



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

**Proudly Present**

***GIBRAN***

**A Screenplay by Rana Kazkaz  
Directed by Andrea Klunder**

**A Staged Reading Followed by a  
Discussion with Rana Kazkaz**

**Saturday, March 19, 2005 at 2:00 pm at  
The Chicago Temple, First United Methodist Church**

**Artistic Director, Jamil Khoury ❖ Executive Director, Malik Gillani  
[www.srtp.org](http://www.srtp.org) ❖ 312-236-6881**

# CHICAGO SCRIPTWORKS

*Gibran* is being presented in partnership with Chicago ScriptWorks (www.chicagoscriptworks.org), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to producing a series of staged screenplay readings, created to provide a public forum for new works and fresh voices.

## SPECIAL THANKS

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



## ABOUT THE SCREENPLAY WRITER RANA KAZKAZ

**Rana Kazkaz** is the daughter of a Syrian father and Polish/American mother. Having lived, worked and studied in Syria, Lebanon, Algeria, Russia, France, South Africa and Egypt, Kazkaz has a strong knowledge of the challenges and possibilities of global exchange. Kazkaz completed her MFA in Acting at Carnegie Mellon University and received her undergraduate degree from Oberlin College. She served as Executive Producer and lead actor in the Off-Broadway premiere of Radha Bharadwaj's *Closet Land*, a production hailed by *Backstage Magazine* as "simply spectacular"; co-produced the South African staging of Pulitzer Prize-winner Suzan-Lori Parks' play *Venus*; and co-produced and starred in *Unexpected Journeys*, a festival of plays by women of Muslim cultures. She has performed at such diverse venues as Lincoln Center, Town Hall, Duke Theatre on 42nd Street, Mixed Blood Theatre, Moscow Art Theatre, and in Capetown, South Africa. She also appeared in the sold-out post-September 11th event *Imagine: Iraq*. In addition to acting and producing plays, Kazkaz was a featured guest (with Ed Koch) on the popular PBS series *This Is America*; and facilitated a public dialogue with *Ms. Magazine* founder Gloria Steinem on human rights violations around the world. Her work has been featured in *Backstage*, *NY Theatre*, *American Theatre*, *NY Times*, *NY Post*, *Time Out New York*, *Newsday*, *Vibe*, *South African Star*, *South African Sunday Times*, and on SABC-TV, Radio France and WBAI FM radio. Kazkaz was also a featured actor in the films, *A Moment of Grace*, *The Librarian Wants Chinese*, and the television shows *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *PhatLiterature Literary TV Program* and *Jersey's Talking with Lee Leonard*. By invitation, she has presented speeches and workshops across the U.S. and South Africa on artist activism and ethnic stereotyping. Kazkaz is co-founder with Brigit Evans of THE KAZBAH PROJECT, a production company that seeks to tell stories of a growing global community.

## CAST

Anil Hurkadli .....Khalil Gibran  
Martha Teagle.....Mary Haskell  
Ravi Batista...Josephine Peabody, Charlotte Teller, Sarah  
Bernhardt, and others  
Ashourina Yacoub...Marianna, Rosina, and others  
Carol Karaguez.....Kamileh, May Ziadeh  
Fawzia Mirza..... ..Narrator  
Kamal Hans..... ..Khalil Sr., Ameen Rihani, and others  
Vincent Mahler.....Fred Day, Alfred Knopf, and others  
Khalid Alshaer..... Mikail Naimy and others  
Winston Evans.....Auguste Rodin, Carl Jung, and others  
Matt Pearsall.....Boutros, Yussef, and others

## DIRECTOR BIOS

**Andrea Klunder** (Director) is the Artistic Director and head of casting for Chicago ScriptWorks. She has directed numerous CSW readings, in addition to the short film *Four Young Trees* with Roatan Film Production. As a casting director, Andrea has worked on a variety of short films and music videos for independent and student filmmakers, and is currently casting her first indie feature. She has filled various film crew positions including second assistant director on the 2003 IFP shoot for *The King of the Tango*, which has been accepted to numerous international festivals, including San Francisco, Seattle, Milwaukee, and Montreal. As an actor, she recently originated the lead role in a workshop of the musical *Camp Nimrod For Girls* at Live Bait Theatre, and made her Big Apple debut in nomenil's production of *Love Pollution: a tekno-popera*, at the 2004 New York International Fringe Festival. Andrea has appeared in many Chicago productions, including Circle Theatre's Jeff-nominated Nine and Midwest Premiere of Michael John LaChuisa's *The Wild Party*.

**Majel Cuza** (Assistant Director) studied political science at the University of Illinois for 4 years, before deciding to pursue a career in the arts. She is both a production manager and casting assistant for Chicago ScriptWorks and has worked on casting several independent films with Coffee Table Casting.

## Status of *Gibran* The Film

The role of Gibran was written for Emmy, SAG, Tony and Golden Globe-award-winning Lebanese American actor **Tony Shalhoub** (*Monk, Big Night, Men in Black, Wings*). He has read the script and confirmed his great interest. The Gibran Committee which oversees the rights to Gibran's Estate and Property has read the script and are lending the film their full support. The screenplay was selected as a winner of the Tribeca All Access Screenwriting Competition affiliated with the Tribeca Film Festival.

**Silk Road Theatre Project** was created to showcase playwrights of Asian, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean backgrounds, whose works address themes relevant to the peoples of the Silk Road and their Diaspora communities. Maintaining that theatre should entertain as well as educate and promote critical thinking, SRTP is committed to theatre that elevates human consciousness, expands representation, and challenges prevailing stereotypes. In giving voice to cultures and experiences long absent on the American stage, we aim to integrate those voices within the cannon of American theatre.

**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 Reading Series is generously supported by The Joyce Foundation.

**Jamil Khoury, Artistic Director,** is co-founder of Silk Road Theatre Project. In the company’s two and a half years of existence, Khoury has overseen the world premiere of his play *Precious Stones* in 2003 and the Midwest premiere of Velina Hasu Houston’s play *Tea* in 2004. He also created and developed the Al Kasida Staged Reading Series, and is presently marketing and managing the national college tour of *Precious Stones*. In his “spare time,” Khoury works as a cross cultural and diversity trainer/consultant. Khoury wishes to thank his life partner Malik for his continued love, encouragement, and support.

**Malik Gillani, Executive Director,** is co-founder of Silk Road Theatre Project, a capacity to which he brings extensive experience in management, development, and fundraising. Gillani served as Managing Producer and Director of Marketing for the productions of *Precious Stones* and *Tea*. He is thrilled to be promoting both the rich cultural legacy of the Silk Road and greater visibility for Silk Road artists. Gillani is the recipient of IBM Business & Technology Leadership Award. Gillani wishes to thank his life partner Jamil for opening up such an exciting new world to him.

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>