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Obstacle Course Celebrates a Lively Premiere



You Have a Few More Chances to See Jamil Khoury's New Video Play

February 21-27, 2019

Obstacle Course

Premiere Screenings

Written by Jamil Khoury

Directed by Dale Heinen

Get Tickets to a Screening Today!

"I found it very honest. Very realistic."

Last night, Jamil Khoury's new video play *Obstacle Course* premiered at Silk Road Rising. After the screening, Jamil facilitated a lively discussion on the themes and issues surrounding the piece.

"All of these same questions and all of the same ideas permeate when there is a change in a community. I think we're seeing that everyone's opinion and politics come out in a town hall meeting," an audience member said.

Our conversation, led by Jamil, centered on NIMBYism (Not in My Backyard), the challenges and intricacies of coalition building, and Islamophobia at the intersections of race, religion, and American identity.

While reflecting on the potential for *Obstacle Course*, one patron said, "This piece is a really powerful tool for all communities involved in these issues in that it shows how all allyship has to be valued at the same level."

Join us at Silk Road Rising for the remaining screenings of *Obstacle Course*. Add your voice to the conversation by grabbing your ticket today!

Saturday, February 23rd at 2pm

Sunday, February 24th at 2pm

Monday, February 25th at 2pm

Tuesday, February 26th at 7pm

Wednesday, February 27th at 7pm

Set in Naperville, Illinois, *Obstacle Course* is a 45-minute video play, adapted from Jamil Khoury's stage play *Mosque Alert*, that explores reactions to a proposed Islamic community center on the site of a beloved landmark. Allyship, municipal politics, and Islamophobia all intersect in this head-on collision between Not in My Backyard fear mongering, well-intentioned liberalism, and the peaceful practice of faith.

Community Spotlight: *American Griot* at Moraine Valley Community College



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February 21-March 3, 2019

American Griot

By Reginald Edmund and Ronnie Malley

Directed by Dr. Craig Rosen

Location: John and Angeline Oremus Theater

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\$12 Seniors
\$10 Students (with ID)
and Children unless otherwise noted

Thursday-Saturday 7:30 pm
Sunday 3:00 pm



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Produced in collaboration with Silk Road Rising, *American Griot* is an original play exploring the often overlooked history of early African Muslims forced into American slavery and the influence they had on what would become the American music genre known as the blues. Told through the lens of Mamadou, an 18th century griot (African storyteller musician), the audience is taken on a musical journey to the crossroads of Africa and America revealing the shared history of Islam and the blues on both continents.

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