



THE WORLD PREMIERE
MARCH 11–APRIL 7, 2019

Written and Performed by **KARIM NAGI**
Directed by **ANNA C. BAHOW**


SILK ROAD RISING
UNLEASH CURIOSITY

STAGE
TEEN
THEATRE

Production Sponsors


DORIS DUKE
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arts work fund
for organizational development

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.

CAST

Karim Nagi | Performer
Bassam Abdelfattah | Understudy

PRODUCTION TEAM

Malik Gillani Silk Road Rising Co-Founder	Ellie Humphrys Lighting Designer
Jamil Khoury Silk Road Rising Co-Founder	Brenda Winstead† Costume Designer
Drew Martin Stage Left Theatre Company Interim Managing Director	Abigail Cain Properties Designer
Karim Nagi Playwright	Timothy McNulty Sound Designer
Anna C. Bahow Director	Anthony Churchill Projections Designer
Corey Pond Associate Producer	Annaliese McSweeney Dramaturg
Andy Lynn Production Manager	Andrew Glasenhardt Technical Director
S. G. Heller* Stage Manager	Jake Engram Master Electrician
Kristin Mazzocca Assistant Stage Manager	Courtney Winkleman Scenic Painter
Samia Malik Set Designer	Al Gillani Will Call Box Office
	Darby Fitzsimons House Manager

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.	† Member of United Scenic Artists, the union of professional designers, artists, and craftspeople.
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The use of cameras, video recorders, or audio recorders by members of the audience during the course of this production is strictly prohibited.



Karim Nagi (Writer and Performer) is a native Egyptian, a drummer, a DJ, a composer, and a folk dancer. He is the creator of *Turbo Tabla* and has released four internationally distributed CDs of his unique brand of Arab House/Electronica using acoustic instruments. He is well versed in the ultra-traditional styles of music and has lead the Sharq Arabic Music Ensemble since 1999. He promotes and fosters the study of Arab dance in the USA as the director of Arab Dance Seminar. Karim performs and teaches Tahteeb Cane Dance, Dabka Line Dance, and Zikr Sufi Dance. He taught at the New England Conservatory of Music for five years, and has lectured and presented at Harvard, MIT, Yale, Bowdoin, Princeton, Stanford, William & Mary, Georgetown, and several community colleges. His performances boast a dynamic concoction of live drumming and dance, done in unison. Karim Nagi is a true crossover artist, uniting the cabaret and tribal, traditional and the modern, the ethnic and the urban.



Anna C. Bahow (Director) is committed to the development of new work and a diversity of voices. She feels privileged to continue her collaboration with Silk Road Rising having previously directed *INVASION!* and *Ziryab: Songbird of Andalusia*, and numerous workshops and readings. She also directed and traveled for Silk Road Rising to London, England and Toronto and Vancouver, Canada in 2016 and 2017. She is pleased to be part of this joint venture between Stage Left Theatre (where she has directed workshops and readings) and Silk Road Rising. Other theatres that she has worked with include: The Side Project, City Lit, Rasaka, Collaboraction, Timeline and others. Bahow is a new member of Promethean having directed *BLISS (or Emily Post is Dead!)* as part of a rolling world premiere in the summer of 2018. She is an Associate Artist with the International Voices Project and Chicago Dramatists where she has directed and done extensive new play dramaturgy. Her productions have received JEFF Awards for New Work and Use of Multi-Media. See more about her work at AnnaBahow.com.



S. G. Heller (Stage Manager) is so happy to be working with Silk Road Rising and Stage Left Theatre for the first time. In Chicago for more years than she'd like to admit, Stephanie is an Artistic Associate at A Red Orchid Theatre and has worked with Steppenwolf, Strawdog, Rte. 66, City Lit, Theater Wit, ShawChicago, Seanachai, Piven, Rivendell, European Repertory, Irish Repertory, A Crew of Patches, Shakespeare's Motley Crew, Bailiwick, About Face, The Den, and others.



Bassam Abdelfattah (Understudy) has worked with local theaters such as Silk Road Rising, Remy Bumpo Theatre Company, and Steep Theatre. He has appeared in Showtime's *The Chi* and in Amazon's *Philip K. Dick's Electric Dreams*. He also shot three independent feature films last summer, which are all due to be released this year. Currently, Bassam is writing a television show that you hopefully will be able to watch on Netflix or Amazon in the near future.



STATEMENT FROM JAMIL KHOURY FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, SILK ROAD RISING

For some 35 years, I have engaged with wonderfully well-intentioned individuals who have embarked on a quest to “make sense” of the Arab World. Typically, their process would begin with an attempt at cataloging, at sorting through who’s who and what’s what. Inevitably, they’d throw up their arms and wave the white flag. “It’s too complicated,” they’d bemoan. To which I’d think to myself, “No more complicated than a federal republic comprised of 50 states and people from all corners of the planet.”

Yes, our contemporary thinking demands that all things complex be broken down into bite-size, digestible pieces, and that’s exactly what master storyteller and musician Karim Nagi does. But he does so with sophistication, depth, humor, and wit. *Detour Guide* is no “Arab World for Dummies.” It’s Arab World for those who wish to be enlightened, challenged, and entertained, created by an artist whose Americanness and Arabness are lovingly bound and exceedingly curious.



STATEMENT FROM ANNALIESE MCSWEENEY DRAMATURG

To me, music is such an accessible aspect of a culture because even if hearing a beat for the first time, it can reach out and touch our souls. Coming to this story as an outsider, I love that Karim uses the image of his drum as our passport to his tourists’ detour. Karim specifically chose an Egyptian *tabla* drum to guide us on our journey because it is authentic to his experiences and its essence is present across the countries he shows us in the play. In this sense, the drum is a unifying symbol; but as Karim tailors the beat and scale to each of the encounters he shares with us, he emphasizes the unique and diverse identities that he invites us to explore within the Arab world. This is the heart of what he wants to show us and the *tabla* provides a heartbeat to his story.

SPECIAL THANKS

To our gracious hosts at the First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple, who live the Methodist values of Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.

ABOUT SILK ROAD RISING

Silk Road Rising is an art-making and art service organization that shapes conversations about Asian and Middle Eastern Americans. Through storytelling and dialogue, we challenge disinformation, promote a culture of continuous learning, and explore what it means to be Americans.



At Silk Road Rising we understand that representation matters; it molds perception, informs discourse, and influences policy. We view our work as a strategic intervention aimed at shifting and expanding our communities' narratives. To those ends, we create live theatre, media arts, and educational programs, and assist other organizations in their efforts to include Asian and Middle Eastern stories.

“People sometimes think stories are entertainment; but, if they think about it, they realize that **stories create our identities**. Silk Road Rising is about showing what we have in common and showing that even where we are different, **we are not separated by our differences but enriched by them**. My family are Arab-Americans. **Hearing one's stories is life changing**. It teaches me that my personal history and identity matter, that I am part of something bigger than myself, and that everyone in the community has a story. **We all grow when we share and listen to each others stories.**”

Dr. Ryan LaHurd, Silk Road Rising Patron,
Donor, and Board President

SEASON SPONSORS



PRODUCTION SPONSORS

Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Arts

Silk Road Rising is the proud recipient of the Idea Lab grant from Arts Work Fund. This grant supports our efforts to build the capacity of Chicago theaters to present work by Asian American and Middle Eastern American playwrights.

This project is partially supported by a CityArts Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

SILK ROAD RISING DONORS

January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018

We wish to thank all of our donors for their generous support. Due to space restrictions, we are not able to thank everyone publicly. Please know that you are valued and celebrated for your generosity.

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ABOUT STAGE LEFT THEATRE

THEATRE THAT INSPIRES DEBATE | EST. 1982

One of Chicago's longest running ensemble-based theatre companies!



Stage Left Theatre's mission is to cultivate new work and produce new and classic plays that inspire debate on social and political issues. We are committed to nurturing voices for the American theatre that reflect the diverse perspectives of our community. For nearly four decades we have accomplished this thanks to our donors, sponsors, and patrons like you!

Would you like to learn more and help us continue these important conversations? We would love to hear from you! Please visit: www.StageLeftTheatre.com

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS FROM THE PAST YEAR!

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SUPPORT STAGE LEFT THEATRE

Help us cultivate new work and inspire debate for another four decades! Please consider a tax-deductible donation today. We appreciate your support!

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THE WORLD PREMIERE

SEPT. 30–NOV. 10, 2019

Twice, Thrice, Frice...

Written by **FOUAD TEYMOUR**

In this 90-minute comedy, three Muslim women confront adultery and polygamy when one of their husbands marries a second wife. Friendship, fidelity and faith are called into question as each woman reevaluates bonds once believed unbreakable, and discovers humor amongst the heartbreak.

CONTACT US

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