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### **Academic**

1. Ph.D Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. (Theatre and Performance Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics) Title of thesis: Activist Theatre: Acting against the Status Quo, 2014. (PaR: Practice as Research)
2. M.Phil, University of Delhi, (Department of English), 1987
3. M.A. (English), University of Delhi (Hindu College), 1984
4. B.A. (Hons.), (English), University of Delhi (Hindu College), 1982

### **Theatre, International Practitioner of Activist Theatre (1987 +):**

1. Organisation: pandies' theatre (regd. 1860 Society's Act 2.9.1993), Delhi  
Designation: Founding President of pandies' theatre  
Presently Director of pandies' plays and performances  
Chief Facilitator of pandies' workshops and workshop theatre  
Playwright of the company

2. Owner and curator Studio 81, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi  
Phone: +91 (0)11 26130761

## **Teaching: (1984 +)**

Organisation: Hans Raj College, University of Delhi  
Designation: Associate Professor, Department of English  
Joined as lecturer in July 1984

Taught PG for 12 years at North and South Campus as part of Co-operative teaching Programme

Areas of Specialisation: Theatre; Performance Theory; Literary Theory; Modern Drama; Renaissance.

Areas of Teaching:

UG: Dramatic texts across time and cultures; Nineteenth Century Fiction (British, French and Russian); Literary Theories

GE: Text and Performance; Creative Writing

PG: Drama (Renaissance and Modern Western Drama)

## **Honours/Positions**

1. International Residency: Rockefeller Centre, Bellagio, Italy (One month from 26th August to 24th Sept 2010) - Pursuit of work on runaway/abandoned children into sex-work; presentations and interaction with an international group of developmentalists and artists.
2. Alum of the prestigious, US Government's IVLP (International Visitors Leadership Program). One month visit to the USA and interaction with leading exponents in theatre and other Arts across major cities in the US, under the rubric "Social Change through Arts." 2011.
3. Recipient of Delhi University's (Vice Chancellor's) Distinguished Teacher Award in 2009.
4. Member International Organising Committee PTW (Performing the World, New York) 2016 and 2018 (and cancelled event for 2020).
5. International Associate of ESI (East Side Institute of Short and Long Term Therapy, New York, A world leader in Social Psychology)
6. Lectured at Harvard University Activism and Workshop Theatre November 2017 as part of Dan Friedman's course on Performance Activism.
7. Invited for a Plenary at a conference in Thessaloniki, Greece September 2018.

## **Workshops Overseas**

- Presentation on platform children in Rockefeller Centre, Bellagio, Italy (Sept 2010)
- Presentation on platform children in Performing The World 2010, All Stars, New York (Oct 2010)
- “Performing with Marginalized People and a Methodology,” William Patterson University, New Jersey (Oct 2010)
- 3 Workshops - training of trainers working with young, traumatized people in their communities in Contact Theatre, Manchester and Western Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds (UK), May and June 2011
- Workshop in New York October 2011 on working with trauma of the young with East Side Institute of Psychotherapy (New York)
- Workshop in Hamilton, Canada June 2012 with trainers, psychologists and performers on the use of performance to deal with those in suffering.
- Workshop with Castillo theatre, Broadway, New York in June 2012 on Trans(per)forming - Creating theatre from Conflict.
- Workshop on the theme of Loss at the Axis Ballyumin Theatre, Dublin, Ireland, June 2013.
- Workshop/lecture on Creating Theatre from Stories of the Margins: The Case of Nithari. The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff, Wales, UK. June 2017: Special Invited Lecture For Students from the School of Acting and Performance Studies
- Workshop and talk in Thessaloniki, Greece, November 2017 for the PPLG
- Lecture on Performance Activism at Harvard, November 2017
- Lecture on theatre in Kashmir at University of Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA December 2017
- Invited to lead a workshop with Syrian refugees in a refugee camp Pikpo, Lesbos, Greece, September 2018.

Presentations on the above issues in New York, New Jersey, UK, Canada and many universities and theatres in India.

## **International Residencies**

- Rockefeller Centre, Bellagio, Italy (One month from 26th August to 24th Sept 2010) - presentations and interaction with an international group of developmentalists and artists.

- WPU, New Jersey (one week - 3rd Oct to 10th Oct 2010) - theatre classes, workshops and readings from plays.
- WYP, Leeds (12 days - 3rd to 14th June 2011) - Discussions on Methodology with trainers working on Outreach programmes with the marginalized young; participation in a three person panel discussion on "Politics and Theatre;" and Readings from my plays in the WYP festival (12-14 June).
- IVLP tour of Artists in the US (one month - September 2011) - rubric "Social Change through Arts."

### **International Performance**

**Play - "Offtrack." Directed and written/collated by me presented at the Castillo Theater, Broadway ( during Performing the World) in New York in October 2012.**

**Cleansing – Directed and cowritten by me, presented at the Contact Theatre, Manchester (during CTW theatre festival) in Manchester in January 2002.**

### **Relevant Publications:**

1. "A Child's Act," Surviving on the Edge, ISBN 978-93-532-8314-8. ed. Sonpar and Kanwar, SAGE-Yoda Press, Chandigarh, India, 2019.
2. "Performing on the Platform," TDR: The Drama Review 57:4 (T220) Winter 2013. ©2013, New York University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
3. "Can failed theatre enable consciousness?" Consciousness, Theatre, Literature and the Arts, 2013, ISBN (10): 1-4438-3458-0. ed. Daniel Meyer-Dinkgrafe, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK, 2013.
4. "Dramatising an Evolving Consciousness: Theatre with Nithari's Children," Consciousness, theatre, Literature and the Arts 2011, ed. Daniel Meyer-Dinkgrafe, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK, 2012.
5. "The Good Person of Szechwan: Political, Dramaturgical and Pedagogic Concerns," Modern European Drama: Ibsen to Beckett, ed. Swati Pal, Pencraft International, New Delhi, India, 2012.
6. "pandies' theatre," The Drama Review (Fall, 2004), Volume 48 Number 3, NYU, New York, USA. MIT Press, Five Cambridge Centre, Cambridge.

## **Performance Activism with pandies' theatre**

I have directed and produced about forty full-length plays.

### **Adaptations**

Macbeth, 1993

Womanscape, 1993-4 (inspired by short stories of Doris Lessing):

Brecht – The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui, 1994

Ibsen – Ghosts, 1994-96. The first play on HIV/AIDS in India, Major project with many shows across country, funded by NACO, Government of India and the NORAD

Simone de Beauvoir – Les Belle Images, 1995-96.

Small project for the Royal Embassy of Netherlands

Visitations, 1999

Odet – Waiting For Lefty, 2004

Genet - The Balcony, 2014, Collaborative with Alliance Francaise, Delhi

Brecht – The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui, 2018. Presented at Studio 81 and at JNU and Janki Devi Memorial College

The Spectres of Shakespeare (reweaves the magic of Tempest, Midsummer Night's Dream and Macbeth) - Studio 81 and Housefull shows in collaboration with IHC at the Stein Auditorium, 2017, 18.

Brecht - The Goodperson Setzuan - Studio 81 and Housefull shows in collaboration with IHC at the Stein Auditorium, February 2020.

### **Presentation of original scripts**

The Story of Meera – 1995

Call her a Witch - 1996

Mannequins – 1997. Major project, picked by UNIFEM and NACO for sensitisation against trafficking of teenage women.

She's MAD – 1997. Minor project, with Shaktishalini and FORE Foundation on Women's Mental Health and its abuse in cases of marital violence

Veils – 1998 - 2001 Major project. Commissioned by HRD Ministry (total funding over 8 lakhs, more than 300 shows and workshops). Intervention on laws against rape and their faulty implementation

(K)notes – 2000

Cleansing – 2002, presented in January at the CTW - Manchester, 2002

Not Inside Us – 2004

Margins – 2006

Danger Zones – 2007

The Curse Conquered – 2008

Jab We Elect – February 2009

Wed-Lock – June 2009

Sarkari Feminism - 2010.

Offtrack - 2012

Seven - 2015, Readings of the internationally acclaimed play Seven in Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Jammu and Delhi as part of a major gender sensitisation campaign by the American Centre and the American Embassy

Crooked Kala(a)m - 2016

Ismat's Love Stories - 2017 Collaborative shows with India Habitat Centre and India International Centre. Presented at Studio 81

SAADAT HASAN MANTO: PAGALEYAN DA SARDAR remarkable reception in Delhi, including a houseful show at Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre on the 12th of January 2019. Premiered Studio 81, September 2018

## **Cyber theatre**

Odet. Till the Day I Die July 2020

Sophie Treadwell Machinal September 2020

## **2. Workshops and workshop theatre**

### **Conflict - Kashmir 2000 onwards**

#### **Highlights**

- Week-long workshop leading to a performance with 40 to 50 young people (age 16 to 30 years) from communities in conflict (Kashmiri Muslims and Hindus) to work together and create a performance (theatre with choreography and songs) that transcends conflict.

- Gulmarg 2005 and Bhaderwah 2011

- Workshop - Training of Trainers and Facilitators for the above. Older volunteers trained to become trainers to do workshops.
- Story creating and writing workshops with creative writers of both communities.

Tai Suru (Kargil) July 2014 - theatre workshops with young Shia Muslim youth of the area,

### **With young impoverished people living in the margins of society**

1. India's platform boys - series of workshops from 2007 onwards with boys aged 9 to 20 years picked from platforms by the police or by NGO officials and lodged in camps or reformatories. Pioneer work by the group.

2. Nithari village - series of workshops with young people from this village in Delhi - NCR with a population of about 10000, where children were cannibalised by perverts since 2006. Also discussion sessions with elders of the village.
3. School dropouts in villages of Rajasthan - apart from getting them back into education, workshops of gender, caste and religion with people of the age group 14 to 30 years.
4. Workshops with women residents of Shaktishalini shelter in Nehru Nagar. Restarted in 2019 after a gap of nearly one decade, *Theatre of sharing* centred at studio 81 has seen 6 workshop plays already.
5. Underage girls, rescued from brothels and housed in shelter homes in Delhi.
6. I have been working in Delhi's slums with youth and creating workshop theatre for over 20 years. This includes many major and minor projects for diverse organisations including the HRD Ministry, The Delhi government and many NGOs.

SANJAY KUMAR  
May 2020