



**SILK ROAD THEATRE
PROJECT**

**Artistic Director Jamil Khoury
Executive Director Malik Gillani**

**In Association with Millennium
Park and The Department of
Cultural Affairs, City of Chicago**

PRESENTS

***DAWN'S LIGHT: THE JOURNEY
OF GORDON HIRABAYASHI***

**Written by Jeanne Sakata
Directed by Jessica Kubzansky**
Starring Ryun Yu***

**January 13, 14, and 15, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.
Millennium Park, Jay Pritzker Pavilion**

**Producer
Jerry O'Boyle**

**Stage Manager
David A. Loranca***

**Projection Designer
Maiko Nezu**

**Sound Designer
John Zalewski**

**Costume Designer
Soojin Lee**

*Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

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

NOTES FROM PLAYWRIGHT JEANNE SAKATA

This play is based on a true story, inspired by many hours of interviews I conducted with Gordon Hirabayashi and several of his friends from the 1940's, by numerous letters written by Mr. Hirabayashi during his imprisonment, and by contemporary articles written by and about Mr. Hirabayashi. It is a work blending historical fact with fiction, and certain actual events have been compressed or altered in terms of chronology or content for dramatic purposes. In the play Gordon's letters are works of fiction inspired by his actual writings from the Ring Family papers in the University of Washington Special Collections, Accession Number #4241-001. Dramatic license has been taken with the actual historical texts.

The word "*Issei*" refers to the first generation of Japanese immigrants to the United States, born in Japan. The word "*Nisei*" refers to the second generation, born, raised, and educated in the United States, and the word "*Sansei*" refers to the third generation, the children of the Nisei.

Special thanks to James Yaegashi for Japanese translations.

SPECIAL NOTE: Subsequent performance of this piece will be performed under the title *HOLD THESE TRUTHS*.

SPECIAL THANKS

Dwight Sora, Cheryl Hamada, Ryan Hastings, Brian and Sari Engle, Silk Road Theatre Project Board of Directors, Tim Dang and all the staff at East West Players, First United Methodist Church at The Chicago Temple, Patrick Walsh Kennedy and our partners at Comfort Suites Michigan Avenue, and to all our eleventh-hour supporters.

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 mediums of theatre, video, education, and advocacy, we aim to deepen and expand representation in American culture.

Applause, Applause!

Silk Road Theatre Project is the proud recipient of the American Theatre Wing's 2010 National Theatre Company Grant . This prestigious honor, bestowed by the founders of the Tony Awards, recognizes SRTP for having "articulated a distinctive mission, cultivated an audience, and nurtured a community of artists in ways that strengthen and demonstrate the quality, diversity, and dynamism of American theatre."

Support

Be a part of the exciting things happening at Chicagoland's only theatre company dedicated to telling the stories of Asian, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean 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. Visit www.srtp.org/support, or mail your donation to Silk Road Theatre Project, 680 S. Federal, Suite 301, Chicago, IL 60605. Thank you!

Contact

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BIOS

Jeanne Sakata (Playwright) most recently performed as Po Mama in East West Players' production of Kenneth Lin's *Po Boy Tango*, a role she created at Chicago's Northlight Theatre in the play's January 2009 world premiere, directed by Chay Yew. An LA Ovation Award Winner for Best Lead Actress for her portrayal of Master Hua in Chay Yew's *Red* at East West Players, she also starred as Maria Callas in EWP's *Master Class*, and recently appeared at South Coast Rep in *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*. A member of LA's The Antaeus Company, she has performed with The Public Theater, Lincoln Center Theater, Kennedy Center, Mark Taper Forum, La Jolla Playhouse, American Conservatory Theater, Intiman Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, A Contemporary Theatre, Portland Center Stage, Syracuse Stage and Arizona Theatre Company. Special awards also include an Entertainment Weekly Award for Best Supporting Actress for the Theatre @ Boston Court's *The Winter People*, and a DramaLogue Award for Outstanding Ensemble Performance for EWP'S *The Maids*. Screen credits include guest starring and recurring roles on Tyler Perry's *Meet The Browns*, *Desperate Housewives*, *ER*, *Threat Matrix*, *Line of Fire*, *Presidio Med*, *American Family*, *Numb3rs*, John Ridley's *I Got You*, *Family Law*, *ARLI\$\$*, and *Providence*, the MOW's *The Reading Room*, *Hiroshima*, *Consensual Relations* and the feature films *XXX2: State of the Union*, and *American Fusion*. Jeanne recently made her playwriting debut with her solo show *Dawn's Light: The Journey of Gordon Hirabayashi*, which received its world premiere in November 2007 at East West Players. It was subsequently featured at the New York Theatre Workshop's August 2009 Dartmouth Residency, and was chosen by the Epic Theatre Ensemble and the Lark Play Development Center for their first collaborative public reading.

Jessica Kubzansky (Director) is the Co-Artistic Director of The Theatre @ Boston Court in Pasadena, CA, and an award-winning director working nationally at venues include South Coast Rep, the Pasadena Playhouse, The Geffen Playhouse, Portland Center Stage, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, The Laguna Playhouse, The Aurora, etc. Recently at other venues: *Mauritius* (Pasadena Playhouse), Julie Hébert's world premiere *Tree* (EST/[Inside the Ford]), *Hamlet*, *Winter's Tale* (Theater 150), *The Glass Menagerie*, *Toys in the Attic*, *Heartbreak House* (The Colony Theatre). Kubzansky does a great deal of new work; recent world premieres include: the prior incarnation of Jeanne Sakata's *Dawn's Light* with Ryun Yu (East/West Players), Bryan Davidson's *War Music* (Geffen Playhouse), Bob Clyman's *Tranced* (Laguna Playhouse), Salamone/McIntyre's *Moscow* (Playwrights' Arena/Chekhov Now, NYC), Tom Jacobson's *The Orange Grove* (Playwrights' Arena), plus Sheila Callaghan's *Kate Crackernuts* (24th Street Theatre). At The Theatre @ Boston Court: the world premieres of Jordan Harrison's *Futura*, Laura Schellhardt's *Courting Vampires*. Salamone/McIntyre's *Gulls*, Mickey Birnbaum's *Bleed Rail*, Carlos Murillo's *Unfinished American Highwayscape #9 & 32*, Jean-Claude Van Itallie's *Light*, Cody Henderson's *Cold/Tender*, as well as Hare/Brecht's *Mother Courage* with Camille Saviola, and, upcoming, Tennessee Williams *Camino Real*. Kubzansky is the recipient of the LA Drama Critics Circle Award for Sustained Excellence in Theatre.

Ryun Yu (Gordon Hirabayashi) has the first theater degree ever awarded by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His recent television appearances include *Numb3rs*, *Frank TV*, *The Shield*, and *Cold Case*. His film credits include *Only the Brave*, *The Brothers Solomon*, and (upcoming) *The Mikado Project*. In theater, he has played the leading roles in critically acclaimed runs of *Dawn's Light: The Journey of Gordon Hirabayashi* for East/West Players, *The Golden Hour* and *One Nation Under God* for the Lodestone Theatre Ensemble and *What I Heard About Iraq* for the Fountain Theatre. He also performed in the west coast premiere of Richard Greenburg's Tony-award winning *Take Me Out*. He has performed internationally with renowned theater companies such as The Seattle Repertory Theatre, The Huntington Theatre (Boston), and The Singapore Repertory Theater, and has played leading roles in plays like *Angels In America*, *Hamlet* and *Sisters Matsumoto*. *Dawn's Light* is for his father.

Jerry O'Boyle (Producer/Production Manager) came to Silk Road Theatre Project in September, 2010 directly from 4 years playing Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray*. He performed the role in 47 states, 9 Canadian provinces, Shanghai, Beijing, Osaka and Tokyo. A native-Chicagoan, Jerry is thrilled to be back behind the scenes in his hometown, and is honored to be a facilitator for the mission of SRTP.

David A. Loranca (Stage Manager) is thrilled to join Silk Road Theatre Project for this production. Other Chicago credits include: *The Mystery of Irma Vep* (Buffalo Theatre Ensemble); *The Hiding Place* (Provision Theater Company); *Moonlight and Magnolias* (Buffalo Theatre Ensemble); *The Screwtape Letters* at The Mercury Theater (Fellowship for the Performing Arts and Aruba Productions); *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *True West* and *Topdog/Underdog* (American Theatre Company); *The Passion of Dracula* (First Folio Theatre); *The Talented Tenth* (Congo Square); *Every Christmas Story Ever Told* (Noble Fool Theatricals); *The Frogs* and *tick, tick, Boom!* (Pegasus Players); *Side Show* (Bohemian Theatre Ensemble at Theatre on the Lake); *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Forever Plaid*, *The Odd Couple*, *Noises Off*, *A Christmas Carol* and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Metropolis Performing Arts Centre); *No Way to Treat a Lady* (Light Opera Works). David also stage managed the 1st national tour of C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters* with Max McLean (Fellowship/Aruba). Regional: *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Young Abe Lincoln*, *The Sound of Music* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream Ballet* (Lincoln Amphitheatre). David is a proud graduate of Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois and member of Actors' Equity Association.

Jamil Khoury (Artistic Director) is Founding Artistic Director of Silk Road Theatre Project. Promoting playwrights of Silk Road backgrounds is a passion that dovetails well with Khoury's experiences living in the Middle East and his eleven years as a cross-cultural trainer and international relocations consultant. His vocation as a playwright lends valuable currency to fulfilling SRTP's mission as a playwright driven theatre. Khoury's 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 a 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 a Kellogg Executive Scholar (Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University) and has been awarded a Certificate of

Professional Achievement in Nonprofit Management. In fall of 2009, Khoury conceived of and curated the highly successful *Silk Road Cabaret: Broadway Sings the Silk Road*. Khoury also conceived of, and was a featured playwright in, SRTP's production of *The DNA Trail: A Genealogy of Short Plays about Ancestry, Identity, and Utter Confusion* (winter 2010). His *DNA Trail* short play, *WASP: White Arab SlovakPole*, has been produced as a video play and will be released in early 2011. His 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. Khoury is the proud recipient of the 2010 3Arts Artist Award for Playwriting.

Malik Gillani (Executive Director) is Founding 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 advancing 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 conceived of and established SRTP'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 earned a Bachelor's in Liberal Arts from St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, with an emphasis on the Great Books. He is a Kellogg Executive Scholar (Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University) and has been awarded a Certificate of Professional Achievement in Nonprofit Management. Professionally, he has 15 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 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 multi-cultural theatre companies across the United States.

Patrons of Silk Road Theatre Project ♥ the Comfort Suites Michigan Avenue!

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