

Everything you always wanted to know about multiculturalism and polyculturalism but were afraid to ask.

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Multi Meets Poly: *Multiculturalism and Polyculturalism Go on a First Date*

A Video Play by Jamil Khoury
Directed by A. George Bajalia



Five years ago, Silk Road Rising released *Multi Meets Poly: Multiculturalism and Polyculturalism Go on a First Date* (34 min), a video play written by Jamil Khoury, directed by A. George Bajalia, and starring Gordon Chow and Virginia Lee Marie Martinez. This thoughtful and very stimulating exchange never realized its full audience potential. However, it was a big hit when screened for graduate students of sociology at The University of Chicago and for New York City's anarchist theatre collective, The Living Theatre. Anarchists and sociologists got it!

Multi Meets Poly is a thought-provoking and often-humorous reflection on the theoretical and practical differences between two powerful social ideas: multiculturalism and polyculturalism.

By personifying these ideas as human characters—one male, one female—and by endowing each character with professional rivalry, intellectual one-upmanship, and sexual tension, a would-be romantic evening becomes an intriguing vehicle for exploring American interpretations of pluralism, cultural interchange, and diversity.

On Multi Meets Poly

Khoury



For years I've been saying that Silk Road Rising was born of a multicultural politic then quickly migrated to a polycultural aesthetic. The dialogue and tension between multiculturalism and polyculturalism is, in so many ways, emblematic of the work that we do. Our art-making and community engagement live on a multi-poly continuum.

Multi Meets Poly is not so much entertainment as it is a theatricalized intellectual workout. It is not narrative storytelling in the traditional sense, but rather a rigorous and hopefully compelling exercise in probing two important ideas. It is drama intended primarily as a teaching and learning tool, or perhaps, drama that raises pedagogical stakes.

The ideas in this video play do not simply inform the story, nor function as mere subtext to the story, the ideas *are* the story. As a writer, I have grown increasingly drawn to the notion of dramatizing ideas and dramatizing discursive argument, not as stealth messaging but as the basis for constructing a story.

www.MultiMeetsPoly.org

Smoke & Mirrors Bassel & The Supernaturals



Syrian Heart. Chicago Soul.

We at Silk Road Rising have had the pleasure of getting to know Bassel Almadani over the years and are excited to share with you the news of his band's latest album release, *Smoke & Mirrors*.

Hear the stories of Bassel Almadani's experiences as a first generation

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runk inspired grooves, and captivating lyrics regarding love, loss, and the war in Syria.

Smoke & Mirrors is available for purchase on the band's website, [here](#). 20% of proceeds are donated to support Syrian refugees affected by COVID-19 through the Karam Foundation. The album can also be streamed across [multiple platforms](#).



Learn More About Bassel & The Supernaturals

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