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A Message from Artistic Director Jamil Khoury



Syria evokes many words for me. "Love," "family," "history," and "heritage" are all high on the list. As is "fear."

That constant, ever-present, debilitating, paralyzing, suffocating fear. Fear of the regime. Fear of the Islamists. That double whammy of crippling terror that I have lived with my entire life and that surfaces one way or another every single day.

Writers/directors Rana Kazkaz and Anas Khalaf know that fear all too well. They live with it constantly, and it's real, and it's dangerous, and its reach extends well beyond

Syria's borders. It is not afraid to threaten and intimidate those of us in Diaspora.

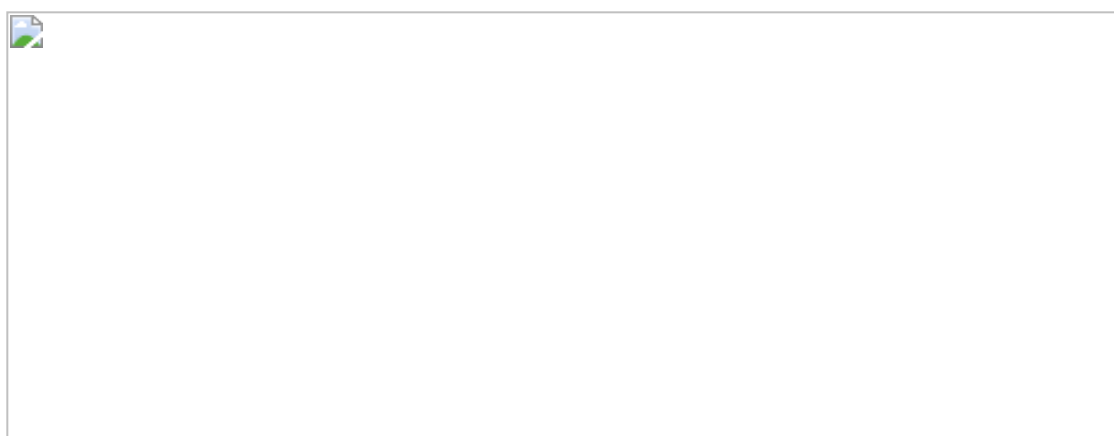
In an act of absolute courage and defiance, Kazkaz and Khalaf have written a screenplay about one man's determination to conquer that fear and to imagine a Syria not governed by terror and fear. It is called [THE TRANSLATOR](#) and Silk Road Rising is so proud to be presenting two staged readings of it tomorrow and Friday (June 19 and 20).

And how's this for a stellar cast - Rom Barkhordar (*Night Over Erzinga*), Daniel Cantor (*Paulus*), Catherine Dildilian (*Night Over Erzinga*), Susaan Jamshidi (*Yasmina's Necklace*), Charlotte Speigner, Joseph Sultani, and Demetrios E Troy (*The Mummy and The Revolution*).

[Please join us!](#)

THE TRANSLATOR A Reading of a Screenplay

Tomorrow & Friday ONLY



Story by Rana Kazkaz and Anas Khalaf
Directed by Rana Kazkaz and Anas Khalaf

Set during the first five months of the Syrian Revolution (March-July, 2011), **THE TRANSLATOR** tells the story of Sammy, an English-Arabic translator who defected from Syria, and Zaid, his politically active brother who is arrested for peacefully demonstrating against the regime. Although afraid, Sammy illegally returns to Syria in order to find his brother and in the process discovers his courage.

Enhance your understanding: each reading will begin with a slideshow of photographs from Syria by Anas Khalaf to help you visualize the world and the landscape of *The Translator*.

TICKETS

Tickets are \$10 each. Click [HERE](#) to buy online or by calling 312-857-1234 x201. There are NO processing fees.

DATES

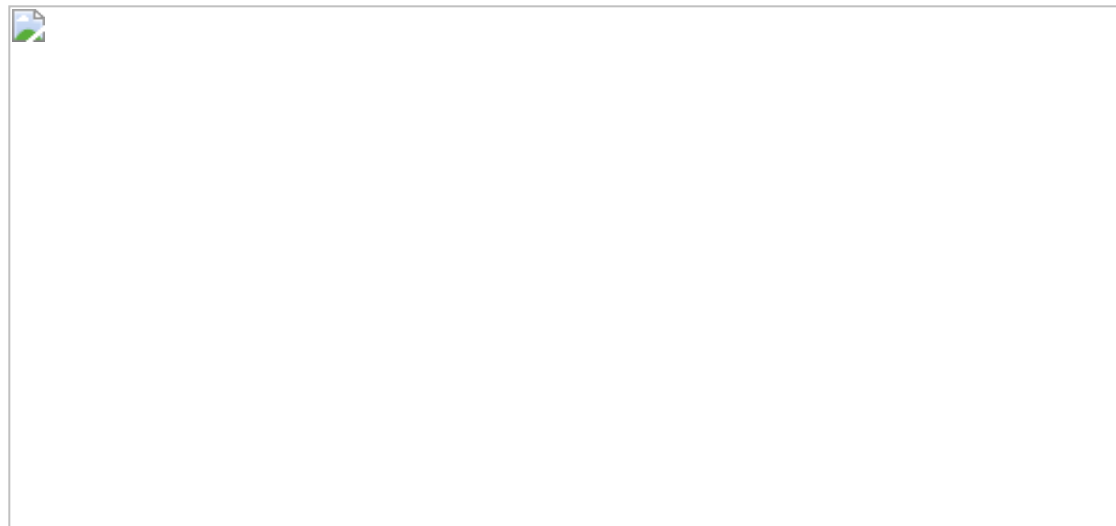
Thursday, June 19 at 7:30pm
Friday, June 20 at 8:00pm

Chicago

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION

We are easily accessible by major RTA and CTA routes. If driving, take advantage of our \$8 parking arrangement with Self Park, 230 W Washington St (building with Cosi restaurant).

Sonam Kalra and The Sufi Gospel Project Presented by *Eye on India*



First United Methodist Church at The Chicago Temple is hosting [Sonam Kalra and the Sufi Gospel Project](#) as part of the *Eye on India* festival.

The Sufi Gospel Project melds traditional western gospels with Indian classical sounds. The Indian spiritual texts are enriched by elements of western poetry to create a sound that touches every soul.

DATE

Thursday, June 26th at 6:30pm

VENUE

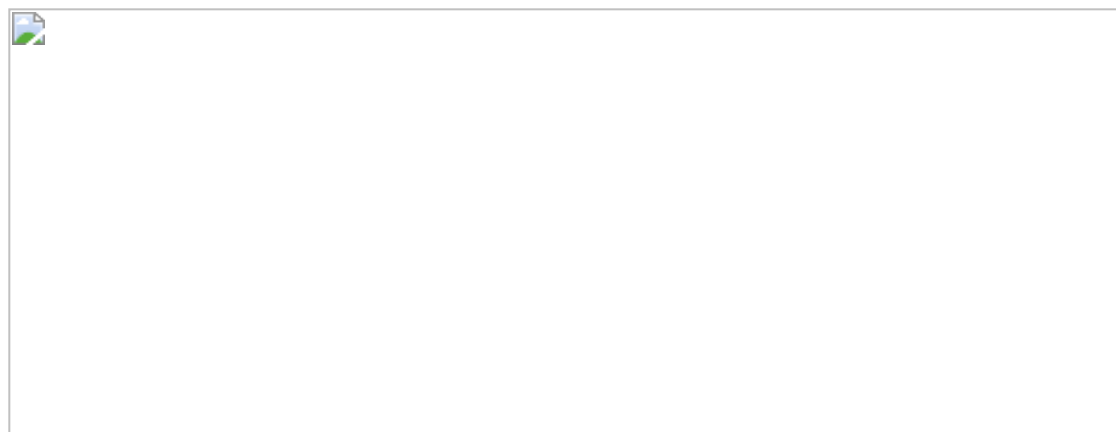
The Chicago Temple Building
77 W Washington St

TICKETS

\$15 each

Click [HERE](#) to buy tickets.

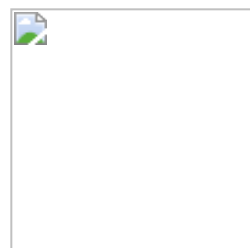
UNMANNED Written by Robert Myers Directed by Sandeep Das *June 28th & 29th*



By turns comic and appalling, *UNMANNED* dramatizes the lives of two drone operators in a remote desert in the the American Southwest—one, a retired male fighter pilot who is terrified to fly; the other, a young female gamer who has never flown. This sets the stage for an exploration of the bizarre and disturbing profession of the military drone “pilot” and the ways in which technology has radically altered contemporary life and warfare.

PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE CHICAGO ARTISTS COALITION

Silk Road Rising is proud to introduce Sabba Elahi's powerful visual artwork as a companion to *UNMANNED*. Both Elahi's artwork and Myers' play address the ethical and moral challenges posed by drone plane technology and its resultant "collateral damage." Elahi will be onhand to present a twenty minute talk with slideshow presentation before each of the staged readings.

**STAGED READING SCHEDULE**

Saturday, June 28th at 4:00pm

Sunday, June 29th at 4:00pm

Each performance is followed by a talk-back with the creative team.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by clicking [here](#). There is no processing fee to buy online.

VENUE

All performances held at Silk Road Rising's permanent theatre venue:
Pierce Hall at The Historic Chicago Temple Building, 77 W Washington St, Chicago.

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Silk Road Rising
6 E Monroe St
801
Chicago, IL 60603

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