

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

Department of Theatre Presents

# MOSQUE ALERT



by  
**JAMIL KHOURY**

Directed by  
**GEORGE POTTER**



# Mosque Alert

Written by: Jamil Khoury

Located in: Studio Theatre

Nov. 11 - 13th 2015, 8 p.m.

Nov. 14 - 15th 2015, 2 p.m.

There will be one 15 minute intermission.  
Please turn off all cell phones and  
electronic devices prior to the performance.  
Flash photography and video recording are  
not permitted. Smoking is not permitted on  
the Valparaiso University campus.



George Potter  
Director

Sarah Bell  
Scenic Design

Andrew Mancini  
Lighting Design

Ann Kessler  
Costume Design

Alec Chase  
Assistant Costume Design  
Makeup Design

Patrick Jansen  
Sound Design

Michael Stanfill  
Video Design

# CAST

Ted Baker .....	Daniel Ferenczi
Emily Baker .....	Jilaine Heitkotter
Carl Baker .....	Max Kircher
Jennifer Baker .....	Brooke McGaughey
Daniel Baker .....	Nicholas Kwiecinski
Mostafa Khalil .....	Marcellus Jaamal
Aisha Khalil .....	Sarah Leho
Tawfiq Qabbani .....	Frank Caputo
Aminah Qabbani .....	Carley Kolsch
Hadiya Qabbani .....	Becky Valek
Farid Qabbani .....	Benjamin Mueller

# CREW

Stage Manager .....	Ashleigh Happer
Assistant Stage Managers .....	Frankie Clifford, Emily Murray
Light Board Operator .....	Allison Granat
Sound Board Operator .....	Jayde Plaza
Properties .....	Alec Chase, Haajar Shaaban
House Manager .....	Anthony Berkseth
Cover design .....	Kyle Smart

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## **COSTUME STUDIO STAFF**

Mary Atchley  
Sarah Bell  
Delania Byerley  
Ashleigh Happer  
Jilaine Heitkotter  
Jordyn Romersberger  
Claire Rutkowski

## **HAIR, MAKEUP, & WARDROBE CREW:**

Alec Chase  
Brendan Nabozny

## **SCENERY & LIGHTING CREW**

Mary Atchley  
Sarah Bell  
Frank Caputo  
Ethan Gasbarro  
Allison Granat  
Ashleigh Happer  
Samantha Keehn  
Michael Kocken  
Andrew Mancini  
Becky Valek  
Raechel Whit

# Director's Notes

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On September 8th of this year, Inderjit Singh Mukker was driving to the grocery store in Darien, a few miles from Naperville, IL, when he was assaulted by a man who yelled, "Terrorist. Go back to your country, Bin Laden." Mukker, a Sikh man, is neither Muslim, nor Arab. On September 14th, Muslim teenager Ahmed Mohamed was arrested for bringing a clock to school in Texas, because his teachers assumed it must have been a bomb. And as I sit writing this note, an Indiana University student has just been arrested for slamming a Muslim woman's head into a table after yelling "white power" and "kill them all." Her nine-year-old daughter sat at the same table.

The need for this play is always around us. Despite the fact that Muslims and Arabs can date their history in North America back long before the founding of the United States, their role in this country often feels as if it is in a state of perpetual negotiation and questioning. From attacks on their ability to practice their faith to police harassment to consistently negative media depictions, America has often failed to meet its call to plurality when engaging its Muslim citizens.

Jamil Khoury's play *Mosque Alert* asks us to consider how the legacy of marginalization of Muslims in America draws lines between Muslim and Christian friends and neighbors, as well as how it exacerbates pressures and fractures within the Muslim American community itself. The play also asks hard questions about competing notions of faith, citizenship, gender, sexuality, and class and how these ideas play out in our communities when we tell ourselves it is not polite to talk about religion, while also not considering religious discrimination discourteous enough to prevent.

Theater, at its best, is a space for democratic inquiry, a place where communities may come together and question themselves, one another, and the beliefs and practices that guide their lives. Our process in developing this play has been an attempt to mimic this idea, working through multiple drafts of the script, learning about the experiences of Muslims in America, and questioning our own interpretations and biases. It is our hope that this artistic journey allows all of us to explore the tenuous place for Muslims in America and how the simple question of building a place of worship can expose hidden tensions.

In this spirit, I invite you to join us in our town hall and in envisioning this play not as a magic answer, but as a beginning to an inquiry about the communities we live in today. And I would like to thank our cast, crew, colleagues, playwright, and audience for their willingness to walk together in this journey of attempting to find better answers and better possibilities than the ones we have inherited

# About Silk Road Rising

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## Mission

Silk Road Rising creates live theatre and online videos that tell stories through primarily Asian American and Middle Eastern American lenses. In representing communities that intersect and overlap, we advance a polycultural worldview.

## Core Values

Discovery

Pluralism

Empathy

## Vision

Silk Road Rising understands that cultures are inherently linked. We seek the intersections of cultures without denying the specificities of cultures. And we strive to create a world that values art over ideology and inquiry over dogma.

*Mosque Alert was originally commissioned and developed by Silk Road Rising, Chicago, Illinois, Founding Artistic Director Jamil Khoury and Founding Executive Director Malik Gilliani, with additional development support provided by Knox College. Originally produced in a College World Premiere (2015) at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, directed by Neil Blackadder.*

# About the Author

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**JAMIL KHOURY** is the Founding Artistic Director of Silk Road Rising and the Fall 2015 Playwright-in-Residence at Valparaiso University. Promoting playwrights of Silk Road backgrounds (Asian and Middle Eastern) is a passion that dovetails well with Khoury's experiences living in the Middle East and his eleven years as a cross-cultural trainer and international relocations consultant. A theatre producer, essayist, playwright, and film maker, Khoury's work focuses on Middle Eastern themes and questions of Diaspora. He is particularly interested in the intersections of culture, national identity, citizenship, and class.

Khoury's play *Mosque Alert* grew out of an online interactive new play development and civic engagement project that was launched in 2011, exploring resistance to the building of mosques in communities across the U.S. This unique, first-of-its-kind pairing of artistic and civic processes received the 2013 *Change Maker Award* from South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT). *Mosque Alert*, currently in its second college production at Valparaiso University, received its college world premiere at Illinois' Knox College in February 2015 and will receive its professional world premiere at Silk Road Rising in March/April 2016. Khoury's video/film work includes the documentary films: *Sacred Stages: A Church, a Theatre, and a Story* (2014) and *Not Quite White: Arabs, Slavs, and the Contours of Contested Whiteness* (2012), and the short video plays: *Multi Meets Poly: Multiculturalism and Polyculturalism Go On a First Date* (2014), *The Balancing Arab* (2012), and *both/and* (2011).

Khoury conceived of and devised two critically acclaimed cabarets *Re-Spiced: A Silk Road Cabaret* (2012) and *Broadway Sings the Silk Road* (2009). He also conceived of and was a featured playwright in Silk Road's production of *The DNA Trail: A Genealogy of Short Plays about Ancestry, Identity, and Utter Confusion* (2010) for which he wrote the short play *WASP: White Arab Slovak Pole*. His short play *63rd and Kedzie: The Arab American Cultural Center* was part of Theatre Seven's *The Chicago Landmark Project* (2011). Khoury's play *Precious Stones* (2003) won *Gay Chicago Magazine's* 2003 *After Dark Award for Outstanding New Work* and has been performed in ten cities across the U.S. His play *Fitna* (1995) was performed at University Theatre of The University of Chicago and his play *Azizati* (1997) was performed at Café Voltaire.

Khoury thanks the Valparaiso University Theatre Department, the cast and crew of *Mosque Alert*, and director George Potter for making this such an exhilarating journey.

## Guest Artist Bio

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**GEORGE POTTER** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Valparaiso University. Before coming to Valpo, he taught Arabic literature, drama, and film at the Council of International Educational Exchange Study Center in Amman, Jordan. He has also taught in Erbil, Iraq and researched political theater in Cairo, Egypt as a Fulbright grantee. His translation of Nader Omran's play *A Theatre Company Found a Theatre and Theatred Hamlet* will be released this fall in *Five Arab Hamlet Plays*, eds. Margaret Litvin and Marvin Carlson. He has directed original and devised plays in venues ranging from Indiana State University to the Cincinnati Fringe Festival to the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. He is currently negotiating the Atlanta premiere of his and Monique Mosley's play *An American Lynching: The Emmitt Till Story*, which has previously played in Terre Haute and Indianapolis. *Mosque Alert* is his first production at VU, and he would like to thank his cast, crew, the Department of Theatre, and Jamil Khoury for this opportunity.

# Who's Who In The Cast And Crew

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Ashleigh Happer (Stage Manager) is a Senior Theatre major from Valparaiso, Indiana. Her VU Theatre Credits include *Godspell* (Lighting Designer), *Limits* (Laura), *The Terrible Tragedy of Peter Pan* (Costume Designer), *The School for Lies* (Costume & Makeup Crew), *An Evening of Beckett's Short Plays* (Stage Manager), *Dido and Aeneas* (Costume & Makeup Crew), *Eurydice* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Limits* (Extra), and *Macbeth* (Sound Board Operator). She is a member of Alpha Psi Omega (Business Manager).

Frankie Clifford (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Freshman Theatre major from Lowell, Indiana. Her previous VU Theatre credit is *Godspell* (Follow Spot Operator).

Emily Murray (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Freshman Theatre major from Michigan City, Indiana. This is her VU Theatre debut. She is a member of Acabellas, Kantorei, and Dance Ensemble.

Jilaine Heitkotter (Emily Baker) is a Junior Theatre Major with a minor in Spanish from Hanover Park, Illinois. Her previous VU Theatre credits include *The School for Lies* (Stage Manager), *Directing Showcase 2014* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Dido and Aeneas* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Limits* (Jenn), *Macbeth* (Donalbain/Doctor of Physic), and CC Freshman Production: *Exit, Playwright* (Ms. Spellinger). She is a member of Pi Beta Phi, Sigma Alpha Iota, and Alpha Psi Omega.

Daniel Ferenczi (Ted Baker) is a Junior Theatre major from Niles, Michigan. This is his VU Theatre debut. He is a member of Men's Ensemble, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Brooke McGaughey (Jen Baker) is a Freshman Theatre Major. This is her VU Theatre debut. She is a member of Dance Ensemble.

Max Kircher (Carl Baker) is a Freshman Theatre and Marketing double major from Tinley Park, Illinois. This is his VU Theatre debut. He is a member of Men's Choir.

Sarah Bell (Scenic Designer) is a Senior Theatre major with minors in Physics, Math, and French from New Berlin, Wisconsin. Her past VU Theatre credits include *Godspell* (Costume & Makeup Crew), *The School for Lies* (Celimene), *Art* (Yvonne), *Dido and Aeneas* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Eurydice* (Loud Stone), Dance Ensemble 2015 (Stage Manager), *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* (Meredith), *Arcadia* (Costume & Makeup Crew) and *Macbeth* (Costume & Makeup Crew). She is a member of Sigma Alpha Iota and Alpha Psi Omega.

Sarah Leho (Aisha Khalil) is a Freshman Computer Science and Theatre double major from Hammond, Indiana. This is her VU Theatre debut. She likes dogs.

# Who's Who In The Cast And Crew

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Andrew Mancini (Lighting Designer) is a Senior Theatre and Business double major with a German minor from Aurora, Illinois. His VU Theatre Credits include *Godspell* (Sound Board Operator), *Limits* (George), *The Terrible Tragedy of Peter Pan* (Bill Dukes, the Bird, the Twins), *An Evening of Beckett's Short Plays* (Play, What Where), *The Proposal* (Stepan Stepanich), *Eurydice* (Sound Board Operator), *Limits* (Mark), *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* (Trip), *Macbeth* (Banquo), *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (Doug), *Buried Child* (Tilden), *Sure Thing* (Bill). He is a member of Alpha Psi Omega and Producer of VUDU Comedy.

Nicholas Kwiecinski (Daniel Baker) is a Freshman Computer Engineering Major from Leonard, Michigan. This is his VU Theatre debut.

Marcellus Jaamal (Moustafa Khalil) is a Senior Digital Media major from Thronton, Colorado. His VU Theatre Credits include *The Terrible Tragedy of Peter Pan* (Captain James Hook), and *Sonny Deree's Life Flashes Before His Eyes* (Sonny DeRee). He is a member of Crusader Motion Pictures.

Becky Valek (Hadiya Qabbani) is a Sophomore Theatre major from LaGrange, Illinois. Her VU Theatre Credits include *The School for Lies* (Costume & Makeup Crew), *An Evening of Beckett's Short Plays* (Assistant Stage Manager), and *Waiting for Godot* (Pozzo). She is a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Carley Kolsch (Aminah Qabbani) is a Freshman Theatre major from Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. This is her VU Theatre debut. She is a member of Dance Ensemble.

Frank Caputo (Tawfiq Qabbani) is a Junior Theatre major from Bensenville, Illinois. His VU Theatre Credits include *Godspell* (Hair & Makeup Designer), *The Terrible Tragedy of Peter Pan* (Mr. Darling, Skylights, Slightly Soiled), *An Evening of Beckett's Short Plays* (Cascando, Quad, What Where), *Variations on the Death of Trotsky* (Ramon), *Dido and Aeneas* (Ensemble), *Eurydice* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Arcadia* (Props Assistant), *Macbeth* (Fleance, Young Siward), *For Whom the Southern Bell Tolls* (Tom), *Sweeney Todd* (Ensemble), and *Marriage* (Stepan/Starikov). He is a member of Phi Mu Alpha, Alpha Psi Omega, Hooked on Tonics and Sweet Wine.

Benjamin Mueller (Farid Qabbani) is a Freshman Mechanical Engineering Major from Des Plaines, Illinois. This is his VU Theatre debut.

Alec Chase (Hair & Makeup Designer and Properties) is a Sophomore Theatre and Psychology double major from Frankfort, Illinois his previous credits include *Godspell* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Memory Garden* (Dan), and *The School for Lies* (Philante). He is a member of Phi Sigma Kappa (Social Chair), Kantorei (President), and Psych Club.

# Theatre Faculty

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**ANN KESSLER** is a Professor of Theatre and Department Chair. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Design from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Kessler is also the supervisor of the costume studio and director of the Valparaiso University Dance Ensemble. She has been designing costumes for the Department of Theatre since joining the department in 1996. Professional credits include productions at The University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, Mich.), Moorhead State University (Moorhead, Minn.), Oakland University (Rochester, Mich.), European Repertory Company (Chicago), Shattered Globe Theatre (Chicago), Theatre at the Center (Munster, Ind.), and the Flint School of Performing Arts (Flint, Mich). In addition to her work at Valparaiso University, Kessler is an active respondent for the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival and a member of the United States Institute of Theatre Technology — National and Midwest sections.

**ALAN D. ERNSTEIN** is an Assistant Professor of Design/Technical Theatre and specializes as a scene designer and scenic artist. His most notable projects since joining the Valparaiso University faculty in 2010 have been scene and lighting designs for *Tartuffe*, *The Universal Wolf*, *Floyd Collins*, and *The Arabian Nights*. Ernstein has worked professionally with Arena Stage (Washington, D.C.), the National Ballet (Washington, D.C.), Kaiser Permanente's Education Theatre Program (in both Washington D.C. and Midwest Regions), the Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts (Vienna, Va.), served as the resident designer and technical director for Cane River Repertory Theatre (Natchitoches, La.), and most recently Silk Road Rising (Chicago), where he was technical director for their production of *Invasion*. In addition to his theatre work, Ernstein has worked more than two decades as a studio artist in stained and etched glass, custom and period furniture design and construction, and as a designer and producer of European-style, strategy board games — for which he has received international awards.

**R. ANDREW WHITE** is a Professor of Theatre. A 1990 graduate of Valparaiso University, he received a Master of Fine Arts in acting from Carnegie Mellon University and the Moscow Art Theatre School. He has worked as an actor at numerous Chicago theatres, including Steppenwolf, European Repertory Company, Wisdom Bridge, Chicago Dramatists, Plan B Productions, and Writers' Theatre. In Russia, he performed at the Tabakov Theatre and the American Studio of the Moscow Art Theatre. Regionally, he has worked at Indiana Repertory Theatre and the Indianapolis Shakespeare Festival. In addition, he assisted the producer on the Broadway productions of *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Death of a Salesman*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

**LEE F. ORCHARD** is a Professor of Theatre. He received his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education from Concordia University Chicago, his Master of Arts in theatre from Northwestern University, and his Doctor of Philosophy in Theatre Arts from the University of Oregon, where he served as acting pedagogue to Robert Barton, author of *Acting: On Stage and Off*. Orchard has taught and directed at the university level for more than 35 years, specializing in the areas of performance pedagogy, directing, theatre and culture, and musical theatre — in particular, the work of Stephen Sondheim. He has directed more than 80 productions, ranging from Greek tragedy to musical theatre, from Shakespearean comedy to contemporary drama, and has been invited to showcase work for the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival. Professor Orchard is currently serving as the Director of the Cambridge Study Centre in Cambridge, England for two years, 2015-2017.

# Theatre Faculty

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**SALENA ELISH** is a visiting assistant professor of dance. As with most dancers, she began her career very young, receiving her ballet training from Tama McGuire, alum of Interlochen Center for the Arts, and musical theatre tap and jazz training from former Broadway performer, Donni Holmes. She fell in love with the art of modern dance as a student at Indiana University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Dance Performance. Upon graduation, Elish moved to New York City where she wore the many hats of an arts professional, working as a dance educator, program director, business manager, choreographer and performer. She has studied dance pedagogy through programs at the Lincoln Center Institute (NYC), 92nd Street Y (NYC), and the Center for Arts Education (NYC), as well as kinesiology through Columbia University's Teacher's College, and has been on faculty at the School at Steps (NYC), Long Island University's Tilles Center for the Arts (Brookville, NY), Pentacle/Danceworks (NYC), and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Salena has also been a program director and business manager for Keigwin + Company, Pentacle/Danceworks and Steps on Broadway in NYC, as well as River North Dance Chicago. This is her first year on faculty at Valparaiso University.

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If you are interested in supporting the work of the Department of Theatre, please contact us at **219.464.5213**.

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## Department of Theatre

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# VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

## Department of Theatre

### 2015-2016 Season

#### GODSPELL

Music by Stephen Schwartz  
Book by John-Micheal Tebelak  
Directed by R. Andrew White  
Musical Director Valerie Webdell  
October 8-11, 16-18  
University Theatre

#### DANCE ENSEMBLE

Directed by Ann Kessler  
February 11-14  
University Theatre

#### EYRE AFFAIR

Written and directed by  
Austin Tichenor  
Based on the novel  
*The Eyre Affair*  
by Jasper Fforde  
April 1-3, 8-10  
Studio Theatre

#### MOSQUE ALERT

by Jamil Khoury  
Directed by George Potter  
November 11-15  
Studio Theatre

#### THE DIRECTING SHOWCASE ONE ACTS PLAY

Directed by senior theatre majors as  
part of their capstone coursework for  
the Department of Theatre.  
Titles to be determined  
December 8-9

#### GOD OF CARNAGE

By Yasmina Reza  
Student Directed Production  
April 28-30, May 1  
University Theatre

#### ACTORS FROM THE LONDON STAGE

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*  
by William Shakespeare  
January 14-16  
University Theatre