

A Beautiful Homecoming
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A Letter from SRCC's Co-Founders



It is with great joy that we can describe our workshop production of Karissa Murrell Myers' *Black Bear Island* (April 17 - 27, 2024), in partnership with Stage Center Theatre at Northeastern Illinois University, as a roaring success! After a four-and-a-half-year pause, our return to live theatre was nothing short of triumphant, marking an important milestone for the newly rebranded Silk Road Cultural Center.



Stephanie Shum as Amitra and Elizabeth Sacha as Ruby

Black Bear Island captivated audiences with its brilliant writing, stellar direction, stunning design, and outstanding performances. Together with our Stage Center Theatre partners, we assembled an impressive team of professional and university artists, including students, faculty, and alumni. This hybrid approach, with its new play development and pedagogical components, has not only legs but also speed.

We are enormously grateful to the Northeastern Illinois University community for its collaborative energy, generous spirit, and creative vision. We could not have imagined a more generative and inspiring union. Our hope is to continue to nurture this relationship for years to come.



Luke Steadman as Boy, Melony Aponte as Girl, and Alex Chicas as Finn

To our beloved SRCC sojourners, thank you for your enduring support throughout this entire process. Your enthusiastic presence at performances breathed life into the work. We look forward to seeing you again soon in our exploration and celebration of Silk Road stories.

Stay tuned for more exciting events this year.

With Love & Gratitude,

Malik and Jamil



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