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Announcing BRAHMAN/I A Co-Production with About Face Theatre

Dear &&First Name>>>,

It's with great enthusiasm that I am writing to share some exciting news with you: our Spring production of Aditi Kapil's **BRAHMAN/I: A ONE-HIJRA STAND-UP COMEDY SHOW** will be produced in partnership with Chicago's About Face Theatre from March 27 to April 27, 2014.

Silk Road Rising was founded on the principle of collaboration—we collaborate with communities, artists, and audiences to produce stage plays and online video plays that humanize Asian and Middle Eastern Americans.



In that vein, co-producing *Brahman/i* with [About Face Theatre](#), the Midwest's premiere LGBT theatre company, is a natural fit for us. Furthermore, it fulfills our playwright / protagonist rule: both the playwright and the play's protagonist are of a Silk Road heritage. [Aditi Kapil](#) is a Minneapolis based South Asian American playwright. Her play explores the experiences of an American hijra, or intersex person. [Hijras](#) are both revered and reviled in India, often invited to entertain at weddings and celebrations, but also victim to violence and ostracization.

And yet, very few people understand what it means to be born intersex, physically identifiable neither as "male" nor "female." Kapil's bold and timely comedy explores the unique cultural challenges of being born intersex in America to an Indian immigrant family.

Brahman/i presents a unique opportunity for Silk Road Rising to collaborate with About Face Theatre—enabling both companies to

draw upon and deepen our respective missions. Together we can interpret this exciting new play, expand our audiences, share resources, and familiarize our diverse communities with each other.

About Face Theatre's Artistic Director [Andrew Volkoff](#) says, "We are thrilled to be producing the Chicago premiere of this adventurous new play with our friends at Silk Road Rising. The missions of our theaters dovetail seamlessly in this story, offering us a rare opportunity to work together and tell a truly unique story. Using stand up comedy to blow apart preconceptions of gender and cultural identities, *Brahman/i* truly highlights what it means to be an outsider, embracing who you are, and the power of unconditional love. I'm excited to see Kapil's creation come to life in Fawzia Mirza's hands as her considerable comedy skills illuminate the play's touching, humorous, in-your-face humanity."

Silk Road Rising's Artistic Director [Jamil Khoury](#) adds, "What an absolute honor it is to be partnering with About Face on this hilariously bold new play. If there is such a thing as 'stand up decolonization,' Kapil nails it. Colonized minds, colonized bodies and colonized histories all get roasted in a no holds barred, soul-baring comedy blowout as daringly funny as it is defiantly honest. *Brahman/i* reminds us that heritage can be a wellspring of courage and creativity – and that the body never lies, it merely asks questions. Whoever knew that intersectionalities could be so much fun?"

Brahman/i will be presented in our permanent theatre venue in The Historic Chicago Temple Building. Tickets will go on sale on Monday, February 2nd at www.silkroadrising.org and at www.aboutfacetheatre.org About Face Artistic Director, Andrew Volkoff, will direct. The play will feature [Fawzia Mirza](#), a Pakistani American artist and frequent Silk Road Rising collaborator—Fawzia, in fact, is one of the lead actors in our award-winning online civic engagement project, [Mosque Alert](#). The production will integrate set designers and production team members who have worked at both our institutions.

I am truly thrilled to share *Brahman/i* with Chicago audience and I feel blessed to operate our theatre in a city that not only values, but **thrives** on partnerships.

Thank you for being part of our Silk Road Rising community. Your support makes it all possible.

Malik Gillani
Co-Founder
Silk Road Rising

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