



In Association with
Remy Bumppo's *thinkTank*

Proudly Presents

**OUR ENEMIES:
Lively Scenes of Love and Combat**

by Yussef El Guindi
Directed by Stuart Carden

A Staged Reading Followed by a
Discussion with Playwright Yussef El Guindi

Sunday, April 15, 2007

Silk Road Theatre Project
at the Victory Gardens Greenhouse

Artistic Director, Jamil Khoury ❖ Executive Director, Malik Gillani

www.srtp.org ❖ 312-857-1234

SPECIAL THANKS

Silk Road Theatre Project extends thanks to Remy Bumppo Theatre for inviting us to participate in their inaugural thinkTank festival. For facilitating our involvement with this exciting new project, particular thanks go to Shawn Douglass, Linda Gillum, Kristin Larsen, Stephanie Kulke, Alison Ramsey, James Bohnen and the Remy Bumppo staff. Additional support provided by the SRTP Board, Charin Rich, Anish Jethmalani, Cree Rankin, Lavina Jadhvani and Kareem Bandedaly. Thanks to you all for your talents and time!



ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

YUSSEF EL GUINDI is a playwright living in Seattle. Recently named SRTP's first-ever Resident Playwright, Yusef's plays, *Ten Acrobats in an Amazing Leap of Faith* and *Back of the Throat*, produced by SRTP in 2005 and 2006, garnered After Dark Awards for "Best New Play" and "Best Production" respectively. *Back of The Throat* was also winner of the 2004 Northwest Playwright's Competition, nominated for the 2006 American Theater Critics Association's Steinberg/New Play Award, LA Weekly Award, and was voted Best New Play of 2005 by the Seattle Times. It was first staged by San Francisco's Thick Description and Golden Thread Productions; then later presented by Theater Schmeater in Seattle; Manbites Dog Theater in Durham, North Carolina; the Cyrano Theater Company in Anchorage, Alaska; the Flea Theater in New York; the Furious Theatre Company in Pasadena; and Silk Road Theatre Project in Chicago. *Back of the Throat*, and two related one-acts, *Such a Beautiful Voice is Sayeda's* and *Karima's City*, have been published by Dramatists Play Service. Yusef holds an MFA from Carnegie-Mellon University and was playwright-in-residence at Duke University.

CAST (in order of appearance)

MOHSEN.....	Kamal Hans
EARL/RUSSEL/FATHER CAROL.....	Larry Balducci
GAMAL.....	Braden Moran*
OLIVIA.....	Christian Craig*
NOOR.....	Pranidhi Varshney
SHEIKH ALFANI.....	Nunzio Cancilla*
HANI.....	Andrew Perez*
Stage Directions.....	Tariq Vasudeva

*The Actor is appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

Production Manager.....Alexandra Herryman
Asst. Production Manager.....Isaac Sernoffsky
Casting Associate.....John Morrison
Dramaturge.....LaRonika Thomas



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

STUART CARDEN -- Recently named Associate Artistic Director of SRTP, Stuart directed the 2006 After Dark Award winning productions of *Ten Acrobats in an Amazing Leap of Faith* and *Back of the Throat* both by resident playwright, Yussef El Guindi -- As well as the Jeff Recommended, Midwest Premiere of David Henry Hwang's *Golden Child* which has just been extended through May 6th. Tickets are still available! Upcoming this fall with SRTP: The World Premiere of Shishir Kurup's *Merchant on Venice*.

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 is Chicagoland's first and only staged reading series dedicated to developing playwrights of Asian, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean backgrounds. In Arabic, "al kasida" means "the ode." The word is meant to evoke the rich tradition of storytelling and epic poetry in the lands of the Silk Road. Just as written and oral narratives helped convey the cultural and historical realities of antiquity, *Al Kasida Staged Reading Series* promises to illuminate for Chicago audiences the contemporary realities of a part of the world that is as vast and diverse as it is misunderstood.

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.