

IRFANA MAJUMDAR

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THEATRICAL WORK & EXPERIENCE

Founding Artistic Director, NIRMAN Theatre and Film Studio (NTS), Varanasi, India

Teaching; directing; collaborations; filmmaking; organising artist-residencies and internships;
developing new arts residential space in NIRMAN's rural campus. (2004-present)

Teaching (courses – undergraduate and postgraduate level)

Deconstructing the Self Through Theatre	Vedica Scholars Programme for Women, Delhi, 2015-18
'Internationalism' Performed / Bollywood Intercultural Spaces	Mellon Global Visiting Scholar, Claremont Colleges, 2015 Kalamazoo College, 2012
Activating Theatre for Community Dialogue	Kalamazoo College, 2012
Training Teachers through Theatre	Vidyashram School, NIRMAN, 2005-17
Indian Culture, Performance, & Hinduism	The Centre for Postcolonial Education, 2009, 2011
Acting, all levels	NTS, 2004-08

Teaching (workshops)

Leadership and Team-Building	Times Internet management team, IHC 2017
Corporeal Mime and Devising	4 workshops, Karnataka and Kerala tour, 2016
Using Performance in History	Claremont McKenna College, 2016
Writing and Movement	invited by Claudia Rankine, Pomona College, 2014
Introduction to Clowning	Goa Contact Festival, 2014
Movement and Composition	Exeter College, Oxford University, 2014
Viewpoints and Suzuki	California Institute of Technology, 2011
Theatre in Education	Centre for Postcolonial Education, NIRMAN, 2004
Summer Drama Workshop	University of Chicago, 2001

Direction and Creation

<i>The Creature Show</i> (collectively devised)	The Serious Players, CA 2015
Solo Performance Experiments	with Gaurav Saini, NTS, 2012-13
<i>Kabani</i> (devised)	Kalamazoo College, MI & NTS 2012
The "Ramlila" Project	NTS, 2007-08
<i>Prelude to a Kiss (trans)</i> , by John Lucas	NTS 2007
<i>Socho! Zara Socho!</i> (devised)	NTS, 2006
<i>Sure Thing (trans)</i> , by David Ives	NTS, 2006

The Forum and Invisible Theatre Project	NTS, 2005
<i>The Red Coat</i> , by John Patrick Shanley	NTS, 2005
<i>Raju ki Barbadi</i> , by Irfana Majumdar	NTS, 2005
<i>Dhage</i> , by Nandini Majumdar	NTS, 2004

Performance and Collaborations

<i>The Ring of Truth</i>	solo performer, creator (work-in-progress 2018)
<i>In Her Eyes</i>	solo performer, creator, India tour 2016
<i>Sari</i>	solo performer, creator, CA-India 2013-14
Training exchange and residency	<i>Che-Ne-So</i> , NIRMAN Theatre Studio, 2013-14
Designing an Actor Training	Gaurav Saini, Delhi, 2011
<i>Phan Performance Series</i> (collectively devised)	NIRMAN Arts Studio Committee, 2005-07
<i>Samir</i>	solo performer, creator, UChicago 2003
<i>Various scenes</i>	Tough Broads Collective, UChicago, 2002
<i>The Journals of Sylvia Plath</i> (scenes)	dir. Rifka Norohna, UChicago 2002

Films

<i>Shankar's Fairies</i> (feature)	Director 2016-18 (in post-production)
<i>Children Playing Gods</i> (documentary)	Director, Editor 2008
<i>Anupriya</i> (documentary)	Director, Editor 2006
<i>Images of Indian Children</i> (documentary)	Director, Editor 2005

ACADEMIC WORK

Papers/Presentations

“Creativity and Improvisation in Corporeal Mime training and Hindustani Classical Music”
Performance Round-Table, South Asian Studies Association, Claremont McKenna College, 2018

“Etienne Decroux’s Corporeal Mime Training and the Guru Shishya Parampara”
“Dance as Gesture”, University of Chicago Centre in Delhi, 2018

“Teaching in an 'Open Classroom': civic education in miniature”
International Dialogue on Citizenship and Civic Education: Pedagogy, Process, Practice,
University of Delhi, 2009

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Bachelor of Arts with Honors

University of Chicago, 2003

Grants, Awards, and Distinctions

Mellon Global Liberal Arts Visiting Scholar Program	Claremont McKenna College, Fall 2015
ARCUS Centre for Social Justice Leadership Fellow	Kalamazoo College, MI, 2012
India Foundation of the Arts	for <i>The 'Ramlila' Project</i> , 2007
University of Michigan Centre for South Asian Studies	for <i>Anupriya</i> , 2006
Indo-Dutch Programmes in Alternative Development	for <i>Socho, Zara Socho!</i> , 2005
Arts Council Fellowship	for undergraduate thesis project, 2002
Summer Research Grant	for undergraduate thesis project, 2002
Honors, The University of Chicago	on graduation, 2003
Dean's List, The University of Chicago	2001-03
University of Chicago endowed scholarship	1999-2000, 2002-03
Barton Weller Scholarship	first prize for independent project, 1999

Intensive/Long-Term Training

Corporeal Mime	Thomas Leabhart, Claremont 2013-14, 15-16
Hindustani (North Indian) Classical Voice	Pt. Hanuman Mishra, Ustad Shaffi Ahmad Khan, Pt. Devashish Dey, Pts. Rajan & Sajan Mishra 1986-present
Pilates, Feldenkrais	Sally Leabhart, Claremont 2013-14, 2015-16
Aikido	Nishio Ryu, Japan 2014; Gaurav Saini 2011-present
Yoga	various instructors, 1990-present

Long Workshops/Classes

Lecoq	Norman Taylor, LA 2016
Clowning, T'Chi Clown	The Clown School, LA 2015; Celia Dufournet, 2013-14
Gardzienice	Wlodzimierz Staniewski, Gardzienice, Poland, 2014
Viewpoints, Suzuki, Composition	SITI, NYC, 2011 2014; Tina Landau, 2003; J. Ed Araiza, 2013-14
Corporeal Mime	Hippocampe, France 2011; T. Leabhart, India 2011, France 2013
Fitzmaurice Voicework	Corey Sorenson, Pomona College, 2014

Masterclasses/Short Workshops

Political Performance Techniques	Bread and Puppet Theatre, Claremont 2015
Noh Theatre	Tatsushige Udaka, Kongo School, Claremont 2014
Droznin Movement	Doug Oliphant, Claremont 2014
Fundamentals of Puppetry	Johanna Smith, Claremont 2014

Body-Mind Centering	Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen, Claremont 2013
Warhorse Prep Workshop	National Theatre (London), TDF, NYC 2011
Devising Performance	Double Edge Theatre, NYC 2011
Alexander Technique	various instructors, 2011-15

Other relevant training/skills

Dance:	Contact Improvisation, Modern, Contemporary, Kathak
Voice:	Classical Hindustani (North Indian), Western Classical (soprano), Jazz
Languages:	English, Hindi, Bengali, Urdu (some written), French (proficient)
Backstage (theatre):	Electricals, carpentry, run crew, stage and production management
Production (film):	Video-editing