



SHALAKA KULKARNI

Interdisciplinary Dance Artist. USA/India

www.shalakak.com

Asian-American, Shalaka Kulkarni is an interdisciplinary dance artist trained in Indian Classical dance who creates experiences that bridge the ancient and contemporary while uplifting marginalized voices. As an actor, filmmaker, dancer and choreographer, she has presented work in India, US and Europe. She is interested in creating and presenting a hybrid movement form that fuses techniques of Bharatnatyam and Kathak with other movement influences, text and technology.

CONTACT

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Education

- TAD studio program (Teaching Artist development program) in 2013
- MFA, Arts and Media. Interdisciplinary Dept, Columbia College Chicago in 2010
- B.A, Performing Arts Management and Theatre minor, Columbia College Chicago in 2006

Awards/Residencies

- **Current** Fellow in Residence with High Concept Labs
- **Current** Chicago Performance Lab Residency with University of Chicago
- **2022** Dance for Camera residency with See Chicago Dance
- **2022** Artist in Residence with Mandala Arts with support from Illinois Arts Council
- **2022** Artist in Residence for 2022 with High Concept Lab
- **2021** SloMoCo Summer and Fall Residency
- **2010** Performance Residency with La Pocha Nostra Collective under the guidance of Guillermo Gomez-Pena and Roberto Sifuentes
- **2009-10** Asian Arts Media Scholarship: Columbia College
- **2009-10** Diversity Scholarship: Columbia College Chicago
- **2007** Chicago Cultural Center: DanceBridge Winter Residency
- **2005** Dance Chicago 2005 Choreography award

WORK EXPERIENCE

Teaching Experience

- **Current** Teaching Artist with Mandala South Asian Performing Arts and their outreach programs with Indo American Center in Devon, Refugee Programs with Heartland Alliance, and Girl Forward.
- **2021-22** Teaching Artist with Chicago Danzetheatre Ensemble
- **2015-16** Teacher at Bollygroove Dance Studio, IL
- **2013-15** Adjunct Faculty at Illinois Institute of Art
- **2010-12** Teacher at Sonia Dance School,
- **2010** TA for Advanced Dance-making at Dance Dept of Columbia College
- **2007-10** TA Interdisciplinary Arts and Media Dept of Columbia College
- **2008** TA for Film Class at Pulaski Fine Arts
- **2000-06** Lead teacher and Choreographer at Kalapriya Dance Company along with their outreach programs

Arts Administration Experience

Operations Manager, 2022-June 2023

Mandala South Asian Performing Arts

See Chicago Dance, 2022

Event Coordinator

Stage Manager, 2022-23

World Refugee Day, Chicago

SurTaal Dance Company, 2010-19

Founder/Artistic Director

Arts Administration Experience

Media Coordinator, 2013

Adobe youth voices

Media and Admin. Associate, 2007-10

Interdisciplinary Arts and Media Department, Columbia College Chicago, IL.

Management Internship, 2004

Chicago Human Rhythm Project, IL

Volunteer/Community projects

Advisory Council Member on Equity Board

Chicago Commission on Human Relations

Creative head and Community Organizer

BMM (Brihan Maharashtra Mandal-organization promoting Indian culture) Chicago, IL

Facilitator/Focus Group Leader

CCAP (Center for Community Arts Partnerships) Chicago, IL

Digital Support

New Media Caucus at College Art Association. Chicago, IL

Selected Works/Performances

- **2023** 'Nyra's Dreams' Solo play directed by Stefan Brún at Chicago Dramatists
- **2023** 'Nyra's Dreams', the short dance film recognized at film festivals in Korea, Paris, and India
- **2023** Collaborative work 'Ringing Soul' with Yoshinojo Fujima at Links Hall
- **2023** Opening ceremony at APIDA Festival at the Chicago Cultural Center, presented 'Ringing Soul'
- **2023** Screening of short dance film 'Nyra's Dreams' with Screendance Club/See Chicago Dance
- **2023** Passages of Dance & Music: Asian Choreographers Showcase at Visceral Dance Center, presented 'Durga-si'
- **2022** Indo- Japanese collaborative work & solo work 'Radio Dreams' at Bridge Dance Festival curated by Rika Lin/Asian Improv aRts Midwest at Links Hall, Chicago.
- **2022** A principal character for 'The Story of Ram' at Harris Theater
- **2022** Choreographer and dancer for the 'Body Language' series curated by Fever Up presented at Chopin Theater, Chicago
- **2022** Presenting collaboratively created performances and solo work in Berlin and other parts of Germany
- **2022** Guest performer at South Asia Institute with Amin Gulgee for "The Spider Speaketh in Tongues/Kiss of the Spider Woman" exhibit,
- **2022-23** 'Freedom From and Freedom To' project at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago and Elastic Arts
- **2022** 'Novecento' in the musical theatre project 'Novecento' in Germany
- **2022-23** Musical Theatre choreography commission for The Actors Garden at Dominican University
- **2022-23** Presented original work at Mandala Makers Festival
- **2022** Creator and performer for series 'Dancing Chakras' at Newport Thtr
- **2022** Presented original work at Chicago History Museum
- **2022** Commissioned to create work for Momenta Dance Company
- **2021** 'The Yellow Wallpaper' with Chicago Danztheatre Ensemble
- **2021-23** Guest artist with Raks Inferno, a Bellydance collective
- **2021-23** Guest artist with 'Mysteriosa' variety show
- **2021** Virtual work in progress at SloMoCo(MOCO, Movement Computing)
- **2021** Presented original work at IUGTE conference, Austria
- **2021** Presented an excerpt at APAP online showcase
- **2020** Presented an excerpt of original work at IUGTE conference, Virtual
- **2020** Presented video work at Virtual Festival hosted by Mandala Arts
- **2017-18** Presented original work 'Ripple' at Props Thtr with SurTaal Dance
- **2017** Commissioned to create the main show for the Lions Club
- **2016** Dancer for Chicago Danztheatre Ensemble
- **2015** Dancer for Chicago Danztheatre Ensemble at Bradley University
- **2014** Guest choreographer for Kalapriya Dance Company
- **2013** Presented original work at Dance Chicago
- **2012** Presented original work 'Wavering Paths' with SurTaal Dance
- **2011** Presented original work 'A Carnival of Voices 2' at Rhinofest
- **2010** MFA Thesis: 'A carnival of Voices' at Columbia College Chicago.
- **2009** Performed with La Pocha Nostra collective
- **2007** Presented original work at 'Looptopia' event in USA in Chicago
- **2007** Presented original work at 'ABONDANZA!' A 3-day showcase of contemporary International dance at Chicago Cultural Center.
- **2004-06** Presented original work at Dance Chicago and its various events: Dance Chicago, Valentine Dances, Stars of Dance Chicago
- **2005** Choreographed and stage-directed dance drama- 'Satyagraha' for Kalapriya Dance Company; International House at University of Chicago
- **2004** Presented and sponsored by the Multicultural Department of Harper College for the original work "Colors In Me " with SurTaal Dance
- **2001-05** Invited to perform for FIA- The Federation of Indian Associations.