

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

November 19-22, 2015  
**MY AMERICAN COUSIN**



Written and Performed by  
**Jameelah Shelo**  
Directed by  
**Jessica Mitolo**

Through a diverse group of characters, this sketch comedy show offers a lovable view into the life of an American Middle Eastern Muslim woman from the Southside of Chicago as she navigates her way through cultural pressures and societal assumptions. What happens when the Mid-East meets the Mid-West? The answers will fill you with laughter and joy, so get ready for a fun time.

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



Written and Performed by  
**Ronnie Malley**  
Directed by  
**Anna C. Bahow**

A musical journey following the life and legacy of the ninth century musician and polymath, Ziryab, who rose from being a former slave to extraordinary fame throughout Islamic Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. His influence on music, fashion, and the culinary arts are still seen around the world to this day.

A World  
Premiere

March 24 - May 01, 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.

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 multi-faceted identities and double consciousness of Muslim Americans living in an ever-polarizing modern world.

To purchase tickets and learn more,  
visit us online at [www.silkroadrising.org](http://www.silkroadrising.org)  
or download our mobile app at <http://goo.gl/iRTN7v>



SILK ROAD RISING

# SILK ROAD SOLOS



Featuring

**YELLOW DRESS**

Written & Performed by **MARISSA LICHWICK**  
Directed by **LAVINA JADHWANI**

**OCTOBER 1-4, 2015**



ComEd. The BASS Fund  
Season Sponsor Production Sponsor

[www.silkroadrising.org](http://www.silkroadrising.org)



Written & Performed by  
**MARISSA LICHWICK**  
Directed by  
**LAVINA JADHWANI**

## PRODUCTION TEAM

**Jamil Khoury** | Founding Artistic Director  
**Malik Gillani** | Founding Executive Director  
**Marissa Lichwick\*** | Playwright, Actor  
**Lavina Jadhvani** | Director  
**Corey Pond** | Production Manager  
**Lynne M. Harris\*** | Stage Manager  
**Yeaji Kim** | Set and Projections Designer  
**Kristof Janezic** | Lighting Designer and Master Electrician  
**Jesse Gaffney** | Props Designer  
**Laura Resinger** | Choreographer  
**Christopher Walls** | Technical Director  
**Juan Francisco Villa** | Dramaturg  
**Rachna Sheth** | Marketing and PR Coordinator  
**Taylor Brown** | House Manager  
**Andrew Skwish** | Poster Art Illustrator  
**Darrel Reese** | Graphic Designer  
**Carol Goerne** | 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



**Marissa Lichwick** (Playwright/Actor) is an international actress whose work has been seen across the United States and abroad. Regionally she has worked at Guthrie Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Court, Steppenwolf, and The Denver Center. Her television and film credits include *Chicago Fire* and the upcoming feature film *Imperfections* directed by David Singer. Marissa holds an MFA in Acting from the prestigious Professional Actors Training Program at the University of Washington in Seattle. Marissa wrote *Yellow Dress* in 2011; it received critical acclaim with the LA Theatre Review, praising "Lichwick is a star." The play was voted one of the Best of Fringe productions at the Hollywood Fringe Festival and received an encore run. *Yellow Dress* has traveled to New York City, St. Louis, St. Paul and Minneapolis, appearing at both Korean Adoption conferences as well as new works festivals. Born in South Korea and raised in upstate New York, Marissa has lived in New York City, Seattle, Los Angeles, London, South Korea and currently resides in Chicago. She is married to a Chicago native, who she met while teaching in South Korea. A deep, heartfelt thanks to Jamil, Malik, Corey, Rachna, Christine Bunuan, Tanya Thai McBride, and the whole Silk Road Family for helping *Yellow Dress* take flight. I am so very grateful for your belief in this play. And much love to the love of my life, Nathan.



**Lavina Jadhvani** (Director) is a Chicago-based stage director and a proud Artistic Associate at Silk Road Rising. She has received the O'Neill/NNPN National Directors Fellowship, Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Phil Killian Directing Fellowship, the Drama League's Classical Directing Fellowship, an SDCF Observership, an Illinois Board of Higher Education Fellowship, and an LMDA Residency Award. She was named *Time Out Chicago's* "Best Next Generation Stage Director" in 2013. In Chicago, Lavina maintains relationships with Oak Park Festival Theatre (Artistic Associate), Rasaka Theatre Company (Artistic Director, 2007-2013), Silk Road Rising (Artistic Associate), Steppenwolf Theatre Company (Artistic Engagement Associate), Victory Gardens Theater (Directors Inclusion Initiative), and Writers Theatre (Script Reader). Her work has also been seen at Apple Tree Theatre, Chicago Dramatists, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, the side project, Stage Left, Timeline Theatre, Teatro Vista, and others. Lavina is a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University (MFA, Directing), Carnegie Mellon University (BFA, Scenic Design; Masters, Arts Management) and the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.

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