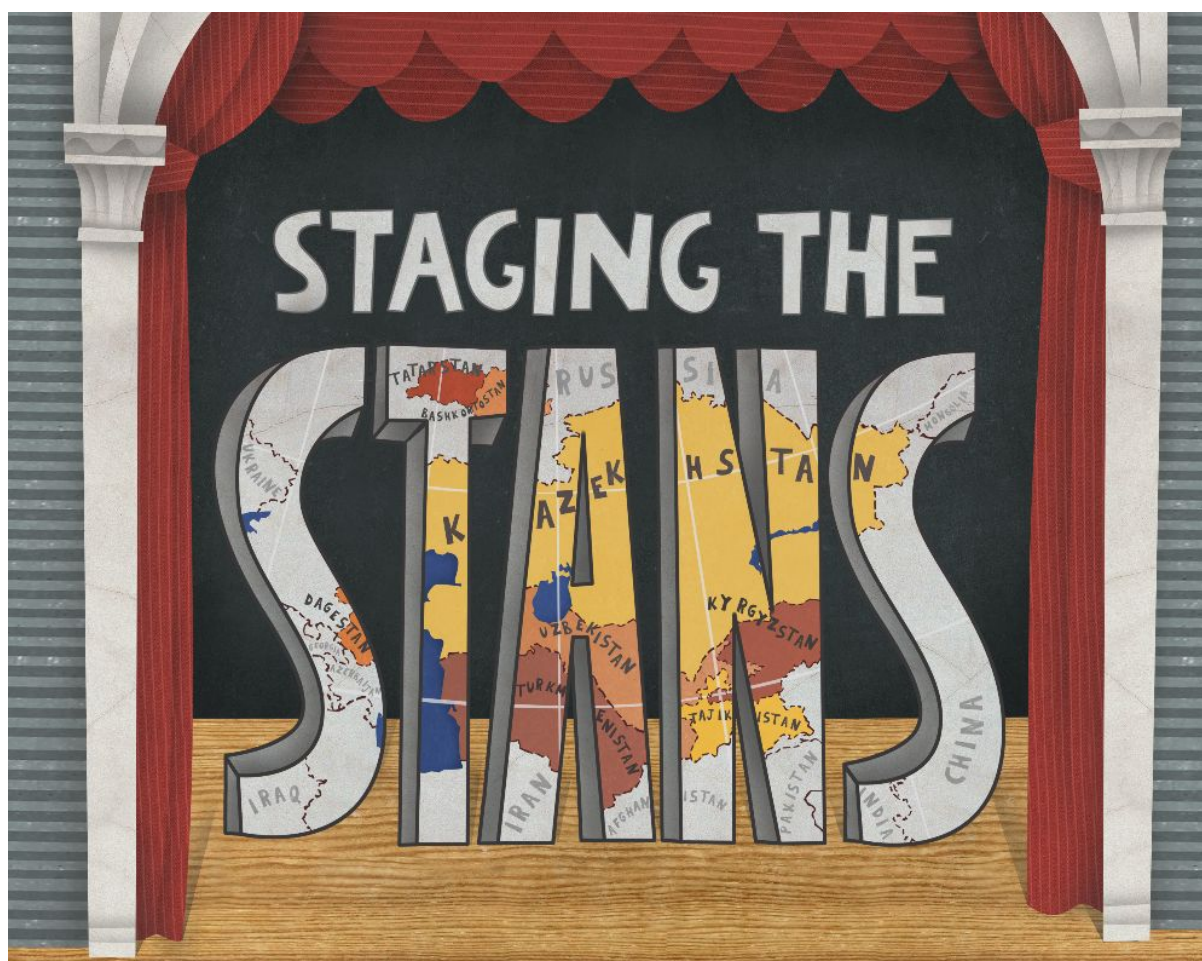


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Staging the Stans: July 12–15, 2019



A Staged Readings Series

Staging the Stans is a festival of staged readings of plays by Central Asian and Eurasian playwrights, curated in collaboration with Kazakh playwright Olzhas Zhanaydarov and Russian playwright Evgeny Kazachkov.

[Grab Your Tickets for Staging the Stans Today](#)

The Stans



The “Stans” refer to the nation-states (and former Soviet Republics) of Central Asia and certain Muslim-majority autonomous republics within the Russian Federation. For purposes of this festival, the included Stans are: Bashkortostan, Dagestan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Tartarstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

The Plays

Uzbek

by Talgat Batalov and Yekaterina Bondarenko

Translated by John Freedman

Directed by Sami Ismat

Friday, July 12 at 7:00PM and Saturday, July 13 at 3:00PM



In Talgot Batalov’s *Uzbek*, tales of Central Asian immigrants become fodder for a stand-up comedy routine. The ironies, dangers, paradoxes, and absurdities of moving from one culture to another are satirized in this intrepid tribute to human resilience. *Uzbek* avoids cliches and partisanship, insisting instead that everything cuts two ways.



The Store

by Olzhas Zhanaydarov

Translated by John Freedman

Directed by Jeremy Aluma

Saturday, July 13 at 7:00PM and Sunday, July 14 at 3:00PM

Based on real events, Olzhas Zhanaydarov’s *The Store* exposes the brutal torment of a Kazakh migrant working in Moscow. Public indifference and a corrupt police force silence young victims lured from their homeland by a Kazakh trafficker. Promises of money, citizenship, and family reunification set the stage for a life of indentured servitude and abuse, a reality rationalized by religious interpretations of master and slave.

The Izmailovo Studio

by Emilia Kazumova and Zarema Zautdinova

Translated by Graham Schmidt

15 at 7:00PM



Fleeing domestic violence, rape, and deception, three women find refuge in a squalid apartment in the Izmailovo district of Moscow. Based on the personal life of playwright Emilia Kazumova and anecdotal stories that she collected, *The Izmailovo Studio* explores the pursuit of personal dignity against patriarchal torment.

Meet the Curators, Olzhas Zhanaydarov and Evgeny Kazachkov



Salon Event on June 14

How are Muslim artists in Russia and the former Soviet Republics of Central Asia creating art that pushes boundaries without inciting censorship and government reprisals? Come to our annual Salon to meet with Moscow-based playwrights Olzhas Zhanaydarov and Evgeny Kazachkov who will provide insider perspectives on theatre-making in Russia. The conversation will be moderated by Silk Road Rising Co-Founder Jamil Khoury, whose play *Mosque Alert* was translated into Russian by Olzhas. In June of 2019, Jamil journeyed to Russia to see performances of that translation in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

The Silk Road Salon will be held **June 14 at 1:00PM** and will include a reception with wine, cheese, and dessert.

Don't Miss This Special Silk Road Rising Salon Event

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