

Setting Our Own Stages
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Righting Wrongs, Writing Truths



Long-time Silk Road Rising collaborator Ronnie Malley (far right), MC-Poet Omar Offendum (center), and DJ/Beatmaker Thanks Joey (far left) appear in the Chicago Premiere of Offendum's *Little Syria* this May.

Omar Offendum's viral 2011 song "#Jan25," inspired by the Arab Spring uprisings, established the Syrian American MC-poet on the global stage.

His latest work, *Little Syria*, is set in the Lower Manhattan neighborhood once known by the same name (1880-1940). This vibrant cultural hub for New York's Arab immigrants was home to artists and intellectuals including Ameen Rihani and Kahlil Gibran. Against this backdrop, Offendum's genre-bridging performance—spanning hip-hop, Arabic instrumentation, and ḥakawātī oral storytelling traditions of the Levant—imagines early 20th-century life in the heart of a bustling urban community.

Offendum (Syria via Los Angeles) is joined by oud virtuoso Ronnie Malley (Palestine via Chicago) and DJ/Beatmaker Thanks Joey (Syria via Brooklyn) in performing a creative retelling of a tragically underrepresented historical narrative.

Don't miss this powerful musical performance on May 12 & 13 at the Old Town School of Folk Music. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit this [LINK](#).



HATEFUCK



TICKETS AT FIRSTFLOORTHEATER.COM

MAY 5 - JUNE 10, 2023 | THE DEN THEATRE

BY REHANA LEW MIRZA
DIRECTED BY ARTI ISHAK



First Floor Theater is proud to be producing the Chicago Premiere of Rehana Lew Mirza's *Hatefuck*, directed by Arti Ishak. Passions ignite when literary scholar, Layla, accuses Imran, a brashly iconoclastic

novelist, of trading in anti-Muslim stereotypes. But as their attraction develops into something more, they discover that good sex doesn't always make for good bedfellows. Conflicting cultural identities collide in this clever antidote to a meet-cute romance.

Hatefuck will run from May 5 - June 10 at The Den Theatre. To purchase tickets, please click [HERE](#).



Playwright Rehana Lew Mirza (left) and director Arti Ishak (right)



Presents

JOEL TAN'S

Tango

DIRECTED BY
CAROL ANN TAN

MAY 11- JUNE 11, 2023
PRIDEARTS CENTER

4139 N BROADWAY ST.
CHICAGO, IL 60613

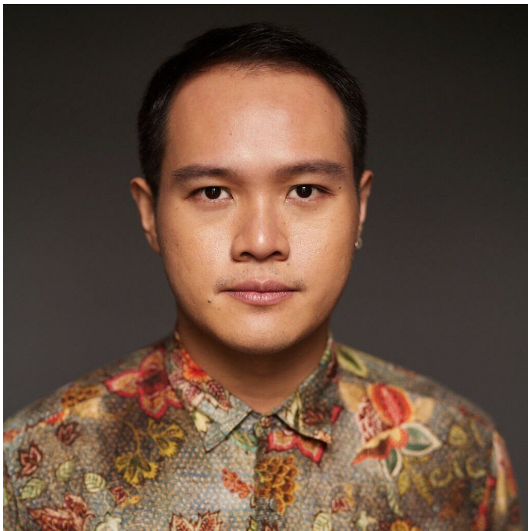
PrideArts presents the US Premiere of *Tango* by Singaporean-born and London-based playwright, Joel Tan. Described as one of the most exciting Singapore playwrights of his generation, Tan has received acclaim for his plays' lyrical and incisive interrogation of his home city's

politics and society. *Tango* will be directed by Singaporean-born director and dramaturg, and Silk Road Rising Artistic Associate, Carol Ann Tan.

Tango is inspired by the blog “4 Relative Strangers” by James D. Williams and is loosely based on the experiences of a same-sex couple with two adopted sons who moved their family to Singapore, a country with no legal protections for queer families.

An insult and accusations of immorality ignite a social media controversy that wreaks havoc in the lives of the gay couple, their son, and numerous accomplices.

To purchase tickets to *Tango*, please click [HERE](#).



Playwright Joel Tan (left) and director Carol Ann Tan (right)

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