

[View this email in your browser](#)

## Exciting Grant Announcement!



### Silk Road Rising to Receive Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts has approved more than \$80 million in grants as part of the Arts Endowment's second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2019. Included in this is a grant of \$25,000 to Silk Road Rising. The grant comes from Art Works which is the NEA's principal grantmaking program. The NEA received 1,592 applications for this round of grantmaking, so we are thrilled that Silk Road Rising's proposal was one of the grants approved.

Commenting on the awards program, Mary Anne Carter, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts said, "[These awards] are a testament to the artistic richness and diversity in our country. Organizations such as Silk Road Rising are giving people in their community the opportunity to learn, create, and be inspired."

Silk Road Rising is able to do its work thanks to the generosity of our patrons and donors, including our government funding partners. The NEA grant will support the production of plays about American Muslims which are part of our 2019 and 2020 seasons, a commitment we call Crescent and Star.



The artists we've committed to for Crescent and Star define Muslimness on their own terms. They may be observant Muslims; they may be Muslim-by-heritage; they may be culturally Muslim; they may feel ambivalent toward Islam, toward religion in general, and yet identify strongly with a Muslim-majority country of origin. However they may identify, these playwrights embrace a Muslimness that is pluralistic, inclusive, adaptive, multiracial and multicultural.

Crescent and Star continues this July with our Staging the Stans Festival, this October with Fouad Teymour's *Twice, Thrice, Frice...* and next year with Nahal Navidar's *My Dear Hussein*.

Our mission embraces stories of the East Asian, South Asian, and Middle Eastern Diasporas. For the next two years, Muslimness becomes the essence that animates this global Silk Road. Each individual story promises to enrich and expand our understanding of each other.

## Come to EPIC Showcase this June!



**June 8 & 9 at 2pm**  
**EPIC Showcase Spring 2019**  
**A Collection of Staged Readings**  
**Written by EPIC Students**  
**Directed by Corey Pond with Tracy Strimple**



A compilation of short plays written by two generations of creative community members. What are the issues that young people and retired adults are thinking about? Come find out how storytelling connects us across the generations. The readings are performed by actors from the Silk Road Rising community.

Copyright © 2019 Silk Road Rising, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
 You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

