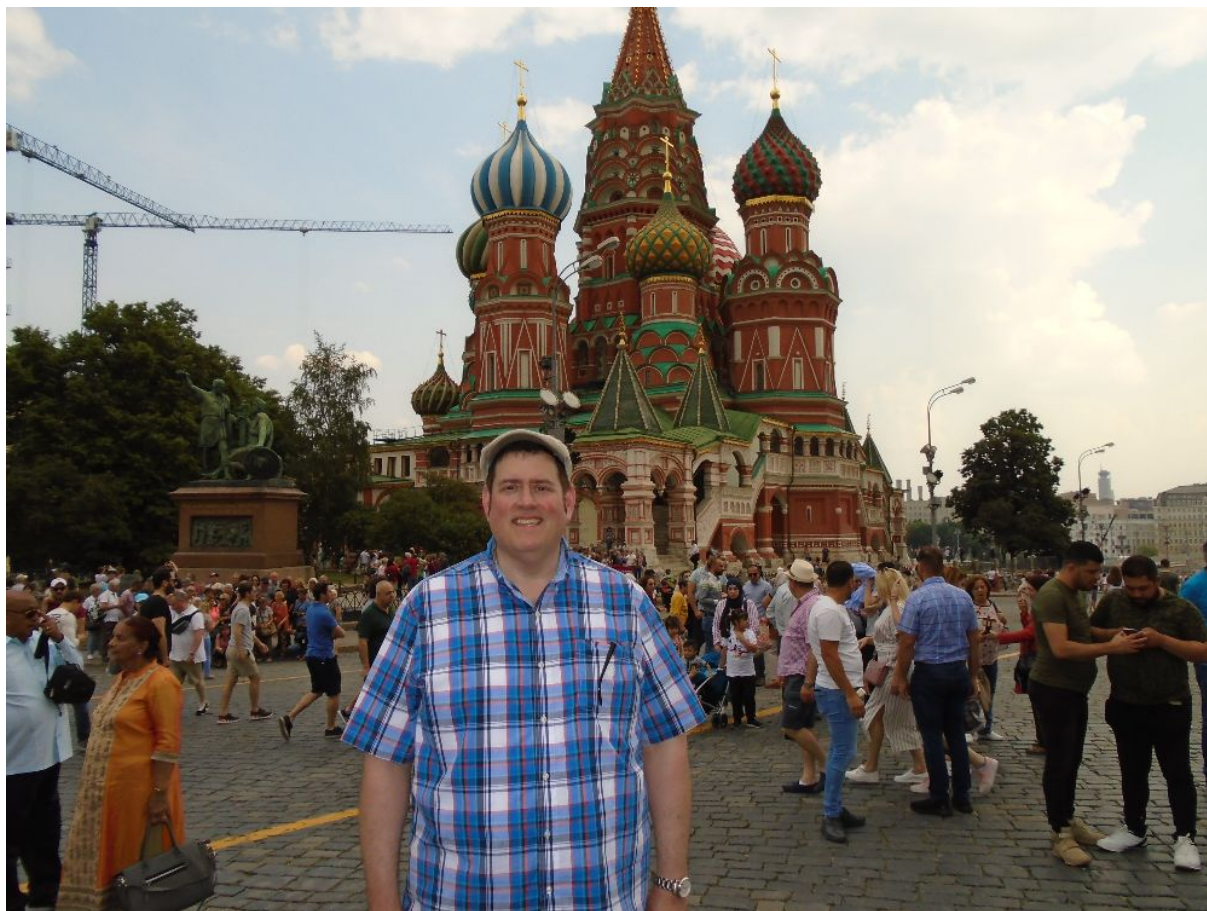


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A Note from Artistic Director Jamil Khoury



Hear Jamil Read His Note For You

Staging the Stans has long been a dream of mine. In many respects, Central Asia's newly independent and former Soviet Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan comprised the heartland of the historic Silk Road. Unbeknown to many, Russia, too, is of Silk Road patrimony, and it's Autonomous Republics of Bashkortostan, Dagestan, and Tatarstan reflect that which is Eurasian and Islamic about the largely Slavic and Eastern Orthodox Russian Federation.

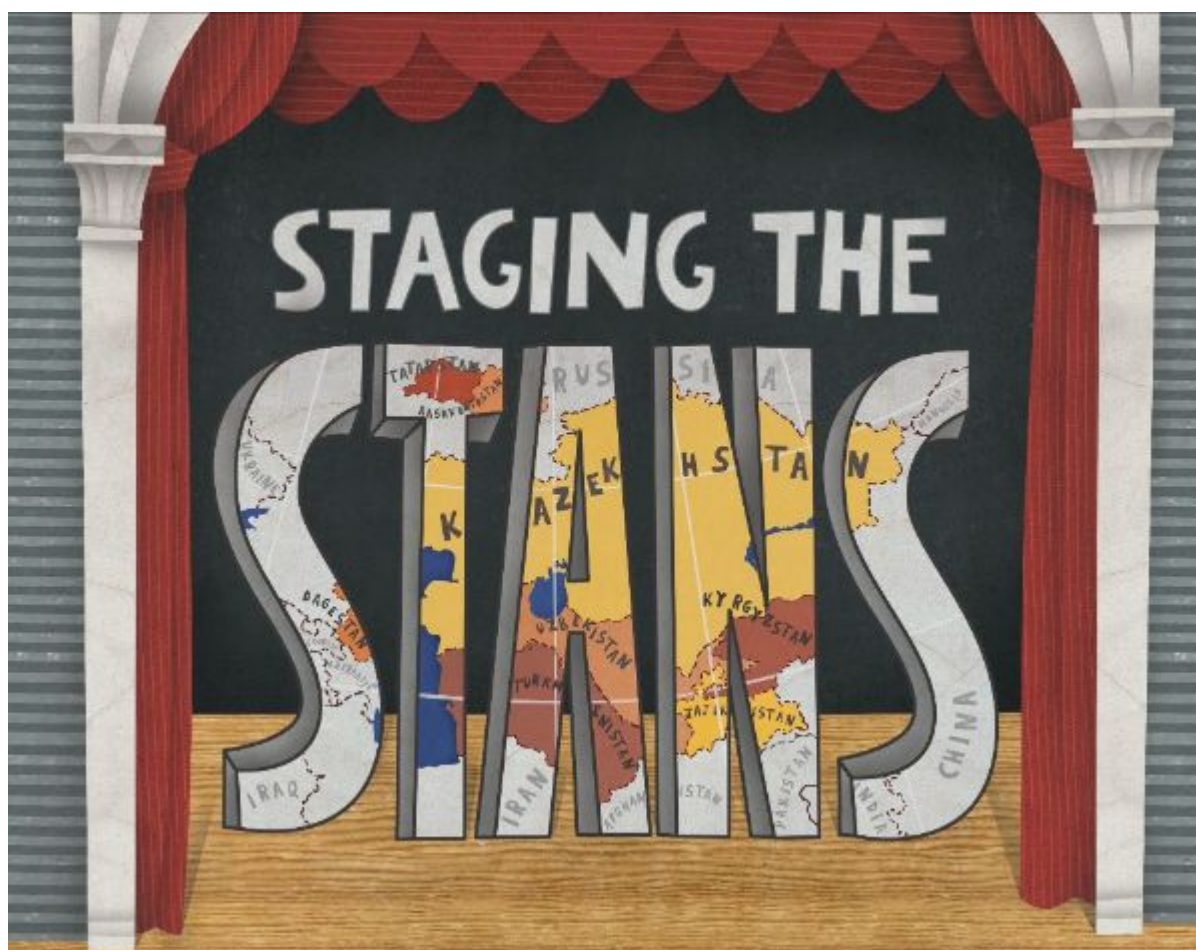
It is a bit odd that in over sixteen years of producing theatre, Silk Road Rising has never once worked with a Central Asian or Russian playwright. Perhaps it seemed that all roads lead to Moscow and we just didn't have any relationships there. But then along came John Eisner, Producing Artistic Director of New York City's The Lark, and introductions ensued. First, a meeting in Chicago, then a series of Skype calls, followed by a trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg, and, *voilà*, we had ourselves a network!

And yes, all roads did lead to Moscow, which is why curating **Staging the Stans** would not have been possible without our Moscow-based collaborators, Kazakh playwright Olzhas Zhanaydarov and Russian playwright Evgeny Kazachkov. Their insider knowledge and connections, their ability to get work translated, and their excitement for the concept we were proposing, turned a vigorous vetting process into a joyous learning curve. The three plays selected, including

cosmopolitanism and xenophobia.

Americans had grown accustomed to a face of Russia and the Soviet Union that was European and white, not Asian and Muslim. With **Staging the Stans**, we've set out to introduce our audiences to landscapes that are multicultural, multilingual, and multireligious, yet shaped, in part, by cultural interchange and periodic "bouts" of pluralism. It is our hope that "the Stans" enter the consciousness of the American theatre as a source of stories and discoveries. As we believe this to be a seedling, may it yield abundant fruit.

Attend the Festival: July 12–15



Uzbek: July 12 & 13



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,

The Store: July 13 & 14



The Store

by Olzhas Zhanaydarov

Translated by John Freedman

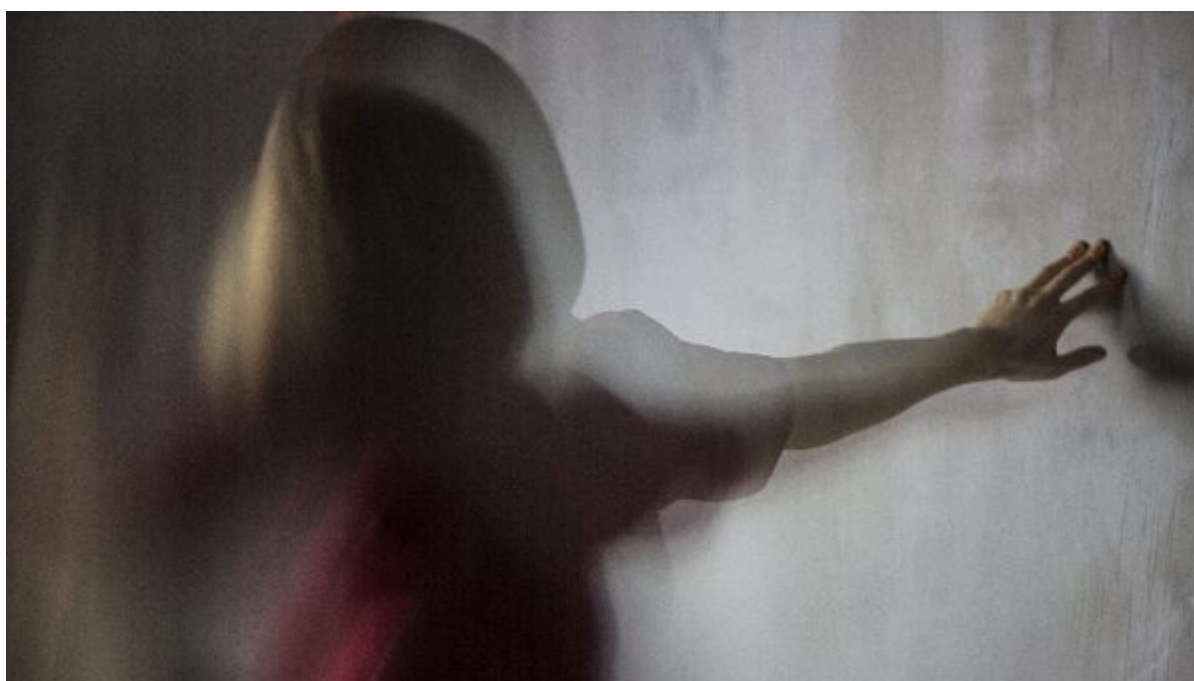
Directed by Jeremy Aluma

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: July 14 & 15



The Izmailovo Studio

by Emilia Kazumova and Zarema Zautdinova

Translated by Graham Schmidt

Directed by Adrienne Cury

Sunday, July 14 at 7:00PM and

Monday, July 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.

Zhanaydarov and Evgeny Kazachkov



Salon Event on July 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 **July 14* at 1:00PM** and will include a reception with wine, cheese, and dessert. Tickets are \$48 and can be purchased by clicking the link below or calling the box office.

[Get Tickets Here for This Special Silk Road Rising Salon Event](#)

*A previous email erroneously listed the Salon date as June 14 instead of July 14. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

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