



## It's a Bonanza for Silk Road Stories!

When Silk Road Rising was first founded back in 2003 there was a drought of Silk Road stories in popular culture. Today, there is a blossoming of representation across multiple mediums. We want to take a look back at the stories that took root in our hearts. Enjoy our bouquet of splendor!

*Click on the images to access the media.*



*Ms. Marvel* premiered on Disney+ June 8th and tells the story of Kamala Khan, a 16-year old who struggles to fit in until she mysteriously gains powers. Marvel's first ever Muslim superhero shines bright in this intimate tale of family and self-discovery. Azhar Usman, who has a recurring role in *Ms. Marvel*, wrote and starred in Silk Road Rising's 2016 *Ultra American*.

[Journalist Unzela Khan shares her experiences as a Pakistani Muslim woman engaging \*Ms. Marvel\*.](#)



Actor/Writer/Creator Ramy Youssef stars in *Ramy*, featuring a first-generation American Muslim on a spiritual and sexual journey in his politically divided New Jersey neighborhood. The show is currently in production for a 3rd season!

[Learn more about Youssef's writing process and how he worked his way toward creating \*Ramy\*.](#)



Michelle Yeoh stars in this genre-blending film! Lauded as a refreshing big screen story, *Everything Everywhere All at Once* tells the unpredictable tale of a mother-daughter relationship as they strive to understand their place and significance in Everything.

[Read about Michelle Yeoh's experiences with \*Everything Everywhere All at Once\*.](#)



This queer take on Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* focuses on a group of Asian American friends who spend a week-long vacation together at Fire Island. Joel Kim Booster, the writer and star of *Fire Island*, appeared in Silk Road Rising's 2012 cabaret *Re-Spiced*.

[Joel Kim Booster, the writer and star of \*Fire Island\*, reflects on his responsibility as a romantic lead.](#)



Marc Spector, a mercenary who has Dissociative Identity Disorder, is drawn into a deadly mystery involving Egyptian gods and his alternate identity, Steven Grant. *Moon Knight* marks the introduction of Marvel's first Egyptian superhero.

[\*Moon Knight's Layla: Finally, an Arab Superhero\*](#)





*Never Have I Ever* is a critically acclaimed series focusing on the life of an Indian American teen who faces the trappings of popularity at her high school. This jovial coming of age story focuses on the modern high school experience and all of its obstacles.

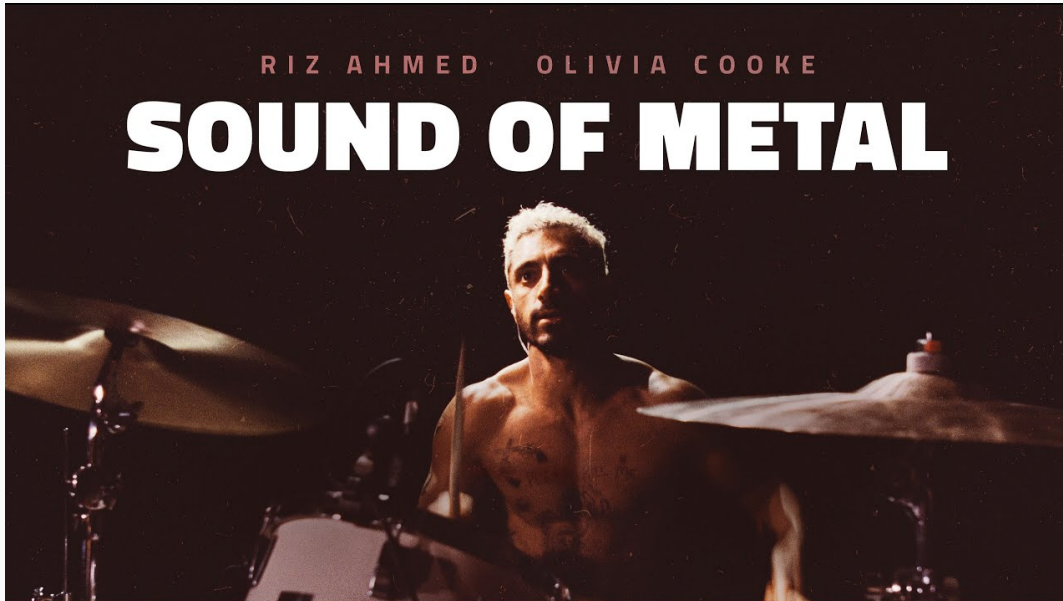
[Read about Mindy Kaling creating representation beyond the cast in \*Never Have I Ever\*.](#)



Jo Koy stars as a man returning home for an Easter celebration with his loving yet bickering family in this tribute to his Filipino American community. This multi-generational story explores familial expectations, the quest for approval, and

reconciling hyphenated identities.

[Jo Koy discusses what \*Easter Sunday\* means for Filipino representation in film](#)



RIZ AHMED OLIVIA COOKE

# SOUND OF METAL

A heavy-metal drummer's life is turned upside down when he begins to lose his hearing and must confront a future filled with silence. Riz Ahmed is the first Pakistani and first Muslim actor to be nominated for a Best Actor Oscar for his role in *Sound of Metal*.

[Learn more about how the Award-winning sound design was created.](#)



WINNER GRAND JURY PRIZE sundance

WINNER AUDIENCE AWARD sundance

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY  
LEE ISAAC CHUNG

# MINARI

PLAN B A24

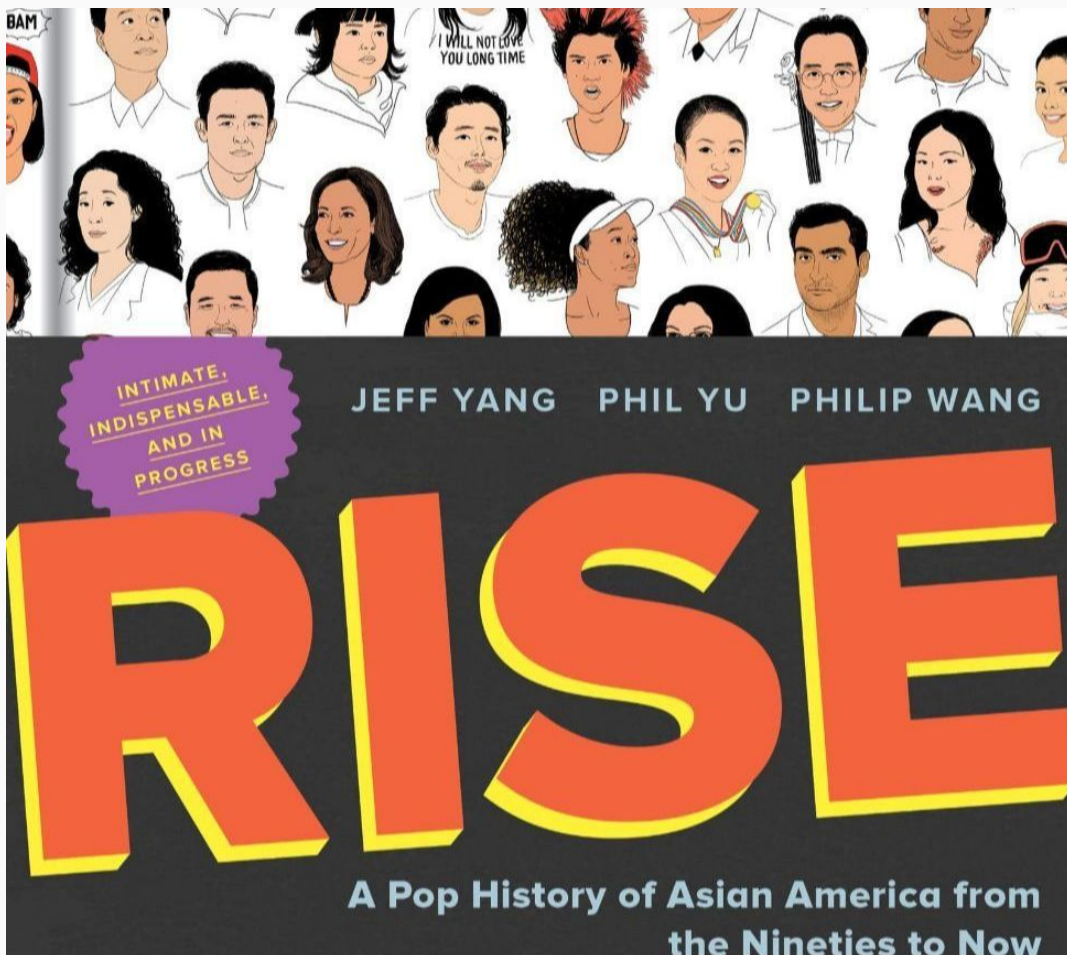
A Korean family moves to a farm in Arkansas in search of their own American dream. Amidst the challenges of a new life in the rural and rugged Ozarks, they discover the undeniable resilience of family and what really makes a home.

[Read about Steven Yeun and his experiences as a South Korean in the film industry.](#)



Moroccan Canadian singer-songwriter, Faouzia, blends Western and Arab musical influences and a feminist consciousness in her new EP *Citizens*. Available to stream anywhere you listen to music!

[Read an interview about Faouzia's fashion inspirations and connecting with her Arab roots.](#)



*Rise* is a love letter to, from, and for Asian Americans — a vivid scrapbook of voices, emotions, and memories from an era in which American culture was expanded and transformed. *Rise* preserves both the headlines and the intimate conversations that have shaped Asian America.

[Read more on how the Authors of \*Rise\* tackled three decades of Asian American media](#)



## The City of Chicago Honors Silk Road Rising!

We are thrilled to announce that Silk Road Rising recently received a CityArts program grant from the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events!

Silk Road Rising traces its very beginnings to our collaboration with, what was then, the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs. Almost 20 years later, the City's generous support continues to help make our work possible.



Jamil Khoury's *Precious Stones*, our inaugural production performed in 2003 at Studio Theatre, Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E Washington St, Chicago, IL.

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## Help a Friend, Write a Review

Want to help us receive more support? Leave a review on [Greatnonprofits.org](https://www.greatnonprofits.org) so that we can be counted as a great nonprofit!

Stories about Silk Road Rising from supporters like you help us increase our impact and reach. Help us raise our visibility and obtain a Top-Rated status by posting a five-star rating and a brief story about your experiences with Silk Road Rising. Please do so by the end of October so that we can earn this accolade for 2022.

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