

Hello Friend, Learn more about *Great Expectations* co-directors Lavina Jadhvani and Nick Sandys! [View Online](#) Or [Forward to a friend.](#)



## Meet the *Great Expectations* Co-Directors



### Co-Produced, Co-Directed

Silk Road Rising and Remy Bumppo Theatre Company's co-production of *Great Expectations* is all about collaborating to create a production that is greater than the sum of its parts. Just as the play is a partnership between two theatre companies and two authors (Charles Dickens and Tanika Gupta, collaborating over a hundred years apart!), we found it important that the production be collaboratively directed as well. Lavina Jadhvani, an Artistic Associate of Silk Road Rising, and Nick Sandys, Remy Bumppo's Producing Artistic Director, seemed to fit the bill beautifully.



**Lavina Jadhvani Nick Sandys**

### "Sewing New Clothes from Old Silk" Artistic Statement from Co-Directors Lavina Jadhvani and Nick Sandys

Dickens' first-person narrative of Pip's life journey is filled with wicked humor, genuine insights into an individual's moral and ethical growing pains, and, of course, a crusading sense of justice and awareness of Victorian society's hypocrisies and cruelties. And, by flipping India's cultural fascination with Dickens on its head, here Tanika Gupta has captured the tone of that novel, large as life, while at the same time introducing us to a completely different cultural context from the exact same time period, a world that Charles Dickens would have recognized--or at least have read about.

India, between the 1840s and 1860s, a period of huge transitions, complexities, and the British Raj, provides a landscape that not only makes the familiar new again but provides a unique matrix of identity issues that magnify the original story's examination of social barriers and class structures. With Gupta's very adept articulation of caste/race/colonialism with the novel's original dissection of regionalism/class/capitalism, this new version re-imagines Dickens' narrative with a specificity and theatricality that is truly exciting—and yet the majority of the dialogue comes directly from the original novel.

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Gupta's script, which breaks down the binaries of East/West thinking, cries out for a blending of specific resources: two countries, two writers, two cultures, two texts...two companies. As Gupta has collaborated so seamlessly with Dickens to bring her Bengali roots to bear on a classic English narrative, so Silk Road Rising's inclusive polyculturalism and experience with East Asian theatrical traditions complements Remy Bumppo's skill with classical language and Western theatrical styles and texts.

And therefore why not two directors to represent those cultures and companies? All of these factors combine to make us very excited about presenting *Great Expectations*. And we are also very honored, in our first co-production, to be presenting Tanika Gupta's work in America, where she has been largely overlooked, a serious omission of one of England's current leading playwrights and an important voice in the British/Indian experience.

**"Gupta's script, which breaks down the binaries of East/West thinking, cries out for a blending of specific resources: two countries, two writers, two cultures, two texts...two companies."**

## Tickets On Sale Now!

**May 11th - July 2nd**

**The U.S. Premiere**

**Co-Produced with Remy Bumppo Theatre**

**Written by Charles Dickens**

**Adapted by Tanika Gupta**

**Co-Directed by Lavina Jadhvani and Nick Sandys**

Dickens' beloved tale of aspiration, intrigue, and romance is thrillingly transplanted to a colonized India by award-winning British Bengali playwright Tanika Gupta. When Indian orphan Pip receives a mysterious inheritance, he must choose between his humble rural life and the city life of an English "gentleman." In a vibrant clash of cultures, classes, and conscience, Gupta's brilliant adaptation expands Dickens' enduring question: Is it worth losing who you are for who you might become?



All performances take place at Silk Road Rising  
(77 W. Washington St., Lower Level, Chicago, IL)



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