

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)

| | |
|--|---|
| Journeys and Encounters in the Mahabharata: An Introduction to Devising, Collaboration, and Indian Mythology | Ohio Northern University, 2019 |
| Contemporary theatre and performance | The Centre for Postcolonial Education, 2012-2019 |
| 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 and Direction, all levels | NTS, 2004-08 |

Teaching (workshops)

| | |
|--|--|
| Masterclass in clowning and mime | Ohio Northern University, 2019 |
| Leadership and Team-Building | Times Internet management team, IHC, 2017 |
| Corporeal Mime, Viewpoints, and Devising | Bangalore, Dharwar, Heggedu, Kochi, 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>Hayavadana</i> , by Girish Karnad | International Theatre Festival, ONU, 2019 |
| <i>The Ring of Truth</i> : A Collaborative Theatrical Evening | The University of Chicago Centre in Delhi, 2018 |
| <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 “ <i>Ramlila</i> ” Project | NTS, 2007-08 |
| <i>Prelude to a Kiss</i> (trans), by John Lucas | NTS 2007 |
| <i>Socho! Zara Socho!</i> (devised) | NTS, 2006 |
| <i>Sure Thing</i> (trans), 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>Work-in-progress: movement and music</i> | solo performer, creator, 2019 |
| <i>The Ring of Truth</i> | solo performer, creator, 2018 |
| <i>In Her Eyes</i> | solo performer, creator, India tou: Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Heggedu, Kochi, 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, 2016-20 (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

- “Intercultural Theatre: The Rehearsal Process as a Site for Crossing Borders”
Mid-Atlantic Theatre Conference, Cleveland OH, 2019
- “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

| | |
|---|---|
| Invited to Direct the International Theatre Festival | Ohio Northern University, Spring 2019 |
| 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 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; Kobayashi Ryu: Paolo Salvadego 2019 |
| Yoga | various instructors and self-study, 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 in Adobe Premiere Pro and Final Cut Pro X |