

Jayampathi Guruge – Curriculum Vitae

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Date of Birth: 12th September 1988

Profile

I work in the theatre in several capacities, as a director, designer, performer and a writer.

I recently completed my undergraduate degree and I am working as a full time artiste with Stages Theatre Group – a group that is working towards professionalising theatre in Sri Lanka.

I intend to continue to develop as a multidisciplinary artiste – pursuing directing, designing and performing together as my means of artistic expression. I am deeply interested in the devising (collaborative) creative process in theatre – and particularly in exploring aspects of physical (non-verbal) theatre. Prior to my entry into drama I trained as a professional Kandyan Dancer for ten years.

I am also involved in the area of film as a writer and designer.

I live and work in Sri Lanka.

Works – Directed/Designed/Written/Acted in

2014 – “GREASE YAKA” – Designer/Choreographer/Co-Conceptualiser

A devised play created with the students of Ananda College that looks at the creation, manipulation and spread of social phobia through the strange phenomenon of the infamous Grease Yaka. This play was directed by Ruwanthie de Chickera and was performed at the Lionel Wendt Theatre in August 2014 - <http://stages.lk/plays-and-events/grease-yaka/>

2014 – “WALKING PATH – a play without words” – Director/Designer/Co-Conceptualiser

A devised play about the widespread urban beautification drive in post-war Sri Lanka. This play is being acknowledged as a milestone in contemporary Sri Lankan theatre – receiving recognition as an important piece of post-war theatre and as the first wordless play of this kind. This play was conceptualised with Ruwanthie de Chickera. It was performed at the Lionel Wendt Theatre in July 2014 - <http://stages.lk/plays-and-events/walking-path/>

2014 – “MUJARI” – Director/Playwright/Designer

A devised piece of theatre, this One-Act-Play was created in the final year of university as an experimental piece of theatre. A silent play created without any of the usual binding ‘dramatic’ elements of theatre, this play contained no words, no music, no emotion, no colour. Performed at the Performing Arts Campus Theatre, January 2014.

2013 – International Mini Tele Series “THE TEAM” – Script Writer

Commissioned for *Search for Common Ground*.

2013 – “SELLOTAPE” – Co-Conceptualiser/Lighting Designer

A devised piece of theatre created with the students of the University of the Visual and Performing Arts for their final year production. This play was devised out of a piece of Sellotape. It was directed by Ruwanthie de Chickera. Performed at the Performing Arts Campus Theatre, March 2013.

2013 – ‘THE STRANGE FAMILIAR’ – Co-Costumes Designer

This film was the debut feature film of the upcoming film director Malith Hagoda. This film had its World Premiere in the Montreal Film Festival and is also in competition at the 2014 London Film Festival.

2013 – “WIJAYA KUVENI” – Assistant Make-up Artist

This was a commercial film which comprised a cast of over 1000. It was directed by Sudath Samarakoon and was released in Sri Lanka in 2013.

2012 – “FRAMES” – Director/Playwright/Designer

A silent One-Act Play exploring the relationship that an artist has with his creation, and how that creation is then ‘framed’ by the public. This piece used for its basis, the life and work of Van Gough. Performed at the Performing Arts Campus Theatre.

2012 – “KALUMAALI” – Designer/Assistant Director/Actor

A devised piece of theatre created out of the writings of 13 women of the stage about their experiences of motherhood. Directed by Ruwanthie de Chickera, this play was heralded as a breakthrough in Sri Lankan theatre in terms of its story-telling and also its form. Performed at the Lionel Wendt Theatre September 2012 - <http://stages.lk/plays-and-events/kalumaali-a-fairy-tale-for-grown-ups/>

2012 – “EVITA – the musical” – Prop Designer

Designed and constructed all props for the hit musical Evita, directed by Jerome L. de Silva and performed by the Workshop Players at the Lionel Wendt Theatre, October 2012.

2012 – “AJARAMARA” - Make-up Artist

A One Act play directed by Koralage Saman which won Best Play for both the National and the Youth Drama Festivals in 2012.

2012 – “AMATHAKA WENNA KALIN” - Make-up Artist

A One Act play directed by Thusitha Laknath, which won 5 awards at the Youth Drama Festival – including Best Make up for the Colombo District.

2012 – “NOT-OUT” - Actor/Make-up Artist

Played the lead role in this One-Act-Play which was placed third in the overall competition for the National Youth Drama Festival. Directed by Lasanduni Jayawardena this play received the award for Best Make up at the Youth Festival.

2012 – “RAVANA” directed by Akila Sapumal - Actor

Played one of the leads in this re-make of the legendary Ravana story. This play was very well received as a piece of important contemporary theatre.

2011 – “WAADAKAYA WAHALA UDA” directed by Vijitha Bandara - Actor

Played the role of the Fiddler in the play ‘Fiddler on the Roof’ – which was performed by the students of the Kelaniya Campus. This play won 15 awards at the 2011 Youth Drama Festival.

2011 – “IN SEARCH OF SIVARAMANI” – Actor

Played about 8 different cameo roles in this play which was devised together with the Final Year students of the University of the Performing Arts. This was a play about the true story of a young Tamil activist from Jaffna in the 80's who set fire to her poetry and committed suicide. It was directed by Ruwanthie de Chickera and Padma Maduranga.

2011 – “SANNI 18” – Co-Director/Actor

An adaptation of the traditional story of the ‘18 Sanniya’ – however where the traditional vices were replaced by vices in contemporary Sri Lankan society. Created collaboratively as a second year exam piece. This controversial play was banned from any further showing after its first performance within the university.

2011 - National Children's Theatre festival – Backdrop design

Part of the team commissioned to design the set for the awards ceremony of the National Children's Theatre Festival.

2011 – National Theatre festival – Backdrop design

Part of the team commissioned to design and construct the set for the awards ceremony of the National Theatre Festival

2010 – “PUTU 11” - Designer/Actor

An experimental piece of theatre created by the 1st year students of the Performing Arts Campus – using eleven chairs and eleven actors. Directed by Thusitha Laknath. Performed subsequently at the 2011 Youth Drama Festival.

2010 – “DHEBIDDO” – Assistant Stage Manager/Actor

A translation of “Trumpets and Raspberries” by Dario Fo directed by film maker Prasanna Vithanage. This play became hugely popular and had very good audiences for all of its several showings in Sri Lanka.

2010 – “THALA MALA PIPILA” and “ANDARELA”- Actor

Both these plays have been running for about 20 years now – performing over 1000 shows. Directed by Jayalath Manoratne.

2009 – “UDUMBARA” – Actor/Costume Design

A musical play directed by Richard Manamudali. This is a play created out of a Jathaka Story.

2009 – “SAKUNTHALA” – Make-up Artist

An Indian Sanskrit play directed by Richard Manamudali. It has completed over 100 shows in Sri Lanka and still continues to run.

2008 – “SABAN PENA” – Make-up Artist/Set Designer/Stage Manager

A One Act play adaptation of a short story directed by Nalin Lusaina. This play won five awards at the State Drama Festival and National Youth Festival in second place. Awards for Best Make up, Best Set Design, Best Stage management were won at District Level.

2008 – “GAJAMAN PUWATHA” – Actor

Was part of the chorus in this stylised play about a historical poetess in Sri Lanka, directed by Dhayananda Goonewardena

2008 – “RAVATICHI POLKICHI” – Actor

Played the second lead in this play which won Best Play at the 2008 National Children’s Theatre Festival, directed by Bandula Sarath Waduthanthri

2007 – “AGAMEMNON” – Set Designer

A full length Final Year production of the students of the Kelaniya Campus directed by Gayan Randhir. This play was later awarded 3rd place at the National Youth Festival. Performed at the Kelaniya University.

2002 – “DOSI WAASI” – Actor

The first ever play acted in. It was placed 2nd in the 2002 National Children’s Theatre Festival. Directed by Bandula Sarath Waduthanthri.

Awards

2014 – Best Director, Best Play, Best Production Design, Best Ensemble for “WALKING PATH”, at the Thespo 16 youth theatre festival in Mumbai, India.

2014 – Nominated for Best Art Director at the Derana Music Video Awards.

2012 – Best Make-up Artists, All-Island award for “NOT-OUT” directed by Lasanduni Jayawardena at the National Youth Drama Festival.

2012 – Best Make-up Artist, Western Province for “AMATHAKA WENNA KALIN” directed by Thusitha Laknath at the National Youth Drama Festival.

2008 – Best Make-up Artist, Best Set Designer, Best Stage Manager – for the Gampaha District for “SABAN PENA” directed by Nalin Lusaina at the National Youth Drama Festival.

Workshops Conducted

2014 - Bangalore, Infinite souls. Conducted workshops in Special Effects Make up and Choreography at Infinite Souls in Bangalore. These workshops were part of an exchange between artists of Sri Lanka and India.

2014 – Acting and Devising workshops for Ananda College. Conducted a series of workshops over 8 months which comprised training in acting and then introduction to Devised theatre which finally resulted in the hit play ‘Grease Yaka’ critically acknowledged as one of the most interesting plays created recently.

2012/2014 - Make up workshops for A/L Students - Two full years of regular Make up workshops for students of the Anuradhapura District, offering Drama and Theatre for the A/Levels. All the students passed the exam and 90% of them with an ‘A’ grade.

2013 - YWCA workshop. Conducted a sustained workshop in acting for young women from all over the country brought together by the YWCA to address issues of ethnicity and gender.

2010/2011 - Teacher training workshops. Conducted a series of workshops in the Colombo District for teachers in Drama and Theatre for the O/Ls.

Academic Qualifications

BA Hons – First Class: Specialising in Drama and Theatre, University of the Performing Arts in Colombo, 2014

Jayampathi Guruge
September 2014