

We are so proud of the recognition Malik is receiving for his leadership!
[View this email in your browser](#)



Executive Director Malik Gillani Honored by *Crain's*



Silk Road Rising co-founder, Malik Gillani, was selected by *Crain's Chicago Business* as a **2018 Chicago's Notable LGBTQ Executive**.

In this first-ever list by *Crain's*, the 88 LGBTQ featured leaders come from a wide range of sectors—finance, tech, nonprofits, media, the arts, and more. All have demonstrated that they are advancing their industries, workplace equality, and civic engagement in Chicago.

In reflecting on this honor, Malik said: "It was incredibly difficult coming out to family and friends back in the '80's and '90's, but that act led me to more fully embody all of myself and give myself completely to my work. **When people are forced to hide their identities, or when culture prevents individuals from being themselves, we miss out on the contributions they could be making.** I'm so honored to be part of this list of exemplary LGBTQ leaders. These leaders inspire all of us to live our lives fully, and embrace our unique and beautiful selves."

[Learn More](#)

Semitic Commonwealth Festival Plays Published



McFarland & Company has published all six plays that comprised Silk Road Rising's "Semitic Commonwealth" staged reading festival, featuring six plays by Arab and Jewish playwrights exploring the human toll of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Publishing work allows us to document our contributions for future generations and also enables study of the work we develop and produce.

Hardcopies and electronic editions are now available.

Plays Developed at Silk Road Rising Nominated for Best New Work



One of Silk Road Rising's unique contributions is to increase the canon of American dramatic literature. Cases in point: our development and production of Minita Gandhi's *Muthaland* (2015, subsequently produced at 16th Street Theater in 2017) and Novid Parsi's *Through the Elevated Line* (2018), both of which are nominated by the Jeff Awards Committee in this year's "Best New Work" category.

We make significant fiscal investments in developing new plays because stories of Asian American and Middle Eastern American communities are not often told; nor are they widely produced, published, or studied.

We're grateful for the Jeff Awards Committee's recognition of our contributions and

Staff Outing & Celebration

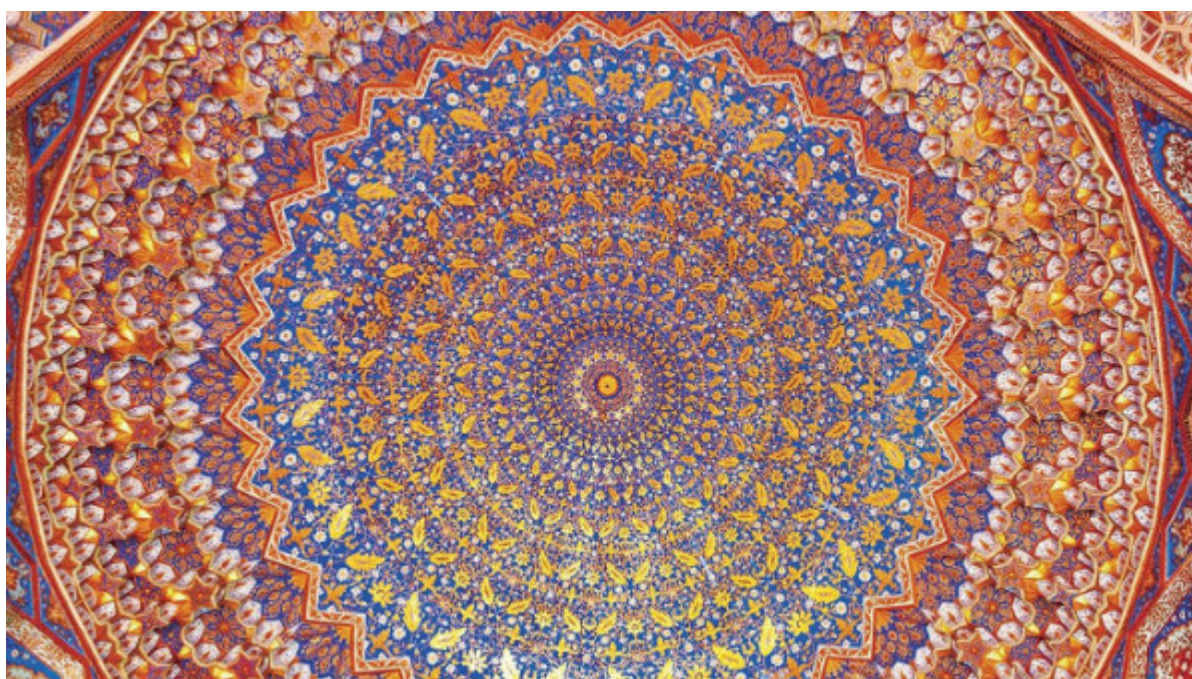


Silk Road Rising staff pictured left to right: Michael Mead, Community Engagement Coordinator; Vanessa Kucera, Development Associate; Corey Pond, Associate Producer; Tracy Strimple, Education Coordinator; Jamil Khoury, Co-Founder & Founding Artistic Director; and, Malik Gillani, Co-Founder & Founding Executive Director.

As you can see, there was much to celebrate this week, including the completion of our 15th Anniversary Season.

We'd like to thank all our donors and patrons for making it possible for Silk Road Rising to be a significant contributor towards developing, producing, and promoting artists and stories of East Asian, South Asian, Middle Eastern, Central Asian, and North African descent.

Support Silk Road Rising



As a result of your gifts, we are able to unleash curiosity through the power of storytelling.

We are most open to receiving information and questioning our beliefs when we are curious. We are open to seeing the world in an entirely different light thanks to the power of curiosity.

You can help us unleash curiosity -- make a gift, today!

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)

[RSS](#)

Copyright © 2018 Silk Road Rising, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).