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**“You know, with all due respect...I thought you were this big liberal? How about a little empathy? Those speakers, the ones who so riled you up, those people have horror stories.”**

— Hanan, *The Balancing Arab*

*The Balancing Arab* tells the story of Hanan (played by Amira Sabbagh), a politically active Arab American, and Heidi, her Irish American personal fitness trainer (played by Leslie Frame). Set in a downtown Chicago gym amidst a strenuous training session, the mood turns tense as the two women recount an event at the Arab American Cultural Center a few nights earlier -- an event at which the evening's political discourse got filtered through decidedly different lenses.

*The Balancing Arab* explores tensions that exist within and between political cultures and the challenges of messaging that gets stranded in context and lost in translation. [Learn more >>](#)

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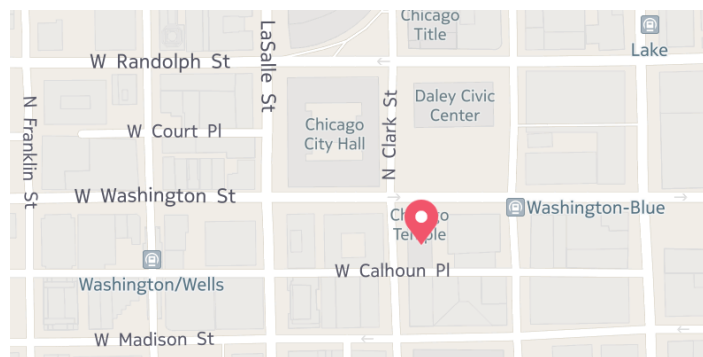
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