

Say it Loud, Say it Proud!  
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*Say Gay Plays* is a collection of short plays being produced as staged readings by **Silk Road Cultural Center**, **About Face Theatre**, and **Northeastern Illinois University**, as part of the **Goodman Theatre's 100 Free Acts of Theatre** initiative.

## Meet Our Chicago Playwrights!

### Hannah li-Epstein



“Being part of *Say Gay Plays* means everything to me because the world needs plays like this, especially right now. *#SisterNeighbors: Rainbow Mission* is about celebrating queer joy and the family we choose, the people who hold us up. This play is embracing the wild, messy, beautiful heartbeat. which keeps us

going. It feels like home.”

## Lani T. Montreal



“Validation is everything for queer youth living in a world that refuses to see them for who they are. I remember-- because I used to seek validation in the cryptic lyrics of love songs and in conflicted characters in books, movies, and, yes, plays... I am grateful to be part of a project that resists LGBTQ effacement and insists on queer characters that live, laugh, and love fearlessly.”

## Esho Rasho

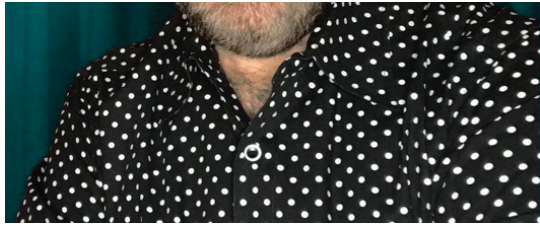


“It’s an honor to work with two Chicago theatre companies whose work I’ve admired for years. Writing a piece that meditates on joy—especially in a world where so many forces push against it—feels especially timely. I’m also excited to share a work that asks why we make art, and who we make it for.”

## Emilio Williams



“Acts of censorship such as “Don't say gay” try to make queer realities shameful. Queer youth are disproportionately affected by homelessness because of how



many young queer people get kicked out of their homes, and are ostracized by their communities of origin. I wanted to enter a discussion into that brutal reality by showing the potential that non-biological gay families have for joy and empathy, while defining family and home in creative and original ways.”

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This event also includes plays by New York playwrights **Mashuq Mushtaq Deen** and **Brian Quirk**, whose works appear in the original *Say Gay Plays* collection.

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