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An honor to behold.
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The Power of Asking

Two weeks ago, we asked for your help in attaining the honor of being named a Great Nonprofit of 2021. In the days that followed, we witnessed an outpouring of love and support from you, our Silk Road Rising community. Thanks to you we have been named a Top-Rated Great Nonprofit!



Take a look at four examples of the moving words supporters like you shared:

"The work [Silk Road Rising does] is important, necessary, and cultivates remarkable empathy and creativity in every community they work with."

"This is theater with its community front and center: making plays, sharing stories, aware of human fragility but celebrating the strength of emotional bonds. No one else does what Silk Road does"

"Silk Road Rising helps me understand the experiences of immigrants

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me, especially in regard to these issues. I would be much less aware and informed without it."

"I have been a subscriber and donor to Silk Road Rising for many years. I can only say that every city or town should have a theater group that portrays the multicultural aspects of our society as well as they do. Their portrayals of people from other cultures are always stunning theatrical and educational experiences. We all must continue to see them to be made aware that we are all the same under our skin."

[Read More Endorsements Here](#)



Polycultural
Institute

Excerpt from

***The Case for
Polyculturalism***

A new essay-in-progress

Portrait of a Polyculturalist

How does one draw a “portrait of a polyculturalist?” Ideally, it’d be a collection of portraits, but if we’re limited to a singular subject, we’d probably veer non-representational or abstract, to avoid any particular “look,” or assumptions about race, gender, and ethnicity. The portrait would convey connectivity, motion, and growth. But if, in an intentional sense, a polyculturalist is one who studies and practices cultural interchange as a catalyst for strengthening social cohesion, what about all the accidental polyculturalists out there and those who don’t self-identify with a theory (i.e. most people)? Our portrait would also need to represent their study and practice of cultural interchange.

In its liberatory and evolutionary contexts, cultural interchange aligns with values—values that include openness and willingness, optimism grounded in real world experience, pragmatic idealism, ethical entrepreneurialism, and action-oriented flexibility and generosity. A polyculturalist understands that love, kindness, and grace matter in culture and politics, and that human connectivity, meaningful relationships, community, and family must be centered in our work. Conversely, a polyculturalist rejects elitism and top downism, is wary of either/or propositions (opting instead for both/and), elevates art over ideology and inquiry over dogma, embraces complexity and contradiction, and sees abundance where others often see scarcity.

A polyculturalist believes in forgiveness and redemption, healing and reconciliation. Compassion is key. A polyculturalist knows instinctively that individuals and cultures can and do change, and works to create new realities that are rooted in coalitional politics. If the goal is to dismantle oppression and alleviate suffering, it takes a whole lot of villages. There is no time for affected moralism and performative righteousness, the ideological purity tests imposed on our side of the political divide by those seeking personal and professional advantage. The witch hunts and tribunals of our social media inquisitors dishonor polyculturalism. A

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OWN.

Our exercise in portraiture helps us understand that polyculturalism is not a policy, but rather a process, a journey not a destination. A polyculturalist is a lifetime learner and a lifetime educator, the changer and the changed. Be it a marathon or a leisurely stroll, there is no finish line in culture, nor should there be. Human beings are both tribal and curious. Polyculturalism buoys our curiosity and tempers our tribalism. Connectivity between cultural communities is how we learn to recognize commonalities, experience affinities, build alliances, and escape the tyranny of zero-sum/win-lose logic. It is the antidote to societal isolation and polarization. A multiculturalist names and lifts up the diversity within a society; a polyculturalist unleashes its transformative power.

Who, you may ask, is painting this portrait? I would say God.

Community Spotlight



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HELLO
MY NAME IS
اينانا

oct 23 - dec 11
for tickets and
more info, visit:




Raw and brutal, *My Name Is Inanna* is a passionate, lyrical story that blends myth and contemporary realities. The main character, named after Inanna, the Sumerian goddess of love, justice, and civilization, is a modern Middle Eastern woman poet and activist in search of identity and freedom. She flees the political tyranny of her home country after having been imprisoned for several years. After receiving political asylum in the U.S., land of democracy and social equality, she discovers unexpected limits to her freedom of speech as a second-class citizen. Marginalized as a pink-collar immigrant woman in the new society, she endures gender inequality, bigotry, and destitution. Seeking a new identity and justice she struggles to find her own place in the new society.

Produced by Red Tape Theatre in association with Medina Theatre

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...mirsajadi, and directed for livestream by Anna Geman. Featuring Maryam Abdi.

OPENING OCTOBER 23rd and running through DECEMBER 11th.

Fridays at 8PM

Saturdays at 8PM

Sundays at 7PM

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