



**Silk Road Theatre Project's
Al Kasida Staged Reading Series**

proudly presents

CELESTIAL MOTIONS

**by Mrinalini Kamath
Directed by Anish Jethmalani**

**A Staged Reading Followed by a
Discussion with Playwright Mrinalini Kamath**

**Sunday, July 10, 2005 at
The Chicago Temple, First United Methodist Church**

**Artistic Director, Jamil Khoury ❖ Executive Director, Malik Gillani
www.srtp.org ❖ 312-236-6881**

SPECIAL THANKS

We at Silk Road Theatre Project extend our utmost thanks to our gracious hosts at The Chicago Temple, First United Methodist Church, and in particular to Rev. Philip Blackwell and Terri Johnson.



ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Mrinalini Kamath (Playwright) received her M.F.A. in playwriting from the Actors Studio Drama School of the New School University. Her plays *Roulette*, *Confessions from the Afterlife*, *Views*, *The Some of All Parts* and many others have been performed around the country, as well as the United Kingdom and Australia. She recently won first place in the 2005 East West Players (Los Angeles, CA) "Got Laughs?" Asian-American Comedy Play Contest, with her play *CELESTIAL MOTIONS*, was a Tennessee Williams Scholar at the 2003 Sewanee Writers' Conference in Sewanee, TN, and a finalist for the 2004 Jerome Fellowship at the Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis, MN. She has attended the New Play Development Workshop of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education three times as a playwright, and her short plays have been published in the Smith and Kraus anthologies, Best Stage Scenes of 1999, Best Stage Scenes of 2000 and 2004: The Best Ten-Minute Plays for 3 or More Actors. She has also been published by playscripts.com. She is an alumnus of Youngblood, the emerging playwrights' collective at the Ensemble Studio Theatre, as well as a member of the South Asian League of Artists in America (SALAAM), the Ma-Yi Theatre Writers' Lab and the Dramatists Guild. Huge thanks to the Silk Road Theatre Project for making this reading possible.

CAST

Leela.....	Anjali Thawani
Jake.....	Geoff Button
Mom, shadesofbrownwoman.....	Jaii Beckley
Dad.....	Aroon Chadha
Ashlesh, shyguy.....	Anil Hurkadli
Gary Slinger, shadesofbrown....	Sean Sinitsky
Suitor 1, Govin, Bachelor 2, Reggie.....	Kareem Bandedaly
Suitor 2, Lion1, the14u, Bachelor 1, rubberman3.....	Bobby Zaman
Suitor 3, Guruready, Lord Vishnu.....	Sapna Kumar
Stage Directions.....	Ravi Batista

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Anish Jethmalani (Director) is very pleased to be working with Silk Road Theatre Project for the first time. As a professional actor in Chicago, he has worked at numerous theatres including performances in the recent critically acclaimed productions of *To the Green Fields Beyond* at Writers Theatre and *Omnium Gatherum* at the Next Theatre. He has also appeared in productions with The Goodman Theatre, Court Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, Apple Tree Theatre, Shaw Chicago, WBEZ Stories on Stage, and Chicago Dramatists. Anish is the current Artistic Director for the Eclipse Theatre Company which produces the works of one playwright in one season (www.eclipsetheatre.com). He is also an ensemble member of Rasaka Theatre which focuses on the works of South-Asian artists and where he will be directing their inaugural production of *The Masrayana* this fall at the Prop Theatre (www.rasakatheatre.org). He is a board member of the League of Chicago Theatres and a graduate of Loyola University of Chicago and The Oxford School of Drama. He would like to extend his warmest thanks to Jamil and Malik for their tremendous support. Lushelly.

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.

Al Kasida Staged Reading Series. In Arabic, al-kasida means “the ode.” Al Kasida Staged Reading Series is Chicagoland’s first and only staged reading series dedicated to showcasing Silk Road playwrights from the U.S. and around the world. In the tradition of the great epic poems and oral narratives that defined cultural values in the lands of the ancient Silk Road, Al Kasida Staged Reading Series promises to illuminate for Chicago audiences the contemporary treasures of a part of the world that is vast and diverse, and yet sorely misunderstood. The 2004-2005 Al Kasida Staged Readings Series is supported by a grant from The Joyce Foundation.

Jamil Khoury 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 artistic 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 a M.A. degree from The University of Chicago Divinity School and a B.S. degree from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service. 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 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. He studied at The University of Chicago Graduate School of Business and earned a Bachelor’s in Liberal Arts from St. John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland. 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.

To learn more about Silk Road Theatre Project, please visit our website at:
<http://www.srtp.org>

To keep abreast of our activities & events, please sign up for our
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