

Ali-Reza Mirsajadi

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

The Theatre School at DePaul University, Chicago, IL

Assistant Professor of Theatre Studies (tenure-track)

- Directing I, Directing II, Directing III
- African American Theatre
- History of Dramatic Literature II, History of Dramatic Literature III
- Performance Studies

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Visiting Assistant Professor in Theatre and Performance Studies

- Introduction to Dramatic Arts, 2019-2020
- Introduction to Performance Studies, 2019
- Middle Eastern Theatre and Politics, 2020 (Ph.D.-level course)

Emerson College, Boston, MA

Affiliated Faculty in Performing Arts

- African American Theatre and Culture, 2016-2018
- Perspectives in World Theatre, 2017-2018

EDUCATION:

Tufts University, Medford, MA

Ph.D. in Theatre and Performance Studies, 2019

- Dissertation Title: "Directing Between the Lines: Iranian Theatre and the Aesthetics of Ambiguity"
- Dissertation Committee: Dr. Noe Montez (chair), Dr. Heather Nathans, Dr. Kamran Rastegar, Dr. Sheida Dayani

M.A. in Drama, 2015

- Thesis Title: "Spectrums of Truth: Transcribing Reality in the Documentary Musical"
- Thesis Committee: Dr. Barbara Wallace Grossman (chair), Dr. Laurence Senelick, Dr. Noe Montez

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

B.A. in Theatre Arts, 2011

- Honors Thesis: *Queer Representation in Post-Revolutionary Iranian Theatre*
- Thesis Advisor: Dr. Cary Mazer

Areas of Specialization: Middle Eastern Theatre and Culture, Directing, Cultural Studies, African American Performance, Critical Race Studies, Global Theatre History and Dramatic Literature, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Queer Theory/Performance, Musical Theatre Studies, Dramaturgy, Intersectionality, Performance Theory, Documentary and Reality Studies, Adaptation Studies

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS:

Book Contract

The Dance of Mares and Other Plays from Post-Revolutionary Iran

co-edited and translated alongside Dr. Nahid Ahmadian

In Performance Series, Seagull Books, University of Chicago Press

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“Reading *Hamlet* in Tehran: Neoliberalism and the Politics of Politicizing”

Forthcoming in *Theatre Journal*, March 2020.

“Provocative Puppetry: *The House of Bernarda Alba* and Zahra Sabri’s *Yas-e Tamam*”

Puppetry International, (34) 2013.

Articles in Refereed Edited Collections

“Challenging Every Memory’: Manifesting Futurity in *The Devils Between Us*”

Co-written with Yasmin Zacaria Mikhael

Forthcoming in *The Methuen Drama Book of Trans Plays*, ed. Lindsey Mantoan, Angela Schiller, and

Leanna Keyes, Bloomsbury Press, 2020.

Articles Under Review

“And of Clay We Are Created: Zahra Sabri’s *Count to One* and War’s Material Ephemerality,” *TDR*.

Book Reviews

***Theatre of Real People: Diverse Encounters at Berlin’s Hebbel am Ufer and Beyond* by Meg Mumford and Ulrike Garde**

Theatre Survey, Volume 58, Issue 2 (May 2017).

***Indifference to Difference: On Queer Universalism* by Madhavi Menon**

Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism, Volume 32, Number 1 (Fall 2017).

Public Humanities Writing

“Marg Bar ____”

Language Log, University of Pennsylvania, 2017.

“Erasing the Middle East: White Gatekeeping and the Painful Path of Progress”

Forthcoming in *HowlRound Theatre Commons*, 2020.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

Upcoming

“Racial Mothers and Others: Naghmeh Samini’s *Bacheh* and Resisting a Homogenous Iran”

Middle East Studies Association, Washington, D.C., 2020

“The Anonym as Queer Praxis: Identity, Authorship, and MENA Sexuality”

American Society for Theatre Research, Online, 2020

Previous

“And of Clay We Are Created: Zahra Sabri’s *Count to One* and War’s Material Ephemerality”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Online, 2020

“Disgraced by *Disgraced*: Muslim Rage and the American Canon”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Online, 2020

“After *After Orlando*: Musings on Quare Terror”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Online, 2020

“Subversion and the Cyberpublic: Queer Performance and Communion in MENA Instagram”

American Society for Theatre Research, Alexandria, VA, 2019

“Radical Islam: The Political Utility and Futility of Muslim Feminists”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Orlando, FL, 2019

“Creating Through Obstruction: Artistically Generative Censorship in Iranian Performance”

Mid-American Theatre Conference, Cleveland, OH, 2019

“Counter-History as Protest: Dramaturging Boston’s African American Freedom Trail”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Boston, MA, 2018

“The Curious Case of *Hedda Gabler*: Rewriting Censorship in the Iranian Theatre”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Boston, MA, 2018

“Reading *Hamlet* in Tehran: Neoliberalism and the Politics of Politicizing”

Mid-America Theatre Conference, Milwaukee, WI, 2018

“‘KILL THE ORANGE GRINGO’: Monica Palacios’ Queer Universalism and the Politics of Resistance”

American Literature Association, Latina/o/x Society, San Francisco, CA, 2018

“An Iranian Willy Loman: Performing Arthur Miller and American Identity in Iran”

American Literature Association, American Theatre and Drama Society, Boston, MA, 2017

“Antigone in Wonderland, or, Notes on the Political Efficacy of Being Lost in Translation”

American Society for Theatre Research, Minneapolis, MN, 2016

“What do you call a Problem Like Afra?: Queer Counterpublics, the Utopian Performative, and the Iranian Avant-Garde”

American Society for Theatre Research, Baltimore, MD, 2014

“Relocating Langston: Filling Holes, Queering Icons”

American Literature Association, American Theatre and Drama Society, Boston, MA, 2013

“Spectrums of Truth: Transcribing Reality in the Documentary Musical”

American Society for Theatre Research, Dallas, TX, 2013

“There are No Homosexuals in Iran: Subversive Identity in Iranian Theatre”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, LGBTQ Debut Panel, Washington, D.C., 2012

“Kim Jong-Il Sat on a Wall: How Trauma Cracked Collectivist North Korea”

American Society for Theatre Research, Nashville, TN, 2012

“A View from the Bridge: Queerness in Iranian Theatre”

Comparative Drama Conference, Baltimore, MD, 2012

Convener, Moderator, or Respondent

Roundtable convener: “Queering MENA: Visibility and Conflicting Intersectionalities”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Online, 2020

Panel convener: “Embodying Muslim Intersectionality: Diasporic Performance and Transitional Narratives of Difference in the US”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Orlando, FL, 2019

Panel convener: “Restaging Islam: The Changing Landscape of Middle Eastern Theatre and Politics”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Orlando, FL, 2019

Working group convener: “Arousing Activism: Revolutionary Impulses in Middle East Performance”

American Society for Theatre Research, San Diego, CA, 2018

INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

“Rewriting *Ta’ziyeh* through the Ages”

Graduate Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2018

“Graduate School Matriculation Keynote”

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Tufts University, 2016

TEACHING:

The Theatre School at DePaul University

Directing I, II, and III

History of Dramatic Literature II, and III

African American Theatre

University of Pittsburgh Department of Theatre Arts

Introduction to Dramatic Arts (2019-2020)

Enjoying Performances (2019)

Middle Eastern Theatre and Politics (Ph.D.-level) (2020)

Directed Study in Dramaturgy (2020)

Emerson College School of Performing Arts

African American Theatre and Culture (2016-2018)

Perspectives in World Theatre (2017-2018)

Tufts University Department of Drama and Dance

Introduction to Acting (2015-2019)
First-Year Showcase (co-teacher)
Gay and Lesbian Theatre and Film (teaching assistant)
Latinx Theatre and Film (teaching assistant)
Contemporary Musical Theatre (teaching assistant)
Ancient and Medieval Performance (teaching assistant)
Modern and Postmodern Theatre (teaching assistant)
Cabaret: History and Performance (teaching assistant)

ADVISING:

Faculty Advisor, Equity and Diversity Literary Database, The Theatre School, 2020-present
Faculty Advisor, Dramaturgy directed study on *Appropriate*, University of Pittsburgh, 2020
Faculty Advisor, Student Teaching directed study for Introduction to Dramatic Arts, University of Pittsburgh, 2020

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND HONORS:

Year of Creativity Grant (\$5000), University of Pittsburgh Office of the Provost, 2020
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Award for Outstanding Academic Scholarship, Tufts University, 2019
Professor Kalman A. Burnim Prize for Scholarly Excellence in Drama and Dance, 2019
Tufts DIVERSITY Grant (\$2100), 2019
Helen Krich Chinoy Dissertation Award, American Society for Theatre Research, 2018
Harvard Mellon School of Theatre and Performance Research Fellow in "Public Humanities," 2018
Feature Article on Wiki Edu, "Roundup: African American Theatre," 2018
Tufts DIVERSITY Grant (\$2100), 2017
Center for Humanities at Tufts Dissertation Fellowship, 2017
Tufts University Graduate Institute for Teaching Fellowship, 2017
Northwestern Summer Institute for Performance Studies Fellow, 2016
Tufts University Graduate Student Research Award, \$1000, 2015
Tufts University Special Mention for Outstanding Graduate Student Contribution to Undergraduate Education, 2013
University of Pennsylvania George and Jane Wallace Theatre Award, 2010

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

Chair/Focus Group Representative, Middle Eastern Theatre focus group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, 2019-2022
Coordinator of Islamicate Faculty Working Group, University of Pittsburgh, 2020
Laboratory Season Selection Committee, University of Pittsburgh Department of Theatre Arts, 2019-2020
Graduate Faculty Committee, University of Pittsburgh Department of Theatre Arts, 2019-2020
Founder, Middle Eastern Theatre focus group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, 2018
Organizer, Fourth Triennial Consortium of Graduate Directors in Theatre and Performance Studies, 2018
Producer and Organizer, Monica Palacios DIVERSITY performance at Tufts, 2017
Selection Committee, Tufts Graduate Student Research Award, 2017-2018
President, Student Theatre Association for Graduate Education, 2016-2017
Assistant to Director of Graduate Studies, Theatre and Performance Studies, Tufts University, 2017-2019
Member and Web Editor, Graduate Student Caucus Web Committee for American Society for Theatre

Research, 2013-2015
Treasurer, Student Theatre Association for Graduate Education, 2012-2013

LANGUAGES:

Fluency in Farsi, intermediate comprehension in Spanish, basic reading comprehension in Arabic and German

CREATIVE ACTIVITY (select):

Directing

The Hungry Woman: A Mexican Medea
Hedwig and the Angry Inch
Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play
La Lune
A Man of No Importance
[title of show]
Falsettos
Over the Rainbow Cabaret

Playwright

Cherríe Moraga
Stephen Trask and John Cameron Mitchell
Anne Washburn
Cassandra Ichniowski
Terrence McNally, Ahrens & Flaherty
Hunter Bell and Jeff Bowen
James Lapine and William Finn
Various Artists

Theatre

Tufts University
Tufts University
Tufts University
Philadelphia Fringe Festival
Tufts University
Tufts University
University of Pennsylvania
Tufts University

Musical Directing

Next to Normal
The Tempest
Camelot (a cappella re-orchestration)
The 25th Annual... Spelling Bee
Over the Rainbow Cabaret
Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog

Composer/Lyricist

Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey
The Decemberists
Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe
William Finn
Various Artists
Joss Whedon et al

Theatre

Tufts University
Philadelphia Fringe Festival
University of Pennsylvania
Tufts University
Tufts University
University of Pennsylvania

Dramaturgy

Appropriate
Obstacle Course
Jihad Jones and the Kalashnikov Babes
Next to Normal
The Good Times Are Killing Me
The Laramie Project (asst.)
Laramie: 10 Years Later (asst.)
El Gato Con Botas (asst.)

Director

Ricardo Vila-Roger
Jamil Houry
Heather Nathans
Niffer Clarke
Marcia Ferguson
Moises Kaufman
Moises Kaufman
Moises Kaufman

Theatre

University of Pittsburgh Stages
Silk Road Rising, Tufts U
Tufts University
University of Pittsburgh Stages
University of Pennsylvania
Tectonic Theatre Project
Tectonic Theatre Project
Tectonic Theatre Project

Translations

Home
The Child
Hamlet

Playwright

Naghme Samini
Naghme Samini
Mohammad Charmshir

Theatre

The Kennedy Center
(unproduced)
(unproduced)

Playwriting

Transfixed
Oh, Man

Theatre

Philadelphia Fringe Festival, Bruce Montgomery Theatre
(unproduced)

Training

Acting
Directing
Musical Theatre

Instructor

Marcia Ferguson, James Schlatter
Moisés Kaufman, Marcia Ferguson
David Fox

Devised Performance
Playwriting
Dramaturgy
Voice for the Actor

Moises Kaufman and Tectonic Theatre Project, Cary Mazer
Kim Euell, P. Seth Bauer
Cary Mazer
Andrew Borthwick-Leslie