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[From the Desk of Jamil Khoury](#)

Dear Friend

To describe *Mosque Alert* as my labor of love for the past four and a half years, would be an understatement of epic proportions. What began as a unique pairing of online civic engagement and digitized new play development, quickly morphed into an interactive global community of responders, co-creators, and yes, even a few groupies.

Silk Road Rising was truly on mission! We triggered conversations, incited arguments, inflamed debates, and most importantly, we listened. And it was out of those raw and unfiltered, thoughtful and inspired, often brutally honest, sometimes frightening, human exchanges that I discovered characters to create and stories to tell.

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Resistance to the building of mosques in communities across the United States became the canvas upon which I'd draw portraits of America's cultural and political zeitgeist. In so doing, my characters seized the narrative and began complicating themselves in ways I'd never expected, vivid reminders of how flawed and full of contradictions we all are.



The result was the play that we produced and how grateful I am that we were able to. Writing an eleven character, unapologetically political play that aimed to ascribe integrity and complexity to a broad array of perspectives, is no small undertaking. Particularly for a theatre company of our size. *Mosque Alert* was ambitious, risky, and bold, and it was also necessary. We needn't look beyond today's presidential campaigns to answer why. And if there was one recurring audience comment throughout the play's eight week run, it was that more people need to hear this story. "America needs to see this play." Few words ring more beautifully for a playwright!

comment throughout the play's eight week run, it was that **more people need to hear this story."**

So we're taking audiences at their word and exploring opportunities for keeping *Mosque Alert* alive. But we can't do so without the financial support of people who genuinely believe that stories matter, that stories make a difference. People like you.

My hope is that [you'll make a donation](#) to Silk Road Rising so that *Mosque Alert* can continue to impact audiences and help us think our way through this current malaise. Join us in helping the world heal, one play at a time. Your generosity is part of the healing.

Sincerely,
Jamil Khoury



One Play at a Time; One Production at a Time

[Mosque Alert Heads to Germany!](#)

Award-winning playwright/translator Ulrike Syha is adapting *Mosque Alert* into German for a reading to be presented October 14th and 15th with [Hamburg's LICHTHOF Theater](#). This production opens the door to bringing much-needed dialogue about Islamophobia to German-speaking audiences through an American lens. Silk Road Rising is excited to continue triggering conversation and debate on a global level through our increasingly relevant play.



[Mosque Alert Goes Home to Naperville](#)



Mosque Alert is also slated to return to Naperville to continue our ongoing relationship with the city that serves as the backdrop to our timely play. *Mosque Alert* will receive its third collegiate production October 27th-30th at North Central College, allowing the next generation of actors, storytellers, and artists to empathize with the play's complex characters and spread a message of tolerance to their community.

Click below to watch a video with Departments of Art and Theatre Chair Carin Silkaitis, as she discusses the project's artistic and educational importance.



With so many exciting avenues for *Mosque Alert* to continue affecting audiences, there's never been a better time to support our work! [Make a donation](#) and help us spread our message of tolerance regionally, nationally, and internationally.

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co-facilitated a roundtable on Arab and Arab-American theatre and served on a panel discussion about producing Middle Eastern work, in addition to representing Silk Road at the event. In a write-up about the event for [HowlRound](#), Catherine Coray cites artistic director Jamil Khoury as a key figure in the evolution of the convening of Middle Eastern artists.

Through such opportunities, Silk Road Rising has positioned itself at the forefront of national discussions about Middle Eastern representation in American theatre. We were proud to represent the Chicago theatre community at this event, and promise to continue working to establish Chicago as a city supportive of Middle Eastern and Middle Eastern American theatre.



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