

# Ali-Reza Mirsajadi

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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”**

*Theatre Journal*, Volume 72, Issue 1 (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*.**

**“2020 ATHE Conference Roundtable: MENA Absence and Pedagogy,” *Theatre Topics***

### **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”**

*HowlRound Theatre Commons*, 2020.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:**

### **Upcoming**

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

American Society for Theatre Research, Online, 2020

### **Previous**

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

Middle East Studies Association, Online, 2020

**“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:**

**“Graduate School Matriculation Keynote”**

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Tufts University, 2016

**“Rewriting *Ta’ziyeh* through the Ages”**

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

**The Itkin Address**

The Theatre School at DePaul University, New Student Convocation Ceremony, 2020

**“Postcolonial *Hamlets*: Globalization and Adaptation”**

Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh, 2020.

**“Iranian Indigenous Performance and *Ta’ziyeh*”**

Graduate Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2020

**“Anti-Racism and Plastic Representation”**

The Theatre School at DePaul University, Student Call-In with Azar Kazemi, 2020

**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  
Conference Committee, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, 2020-2021  
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

*Christmas Mubarak* (co-director)  
*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*

### Musical Directing

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

### Dramaturgy

*Appropriate*  
*Obstacle Course*  
*Jihad Jones and the Kalashnikov Babes*  
*Next to Normal*  
*The Good Times Are Killing Me*

### Playwright

Corey Pond  
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

### Composer/Lyricist

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

### Director

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

### Theatre

Silk Road Rising  
Tufts University  
Tufts University  
Tufts University  
Philadelphia Fringe Festival  
Tufts University  
Tufts University  
University of Pennsylvania  
Tufts University

### Theatre

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

### Theatre

University of Pittsburgh Stages  
Silk Road Rising, Tufts U  
Tufts University  
University of Pittsburgh Stages  
University of Pennsylvania

*The Laramie Project* (asst.)  
*Laramie: 10 Years Later* (asst.)  
*El Gato Con Botas* (asst.)

Moises Kaufman  
Moises Kaufman  
Moises Kaufman

Tectonic Theatre Project  
Tectonic Theatre Project  
Tectonic Theatre Project

**Translations**

*Home*  
*The Child*  
*Hamlet*

**Playwright**

Naghmeh Samini  
Naghmeh 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  
Devised Performance  
Playwriting  
Dramaturgy  
Voice for the Actor

**Instructor**

Marcia Ferguson, James Schlatter  
Moisés Kaufman, Marcia Ferguson  
David Fox  
Moises Kaufman and Tectonic Theatre Project, Cary Mazer  
Kim Euell, P. Seth Bauer  
Cary Mazer  
Andrew Borthwick-Leslie