



Jamil Khoury
Artistic Director

Malik Gillani
Executive Director

proudly presents

TEN ACROBATS IN AN AMAZING LEAP OF FAITH
By Yussef El Guindi

Directed by Stuart Carden

Featuring:

Jen Albert, Kareem Bandealy, Mary Ann de la Cruz, Steven Gilpin,
Anil Hurkadli, Irit Levit, Monica Lopez, Vincent P. Mahler,
Peter Nicholas, and Frank Platis

<i>Producers</i>	Malik Gillani and Jamil Khoury
<i>Production Manager</i>	Jefferson Burns
<i>Scenic Designer</i>	Matthew Morton
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Kurt Ottinger
<i>Sound Designer & Original Music</i>	Robert Steele
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Aly Greaves
<i>Props Designer</i>	Alana Parvey
<i>Assistant Director & Dramaturg</i>	Carol Karaguez
<i>Stage Manager</i>	Alexandra Herryman
<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>	Drew Durfee
<i>Technical Director</i>	Left Wing Scenic
<i>House Manager</i>	Michael Montgomery
<i>Box Office Manager</i>	Carolyn Ziaja

www.srtp.org

This production generously supported by:

TheJoyceFoundation

This theater is a
proud member of the



Cast *in order of appearance*

Tawfiq.....	Kareem Bandedy
Kamal.....	Vincent P. Mahler
Mona.....	Irit Levit
Huwaida.....	Monica Lopez
Pauline.....	Mary Ann de la Cruz
H.D.	Jen Albert
Hamza.....	Anil Hurkadli
Murad.....	Peter Nicholas
Kevin.....	Steven Gilpin
Aziz.....	Frank Platis

Understudies *in alphabetical order*

Hamza, Murad and Tawfiq	Adam Bute
Huwaida and H.D.	Kimberly Palter
Mona and Pauline	Justine Serino

Production Staff

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Special thanks

This production honors our dear and cherished friend Norm Sloan; a consummate lover of theatre and a tireless advocate for social justice. Norm, you have no idea how many lives you touch and inspire. Thank you for being you!

We at Silk Road Theatre Project are truly awed by the tremendous generosity and kindness exhibited by our hosts, The First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple. The hospitality afforded us by both staff and congregation, and the enormous sacrifice they have made to accommodate this production as our new theatre is being built on the lower level, goes above and beyond anything we could have imagined or wished for. How honored and humbled we feel to be the theatre-in-residence at such a distinguished institution comprised of such an extraordinary community of people.

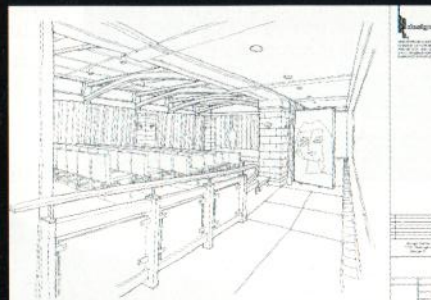
In particular, we would like to thank Rev. Philip Blackwell (our miracle maker on Washington Street!), Rev. Cheryl Magrini, Rev. Cerna Castro Rand, Rev. Darius F. Thomas, Sally Blackwell, Rich Dougan, Jacquie Garrett, Jann Ingmire, Terri Johnson, Roy Larson, Erik Nussbaum, Kathy Shaeffer, and Azucena Tressler. We also thank David Kipley of Construction Methods & Technologies, and Gregg Herman and Robin Whitehurst of Bailey Edward Design.

And where would be without the support and savvy of our navigator-in-chief, Julie Burros of the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs? Julie, you're a gem!

Newest Addition to

Chicago's Loop Theatre District!

2006 promises to be an exciting new year for Silk Road Theatre Project! We will finally have our own permanent home smack dab in the heart of Chicago's burgeoning Loop theatre district! A beautiful, fully-equipped, 99-seat flexible black box theatre in Pierce



Hall, located on the lower level of The Historic Chicago Temple Building. We will inaugurate our new theatre in April 2006 with the Midwest Premiere of Yusef El Guindi's *Back of the Throat*.



Gilara, Inc. is a proud sponsor of
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Thank you for making a difference!

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About Silk Road Theatre Project

Mission

Silk Road Theatre Project showcases playwrights of Asian, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean backgrounds, whose works address themes relevant to the peoples of the Silk Road and their Diaspora communities. Through the creation and presentation of outstanding theatre, we aim to promote discourse and dialogue among multi-cultural audiences in Chicago.

The “Spark”

Silk Road Theatre Project is a creative response to the attacks of September 11, 2001. The consequences of that catastrophic day are sure to reverberate for years to come, posing unique and urgent challenges for artists of all backgrounds, and inspiring us to educate, promote dialogue, and heal rifts through the transformative power of theatre.

Company co-founders and life partners, Malik Gillani and Jamil Khoury, felt galvanized to respond to the anti-Arab and anti-Muslim sentiments that swept the U.S. in the aftermath of the attacks. Their hope was to counter negative representation of Middle Eastern and Muslim peoples with representation that was authentic, multi-faceted, and grounded in human experience. That theatre would be the medium in which they'd “create change” was a given; a decision dictated by their mutual love of theatre, and Khoury's vocation as a playwright.

Their idea quickly expanded beyond the Middle East to encompass that vast geographical area known historically as the “Silk Road;” a territory stretching from China to Italy and a legacy associated with rich traditions of oral narrative, epic poetry, and storytelling. Silk Road Theatre Project thus officially came into existence in the summer of 2002.

Support Us

The financial challenges of running an affordable, high quality, socially conscientious, multi-cultural theatre company are daunting! In order to continue producing such important works as *Ten Acrobats in an Amazing Leap of Faith*, we rely on the support and generosity of people like you. Support Silk Road Theatre Project! Send a donation today to: Silk Road Theatre Project, 6 E. Monroe St. # 801, Chicago, IL 60603 or contribute on-line via pay pal at www.srtp.org/donate.html.

Join our e-newsletter list

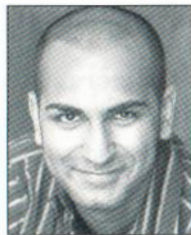
Want to be kept abreast of Silk Road's activities, productions and events? Sign up to receive our monthly e-newsletter. To sign up, send us an email at info@srtp.org. No spam, no selling of lists, we promise!

Profiles



JEN ALBERT (H.D.) Jen is pleased (after many scheduling conflicts) to finally have the opportunity to work with Silk Road Theatre Project. She was last seen in *In the Heart of America* with Prop Thtr. Her work has been seen all around town with numerous companies including Defiant,

Circle, Steppenwolf and Victory Gardens. She is also a company member of Babes With Blades and an associate company member of Circle Theatre.



KAREEM BANDEALY (Tawfiq) Kareem received his B.F.A. from the University of Central Florida. He spent four seasons at the Orlando Shakespeare Festival before arriving in Chicago where his stage credits include: Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, Eclipse Theatre, Stage Left, Theatre on the Lake, Prop Thtr, Village Players Theatre, and Talisman Theatre. Chicago workshop credits: American Theatre Company, Famous Door, Rasaka Theatre Company, and Silk Road Theatre Project. Kareem is a company member of A Crew of Patches, a daytime theatre bringing full-length, uncut Shakespeare to Chicago area high schools. He is also an associate artist with Rasaka Theatre Company, Chicago's first South Asian theatre company.



MARY ANN DE LA CRUZ (Pauline) Mary Ann is thrilled to be working with Silk Road Theatre Project once again. She was last seen playing a bobblehead in Fieldhouse Lab's *Orpheus Now* at the Storefront Theater. Before that she pranced around as Lue Ming in Prop Thtr's production of *In the Heart of America*. Favorite past productions include *Tea* with SRTP, *A Christmas Carol* at The Goodman, and Pintig Group's adaptation of *Mother Courage* (Nanay Isog). Other credits include work with Greasy Joan & Co., ATC, Trap Door, Chicago Dramatists, sprung theatre, Prologue Productions, St. Sebastian Players, and North Avenue Productions. Love and dedication to the amazing acrobats in my family circus, most especially to my B.M.W.

Circle, Steppenwolf and Victory Gardens. She is also a company member of Babes With Blades and an associate company member of Circle Theatre.



STEVEN GILPIN (Kevin) Steven is thrilled to be part of Silk Road's world premiere of *Ten Acrobats...* Steven is an ensemble member of the Free Associates Theatre Company, where he was last seen in *Whose West Wing is it Anyway?!* and *Frodo-a-Go-Go: The Rings Recycled*. Other

credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Romeo and Juliet* with City Lit Theatre. Born and raised in Chicago, Steven holds a bachelor's degree from Bard College in New York.



ANIL HURKADLI (Hamza) Anil is thrilled to be working with Silk Road Theatre Project once again. Past collaborations include staged readings of Yusef al-Guindi's *Back of the Throat*, Rana Kazkaz's *Gibran*, and Mrinalini Kamath's *Celestial Motions*. In the past year, Anil has appeared in Black

Dove Theatre's production of *Stop Kiss* as Peter. Previous stage credits include *Falling Man* in *Falling Man*, Friar Lawrence in *Romeo and Juliet*, George Hay in *Moon Over Buffalo*, and Bill in *Sure Thing*, all produced at Northwestern University. Future projects include the role of Wahab al-Rawi in the Chicago premiere of *Guan-tanamo*, produced by the TimeLine Theatre.



IRIT LEVIT (Mona) Irit is delighted to return to Silk Road after her beguiling debut with the company as Leila, Rachel and Esther in Jamil Khoury's *Precious Stones*. Previous to her collaboration with Silk Road she appeared in *Die Fledermaus* at Light Opera Works, and spent three years in Israel

on stage and television while completing a conservatory program at Israel's renowned Beit Zvi School for Performing Arts. While there some of her favorite shows were *The Red Balloon* and *An Evening of Chansons*, which were televised, as well as Irina in Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, The Princess Kosmonopolis in Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth*, Natalya in *A Month in the Country*, Kitty in William Saroyan's *The Time of Your Life*, Blanche DuBois in Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Darlene in David Rabe's *Hurly Burly*, and Rachel in Martin Sherman's *The Messiah*. Irit dedicates this show to her departed parents. Reason is powerless in the expression of Love. Rumi

Profiles



MONICA LOPEZ (Huwaida) Monica is pleased to be making her Silk Road Theatre Project debut in this wonderful production. She would like to thank Malik and Jamil for their generosity and inspiration, Stuart for his wonderful direction and Yusef for his beautiful words. Thank you all for coming out and supporting live theatre.



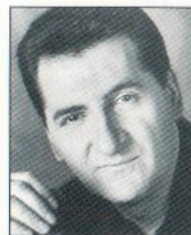
VINCENT P. MAHLER (Kamal) Vincent most recently appeared at Circle Theatre in *What's Wrong With Angry?* As artistic director for Frump Tucker Theatre he performed in *How I Learned to Drive*, *Below the Belt*, and *An Empty Plate in the Cafe du Grand Boeuf*, and directed *Loose Knit*

and *Down the Road*. He has acted for such Chicago theatre companies as Bailiwick, Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Chicago Jewish Theatre, City Lit, Interplay, Irish Rep, New Tuners, Pegasus Players, Remy Bumppo, Seanachai, Side Project, Speaking Ring, and Stage Left. With Eileen Glenn, he adapted and directed *Good Bones and Simple Murders*, a one-woman show of Margaret Atwood's short fiction. He holds an M.F.A. in theatre from Boston University and was director and dramaturg for Brandeis University's Graduate Playwriting Program for three years.

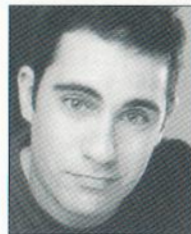


PETER NICHOLAS (Murad) Peter emigrated from Greece at a very young age and is indebted to his parents for a strong work ethic and a passion for affecting change. Most recently, Peter appeared as Ferdinand of Aragon in a Centuries & Sleuths production of *Meeting of Minds* and as Dodi

Fayed in the Discovery Channel/Towers Productions docudrama *Princess Diana - Conspiracy?* Prior credits include multiple roles in Circle Theatre's *New Plays Festival* and as Smithe in the Village Players' adaptation of *Robin Hood*. He has also been featured in numerous commercials, industrial productions and independent features. Living by Burnham's credo to "Make No Small Plans," Peter thanks Yusef, Stuart, Jamil, Malik and all the company of *10 Acrobats* for helping with his "planning!"



FRANK PLATIS (Aziz) Frank appears for the first time with Silk Road Theatre Project and he is very excited. He has appeared with Theo Ubique, The Side Project and Collaboraction among others. In addition, he has done understudy turns at American Theater Company, Chicago Dramatists and The Artistic Home.



ADAM BUTE (Understudy for the roles of Hamza, Tawfiq, and Murad) Adam is honored and thrilled to be working with Silk Road Theatre Project. Originally from Nikiski, Alaska, Adam has been seen in American Theater Company's *The Hairy Ape*, Chicago Shakespeare Theater's *King John* and

with Romuva Productions in *When Lithuania Ruled the World Part IV*. He holds a B.A. in theatre arts from the University of the Pacific and an M.F.A. in performance from Roosevelt University. Enjoy the show!



KIMBERLY PALTER (Understudy for the roles of H.D. and Huwaida) Kimberly is thrilled to be back with Silk Road Theatre Project after portraying H.D. in last spring's staged reading of *Ten Acrobats...* Theatrical credits: World premiere of *Misia* (Chicago Ravinia Festival), *Die Fledermaus* (Light Opera Works). She is a recent graduate of Northwestern University's Music Theatre Program where favorite shows included *Waa Mu*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *Parade*.

Love to my family, puppies, and girlfriends!



JUSTINE SERINO (Understudy for the roles of Mona and Pauline) Justine has been seen around town with Stage Left in *Prairie Lights*, The Artistic Home in *Two Things About Ivan*, Foosteps Theatre in *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe*, *Twelfth Night*, *Fefu* and *Her Friends*, and *Deeper Shade of Blue*, Circle Theatre in *Merrily We Roll Along*, and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and the long-running *The Irish and How They Got That Way* at the Mercury Theatre. She is delighted to be a part of this production.

Profiles

YUSSEF EL GUINDI (Playwright) Yussef is a playwright living in Seattle. His most recent production was *Back of the Throat*, winner of the 2004 Northwest Playwright's Competition. It was first staged by San Francisco's Thick Description and Golden Thread Productions, later presented by Theater Schmeater in Seattle. It is scheduled to be produced in Chicago (at Silk Road), Anchorage, Alaska, Durham, North Carolina, and in Cairo, Egypt. Another play, *Acts of Desire* is being staged by Los Angeles' Fountain Theatre. Other recent productions: *Karma's City* (in San Francisco and as part of 2004's Cairo International Experimental Theater Festival, both presented by Golden Thread Productions), *Murder in the Mirror* (a radio play presented by Stage Shadows at the Museum of Television and Radio in New York), and *Men on Mars* (another radio play aired in 2004 by Shoestring Radio Theater in San Francisco). His adaptation of Chekhov's *A Marriage Proposal* into an Arab-American setting was staged by the Arab Theatrical Arts Guild in Dearborn, Michigan, and was nominated for several PAGE awards including Outstanding Achievement in an Original Play or Adaptation. His short stories, *Habibi* and *Ohio* are to be published in the Seattle Review and Mizna respectively. Another short story, *Stage Directions for an Extended Conversation* was recently published in Dinarzad's Children, an anthology of Arab-American Fiction. Yussef holds an M.F.A. from Carnegie-Mellon University and was playwright-in-residence at Duke University.

STUART CARDEN (Director) Stuart is honored to work with SRTP and Yussef El Guindi on the premiere of this remarkable play. Recent regional credits include the U.S. premiere of Martin Crimp's adaptation of Marivaux's *The False Servant* and the critically acclaimed remount of Marie Jones's *Stones in his Pockets* for Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre (where he serves as artistic associate), the regional premiere of Tristine Skyler's *The Moonlight Room* and the 2004 and 2005 Young Playwrights Festival for the City Theatre and Charles Mee's *Big Love* for the No Name Players which garnered Pittsburgh's Ten Best Award of 2004. In Chicago and surrounding areas recent productions include *The Game of Love and Chance*, *Life is a Dream*, *Ring Round the Moon*, *Private Eyes* and *Spring Awakening*. Stuart received his M.F.A. in directing from Carnegie Mellon University (where he teaches each summer) and is a proud member of the Third Coast Network, CMU Drama Alumni of Chicago. Currently he teaches movement and viewpoints theory for Act One Studios' Two Year Acting Conservatory and the College of DuPage. Upcoming projects include *The Crucible* for C.O.D., *On the Verge* for Lake Forest College and Martin McDonagh's *The Pillowman* for PICT.

JEFFERSON BURNS (Production Manager) Jefferson is honored to be working with Silk Road Theatre Project for *10 Acrobats in an Amazing Leap of Faith*. Jefferson has recently become the managing director for the Free Associates Theatre Company where he began as a stage manager over five years ago. His last production managing position was with the Free Associates' political parody, *Whose West Wing is it Anyway?!*. He is eagerly looking forward to his next venture with the Free Associates, co-creating and assistant directing the upcoming improvised parody, *Law & Order: CTA*, scheduled to premiere in March 2006. Jefferson extends his thanks to the cast and crew of *10 Acrobats...* and to all of his friends for generally putting up with and tolerating him. He additionally wants to extend his love to his best friend in the world, his TiVo.

MATTHEW MORTON (Scenic Designer) Matt has been designing in and around Chicago for the last three years. Mr. Morton did his graduate work at Ohio University in scenic art and design. He has worked nationally as both a scenic designer and artist. His most recent work includes: *La Traviata* (L'opera piccolo), *Beyond Therapy* (Metropolis PAC), *Carmen* (Opera Theatre North), *The Medium* (Chamber Opera Of Chicago), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (MPAC), *Finding Yolanda* (COT outreach), *La Boheme* (Opera Theatre North), *Last Sunday In June* (Bailiwick Rep.), *Cabaret* (MPAC), *2004 Young Playwright's Festival* (Pegasus Players), *The Pretentious Young Ladies* (City Lit), *Picnic* (Henderson Rep), *Wizard of Oz* (Emerald City Theatre Company), *A Mislead Heaven* (Shapeshifters), *Annie* (Ohio Valley Summer Theatre), *A Christmas Carol*, *Odd Couple*, and *Over the Tavern* (MPAC). Mr. Morton won the Kennedy Center ACTF national award for scenic design in 2000.

KURT OTTINGER (Lighting Designer) Kurt is very happy to be designing lighting for Silk Road again, having designed lighting for *Tea*. His most recent project was the lighting design for Bailiwick Repertory's production of *Hit Man: The Hack Wilson Story*. Kurt was also season lighting designer for Circle Theatre for two years where he designed lighting for such productions as: *Fool for Love* (Jeff citation nomination), *Steel Magnolias*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *The Shape of Things* and *What's Wrong with Angry*. He is also lighting designer for Highland Park Players and Actors Theatre of Glencoe. Kurt is the resident designer and technical director for the Northbrook Theatre.

ROBERT STEELE (Sound Designer and Original Music) Rob recently designed sound and original music for *Scarrie* with Hell in a Handbag, *Great Expectations* at Piven, *Dead Man Walking* and *Arcadia* at The University of Notre Dame, *Vincent in Brixton* at Apple

Profiles

Tree Theatre, *Our Country's Good* at Piven, *Camp Nimrod for Girls* at Live Bait, *How Whatever Happened to Baby Jane Happened?* with Hell in a Handbag, *Drink Me* with Seanachai, *Necessary Targets* at Apple Tree, *The Golem* with Chicago Jewish, *Human Interest Story* with Walkabout, *Skyscraper* at Piven, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* with Shakespeare on the Green, *The Sign of the Four* at Apple Tree, *The Bumbinni Brothers Show* at the Actors Gymnasium, *The Rivals* at City Lit, and *America Hurrah!*, *Another Day*, *Coyote Ugly*, *Schadenfreude*, *Raggedy Ann and Andy*, *Angels in America* and *Mad Forest* at the DePaul University/Barat Campus. With European Rep: *Tiebele and Her Demon*, *Warriors*, *Black Milk*, *Madame De-Sade*, and *Woyzeck*. He also composes for video and film. He is a recipient of an After Dark Award and awards from ASCAP and the Illinois Arts Council.

ALY GREAVES (Costume Designer) Aly is happy to be working with Silk Road for the first time and pleased to be reunited with a fellow Carnegie Mellon alum, Stuart Carden. Aly is an ensemble member at Strawdog Theatre where she has designed *Spring Awakening* (with Carden as the director), *Julius Caesar* at Theater on the Lake, *Detective Story*, *Puntilla and His Man Matti*, *Impossible Marriage*, *The True Ballad of Fall's Blessings*, and the upcoming productions of *Three Sisters* and *Tooth of Crime*. This fall, Aly is also designing *Anna Karenina* for Vitalist, *Recent Tragic Events* for Uma, and Buffalo Theatre Ensemble's *Temporary Help*. Aly is the assistant costumer at the College of DuPage where she also teaches stage makeup and designs costumes and the odd set or two.

ALANA PARVEY (Props Designer) Alana graduated from Northwestern University and is now pleased to be designing props for Silk Road Theatre Project. Recently Alana served as props intern for Lookingglass Theatre Company's production of *Hillbilly Antigone*. Other favorite credits include *Recent Tragic Events* with Uma Productions, *And the World Goes Round* with LaRed Productions, and set designs for *I Hate Hamlet* and *The Shadow Box*. Love and thanks to Mom and Dad.

CAROL KARAGUEZ (Assistant Director and Dramaturg) Carol received her M.F.A. in directing/dramaturgy from the Chicago College of Performing Arts where she directed *A Lie of the Mind*. Further training includes the Steppenwolf School at CSU Summer Arts. She last directed *When Lithuania Ruled the World* at the Chicago Cultural Center. Other favorites include *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *How I Learned to Drive*, and *Vagina Monologues*. She has served as dramaturg for *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Crucible*, and *The Beggar's Opera*.

ALEXANDRA HERRYMAN (Stage Manager) Alexandra arrived in Chicago a year ago after graduating from St. Bonaventure University with a major in English and a minor in theatre. Locally she has worked as an ASM for Porchlight Music Theatre's *A New Brain*, *Falsettos*, *Closer than Ever*, and as stage manager for Northlight Theatre's *Open Door Ensemble*, as well as braving the teenagers to stage manage the 8th grade play at St. Francis Xavier School in Wilmette. In the summer she can be found at the Chautauqua Theatre Company in Western New York State, where she has worked for three years as a wardrobe assistant and ASM.

DREW DURFEE (Assistant Stage Manager) Drew is excited to be working with Silk Road for the first time. Previously he has worked on Breadline & Tanalus Productions. Coming up on his second year in Chicago, Drew is thrilled to be getting good excuses to go downtown more often.

LEFT WING SCENIC (Technical Director) provides comprehensive technical and design services to theatres and theatrical companies of all sizes, as well as retail stores, photographic studios, and nightclubs. Contracts range from single shows to entire seasons and include technical direction, set construction, electrical installation, painting, and lighting and scenic design. Having worked with more than 25 theatres and production houses all over Chicago, Left Wing brings a team of artists and technicians that works quickly and efficiently to fulfill all of your needs. (www.leftwingscenic.com)

MICHAEL MONTGOMERY (House Manager) Michael is a graduate of Illinois State University where he majored in acting. While at ISU he also was the house manager for ISU's Center for the Performing Arts. He also worked several seasons with the Illinois Shakespeare Festival in Bloomington, IL. After graduating, Michael moved to Chicago where he has worked with a variety of companies including: JAM Theatricals, Theatre Building Chicago, Mtv, and the Northern California Innocence Project. This past summer he returned to the Illinois Shakespeare Festival where he was the company manager. Currently, Michael is the box office manager at ComedySportz Chicago. He would like to thank his parents and Daniel for their support and endurance.

CAROLYN ZIAJA (Box Office Manager) Carolyn is originally from Dallas, Texas, and is currently attending Loyola University Chicago as a theater and journalism major. In Texas she was greatly involved in the Irving Community theater as a stage manager and actress, and at her high school, The Canterbury Episcopal School, as a student director and performer.

JAMIL KHOURY (Artistic Director) Jamil is co-founder and artistic director of Silk Road Theatre Project, a position to which he brings extensive experience as a producer, playwright, and cross-cultural consultant. He is honored to be promoting the cultural production of Silk Road peoples and to be fostering the exchange of ideas within Chicago's theatre community. Khoury's vocation as a playwright lends a valuable currency to fulfilling our mission as a playwright driven theatre. His plays focus on Middle Eastern themes and questions of Diaspora. He is particularly interested in the intersections of culture, national identity, sexuality, and class. Khoury holds an M.A. degree in religious studies from the University of Chicago Divinity School and a B.S. degree in International Relations from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He is an occasional instructor for the University of Chicago Graham School of General Studies, where he develops courses in Middle East Studies. Khoury's play *Precious Stones* won Gay Chicago Magazine's 2003 After Dark Award for Outstanding New Work and has been performed in ten cities across the U.S.

MALIK GILLANI (Executive Director) Malik is co-founder and executive director of Silk Road Theatre Project, a position to which he brings extensive experience in producing, management, and business development. He is thrilled to be promoting both the rich cultural legacy of the Silk Road and greater visibility for Silk Road artists. Gillani nurtured Silk Road Theatre Project from its embryonic stage into a celebrated theatre company, integrating business acumen and fiscal responsibility within an artistic mission. He studied at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business majoring in marketing and small business management and earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, with an emphasis on the Great Books. Gillani has ten years experience operating technology consulting firms where at various points in his career he was responsible for sales, marketing, negotiations, contract management, and human resources. Gillani is the recipient of the 2003 IBM Business and Technology Leadership Award.

Falkor Group Salutes Silk Road Theatre Project!



While Falkor Group boasts many of the same qualities that other IT firms tout, like industry experience, highly skilled technology, professional rapid response, and a history of successful project execution, what sets us apart is our strategic focus and strong company values. Come see for yourself why Falkor Group remains the most compelling choice for organizations operating in today's market.

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Letter from the Founders

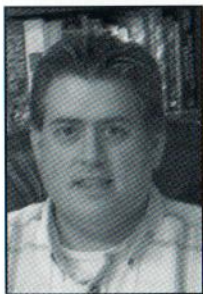
Welcome to Silk Road Theatre Project's 2005-2006 Season of Muslim-American plays! It was a fusion of artistic integrity and activist passion that "birthed" Silk Road; a commitment to creating outstanding theatre that promotes discourse and dialogue among multi-cultural audiences in Chicago. What better partner with whom to do just that than Arab-America's favorite playwright, Yusef El Guindi!

It is an honor for us to introduce Chicago audiences to Yusef's unique and compelling voice. Our Fall world premiere of *Ten Acrobats in an Amazing Leap of Faith* and our Spring Midwest premiere of *Back of the Throat* promise to showcase the breadth and versatility of Yusef's writing. As a playwright, Yusef creates from within the Arab and Muslim communities. His work exudes a certain subjectivity, a familiarity, that enlightens and informs, while never failing to entertain.

Why is this season so important? Because we must not let extremists define this dialogue! Because in this time of fear, suspicion, and uncertainty, we want to show that Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans are an integral part of this country's social fabric. We want to show that the words "Muslim" and "American" are complimentary, a perfect match, and not some contradiction in terms.

Forget the headlines, its art that's going to heal rifts and bring our communities together. And to those ends, we thank you for joining us on this journey!

Sincerely,



Jamil Khoury
Artistic Director



Malik Gillani
Executive Director

Letter from Pastor Philip Blackwell

Dear Friends,

Welcome to First United Methodist Church at The Chicago Temple!

As a congregation we are deeply proud to claim Silk Road Theatre Project as our Theatre-in-Residence. Ours is an old congregation, started in 1831 in a log cabin at Wolf Point, but it's a church that is hospitable to new ideas, new people, and imaginative new projects.

As we see it, the relationship between the Temple and Silk Road Theatre Project is a "natural fit."

The Chicago Temple is a cosmopolitan urban church in the heart of the city with a congregation and a staff that are enormously rich in their diversity. We welcome all people—white and black, Hispanic and Asian, male and female, heterosexual and homosexual, married and single, children, youth and adults, "cradle Christians" and contemporary seekers.

Naturally and instinctively, we were delighted when the opportunity came to extend our hospitality and provide a home for a fresh new theatre project, especially one like Silk Road, that is committed to showcasing the work of playwrights who reflect the rich, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic diversity of our 21st Century world.

We look forward to a long and productive relationship. And to a wonderful 2005-06 season.

Sincerely,



Philip Blackwell
Senior Pastor
First United Methodist Church at The Chicago Temple

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
THE CHICAGO TEMPLE

Chicago's oldest church (b.1831) is alive with new ideas!

"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.
- **ENGAGED.** We have a ministry to the homeless, but we are also engaged in public efforts to eliminate homelessness, create affordable housing and upgrade the city's schools.
- **INTERFAITH and ECUMENICAL.** Each year the Temple hosts an interfaith memorial service for the city's indigent and an interfaith Thanksgiving service.
- **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.** In recent months, our church has hosted the Chicago Humanities Festival, guest lecturers from National Public Radio, and a pre-election debate between Senatorial candidates Barack Obama and Alan Keyes.

We invite you to come and see us at the Temple. You are more than welcome.
For more information, including a schedule of worship services:

Phone: 312-236-4548
Fax: 312-236-4106
www.chicagotemple.org



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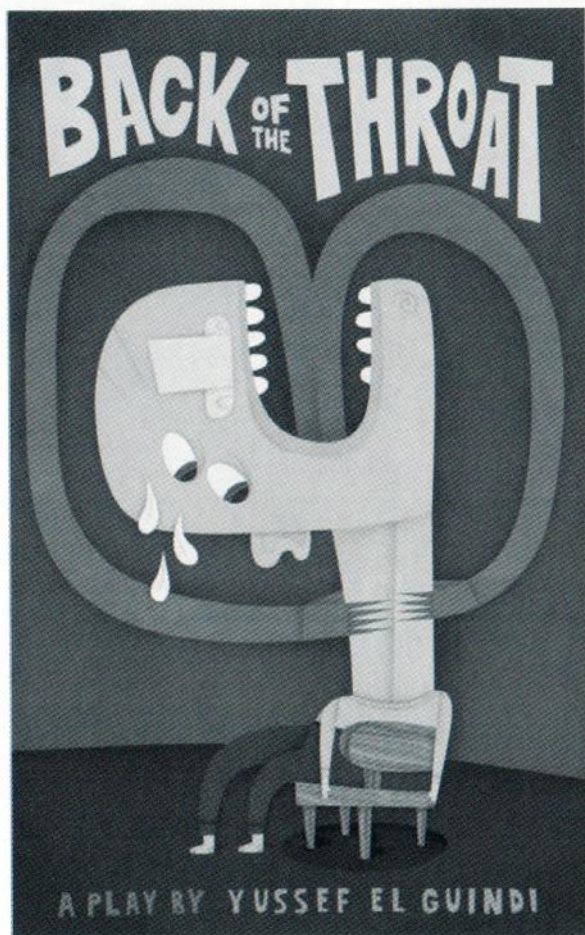
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directed by Stuart Carden

Two government officials pay an Arab-American man, Khalid, a seemingly innocuous visit. What begins as a "friendly" inquiry soon devolves into a chilling, full-blown investigation of Khalid's presumed ties to terrorists. At times surreal and comic, *Back of the Throat* examines the way in which facts, evidence and (mis)perceptions are used to distort the truth and how notions of cultural "otherness" impact the relationship between the accusers and the accused.

April 6 – June 25, 2006

Silk Road Theatre Project at The Historic Chicago Temple Building, Pierce Hall
77 W. Washington St., Chicago

Tickets on sale now at: www.srtp.org/tickets/html