rising again. After house managing for *Yellowface*, he continued to assist with various Silk Road Rising projects, including the Gala and a couple of staged readings. After completing his undergraduate degree at Illinois State University, Corey Pond moved to Chicago in hopes of becoming a director and dramaturg.

Michael Evans (Assistant Musical Director) received his Bachelor's Degree in Music Composition and Master's Degree in Music History from Ohio University. His compositions have been performed at various venues in the U.S.

and Europe by Duo 46, soprano Tony Arnold, and Diagenesis. Chicago MD/pianist credits include Metropolis Performing Arts Center, Chicago Children's Theatre, Footlighters Theatre Company, the Meyer Kaplan JCC, and Stage Door Fine Arts. He is currently at work on his second original musical with the Time of Your Life Players, opening in October.

Allison Raynes (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to work with Silk Road Rising for the first time! Previously, she stage managed the acclaimed production of *the word 'progress' on my mother's lips doesn't ring true* which made its U.S. premiere at Chicago's Trap Door Theatre. Other stage management credits include *OVERWEIGHT*, *unimportant: MISSHAPE* and *First Ladies* for the Trap Door; *Bug*, *Lobby Hero*, and *The Pillouman* for Redtwist; and *Baal* for TUTA. Allison Raynes feels privileged to work in such a creative industry and wouldn't trade it for a routine desk job any day!

Sarah Ibis (Editor) is happy to work with Silk Road Rising again, now as a company member! Previously, Sarah has been house manager, program editor, and an understudy for Silk Road Rising. She has appeared in many stage productions in the Chicago area, and recently relocated to the Los Angeles area. She is proudest of her most current role, though: motherhood.

Christina Pinnell (Box Office Attendant) recently returned from Haiti where she worked with Bond Street Theatre to develop a show about sexual violence in collaboration with the grassroots organization, FAVILEK. She toured with the Big Apple Circus as Associate Treasurer and Box Office Manager and she also worked for the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Baruch Performing Arts Center. She holds a B.A. in Theatre from The College of William and Mary, and trained in mask making, voice, and physical theatre performance at the Academia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy.

LETTER FROM THE CO-FOUNDERS

by Malik Gillani and Jamil Khoury

We have transitioned from Silk Road Theatre Project to Silk Road Rising! Brand reassignment surgery has never been so painless! And with re-branding comes rethinking: retaining what's working, re-imagining what's possible, and reinventing how we do it. In revisiting the vision that brought Silk Road Theatre Project to life, we are returning to the moment of conception, this time around as Silk Road Rising. In rebirthing our theatre, we have identified four artistic goals. The first two goals reinforce all the ideals that made Silk Road Theatre Project the nationally acclaimed, award winning company that it was. The third goal reconnects us to Malik's love of technology and Jamil's love of writing. The fourth goal realigns us with our activist roots.

Let's take a closer look at these four artistic goals.

1. To showcase playwrights of Asian and Middle Eastern backgrounds by staging productions and readings of their work.

Our commitment to playwrights of Silk Road backgrounds is more robust today than ever. The playwrights that we produce write plays that feature protagonists and/or central characters of Silk Road backgrounds, meaning that as audience members we are taking a journey with those characters. Silk Road Rising now claims a vibrant community of playwrights to whom we are committed, stemming from our impressive portfolio of productions and staged readings.

2. To commission and develop new plays that enrich the fabric of American storytelling.

At present, we are actively engaged in the development of four commissioned plays. Three of the commissions are in collaboration with theatre companies in California, New Jersey, and New York. Previously, we commissioned the seven short plays of *The DNA Trail* as well as a children's play. Commissions provide playwrights the financial security they need to dedicate time and energy to writing a play. Our support continues with play-

wright residencies, workshops, staged readings, and ultimately full productions.

3. To support Artistic Director Jamil Khoury in writing and producing online video plays, documentaries, and video essays.

As he is lead artist for Silk Road Rising's online content, we are providing Jamil the time and resources he needs to develop short video plays, video essays, and documentary films. His online video plays *bothland* and *The Balancing Arab*, as well as his documentary film *Not Quite White: Arabs, Slavs, and the Contours of Contested Whiteness*, can all be seen on the Silk Road Rising website at www.silkroadrising.org. Jamil has also created a first-of-its-kind, ten step, online, interactive, new play development and civic engagement process for the writing of his new play *Mosque Alert*. Check it out!

4. To develop projects that advance civic engagement and public discourse.

Our commitment to facilitating civic engagement and deepening public discourse around issues of concern to Silk Road peoples manifests itself in live theatre productions, online videos, and community outreach initiatives. We believe that great art elevates and informs us as individuals and as communities. Thus, we recognize and embrace the role art plays in stimulating and enriching our civic lives. We believe that art effects change, provokes and enhances public conversations, and (ideally) appeals to our better selves. A work of art responds to the world from which it emanates. We embrace the idea that art is in dialogue with all who engage it and that dialogue is essential to measuring our success.

We kindly ask that you hold us to every word written above and never stop demanding of us excellence and persistence. We've taken on some mighty ambitious goals, as you see. And of course, we can't do this without your support. As Margaret Mead told us, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Fondly,

Malik Gillani and Jamil Khoury

Founding Executive Director and Founding Artistic Director of Silk Road Rising

RUMINATIONS

Conjuring a Spice Trail Remix

In devising *Re-Spiced* the words that kept resonating for me were *adventure*, *discovery*, *irony*, and *change*. The word *context* also figured prominently in my mind, as did *history* and *subtext*. I was inspired by a desire to deconstruct language, debunk meanings, decode messages, and disentangle *us* from *other*. In essence, *Re-Spiced* rings like a clarion call to excavate the archeology of lyrics and extrapolate the anthropology of songs. Jargon perhaps, but I like to think of it as academic fodder for what became, at the beginning and end of the day, an old school cabaret: entertaining, political, playful, edgy, sexy, subversive.

Re-Spiced is a journey down musical memory lane. While navigating a labyrinth of Asian and Middle Eastern images in American and

British verse, we happened upon a lyrical and literary obstacle, one that we call artistic intent. If self-representation is at the core of Silk Road Rising's mission, then *Re-Spiced* represents a game changer. We have flipped our mission on its head: instead of Silk Road people doing the defining, we are being defined. That is, until we started messing with it! In its most hopeful moments, *Re-spiced* symbolizes the crossroad where the representational meets the aspirational. Unfortunately, it's not all hopeful! Silk Road peoples have been portrayed as scary, exotic, suspect, and silly; we've been sexually objectified, politically vilified, and dichotomized as opposite from all that's "civilized." But victimhood doesn't suit us very well here at Silk Road Rising, so we've taken a complicated legacy and turned it into a cabaret show full of fun!

Re-Spiced builds upon and deepens what began in 2009 with *Broadway Sings the Silk Road*. But *Re-Spiced* has sprouted tentacles beyond our beloved show tunes to include pop, country, rap, folk, and rock with, rest assured, plenty of musical nods to the Great White Way. From the popular to the obscure, the canonical to the marginal, the sacred to the profane, I like to think of *Re-Spiced* as "No Genre Left Behind."

I want *Re-Spiced* to explode stereotypes and implode identity politics, to mine representation and mind simplification, to find the many worlds in “It’s a Small World After All.” As for the artists who created what became almost iconic representations of Silk Road peoples, thank you for the privilege of honoring and, perhaps at times, dishonoring your work. Whether steeped in historical reality or whimsical fantasy, cultural authenticity or crude caricature, social responsibility or political adversity, these images have influenced our perceptions of Silk Road peoples for generations, sometimes for better and sometimes for worse. Let us all be judges.

As the creator of *Re-Spiced*, I got to choose the songs, and what a rousing song selection process it was! Aided and abetted by dramaturg extraordinaire Neal Ryan Shaw, I was bestowed with music and literature samples that gaze east while facing west. Occidentals imagining Orientals. Call it white musicians’ burden! The samplings became a feast, and it was my job to trim the fat and purvey the finest cuts, to create a sumptuous barbeque minus the indigestion. Songs, songs, songs! Songs that excite, amuse, teach, challenge, and offend me, with a few guilty pleasures thrown into the mix.

Content begets shape and form, and therein lays the talents of director Steve Scott, musical director Ryan Brewster, and choreographer Brenda Didier; plus our stellar design and production team of artists who transformed my eclectic choices into electrifying stories. For what is content without character or message without messengers? And who better to embody all this storytelling than our talented ensemble of performers? Ultimately, words, notes, and movement are only as good as the performers who embody them. We sure lucked out on that front!

Sadly, the obituary on cabaret as an art form has been written and re-written for decades now. But at Silk Road Rising, the cabaret lives! And to underscore the point, let’s raise a toast to *Re-Spiced: A Silk Road Cabaret*.

by Jamil Khoury

Founding Artistic Director of Silk Road Rising

Creator of *Re-Spiced: A Silk Road Cabaret*

February 25, 2012

ABOUT **SILK ROAD RISING**

MISSION

Silk Road Rising (formerly known as Silk Road Theatre Project) creates live theatre and online videos that tell stories through primarily Asian American and Middle Eastern American lenses. In representing communities that intersect and overlap, we advance a polycultural worldview.

VISION

Silk Road Rising understands that cultures are inherently linked. We seek the intersection of cultures without denying the specificities of cultures. And we strive to create a world that values art over ideology and inquiry over dogma.

ARTISTIC GOALS

1. To showcase playwrights of Asian and Middle Eastern backgrounds by staging productions and readings of their work.
2. To commission and develop new plays that will enrich the fabric of American storytelling.
3. To support Artistic Director Jamil Khoury in writing and producing online video plays, documentaries, and video essays.
4. To develop projects that advance civic engagement and public discourse.

AN AMERICAN INSTITUTION

The Silk Road stretched from Japan to Italy. We're extending it to America.

In many respects, Silk Road Rising is a love letter to the United States of America. We know that the work we do and the issues we dramatize can only exist under the protections and guarantees of our country's First Amendment. We also know that in many nations along the Silk Road today, our voices would be censored, banned, or worse. We believe that the work of Silk Road Rising contributes to making America a better country for us all: a more inclusive country, a more just country, and a more peace loving country. The United States of America that we strive for is one in which peoples of all races and ethnicities, all religions, all genders, and all sexual orientations, regardless of socio-economic status, feel valued and loved.

GET INVOLVED

WITH SILK ROAD RISING

DONATE

Be a part of the exciting things happening at Chicagoland's only theatre company dedicated to telling the stories of Asian and Middle Eastern peoples. Your tax-deductible contribution will support the production of our main stage season, as well as staged readings, new play commissions, community outreach, educational programs, and more. Check this program for a donation envelope, visit www.silkroadrising.org, or mail your donation to Silk Road Rising, 680 S. Federal Street, Suite 301, Chicago, IL 60605. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER

Want to be closer to the artists and artistry at Silk Road Rising? A variety of volunteer opportunities afford patrons the chance to get involved at a grassroots level, from ushering through The Saints to offering pro bono professional services. Contact us today at info@silkroadrising.org to find out how you can help.

LEAD

Silk Road Rising's most active supporters can be found on our Board of Directors, a dynamic group of individuals dedicated to sustaining the mission and goals of this acclaimed young company. Others show their leadership by joining a steering committee or an honorary committee for our annual fund campaigns and benefit events. If you wish to discuss leadership opportunities at SRR, please contact Executive Director Malik Gillani at malik@silkroadrising.org.

RECEIVE

Get advance news about SRR's activities, productions and events from our e-newsletter. Send us an email at info@silkroadrising.org or just stop by the Box Office—no spam or selling of lists, we promise!

COMPANY MEMBERS

Jamil Khoury | Founding Artistic Director
Malik Gillani | Founding Executive Director
David Henry Hwang | Artistic Ambassador
Steve Scott | Artistic Advisor
Neal Ryan Shaw | Resident Dramaturg
Kareem Bandlealy | Artistic Associate
Rebecca A. Barrett | Artistic Associate
Carol J. Blanchard | Artistic Associate
Lavina Jadhvani | Artistic Associate
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SILK ROAD RISING IS A PROUD MEMBER OF



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CONTACT SILK ROAD RISING

Administrative Offices
 Silk Road Rising
 680 South Federal Street, Suite 301
 Chicago, Illinois 60605

Tel: 312-857-1234
 Fax: 312-577-0849
info@silkroadrising.org
<http://www.silkroadrising.org>



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SPECIAL THANKS

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 **Andrew Skwish**, artist extraordinaire, and great friend of Silk Road Rising, for so generously gifting us the art work on display in the theatre. To learn more about Andrew Skwish and his impressive body of work, visit: www.skwish.com

To the **Paramount Theatre** and the **Goodman Theatre**.

SUPPORTING DONATIONS

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DINING PARTNERS

Silk Road Rising is proud to partner with outstanding restaurants, all within a short walking distance of our theatre, providing unique, high quality dining experiences tailored to you: the curtain conscious theatre goer.

Catch 35 Chicago

Serving the freshest seafood, steaks and daily specials: the perfect prelude to a great performance. Catch 35 is now featuring the Special Pre-Fixe 3 Course Value Dinner for \$29.95. Business or pleasure, lunch or dinner, casual or dressy, join us any time you want a delectable dining experience. Show your electronic ticket confirmation to your server and the price of valet parking will be deducted from your guest check.

Bella Bacino's

Chef Dan Bacin's motto is "Give me the Best." Bacino's provides the best--the best ingredients, the best meals, the best service, the best dining experience. This quality is what makes Chef Bacin one of Chicago's top chefs. Bacino's pizza is always hot, fresh, and fast. Italian food as it was meant to be: delicious!

HOTEL PARTNER

Comfort Suites

We strongly encourage you to select the Comfort Suites Michigan Avenue, a gorgeous property located in Chicago's city center, steps from the Magnificent Mile, the theater district, fine dining restaurants, and all the best Chicago has to offer. The hotel has beautifully appointed oversized suites with some of the best views in Chicago.

PARKING PARTNER

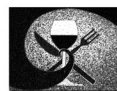
System Parking

System Parking, on the northeast corner of Washington and Franklin Streets, is the official parking lot sponsor of Silk Road Rising. To receive discounted parking, be sure to ask the box office manager to provide you with a discount coupon. Then, when exiting the parking lot, insert your ticket followed by the coupon into the charge machine at the parking lot. You will only be charged \$6 for your visit.



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THE CHICAGO TEMPLE

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"Come and see..."

There are many key words that describe this congregation. Words like these:

URBAN. From Day One, we have been in the heart of Chicago.

DIVERSE. Our staff is diverse - white and black, female and male, Asian and Caucasian. Our congregation is diverse, like the city itself. Our official Statement of Welcome and Inclusion makes it clear that "we welcome and encourage all persons, including persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities, in every aspect of our Christian life together."

TRADITIONAL and CONTEMPORARY. Our roots are in the Methodism of John and Charles Wesley, but our traditional services are enriched by music from classical, modern, Gospel and jazz sources.

INTERFAITH and ECUMENICAL. Each year the Temple hosts an interfaith Thanksgiving service, bringing together the city's broad spectrum of faith communities.

GLOBAL. "The world is my parish," said John Wesley. In that spirit our laypeople and clergy have been involved personally in mission projects in such countries as China, Ghana, Haiti and the Philippines.

COSMOPOLITAN. Our church hosts the award winning Silk Road Rising, the Chicago Humanities Festival, guest lecturers from National Public Radio, concerts and pre-election debates.



Philip Blackwell

Senior Pastor

First United Methodist Church
at the Chicago Temple

**We invite you to come and see us at the Temple.
You are more than welcome.**



Valparaiso University Graduate School

announcing partnership with **Silk Road Rising**

A DISTINCTIVE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ADMINISTRATION COLLABORATION

Silk Road Rising will host internship positions made possible by a grant from the James S. Kemper Foundation of Chicago for Valpo Arts & Entertainment Administration graduate students. The paid internships will extend throughout the students' course of study and provides them with hands-on experience working at this award-winning theatre company.

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SILK ROAD RISING
ENGAGING THEATRE: ON STAGE / ONLINE

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NEXT on our stage!

NIGHT OVER ERZINGA

OCTOBER 9 – NOVEMBER 11, 2012
A ROLLING WORLD PREMIERE

Written by
Adriana Sevahn
Nichols

Directed by
Lisa Portes

Spanning the Ottoman Empire to New York City, and blending Middle Eastern culture with Latino culture, *Night Over Erzinga* interweaves three generations of an Armenian American family. From collective tragedy to personal triumph, ancestors reunite with the living in Adriana Sevahn Nichols' breathtakingly beautiful journey toward making peace with the past and reclaiming one's own heritage.



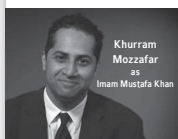
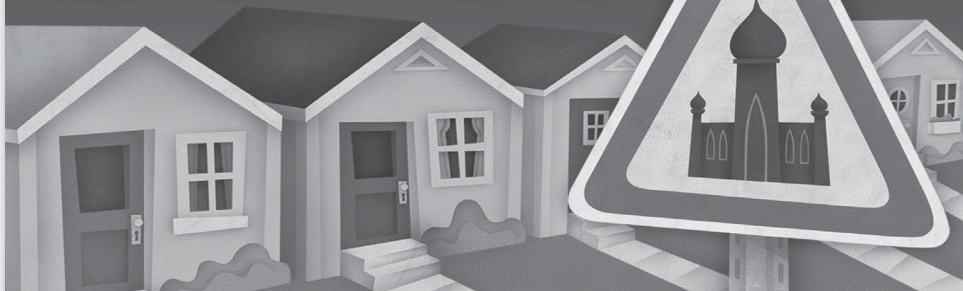
To purchase tickets, call 312-857-1234 x201 or visit www.silkroadrising.org



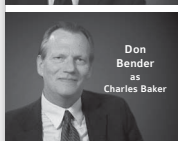
CO-CREATE online!

BECOME PART OF JAMIL'S NEW PLAY-IN-PROGRESS

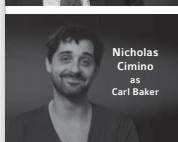
A PLAY BY JAMIL KHOURY **MOSQUE ALERT**



Khurram
Mozzafar
as
Imam Mustafa Khan



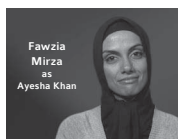
Don
Bender
as
Charles Baker



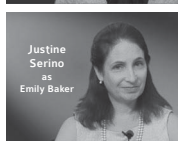
Nicholas
Cimino
as
Carl Baker

Mosque Alert tells the story of two suburban American families living in Naperville, Illinois. One family's Christian, the Baker family, and the other family's Muslim, the Khan family. The Bakers and the Khans find their lives torn apart by a proposal to build a mosque in their community.

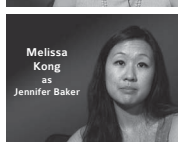
Join Silk Road Rising and playwright Jamil Khoury for this first-of-its-kind, ten step, online, interactive, new play development and civic engagement process. Be part of creating a brand new piece of theatre by engaging Jamil and all six of the *Mosque Alert* characters.



Fawzia
Mirza
as
Ayesha Khan



Justine
Serino
as
Emily Baker



Melissa
Kong
as
Jennifer Baker

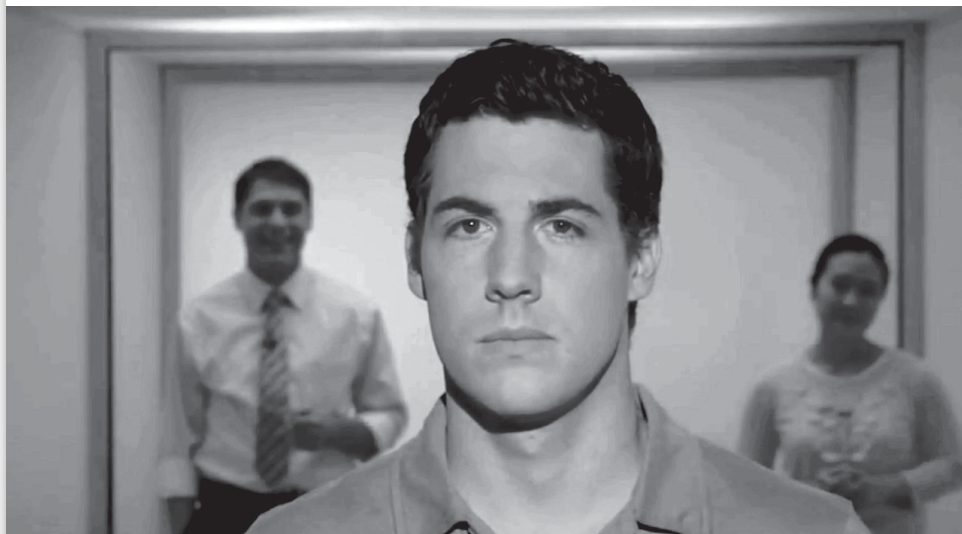
Visit www.silkroadrising.org and click on *Mosque Alert* under ENGAGE.

Engage with Mosque
Alert


SILK ROAD RISING
ENGAGING THEATRE: ON STAGE / ONLINE

VIEW online video plays!

both/and



both/and breaks the shackles of “either/or” in this quasi-autobiographical short video play by Jamil Khoury. In *both/and*, the characters of Jamil, Arab Man, and Gay Man explore and explode the contested borders between American and Arab, Arab American and gay, for profit and not for profit, and assorted other disputed territories.

Visit www.silkroadrising.org
to view *both/and*.

[Video Length 00:12:29]

Free to view and easy to share!



ENJOY online documentary films!

Not Quite White

NOT QUITE WHITE

Arabs, Slavs, and the Contours of
Contested Whiteness

Not Quite White explores the complicated relationship of Arab and Slavic immigrants to American notions of whiteness. It expands the American conversation on race by zeroing in on whiteness as a constructed social and political category, a “slippery slope” that historically “played favorites,” advantaging Northern and Western European immigrants over immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe and the Middle East. Dedicated to a vision of whiteness that is anti-racist and rooted in economic justice, and directed by Jamil Khoury and Stephen Combs, *Not Quite White* integrates theatrical footage alongside interviews with Arab American and Polish American academics.

Visit www.silkroadrising.org
to view *Not Quite White*.

[Video Length 00:24:08]

Free to view and easy to share!




SILK ROAD RISING
ENGAGING THEATRE: ON STAGE / ONLINE

THREADS OF SILK:

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