

LEYLA MODIRZADEH, MFA
Member Actors Equity Association
www.leylamodirzadeh.com
leylamod1@gmail.com

Theatre Artist, Educator

Areas of Expertise: Theatre for Social Change, BIPOC Theatre Practices, Community-Based Documentary Theatre, Improvisation and Comedy

EDUCATION

MFA Acting	Univ. of Washington , Seattle, WA
MFA Fine Arts, New Forms (with Distinction)	Pratt Institute , Brooklyn, NY
BA Humanities (with Honors)	UC Berkeley , Berkeley, CA
Devised Theatre and Performance	Arthaus Berlin , Berlin, Germany
Improvisation Training Program	Second City , Chicago, IL
First year Theatre Education Homerton College	Cambridge University , UK

TEACHING

State University of New York, New Paltz, NY Assistant Professor of Performance 2022-present
Acting 1
Introduction to Performance
Devising

University of California, Berkeley, CA Lecturer 2019-2022
Beginning Acting
Public Speaking

American Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco, CA Acting teacher 2019

Summer Training Congress

San Jose City College, San Jose CA Adjunct Theatre Faculty, 2015-2018

Theatre Rehearsal/Performance
Beginning/Intermediate Acting
Introduction to Film

Ohlone College, Fremont, CA Adjunct Theatre Faculty, 2017
Intro to Acting

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX Assistant Professor of Theatre, 2009-10
Theatre Appreciation
Introduction to Film
Iranian Cinema, Honors College

University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS Adjunct Theatre Faculty, 2008-9/2010-11
Beginning Acting
Introduction to Theatre

DIRECTING

(M)others, Hammer Theatre, San Jose State University 2018
Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind, San Jose City College 2018
Hot Mess, San Jose City College 2017
The Overcoat, San Jose City College 2016
Love and Information, San Jose City College 2015
No Exit, Powerhouse Theatre, Oxford, MS 2015
Secret Histories: Oxford, Powerhouse Theatre, Oxford, MS 2008
Undesirable Elements, Lincoln Center Institute, NYC (with Ping Chong) 2006
Journeys Abroad, Journeys Within, Lincoln Center Institute, NYC (with Ping Chong) 2005

ORIGINAL SOLO PERFORMANCES

Together Tea, San Francisco State University, CA 2019
Together Tea, UC Irvine, CA 2018
Together Tea, San Jose State University, CA 2016
Lubbock or Leave It!, Golden Thread Theatre, San Francisco, CA 2013
Lubbock or Leave It!, Dixon Place NYC 2012
Lubbock or Leave It!, HERE Space, NYC 2012
The Scars at Night are Big and Bright, 59th St. Bridge Theatre, NYC 2012

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTING

Speakeasy Stage Co., Boston: *English* [Roya], Melory Mirashrafi, director
Livermore Shakespeare Company, CA: *Comedy of Errors* [Dromio, Pinch] Dominique Lozano
Golden Thread Productions, SF, CA: *Nasrudin* [Nasrudin] Torange Yegharian
La Mama ETC, NYC: *Undesirable Elements*, Ping Chong, director
Tours: France, Italy, US: *Undesirable Elements*, Ping Chong and Co., Talvin Wilks, director
Noor Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, NYC: *Gordafarid*, Pirronne Yousefzadeh, dir.
Kennedy Center, DC: *Tales of Cathay*, Ping Chong, director
A Contemporary Theatre, Seattle: *A Christmas Carol* [Belle] Lori Larson, director
A Contemporary Theatre, Seattle: *Face to Face*, Steve Alter, director
The Group Theatre, Seattle: *La Bete* [Dorine] Tim Bond, director
The Group Theatre, Seattle: *Undesirable Elements*, Ping Chong, director
The Group Theatre, Seattle: *Roosters* [Angela] Laura Esparza, director
Laughing Horse Theatre, WA: *Rashomon* [Rashomon] Rita Giomi, director
Laughing Horse Theatre, WA: *Lend Me a Tenor* [Maria] Jack Booch, director
Laughing Horse Theatre, WA: *An Act of the Imagination* [Brenda] John Kretzu, director
Wisdom Bridge Theatre, Chicago: *The Immigrant* [Leah], Doug Finlayson, director

WORKSHOPS LED

Interdisciplinary Collaborative Arts Workshop
Tisch School of the Arts, Undergraduate, New York University, NYC 2019
Commedia Dell'Arte Summer Workshop
La Macchina Fissa, Mantua, Italy 2018
Performance and Immigration
Immigration Theatre Institute, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA 2016
Documentary Theatre Workshop
Summer Workshop for Educators, Lincoln Center Institute, New York 2007

CONFERENCES

Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies, Montreal, Québec Canada, July 10-14 2017; Persianate Humor Panel, “Creating Empathy Through Humor”

International Conference on Practical Applications of Theatre, Central School of Drama, London, England, April 2010; “Teaching Diversity through Multicultural Theatre: A Case Study”

International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities and Nations 2010, Belfast, Ireland; “Teaching Diversity through Multicultural Theatre: A Case Study”

PUBLICATIONS

Culturally Relevant Arts Education for Social Justice: A Way Out of No Way, edited by Dr. Mary Hanley. New York, New York: Routledge Books, 2013; contributing chapter: “Documentary Theatre in Education: Empathy Building as a Tool for Social Change” (book)

Wild Words, edited by Heather O’Connor. Ontario, Canada: Piquant Press, 2011; contributing chapter “Flatlining in the Flatlands” (book)

"Some Practical Tips for Eliminating Racism" *Present Time*, Vol. 36 Issue 4 (2004): 38 (journal)

PRESENTATIONS

Art, Activism and Public Space

Gallatin Division and Tisch School, Undergraduate, New York University 2013

Institute for Southern Jewish Life, “Diversity in the Arts” 2008

New York Public Library Arts Series, “Remedios Varo: Cultural Collateral of the Spanish Diaspora” 2002

CITATIONS

Enacting History, edited by Dr. Rhona Justice Malloy, University of Alabama Press, 2011 (final chapter written about my production of *Secret Histories: Oxford*)

Undesirable Elements, Ping Chong & Company, Theatre Communications Group, 2010 (interview, script excerpt)

COMMITTEES

Student Standing and Appeals, Fine and Performing Arts Rep, SUNY New Paltz, 2023

Equity and Inclusion Committee, TDPS, UC Berkeley 2019

Performance/Tech Certification Theatre Program, Co-Author, San Jose City College, 2016

Theatre Oxford Board of Directors, Vice-President, Oxford, MS 2015

Iranian Film Series, post screening discussion panel, Texas Tech Univ. 2010

National Assoc. of Schools of Theatre Accreditation Committee, Texas Tech Univ. 2010

Undergraduate Committee, Texas Tech University, 2010

BIPOC PLAYWRIGHTS PROJECT - <https://tdps.berkeley.edu/bipoc-playwrights>

Made possible by the Lecturer Teaching Fellows Grant, UC Berkeley, 2020