



SILKROAD
Chicago

THE SILK ROAD STAGED READING SERIES

Proudly Presents

THE DETAILS OF SILENCE

by Nathalie Handal
Directed by Rana Kazkaz

A Staged Reading Followed by a
Discussion with Playwright Nathalie Handal

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

Claudia Cassidy Theatre at the Chicago Cultural Center

Artistic Director, Jamil Houry ❖ Executive Director, Malik Gillani

www.srtp.org ❖ 312-236-6881

SPECIAL THANKS

Silk Road Theatre Project thanks the Chicago Office of Tourism and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs for sponsoring this evening's staged reading. We are particularly grateful to Amanda Friedberg, Jill Hurwitz, Emily Long, Eva Silverman, and the incomparable Claire Geall Sutton!

And of course, a heartfelt thanks to our gracious hosts at The Chicago Temple, First United Methodist Church.



ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Nathalie Handal (Playwright) has been involved in over twenty productions worldwide. Most recently, two of her plays were performed in New York, *Between Our Lips* (Blue Heron Theatre) and *The Details of Silence* (Symphony Space), and she directed *Hi! Joan*. Handal is the author of numerous books including *Spell* (poetry CD, music by Egyptian musician Will Solimon) and *The Lives of Rain*, which was shortlisted for The Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize/The Pitt Poetry Series. She is the editor of *The Poetry of Arab Women: A Contemporary Anthology*, an Academy of American Poets Bestseller and winner of the Pen Oakland/Josephine Miles Award. She is currently editing *Arab-American and Arab Anglophone Literature*. Handal is a member of Nibras Theatre Collective and Associate Artist and Development Executive for the production company, The Kazbah Project (currently working on the feature film, *Gibran*). She teaches at Columbia University, and is recipient of the Menada Award, an international literary prize awarded to her in Macedonia.

CAST

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| Soula..... | Jen Albert |
| Blanca, Margot..... | Ravi Batista |
| Mara Al Masri, Loulou..... | Jaii Beckley |
| Amal, Diva..... | Leila Buck |
| Hani..... | Adam Bute |
| Azza..... | Anita Chandwaney |
| Alia, Ruwayda..... | Carol Karaguez |
| Najwa..... | Fawzia Mirza |
| Majda, Annemarie..... | Amira Sabbagh |



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Rana Kazkaz (Director) is an actor, writer, director and producer. Some credits include: Acting: Broadway - *The Logic of the Birds; Disorderly Conduct*. Off Broadway - *Pieces of the Throne; Mother Lolita; Somnia; ClosetLand; The Seagull*. Film - *A Moment of Grace; The Librarian Wants Chinese; Mixed Signals*. Directing: *The Loveliest Afternoon of the Year, Kemo Sabe*. Producing: *Imagine: Iraq; Unexpected Journeys; ClosetLand; Venus; Acts for Palestine*. Writing: Film - *Gibran, Kemo Sabe*. Kazkaz is currently developing *Gibran*, a feature film she wrote about the life of Kahlil Gibran.

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 Silk Road Staged Reading Series is a series of four staged readings sponsored by the Chicago Office of Tourism and produced by Silk Road Theatre Project as part of **Silk Road Chicago: Summer 2006**, the citywide celebration of Chicago's multicultural legacy that features more than 200 events and activities from June 1 through September 30, 2006. For more information, please call toll free 1-877-CHICAGO (1-877-244-2246) or visit www.silkroadchicago.org. The TTY toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-866-710-0294.

Jamil Khoury, Artistic Director, is Co-Founder 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'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. His play *Fitna* was performed at University Theatre of The University of Chicago. 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.

Malik Gillani, Executive Director, is Co-Founder 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 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.

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
Monthly E-Newsletter at: <http://srtp.org/contact.html>