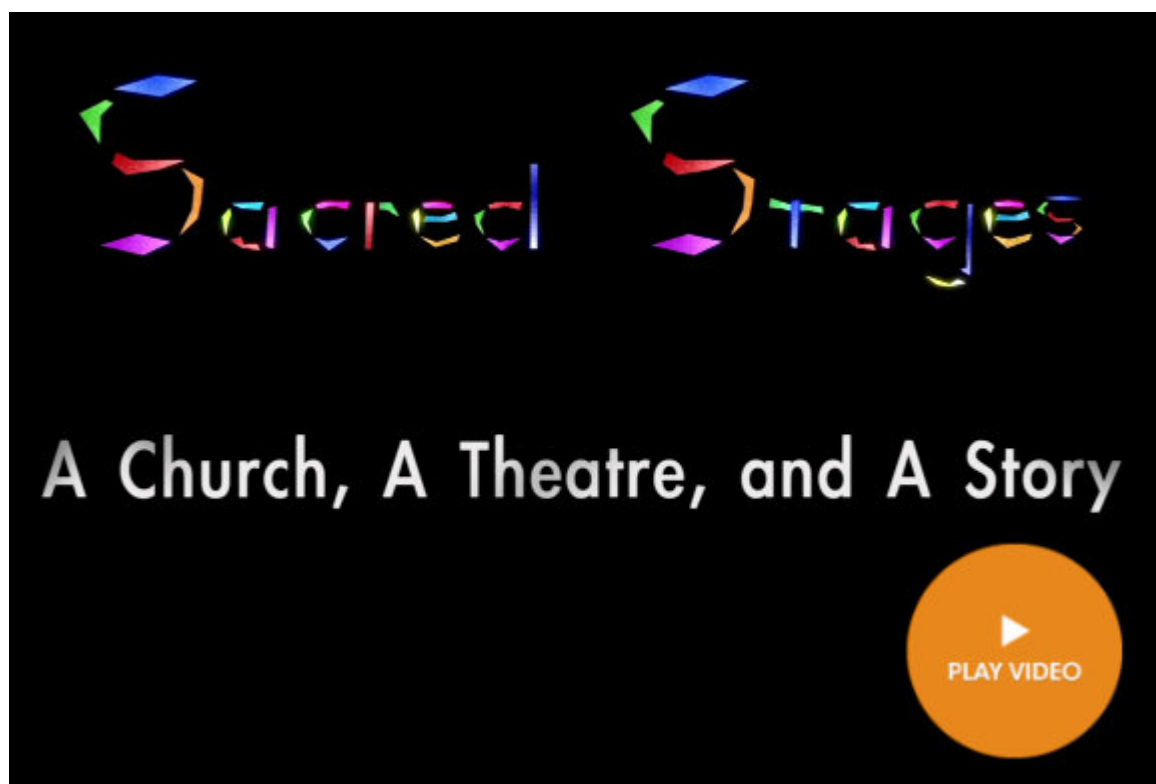


Hello <<First Name>>, ever wonder about our relationship with the church that hosts us? It's more fascinating than you may think! [View Online](#) Or [Forward](#) to a friend.



New Documentary Examines the Unique and Inspiring Partnership Between a Religious Community and a Secular Theatre



Sacred Stages: A Church, A Theatre, and A Story (28min, 37sec), tells the unique and inspiring story of the relationship between the First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple—Chicago's oldest Christian congregation—and Silk Road Rising, a theatre company founded in response to 9/11 and dedicated to showcasing playwrights of Asian and Middle Eastern backgrounds. A shared commitment to storytelling, racial and economic justice, and LGBT inclusion characterizes this profound partnership between a religious community and a secular theatre.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the documentary film.

STATEMENT FROM JAMIL KHOURY

Founding Artistic Director of Silk Road Rising

There is a theology to the relationship between Silk Road Rising and the First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple. One that is as secular for us as it is religious for them. Churches and theatres share a common origin. We're both on a quest for transcendence. We're both in the business of storytelling. We use stories to discover and uncover truths, to evoke empathy and create change. We both love text. We ascribe great meaning to words, to narrative, parable, fable, and myth. We are as liturgical as we are theatrical. We stage ritual and we dramatize passion. We're performers. We both love production. Ultimately, churches and theatres are about building community, sharing a collective experience, communing with the divine. We both strive to be relevant, to matter, to make a difference, to affect people's lives, to help people heal. And we're both in a process of reimagining and reinventing ourselves, responding to the 21st Century. Why not do so together?

STATEMENT FROM REVEREND PHILIP BLACKWELL

Senior Minister at the First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple

When Malik and Jamil came to me a decade ago and said that they wanted to create a theater in response to the 9/11 attacks, I thought it was outrageous—and inspired. There had been books, documentaries, and panel discussions, but a persistent dedication to helping people tell their stories so that others might understand was truly visionary. How can we bring peace among us? By getting to know each other. And, how best can we get to know each other? By sharing our stories. So, for years Silk Road Rising and the First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple have collaborated to foster understanding through plays, staged readings, seminars, and university presentations. In that time, Silk Road Rising has earned the admiration of many in the theater community of Chicago and beyond, and the church has made known its commitment to work creatively for reconciliation.

[Click Here to Watch *Sacred Stages: A Church, A Theatre, and A Story.*](#)



Thank you for attending a play or a staged reading at Silk Road Rising. In purchasing tickets, you opted in to receive communication from us.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update your profile](#) | [Forward to a friend](#)
Copyright © 2014 All rights reserved.

Silk Road Rising
6 E Monroe St
801
Chicago, IL 60603

[Add us to your address book](#)