

Hello &#x26;#x26;First Name>>, Silk Road Rising is known for our partnerships that expand artistic access.  
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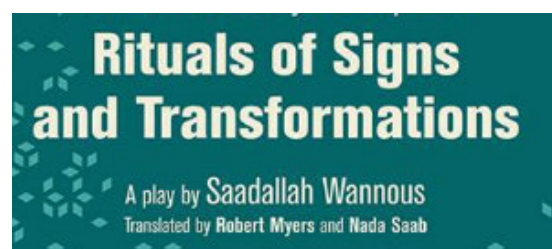


## Art is...collaborating!

Dear &#x26;#x26;First Name>>>,

Happy 2014! May it be all that you wish for and more!

Thanks to an international collaboration grant from [The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation](#), Silk Road Rising has been collaborating with the American University of Beirut (AUB) and the Lebanese American University (LAU) in Beirut, Lebanon, for the last two years.



The collaboration was to translate into English one of the great Arabic plays of the 20th century, "Tuqus al-Isharat wa-I-Tahawwulat" ("Rituals of Signs and Transformations"), written by the late great Syrian playwright, Sa`d Allah Wannus.

The translation was done by LAU's [Dr. Nada Saab](#) and AUB's [Dr. Robert Myers](#), and it is a stellar literary feat. Written in the 1980's, "Rituals" captivates the imagination. We are asked to ponder "a meaningful life." Is it to find God or to find power? Is it to find love or to discover oneself as the beloved?

We commissioned this translation so that the English-speaking world can experience Wannus' gift to the world of theatre. Sadly, this play and many others that Wannus wrote are banned in Syria and throughout the Arab World.



You will be among the first people in the United States to enjoy "Rituals of Signs and Transformations" when we share it with Chicago audiences in March, 2014 in three public staged readings. We are quite anxious to present "Rituals" in Chicago along with the original creative team, including the translators, Nada and Robert, and the director of the Beirut production, [Sahar Assaf](#).

In addition to presenting the staged readings, we will also hold a panel discussion to provide our audience with information on the state of Middle Eastern theatre. Please hold March 7th through March 9th in your calendars!

We hope that you will support this endeavor and the many other artistic and educational collaborations we enter into on a regular basis by making a [GIFT](#) to Silk Road Rising. Your assistance means that Silk Road Rising can continue to expand its commitment towards that most elusive of human ideals: understanding.

Thank you,

[Jamil & Malik](#)

PS: thank you for being a part of the Silk Road Rising family - you are an important component of creating art that is urgent and relevant. [Support our collaborative approach to creating art by making a tax-deductible gift today!](#)



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