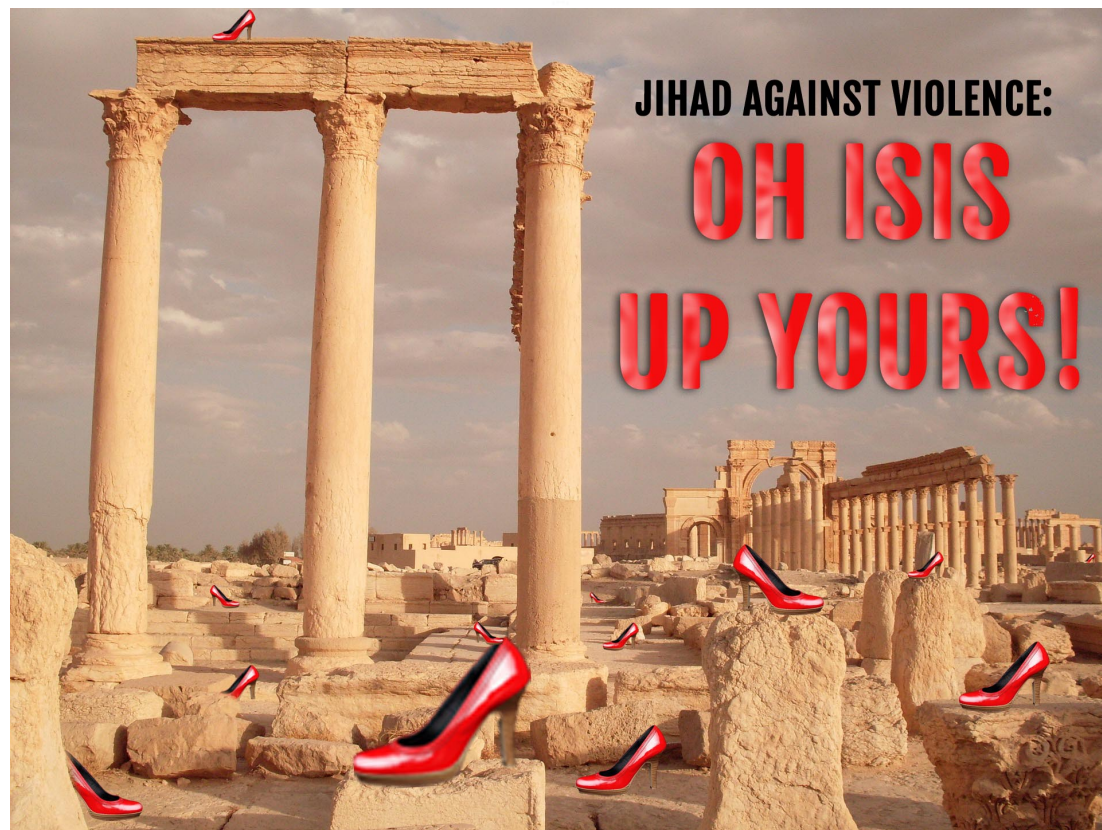


Hello Friend, OH ISIS UP YOURS! runs this weekend only! [View Online](#) Or [Forward](#) to a friend.



Founding Artistic Director Jamil Khoury On *Jihad Against Violence: Oh ISIS Up Yours!*

Back in my days as a cross-cultural trainer, when facilitating programs about U.S. culture for clients from overseas, I'd make a point of asking them to try and look beyond our country's **triumphalist narratives**. After all, if history is written by the victors, where does that leave those for whom the promise of an American Dream was a dream deferred?



For these clients, I would impress upon them how literature is the gateway to a more expansive American story. I would recommend they read African American and Native American writers. I would point them to stories of immigrants, and implore them to read the feminists, read the queers, read the histories of labor movements and anti-war movements. In other words, read the narratives of those who stood out and stood up.

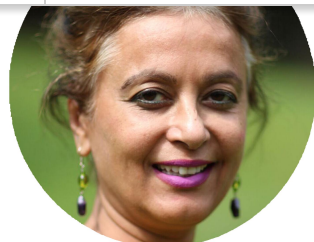
Today, I find myself championing those marginalized within the margins, and that extends to our beloved family of American Muslim playwrights. I'm drawn to the playwrights who wield their imaginations to wage war against that which is wrong—against the racism of Islamophobes and the sexism of Islamists. And this is why I'm thrilled to introduce Chicago audiences to my dear friend and fellow mischief-maker, Fawzia Afzal-Khan.

Anyone who titles her play "Jihad Against Violence: Oh ISIS Up Yours!" clearly has subversion on the brain, and more power to her! Fawzia defines Muslimness on her own terms, thank you very much. In doing so, she succeeds at entertaining us, inspiring us, and prompting us to think.

Or as I like to say: "Put the feminists in charge and the planet will thrive."

Playwright Fawzia Afzal-Khan On *Oh ISIS Up Yours!*

Jihad Against Violence: Oh ISIS Up Yours is the latest incarnation of a play that has been morphing, meandering, and evolving for more than a decade. First produced as *Sext of Saudade* at NYC's Dixon Place in 2008, I had set out to respond to a world in which masculinist and homophobic ideologies, propagated in the name of Islam, have stuck a wedge between the spiritual and sensual longings of us human beings. As a colleague who had described watching *Sext of Saudade* as a "Brechtian experience" put it: *Jihad Against Violence*--the second incarnation of this morphing play-



versions and then some...

I wanted in this latest version, to reflect the deepening crisis of the Muslim world as religious extremism and western imperialism, working hand-in-glove, have spread their conflagration from South Asian to Arab lands. In such a transnationally disastrous moment, I ask: What solidarities must be found? What affiliations and alliances forged? And how can theatre provide part of the answers we are all so desperately seeking?

Performances August 19th and 20th Only!



Jihad Against Violence: Oh ISIS Up Yours! will feature a staged reading of Fawzia Afzal-Khan's new play-in-progress featuring actors Priya Mohanty and Gloria Imseih Petrelli. The event will also include selections of Fawzia Afzal-Khan's short documentary, *Siren Song: Women Singers of Pakistan*, and a talkback with her, director George Potter, and Production and Literary Manager Corey Pond.

[Purchase Your Tickets Today!](#)

August 19th, 2017 - 4:00PM

August 20th, 2017 - 4:00PM



All performances take place at Silk Road Rising at the Historic Chicago Temple Building (77 W. Washington St., Lower Level, Chicago, IL 60602)

Jihad Against Violence: Oh ISIS Up Yours! Featuring Actors:



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