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**SILK ROAD RISING AND STAGE LEFT THEATRE
PRESENT THE WORLD PREMIERE OF
*DETOUR GUIDE***

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY KARIM NAGI
DIRECTED BY ANNA BAHOW

MARCH 11 – APRIL 7, 2019

CHICAGO, IL — **Silk Road Rising** and **Stage Left Theatre** are pleased to announce that they are joining artistic forces to bring the world premiere of ***Detour Guide* by Karim Nagi** to Chicago.

This one-man musical, directed by Anna Bahow, takes us on an alternative tour of the Arab World & Arab America. Using lyrics, percussion & an urban soundscape, master storyteller Karim Nagi guides us through a social and political labyrinth, extolling the virtues of revolution, immigration, and hummus along the way. **Preview Performances begin March 11, 2019 at 8:00 pm at Pierce Hall in the Historic Chicago Temple Building.**

Statement from Stage Left Theatre Board President, Dr. Angelique Sallas:

"We are absolutely delighted to join forces with Silk Road Rising on a production that sits so beautifully at the intersection of our respective missions."

Statement from Playwright and Performer Karim Nagi:

"My agenda is to demonstrate the depth of Arab art as exemplified in music and dance. My presentations are highly participatory and entertaining. Arab culture, through the universal language of music, becomes demystified and humanized. The beauty and authenticity of Arabic music and dance serve as a convincing demonstration of the simultaneous exoticism and familiarity of this ancient culture."

Statement from Director Anna Bahow:

"Theatre is a collective experience that invites us, the audience, to venture down a path that both visits our shared experiences and ventures beyond them. Karim Nagi's *Detour Guide* takes us on a journey through the Silk Road of the Middle East and our own American backyard. Through story and music he creates a detailed tour that takes us beyond stereotypes of what a name, ethnicity or region is 'supposed to be.'"

Statement from Jamil Khoury, Founding Artistic Director, Silk Road Rising:

"For some 35 years I have engaged with well-meaning people who were trying to 'make sense' of the Arab World only to throw up their arms, wave the white flag, and bewail 'It's too complicated!' To which my internal voices would respond, 'The world is complicated, life is complicated, and Arabs are people too!' Yes, our contemporary thinking demands that all things complex be broken down into bite size, digestible pieces, and that's exactly what musician and master storyteller Karim Nagi does. But he does so with sophistication, depth, humor, and wit. *Detour Guide* is no 'Arab World for Dummies.' It's Arab World for those who wish to be enlightened, challenged, and entertained. Join us for the road trip!"

Statement from Melissa Lindberg, recent addition to the Stage Left Board of Directors:

"Both companies strongly value community engagement, and this production perfectly inspires the conversations that we need to be having in our community at this point in time."

Performance Dates

Detour Guide will run March 11 – April 7, 2019.

Previews start March 11.

Play opens on March 15.

Performance Schedule

Mondays at 7:30pm

Tuesdays at 7:30pm

Fridays at 8pm

Tickets

Preview Performances: \$28 General Admission | \$15.50 Students

Regular Run: \$38 General Admission | \$20.50 Students

Tickets are available at www.SilkRoadRising.org or by calling (312) 857-1234 ext. 201.

Venue

The Historic Chicago Temple Building

77 W Washington St, Pierce Hall (lower level)

Chicago, IL 60602

ABOUT PLAYWRIGHT/PERFORMER KARIM NAGI

Karim Nagi, a native Egyptian, is a drummer, DJ, composer and folk dancer. He is the creator of Turbo Tabla, and has released four internationally distributed CDs of his unique brand of Arab House/Electonica using acoustic instruments. Karim has authored instructional DVDs for the tabla/doumbek, riqq tambourine, maqam & taqsim, drum solo for dance, and Arab folk dance. He is well versed in the ultra-traditional styles of music, and has lead the *Sharq Arabic* Music Ensemble since 1999. He promotes and fosters the study of Arab dance in the USA as the director of the Arab Dance Seminar. Karim performs and teaches Tahteeb Cane Dance, Dabka Line Dance, and Zikr Sufi Dance. He taught at the New England Conservatory of Music for five years, and has lectured and presented at Harvard, MIT, Yale, Bowdoin, Princeton, Stanford, William & Mary, Georgetown, and several community colleges. Additionally, Karim Nagi's *Arabiqa* program has conducted over 300 school assemblies across America, exposing young audiences to Arab traditional arts. His performances boast a dynamic concoction of live drumming and dance, done in unison. Because of his proficiency in both music and dance, his workshops deliver students to a new physical understanding of the connection between these two disciplines. As a dance and drum teacher, Karim has taught in dozens of festivals in the United States, Asia, Europe and Africa, as well as all major Arab culture festivals in the USA. Karim Nagi is a true crossover artist, uniting the Cabaret and Tribal, Traditional and the Modern, the Ethnic and the Urban.

ABOUT DIRECTOR ANNA BAHOW

Anna Bahow is committed to the development of new work and a diversity of voices. She feels privileged to continue her collaboration with Silk Road Rising having previously directed *INVASION!* and *Ziryab: Songbird of Andalusia*, and numerous workshops and readings. She also directed and traveled for Silk Road Rising to London England, and Toronto and Vancouver Canada in 2016 and 2017. She is pleased to be part of this joint venture between Stage Left (where she has directed workshops and readings) and Silk Road Rising. Other theatres that she has worked with include; The Side Project, City Lit, Rasaka, Collaboraction, Timeline and others. Bahow is a new member of Promethean having directed *BLISS (or Emily Post is Dead!)* as part of a rolling world premiere in the summer of 2018. She is an Associate Artist with the International Voices Project and Chicago Dramatists where she has directed and done extensive new play dramaturgy. Her productions have received JEFF Awards for New Work and Use of Multi-Media. She was honored to have served as the 2011-2012 Michael Maggio Directing Fellow at Goodman Theatre. Continuing her interest in international work and new plays she traveled to Italy to study with master directors at La Mama Umbria in 2016 and continues to hone her skills with movement and devising workshops including Frantic Assembly's in NYC in the fall of 2018. She is a recipient of a 2017 3ARTS WAVE Grant and a 2016 and 2018 City of Chicago Individual Artist Grant. More about her work at AnnaBahow.com.

ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP

Silk Road Rising and Stage Left Theatre are thrilled for *Detour Guide* to mark their first collaboration. Both companies value art as a crucial tool for intervention, capable of challenging audiences and sparking debate and discussion. Karim Nagi's unique combination of song, dance, humor, and storytelling deftly exemplifies this potential, making this an ideal project upon which these companies can build their collaborative relationship and impact.

ABOUT THE COMPANIES

Silk Road Rising is an art-making and art service organization that shapes conversations about Asian and Middle Eastern Americans. Through storytelling and dialogue, we challenge disinformation, promote a culture of continuous learning, and explore what it means to be Americans. (www.SilkRoadRising.org)

Stage Left Theatre

Founded in 1982, Stage Left's mission is to cultivate new work and produce new and classic plays that inspire debate on social and political issues. One of Chicago's longest running ensemble-based theatre companies, we are committed to nurturing voices for the American theatre that reflect the diverse perspectives of our community. (www.StageLeftTheatre.com)

For more information visit www.SilkRoadRising.org or contact:
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