

SUHAILA MEERA

Fir Acres Theatre
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EMPLOYMENT

August 2023 – Assistant Professor of Theatre, Lewis & Clark College

EDUCATION

September 2017 –
September 2023 PhD, Stanford University, Theater & Performance Studies
PhD Minor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
PhD Minor, Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity

Dissertation: “Playing Children: Displacement and the Performance of Childhood”
Committee: Samer Al-Saber (chair), Jisha Menon, Usha Iyer

May 2020 Qualifying Exam fields (passed with distinction): Acting and Alienation, The Human and/as Machine, Diasporic Children

May 2013 B.A., Cornell University, History, Film Minor

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, & AWARDS

Spring 2023 Carl Weber Prize for Integration of Creative Practice and Scholarly Research

Academic Year 2022-23 Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity Graduate Dissertation Fellowship, Stanford University

Academic Year 2021-22 Gerald J. Lieberman Fellowship, Stanford University

Academic Year 2021-22 Diversifying Academia, Recruiting Excellence (DARE) Doctoral Fellowship Alternate, Stanford University

Autumn 2021 Sohaib and Sara Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies Graduate Research Grant, Stanford University

Autumn 2021 France-Stanford Center for Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Research Grant, Stanford University

Summer 2021 Diversity Dissertation Research Opportunity, Stanford University

Summer 2021	Center for South Asia Graduate Research Fellowship, Stanford University
Academic Year 2020 – 21	Centennial Teaching Assistant Award, Stanford University
Academic Year 2020 – 21	Carl Weber Fellow, Artistic Co-Director of Stanford University's Nitery Experimental Theater (NExT)
Summer 2020	"The Courtesan's Love Game: Play, Performance, and the Colonial Encounter." 2020 Student Essay Contest Finalist, <i>The Drama Review (TDR)</i> .

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Spring 2024 " (Not So) Minor Encounters: Little Amal from *The Jungle* to *The Walk*." Special issue "Refugee Processing" of *Theatre Journal* (January 2024).

Discussed in "On Tap: A Theatre & Performance Studies Podcast," episode 070 (March 2024).

Summer 2023 "Nevertheless, They Persist: The Iconicity and Radical Politics of Malala Yousafzai." Special issue "'Nevertheless, she persisted': Girls, Literature for Girls, and the Politics of Persistence" of *Women's Studies* (July 2023).

Book Reviews & Encyclopedic Entries

Spring 2024 "Fiction" in *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Refugee Studies*, edited by Yêñ Lê Espiritu (forthcoming).

Winter 2022 Book review of Sarah Gorman, *Women in Performance: Repurposing Failure in Performance Research*, 26.6 (February 2022).

Summer 2018 Book review of Ruth Vanita, *Dancing with the Nation: Courtesans in Bombay Cinema* in *Studies in South Asian Film and Media*, 9.1 (Summer 2018): 59-61.

PUBLIC-FACING SCHOLARSHIP

Autumn 2021 "Between Being and Acting: The Refugee Child in the *The Jungle*." Critical Refugee Studies Collective blog post, September 1, 2021.

<https://criticalrefugeestudies.com/blog/between-being-and-acting-the-refugee-child-in-the-jungle>.

Spring 2021 “Children Crossing Borders in Art.” Interview with Lalita du Perron on the South Asian Studies at Stanford podcast (SASSpod). May 10, 2021. <https://southasia.stanford.edu/news/sasspod-suhaila-meera-children-crossing-borders-art>.

CONFERENCES & RESIDENCIES

November 2023 “Transitional Objects: Puppets and Childhood in *Wolf Play*.” *American Society for Theatre Research*, Providence.

November 2022 “Malala’s Multiple Audiences: A Performative History.” *American Society for Theatre Research*, New Orleans.

June 2022 “Staging Childhood Across Borders: A Walk with Amal.” *Children, Youth, and Performance Conference*, York University and Young People’s Theater.

August 2021 “‘I’ll Meet You There:’ Black-Palestinian Solidarity and the Reclamation of Childhood.” *Association for Theatre in Higher Education*. Virtual Session Organizer.

July 2021 Graduate Writing Retreat, The Critical Refugee Studies Collective

February 2021 “Between Being and Acting: Performing Childhood and Statelessness in *The Jungle*.” *Forum of Original Theatre/Theory/ Thought*, University of Toronto.

November 2019 “An Embodied Erotic-Aesthetic: The Playful Courtesan in Turn-of-the-Century India.” *American Society for Theatre Research*, Arlington.

ARTISTIC PRACTICE

Winter 2024 Director, Hansol Jung’s *Wolf Play*, Lewis & Clark College, Fir Acres Theatre Mainstage Production

Spring 2023 Performer, amara tabor-smith’s *Glory*, Stanford Mainstage Production

Winter 2022 – Spring 2022 Dramaturg, Yilong Liu’s *PrEP Play/or Blue Parachute*, New Conservatory Theatre Center

Summer 2021 – Winter 2022 Director and Playwright, Bisham Sahni’s *Pali*, adapted for the stage with Dustin Nakao-Haider, Stanford Mainstage Production

Winter – Autumn 2021	Assistant Director and Dramaturg, Betty Shamieh’s <i>As Soon As Impossible</i> , Stanford Mainstage Production
Fall 2020	Director, Nandita Shenoy’s <i>Baby Camp</i> , TheatreWorks: New Works Next Generation Series
Winter 2020	Dramaturg, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins’s <i>Everybody</i> , Stanford Mainstage Production
Spring 2019	Co-Producer, <i>Lighten Up: A Comedy Festival on Colorism</i> , Stanford Developmental Stage Production
Winter 2019	Director, Nick Payne’s <i>Constellations</i> , Stanford Developmental Stage Production
Winter 2019	Dramaturg, Anton Chekhov’s <i>The Seagull</i> , Stanford Mainstage Production
Autumn 2017	Dancer, Aleta Hayes’s <i>FOUR</i> (Chocolate Heads Movement Band), Stanford Mainstage Production

TEACHING & MENTORING

Spring 2024	Instructor, “Theatre and Performance Theory”
Fall 2023	Instructor, “Who Can Tell Which Stories? Identity and Cultural Production” and “Topics in Global Theatre”
Winter 2022	Co-Instructor with Professor Michael Rau, <i>Undergraduate Performance Project</i>
Winter 2022	Advisor, <i>Advanced Dramaturgy Project</i> (Amita Gondi)
Winter 2022	Advisor, <i>Global Studies Minor Capstone</i> (Karunya Bhramasandra)
Academic Year 2020 – 21	Mentor, Honors in the Arts, Stanford Arts Institute
Spring 2021	Teaching Assistant, <i>Black Artistry: Strategies of Performance in the Black Diaspora</i> , Dr. Aileen Robinson
Winter 2021	Teaching Assistant, <i>Race, Gender, Justice</i> , Dr. Jisha Menon
Autumn 2020	Teaching Assistant, <i>Race & Performance</i> , Dr. Samer Al-Saber
Spring 2019	Tutor, Stanford Language and Orientation Tutoring Program

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Autumn 2019 – Spring 2021	Graduate Assistant, BEAM: Stanford Career Education
2016 – 2017	Development Associate, The Juilliard School, New York
2014 – 2016	Senior Operations Coordinator, Girls Write Now, New York
2013 – 2014	Digital Marketing Manager, Teamwork Arts, Delhi

SERVICE

October 2023	Panel discussant for Hanane Hajj Ali's <i>Jogging</i> at Boom Arts, Portland
Autumn 2023 –	Faculty Advisor, Students for Cultural Inclusion in the Theater (SCIT), Lewis & Clark College
Autumn 2021 –	Association for Theater in Higher Education (ATHE) Performance Studies Focus Group Member-at-Large
2022 – 2023	PhD Pathways Advisory Committee, Stanford CareerEd
2019 – 2020	First Friday Organizer (monthly departmental series)
2018 – 2019	Graduate Student Secretary

INVITED TALKS & GUEST LECTURES

Nov 2023	“(Not So) Minor Encounters: Little Amal from <i>The Jungle</i> to <i>The Walk</i> .” Invited talk, University of San Diego's Department of Theatre and Dance.
May 2022	“Partitioned Childhoods: <i>Returning to Haifa</i> and <i>Pali</i> .” Guest lecture in Dr. David Palumbo-Liu's class <i>War: What Is It Good For?</i>
February 2022	“Against Unchilding: Staging Solidarities Across Borders.” Panel with Jen Marlowe and Siwar Aslih for Arts + Justice, led by the Stanford Humanities Center and Stanford Arts Institute.

LANGUAGES

English
Hindi (speaking)
Spanish (beginner)