

Hello Friend, WE SWIM runs this weekend only! [View Online](#) Or [Forward](#) to a friend.

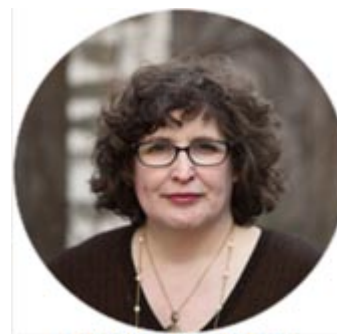


We Swim, We Talk, We Go To War

Sneak Preview of This Weekend's Staged Reading

Politics, it's a hard topic to discuss whether during a Facebook debate or over a family dinner. Though dealing with complicated and usually difficult subjects to address, this piece is filled with a playfulness. The dark humor injected into action and stage directions ripple through the audience, even in tense scenes. Much like the characters, as the weight of reality and current events wash over the audience, Mansour knows just when to bring us up for air. **Fearlessly, she achieves levity in the midst of commentary.**

Directing this piece is Anna C. Bahow. Sound familiar? Anna is an integral member of our Silk Road community. In fact she directed our Midwest premiere of Jonas Hassen Khemiri's *INVASION!* as well as our ongoing international tour of *Oh My Sweet Land* by Amir Nizar Zuabi.



Director Anna Bahow

Like Mansour, Bahow does not shy away from tricky topics such as immigration and the challenges relocation places on families. Seeing these two artists collaborate and converge on a piece is sure to be illuminating.

Bringing Mansour's words to life is our talented cast: Kirsten D'Aurelio as 'She', Chris Khoshaba as 'He', David Goodloe as 'the American Soldier', and Tommy Malouf as 'the Arab'.

"I didn't feel afraid right then. It just seemed like the normal chain of events, like when you go to a rock concert and they wave you up to the upper parking level. With flashlights." Excerpt from *We Swim*

Insights from Playwright Mona Mansour

Some writers see setting as purely a necessity, a backdrop for their story. Playwright Mona Mansour understands the full potential of location. From Staten Island to Beirut, each of her pieces is distinct in location, letting the surroundings add texture to the story and characters. *We Swim, We Talk, We Go To War* is just one stunning example. This particular piece drew from personal experiences.



"The play is my attempt to continue a real-life conversation I had with someone I love deeply, my nephew. We started to speak about these things - why war? Why the Army? - years ago when we were both home. This play circles back on that conversation imaginatively and goes farther than we were able to go." - **Mona Mansour**

Performances This Saturday and Sunday!

Saturday, September 9th at 4:00pm

Sunday, September 10th at 4:00pm

While trying to navigate the currents of the Pacific, a woman of Arab descent and her nephew, who has enlisted in the U.S. military, dip into the treacherous waters of identity, family, and allegiance. ***We Swim*** offers a nuanced and sometimes surprising dialogue about what it means to be patriotic at our current moment in time.



We Swim, We Talk, We Go To War is part of Silk Road Rising's **Crescent and Star: New Arab and Muslim Journeys** initiative.

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

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