

# GAURAV SAINI

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## THEATRE & FILM POSITIONS

**Associate Artistic Director, NIRMAN Theatre & Film Studio** (Varanasi, 2012-present)

Teaching; directing; filmmaking

**Fulbright Fellow and Director, International Play Festival** (Ohio Northern University, USA 2019)

- Visiting Director *Hayavadana* by Girish Karnad
- Taught 'Special Topics' course: "Presence and Transcendence: The Theory and Practice of Rasa in Indian Performing Art Traditions"
  - Bluffton University masterclass
  - Findlay University masterclass
  - Lectures and workshops in ONU courses
- Outreach activities

**Centre for Postcolonial Education, NIRMAN** (Varanasi, 2012-present)

Faculty member for undergraduate students from USA:

- Kalamazoo College
- Lewis & Clark College
- University of Washington
- Princeton University
- Consortium of New York colleges
- Claremont Colleges

**Vedica Scholars Programme for Women** (New Delhi, 2015-present)

Faculty member for annual required theatre course: 'Deconstructing the Self Through Theatre'

**Mellon Global Visiting Scholar** (Claremont McKenna College, 2016)

Co-taught History course with Professor Nita Kumar: "The Makers of Modern India and Pakistan"

## PERFORMANCE WORK

### Theatre Direction

<i>The Wizard of Oz</i>	NIRMAN Theatre Studio, 2023
<i>The Magic Lamp</i>	Prism Theatre Group & NIRMAN Theatre Studio, 2023
<i>Aladdin</i>	NIRMAN Theatre Studio, 2022
<i>'Dhaul Kapadia' (The White-Clothed Ghost)</i>	NIRMAN Theatre Studio, 2022
<i>Lucy and Patrick's Dangerous Journey</i>	NIRMAN Theatre Studio, 2021
<i>Hayavadana</i>	Ohio Northern University, 2019

<i>Jataka Tales</i>	NIRMAN Theatre Studio, 2020 & 2014
<i>The Makers of Modern India and Pakistan</i>	Claremont McKenna College, 2016
<i>Momo</i>	Prism Theatre Group & NIRMAN Theatre Studio, 2015
<i>Banaras ka Saudagar</i>	NIRMAN Theatre Studio, 2013

## Film Direction

<i>Shankar's Fairies</i> (fiction feature 2021)	
World Premiere	Locarno Film Festival, Switzerland 2021
Grand Jury Honourable Mention	Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles 2022
Best Feature Film	Dallas Fort Worth South Asia FF 2022
'Montgolfier d'Argent' ('Silver Balloon' award)	Three Continents Festival, France 2021
Official Selection	Busan, Jakarta, Chicago, Hong Kong Asian Film Festivals 2021; Palm Springs, New Directors/New Films, Göteborg, Stuttgart, Andrew Tarkovsky, New Horizon, Tasveer South Asian, Dharamshala Film Festivals, 2022
Invited to 'Industry Selects' section	Toronto International Film Festival 2021
Selected for "Goes to Cannes" (1/5 Indian films)	Cannes Marché du Film 2020
PJLF Arts Fund for Editing (funding award)	PJLF Arts Fund, Italy 2020
Work-in-Progress Lab Participant (1/5 feature films)	NFDC Film Bazaar, Goa 2019
<i>Meraki</i> (video series for children 2020)	
<i>Promenade</i> (short fiction 2010) – featuring Nawazuddin Siddiqui in title role	
<i>Silences</i> (short fiction 2010)	
<i>A Piece of Life</i> (short fiction 2010)	

## Acting and Collaborations

<i>Vanaprastha</i> (duet)	Performer, 2022-present
<i>The Ring of Truth</i>	A Collaborative Theatrical Evening, University of Chicago Centre in Delhi, 2018
<i>In Her Eyes</i>	Tour member 2016: Varanasi (NIRMAN), Delhi (The University of Chicago Centre, Vedic Scholars Program for Women), Mumbai (Playpen Theatre), Bangalore (National School of Drama, Rangayana), Heggedu (Ninasam, Kinnara Mela), Kochi (University of Calicut, Lokadharmi Theatre), Tirur (University of Malayalam), Kozhikode (Natyashastra Theatre)
<i>Che-Ne-So</i>	Ensemble member of international theatre training exchange and residency with artists from Germany, France, USA, and India, NIRMAN Theatre Studio 2013-14
Worked with various theatre groups in Mumbai as an actor (2001-2009)	

## **Movement Direction**

- “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)

## **TEACHING**

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### **Teachers’ Training**

#### At NIRMAN (2012-2022):

- Teachers’ Training: weekly theatre-based training programme for teachers, managers, and staff; working individually with selected teachers bi-weekly

#### 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

### **Theatre in Education**

#### At NIRMAN (2012-2022):

- Teaching and directing projects with grades 5 to 10 (2012-2022)
- Storytelling with grades Pre-Nursery to 4 (2011-2022)

#### Theatre Workshops for children, ages 6-12, 13-16 (2003-present)

- Arts Partnership Youth Theatre Group workshop, Ohio USA
- Mussoorie Municipal School, Mussoorie
- British High Commission, Delhi
- Pranic Healing Centre, Delhi
- Mirambika School, Delhi
- Nimach, Maharashtra
- Padmani Kolhapuri Acting School, Maharashtra

### **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)]

## **PERFORMANCE TRAINING**

- Corporeal Mime with Thomas Leabhart (Claremont, USA 2016; Aurillac, France 2013; Varanasi, India 2011)
- Lecoq with Norman Taylor, The Clown School (Los Angeles 2016)
- Clowning with Reinhardt Horstkotte, Germany (New Delhi 2013)
- Various workshops and classes in physical theatre, Western styles, and Indian performance: 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)

## **MARTIAL ARTS**

### Aikido (Japan)

- Visited Japan for intensive training at Yufukan/Aikikai headquarters, Toyama (2014, 2017)
- Organised 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 (2012-2019)

### Thang-Ta (India)

- Advanced Black Belt and certified martial arts instructor (Manipur 1996)
- Taught Thang-Ta classes and workshops (Delhi and Mumbai 2001-2009)

Kalaripayattu, Judo, and Tai-Chi classes (1996 onwards)