



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

proudly presents

**TEN ACROBATS IN AN AMAZING
LEAP OF FAITH**

**by Yussef El Guindi
Directed by Stuart Carden**

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

**Sunday, May 15, 2005 at
The Chicago Temple, First United Methodist Church**

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

COMING THIS FALL!

Silk Road Theatre Project will be presenting the world premiere production of *Ten Acrobats in an Amazing Leap of Faith* in October 2005. Be sure not to miss this important first in American theatre!



SPECIAL THANKS

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



ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Yussef El Guindi was playwright-in-residence at Duke University for several years, and was recently literary manager for Golden Thread Productions in San Francisco. His most recent productions include *Karima's City* (in San Francisco; and as part of 2004's Cairo International Experimental Theater Festival), *Murder in the Mirror* (a radio play presented by "Stage Shadows" at the Museum of Television and Radio in New York) and *Men On Mars* (another radio play aired in 2004 by "Shoestring Radio Theater" in San Francisco). His adaptation of Chekhov's *A Marriage Proposal* into an Arab-American setting was staged by the Arab Theatrical Arts Guild in Dearborn, Michigan and was nominated for several PAGE awards including Outstanding achievement in Original Play or Adaptation. Another play, *Back of The Throat* (presented as a staged-reading at Silk Road Theatre Project earlier this year), recently received a production in San Francisco and is scheduled to open in May in Seattle. His short story, "Stage Directions for an Extended Conversation" was recently published in *Dinarzad's Children*, an anthology of Arab-American Fiction.

CAST

Kamal.....	Vincen Mahler
Mona.....	Irit Levit
Huwaida.....	Monica Lopez
Tawfiq.....	Kareem Bendealy
Hamza.....	Anil Hurkadli
Murad.....	Peter Nicholas
H.D.....	Kimberly Palter
Aziz.....	Frank Platis
Pauline.....	Mary Ann de la Cruz
Kevin.....	Steven Gilpin
Stage Directions.....	Amira Sabbagh

STAGED READING CREW

Dramaturg / Assistant

Director..... Carol Karaguez

Stage Manager..... Jennifer Simandl

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Stuart Carden (Director) is pleased to join SRTP for the second time for the staged reading of Yussef El Guindi's tremendous play. This past year Stuart directed the regional premiere of Tristine Skyler's *The Moonlight Room* for The City Theatre, *Big Love* with The Open Stage Theatre (voted one of the top ten plays and top five directors of 2004 in Pittsburgh), *The Game of Love and Chance & Life is a Dream* for NEIU, *Ring Round the Moon* for Beloit College and *Stones in his Pockets* for Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre (where he was recently named Artistic Associate). Other favorite productions include *Private Eyes*, *Spring Awakening*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Miss Julie*, *Diary of a Madman*, the world premiere of Richard Dresser's *What Are You Afraid Of?* in Actors Theatre of Louisville's Humana Festival and Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story* at the Mossoviet Theatre, Moscow. Stuart received his M.F.A. in directing from Carnegie Mellon University in 2001 (where he teaches each summer).

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 Readings Series is supported by a grant from 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. When not focused on theatre, Gillani is the Senior Account Executive for the Falkor Group, a technology service firm. 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>