



GAURAV SAINI

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Acting – Theatre & Film

Nachiz Hun Main (I Am Nothing)

solo clown piece 2025-26

created with Erika Batdorf, Toronto

Brahmarakshasa

ensemble devised 2024

NIRMAN Theatre Studio (NTS), Varanasi

Shankar's Fairies (Ramesh)

fiction feature film 2021

dir. Irfana Majumdar, Nita Kumar Productions

Various

theatre and film, Mumbai 2001-09

Theatre Direction with adults

Anniversary

by Conrad Bishod 2025

Taktse International School, Sikkim

“Corporeal Mime: a movement piece inspired by Etienne Decroux”

2025

Taktse International School, Sikkim

Jadui Chirag (The Magic Lamp)

by Nita Kumar, NTS 2025

Hayavadana

by Girish Karnad 2019

International Play Festival, Ohio Northern University

The Makers of Modern India and Pakistan

Claremont McKenna College 2016

Momo

by Michael Ende, trans. Gaurav Saini 2015

Prism Theatre Group, Delhi & NTS

Theatre Direction with children

The Gnats of Knotty Pine

Pangthanj Junior High School 2025

Jadui Shekhar (Peter Pan)

adap., trans. Nita Kumar, NTS 2024-25

<i>Ramayana</i>	Toronto Waldorf School	2023
<i>Chhitauni ka Jadugar (The Wizard of Oz)</i>	NTS	2023
<i>Alladin ka Chirag (Alladin)</i>	adap., trans. by Nita Kumar, NTS	2022
<i>Dhaul Kaparia (The White-Clothed Ghost)</i>	NTS	2022
<i>Lucy and Patrick's Dangerous Journey</i>	devised with cast, NTS	2021
<i>Jataka Tales</i>	NTS	2020 & 2014
<i>Banaras ka Saudagar (The Merchant of Venice)</i>	trans., adap. by Gaurav Saini, NTS	2013

Movement Direction

<i>As You Like It</i>	movement training for grade 12; dir. Robyn Stevan, Toronto Waldorf School	2023-24
<i>Under the Bodhi Tree</i>	dir. Asif Ali Beg, AG Productions	2014
<i>Bring Down the Wall</i>	dir. N. Kumar, Dreams Theatre Prods	2010
<i>The Alchemist</i>	dir. Mahesh Dattani, AG Productions	2009

Film Direction

Shankar's Fairies (associate director)	Fiction Feature, Nita Kumar Productions	2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official selection: Locarno, Busan, Chicago, TIFF, New Directors/New Films, Palm Springs, Göteborg, Stuttgart, Andrew Tarkovsky, New Horizon, Jakarta, Hong Kong, Tasveer South Asian, Dharamshala Film Festivals Awards: Grand Jury Honourable Mention (IFFLA), Best Feature Film (DFWSAFF), 'Montgolfier d'Argent' (Festival of the Three Continents, France) Cannes Marché du Film; PJLF Arts Fund; NFDC Film Bazaar Editing Lab 		
Meraki (co-director, camera)	Video Series, NIRMAN Films	2020
Promenade (short)	independent	2010
Silences (short)	independent	2010
A Piece of Life (short)	independent	2010

Performance Collaborations

The Ring of Truth	University of Chicago Centre, Delhi	2018
In Her Eyes	India Tour	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIRMAN, The University of Chicago Centre, Vedica Scholars Program for Women, Playpen Theatre, National School of Drama Bangalore, Rangayana, Ninasam, Kinnaramela, University of Calicut, Lokadharmi Theatre, University of Malayalam, Natyashastra Theatre 		
Che-Ne-So	NTS	2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensemble member of residency with artists from Germany, France, & USA 		

Experience

- Faculty Member**, Vedica Scholars Programme for Women, Delhi 2015-present
- Teaching required course: 'Communication Through Theatre'
- Resident Artist**, NIRMAN Theatre & Film Studio, Varanasi 2012-present
- Fulbright Fellow**, Ohio Northern University 2019
- Directing a mainstage production (*Hayavadana*), teaching a semester-long course ("Aesthetics of Indian Theatre"), conducting outreach activities
- Faculty Member**, Centre for Postcolonial Education, NIRMAN 2012-present
- Teaching "Indian Performance Aesthetics" and "Theatre-in-Education"
- Mellon Global Visiting Scholar**, Claremont McKenna College 2016
- Co-teaching History course with Prof. Nita Kumar: 'The Makers of Modern India and Pakistan'
- At Vidyashram School**, NIRMAN 2012-2023
- Teachers' Training; Teaching theatre and directing grades 5 to 10; Storytelling pre-nursery to grade 4
- Workshops for children** 2003-present
- Taktse International School; Pangthang Junior High School; Toronto Waldorf School; Arts Partnership Youth Theatre Group, Ohio USA; Mussoorie Municipal School, Mussoorie; British High Commission, Delhi; Pranic Healing Centre, Delhi; Mirambika School, Delhi; Nimach, Maharashtra; Padmani Kolhapuri Acting School, Maharashtra
- Faculty Member**, Imago Acting School with Barry John 1999-2000
- directed and assistant-directed plays as part of the Theatre-in-Education for Schools programme
- Workshops for Adults** 2001-present
- **Michael Chekhov Techniques** (Madhya Pradesh Drama School, Bhopal; Tagore National School of Drama, Bhopal; Kinnaramela, Heggedu)
 - **Clowning** (Pranic Healing Centre, Delhi; Contact Improvisation Festival, Goa)
 - **Teachers' Training through Theatre** (Bal Bhartiya English School, Mukhtangan)
 - **Gender Sensitization through Forum Theatre** (Centre for Women's Studies and Development, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi)
 - **Theatre for Adults** (Adult Education Program, The American Embassy School, Delhi)
 - **Theatre Therapy for Adults** (Pranic Healing Centre, Delhi)
 - **Movement and Martial Arts for Actors** (various, Mumbai)

Performance Training

Clowning	Erika Batdorf, Toronto	2025
	Adam Paolozza, Toronto	2023
	Reinhardt Horstkotte, New Delhi	2013
Viewpoints and Suzuki	J.Ed Araiza, Varanasi	2024
	Irfana Majumdar, Varanasi & Delhi	2012-2015
Michael Chekhov Techniques	Rena Polley, Toronto	2023
	Lionel Walsh, Toronto	2023
Corporeal Mime	Thomas Leabhart, USA, France, India	2011-2016
Lecoq	Norman Taylor, Los Angeles	2016
Various workshops	Ninasam, Karnataka; Roots and Wings, Kerala; 2001-2009 Katkatha, Delhi; Adishakti, Pondicherry; Theatre Professionals, Mumbai	
Theatre-in-Education training	Barry John, Imago School of Acting, Delhi	1999-2000
Diploma in Acting	Barry John, Imago School of Acting, Delhi	1999
Music: Voice, tabla, flute	Hindustani music lessons, Varanasi	2012-2022

Martial Arts

Aikido	Nishio Ryu, Japan and Varanasi	2012-2017
Thang-Ta (Black Belt)	Delhi, Manipur	1996-2009
Kalaripayattu, Judo, Tai-Chi		1996-2009