

# Gaurav Saini

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## **DIRECTION and TEACHING**

### **At Claremont McKenna College** (Claremont, USA January-April 2016)

As Mellon Global Visiting Scholar, worked with Professor Nita Kumar in her History course “The Makers of Modern India and Pakistan” to bring in theatre to the classroom and create a final public performance with the students.

### **At Vedica Scholars Programme for Women** (Delhi, India June 2015-present)

Faculty member: taught courses on theatre as part of a liberal arts curriculum of innovative postgraduate 18-month program for women focusing primarily on management and business studies.

### **At NIRMAN** (Varanasi, India 2011-present)

Artist-in-residence at a non-profit working for education and the arts ([www.nirman.info](http://www.nirman.info)):

- Translated, adapted, and directed '*Momo*' (by Michael Ende), a production for children (Delhi, September 2015-January 2016)
- Taught undergraduate students from Kalamazoo College, Lewis & Clark College, University of Washington-Bothell, and other US colleges and universities (at the Centre for Postcolonial Education):
  - ‘Globalization and Local Narratives’ (co-taught with Nita Kumar) (2014)
  - Scenes from *Tughlaq* by Girish Karnad (2013)
  - ‘Theatre in Education Practicum’ (2012, 2013)
  - ‘Rasa Theory and Practice in Indian Performance’ (2012, 2017)
- Theatre-in-Education (at Vidyashram School):
  - Directed '*Jataka Tales*' with grade 10 (2014)
  - Adapted and directed '*The Merchant of Venice*' with grade 10 (2013)
  - Devised a short piece with grades 5 and 6 (2012)
  - Storytelling with grades Pre-Nursery to 4 (2011-2014)
- Teachers' Training: weekly theatre-based training programme for teachers, managers, and staff; working individually with selected teachers bi-weekly (2011-2013)

### **At Imago Acting School with Mr. Barry John** (1999-2000)

Full time teacher with Mr. Barry John, Director: directed and assistant-directed plays as part of the Theatre-in-Education for schools programme

### **Workshops for Adults**

- Clowning (Pranic Healing Centre, Delhi 2014; Contact Improvisation Festival, Goa 2013)
- Teachers' Training through Theatre (Bal Bhartiya English School, Varanasi 2013; Mukhtangan, Mumbai 2009)
- Gender Sensitization through Forum Theatre techniques developed by Augusto Boal (Centre for Women's Studies and Development, Banaras Hindu University, 2012)

- Theatre for Adults (Adult Education Program, The American Embassy School, Delhi, 2010)
- Theatre Therapy for Adults (Pranic Healing Centre, Delhi 2010)
- Movement and Martial Arts for Actors (various, Mumbai (2001-2009) [featured in Times Now channel, Mumbai Mirror (The Times of India) (2008)]

### **Workshops for Children**

Theatre for Children, ages 6-12, 13-16 (Mussoorie Municipal School; British High Commission, Delhi; Pranic Healing Centre, Delhi; Mirambika School, Delhi; Mumbai; Meerut; Nimach, Maharashtra; Padmani Kolhapuri Acting School, Maharashtra (2003-present)

### **Movement Direction**

Created scenes, choreographed fights, and directed movement sequences in professional plays, including:

- “Under the Bodhi Tree”, dir. By Asif Ali Baig (AGP Productions, Mumbai 2014)
- *The Alchemist*, dir. by Mahesh Dattani (AG Productions, Mumbai, 2009)
- *Bring Down the Wall*, dir. by N. Kumar (Dreams Theatre Productions, Delhi, May 2010)

### **PERFORMANCE**

- Actor/ensemble member of international theatre training exchange with artists from Germany, France, USA, and India. NIRMAN (December 2013)
- “An Actor’s Training”: Co-developing a comprehensive core training structure for actors, using contemporary and traditional theatre techniques and martial arts. NIRMAN (2011-2013)
- Actor and co-creator of solo performance piece based on short stories. NIRMAN (2011-13)
- Worked with various theatre groups in Mumbai as an actor (2001-2009)

### **FILM**

- Co-directed feature film *Shankar’s Fairies* (in post-production, 2016-18)
- Wrote and directed three short films – *A Piece of Life*, *Silences*, *Promenade*. (2006-2007)

### **MARTIAL ARTS**

- Aikido (Japan)
  - Visited Japan for intensive training at Yufukan/Aikikai headquarters, Toyama (April-June 2014, July 2017)
  - Organised two seminars in Nishio Budo Aikido in collaboration with Yufukan Japan at NIRMAN, Varanasi (2012, 2013)
  - Taught children and staff Aikido at regular classes at NIRMAN, Varanasi (weekly, 2012-13, 2017-present)
- Thang-Ta (India)
  - Advanced Black Belt and certified martial arts instructor (Manipur, 10 April 1996)
  - Taught Thang-Ta in regular classes and workshops (Delhi and Mumbai 2001-2009)
- Basic training in Kalaripayattu, Judo, Tai-Chi, Krav Maga (1996-2011)

## **THEATRICAL TRAINING**

- Studied Corporeal mime with Thomas Leabhart (Claremont, USA 2016, Aurillac, France 2013 and Varanasi, India 2011)
- Attended intensive workshop on Clowning with Reinhardt Horstkotte, Germany. (Theatre Garage Project, New Delhi 2013)
- Explored different forms of theatre and approaches towards acting, including highly physical and rigorous forms of training in traditional Indian dance, martial arts, and Western theatre, through various workshops and classes (Ninasam, Karnataka; Roots and Wings, Kerala; Katkatha, Delhi; Adishakti, Pondicherry; Theatre Professionals, Mumbai, and instructors from Chile, UK, and USA, 2001-2016)
- Trained in Theatre-in-Education (Barry John, Imago School of Acting, Delhi 1999-2000)
- Diploma in Acting (Barry John, Imago School of Acting, Delhi, April 1999)