

Hello Friend, on this day, April 24, 2015, Silk Road Rising joins the international community in commemorating the Centennial of the Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek Genocides.. [View Online](#) Or [Forward](#) to a friend.



GENOCIDE: the deliberate and systematic extermination of a national, racial, political, religious, or cultural group.

“Who still talks nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians?” - Adolf Hitler

On this day, April 24, 2015, Silk Road Rising joins the international community in commemorating the Centennial of the Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek Genocides. Between 1915 and 1923, an estimated 2 - 2.5 million Armenians, Assyrians, and Greeks were systematically killed by military forces of the Ottoman Empire and the Turkish National Movement in what many refer to as a Christian Holocaust.

To this day, the government of Turkey officially denies the Genocide ever occurred, suppressing historical inquiry at home, and undermining trust and reconciliation between Turks and their neighbors.



Silk Road Rising stands in solidarity with the Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek communities as they remember the millions who were lost in this great human tragedy, demanding justice in the form of recognition and redress. And we stand with all the brave Turkish artists, intellectuals, writers, dissidents and ordinary citizens who, at great personal risk, demonstrate profound integrity and humanity as they step forward to declare: “Yes, there was a Genocide.”

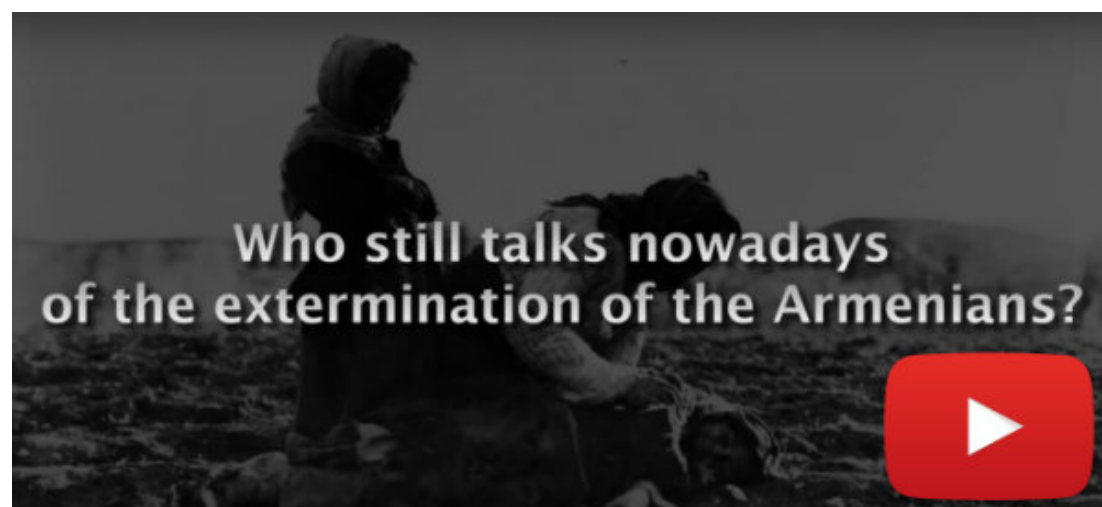
In 2011 and 2012, San Francisco's Golden Thread Productions and Silk Road Rising had the distinct honor of producing the rolling world premiere of Adriana Sevahn Nichols' play NIGHT OVER ERZINGA (commissioned and developed in partnership with New York City's Lark Play

Development Center and Golden Thread as part of *Middle East America: A National New Plays Initiative*). In a triumphant full-circle twist of fate, Adriana's beautiful and soul-piercing play, which shares her own family's story of the Armenian Genocide, has been translated into Armenian and is now being performed at Armenia's Yerevan State Youth Theater. Words cannot convey how enormously proud we are to have helped launch this extraordinary work of art into the universe, and now back into the arms of the descendants of those massacred a century later.

And yet, even as we mark this centennial commemoration with reflection, sadness, and hope, we are painfully aware of the atrocities being committed today against Christians, Muslims, and other religious communities in the Middle East and beyond, particularly at the hands of ISIS and Al Qaeda. The crimes now being perpetrated against Assyrian and Yazidi communities in Iraq and Syria fall well within the definition of Genocide. This must stop!

Thus, we call upon all peoples of conscience to stand with those who bear witness to the destruction of communities and heritage, who have sacrificed their lives, as they struggle for pluralism and freedom in the Cradle of Civilization.

Video: The Armenian Genocide and *Night Over Erzinga*



In his video essay "The Armenian Genocide and *Night Over Erzinga*" (12 min, 44 sec) Artistic Director Jamil Khoury explores a painful history and a hopeful play. He reminds us that "if the recorders of catastrophe are its survivors, then the orators of survival are their descendants."



In this essay by playwright Adriana Sevahn Nichols, author of *Night Over Erzinga*, Adriana reflects on the play's translation into Armenian and the profound significance of seeing her play produced in Armenia as part of the Centennial Commemoration of the Genocide.

"How do you carry the wound of 1.5 million lives? How do you truly honor the dead? How do you heal from atrocities that are continually denied and still build a life that is not imprisoned by anger and loss? Purification comes to mind. The process of making theatre and receiving it helps us to clean our wounds. Questioning and examining what we are carrying, we find our way and author a new story. This has been my intention in writing *Night Over Erzinga*: to write my way home. To connect with my ancestors and bring forth something that speaks to anyone who has had to leave home or has been brutally forced from it. To ask what must be remembered, and what must be let go of in order to really live, not simply survive. To meet the old story with a new ending. Hope."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the entire essay, published online by *American Theatre Magazine*.

Attend: *Beast on the Moon* at Raven Theatre



Some families are born...others are made.

In this touching and frequently humorous drama, a refugee from the Armenian Genocide seeks to build a new family with his mail order bride in 1920's/1930's Milwaukee, and succeeds in unexpected ways.

Beast on the Moon

Written by Richard Kalinoski - Directed by Michael Menendian

Produced by Raven Theatre

Now running through June 6, 2015

Tickets:

\$17.00 for previews April 21 -26 with code SILK5

\$31.00 for regular run April 30-June 6 with code SILK5

Venue:

Raven Theatre

6157 N. Clark St., Chicago

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Silk Road Rising
150 N Michigan Ave
Ste 1970
Chicago, IL 60601

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