

Shyama Iyer

Curriculum Vitae

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502-291-3285

EDUCATION

Ohio State University

Master of Arts, May 2022

Major: Theatre

Western Kentucky University

Bachelor of Fine Arts, May 2020

Major: Performing Arts, Concentration: Musical Theatre; Minor: Performing Arts Administration, Dance

GPA: Overall 3.94 Major 4.0

ORGANIZATIONS

Geeva Arts Festival, Guru Vandana Academy 501(c)3

Artistic Director

Organize and conduct an annual Indian Classical Dance and Music Festival in Louisville, Kentucky.

Work with a budget of \$10,000 to write detailed contracts and grants, develop communication and ticketing methods, and logistically plan and host artists from all over the world.

<https://www.geevaartsfestival.com>

DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER

***Violet*, March 2022**

Assistant Director; Mainstage musical at the Ohio State University

***Raasa Dhirana*, July 2021**

Director, Co-Choreographer (Style: Bharatanatyam) Created for the company dancer-actors of Guru Vandana Arts Academy in Louisville, KY

***The Bhava Cycle*, April 2021**

Director/Writer; A song cycle that combines research into ancient Indian aesthetics (Bhava-Rasa Theory) and musical modes (Carnatic Ragas) with contemporary musical theatre and are built with the intention of inciting emotional response in the audience member.

***Ramayana*, February 2020**

Director; The greatest of Indian epics, telling the story of valor, loyalty, and love. Created for the company dancer-actors of Guru Vandana Arts Academy in Louisville, KY

***Dhol! A Dance Extravaganza*, December 2019**

Choreographer (style: Bollywood)

Shringara: An Indian music-theatre Retelling of Love, June 2019

Director / Choreographer (Style: Bharatanatyam); Three women express the layers of *Rasa*, or emotion, through haunting poetry, ancient movement, and ever-lasting songs compiled from the repertoire of Musical theatre and traditional South Indian music. Developed at Western Kentucky University premiered in Louisville KY.

***Vaigai Express: A Trip to Madurai!*, February 2019, Guru Vandana Arts Academy, Louisville, KY**

Director/Co-Choreographer (style: Bharatanatyam)

The First Breath, March 2018

Co-Director / Choreographer (style: Indian Contemporary); A call to arms that combines battle-oriented literature from various cultures and time periods through spoken word and movement. Developed at Western Kentucky University premiered in Louisville KY.

Nagapazham, December 2018

Writer-Performer, Solo show about childhood memories left behind, ocean journeys, and citizenship.

Syzygy, December 2018

Co-choreographer (style: Tap, Indian Contemporary)

Jhansi Ki Rani, October 2018

Writer-Performer, Historical solo show on the Queen of Jhansi (1828 - 1858)

My Silk Skin, May 2017

Choreographer (style: Indian Contemporary)

Alaripu, December 2016

Choreographer (style: Bharatanatyam)

Jagadhananda Kaaraka, July 2016

Choreographer (style: Bharatanatyam)

COMPOSER

The Bhava Cycle, April 2021

Director/Writer; A song cycle that combines research into ancient Indian aesthetics (Bhava-Rasa Theory) and musical modes (Carnatic Ragas) with contemporary musical theatre and are built with the intention of inciting emotional response in the audience member.

Kandanaal Mudalai, April 2019

Arranged traditional Indian melody with western harmonic structures. Performed as part of *Shringara: An Indian Music Theatre Retelling of Love*

Harmony, May 2016, Interfaith Peace Conference, Louisville, KY

Composer (Style: American Folk)

TEACHING

Intro to Theatre Course, 2021 - 2022, the Ohio State University

Graduate Teaching Associate for four sections of this course.

Dance In Culture Guest Lecturer, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 WKU

Teaching included lecture on Indian classical dance history

Carnatic Classical Voice Classes, 2016 - present, Louisville, KY

Teaching includes beginner to intermediate classes online and in person.

Guru Vandana Arts Academy, 2014 to to present, Louisville, KY

Teaching includes beginner to intermediate Bharatanatyam lessons

Artist-in-Residence at South Central Regional Library, August 2019, Louisville, KY

Teaching included workshops on Indian dance, theatre, and music

Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana, 2018/2019, Bowling Green, KY

Teaching included Musical Theatre and Bollywood dance workshops to various ages

National Dance Education Organization Masterclass, 2017, WKU

Teaching included masterclass on Indian semi-classical dance

CONFERENCES / PRESENTATIONS

Association for Theatre Higher Education (ATHE), August 2021, Virtual

Topic: The Utility of Bhava-Rasa Theory in Contemporary Musical Theatre

National Young Artists Summit, October 2020, Virtual

Topic: "The Sun we see Together," a choreographic presentation

South Eastern Theatre Conference, February 2020, Louisville

Topic: Storytelling in Indian Classical Dance-Theatre

Outreach Presentation, 2019, South Central Regional Library

Topic: Relevance of the Indian classical art in America

Research Experiences and Creative Heights Conference, 2018, WKU

Topic: "Storytelling in Indian music-theatre vs. American music-theatre." Research collected through a year long study funded through a Faculty Undergraduate Student Engagement Grant

GRANTS

Faculty Undergraduate Student Engagement Grant, March 2017, Bangalore, India

Awarded funds from Western Kentucky University to travel to India for five weeks and study Sanskrit, Indian Rhythmic techniques, Indian Classical Voice, and Indian Classical Dance. Culminated in the creation of *The First Breath* and *Shringara: An Indian Music Theatre Retelling of Love*.

Life-time Experience Grant, July 2019, WKU

Awarded funds from Western Kentucky University to travel to California to take part in Bharatanatyam workshops

AWARDS / SCHOLARSHIPS / FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate Fellowship, August 2020 - August 2021, the Ohio State University

Full sponsorship of one year of graduate education at the Ohio State University

IndianRaga Fellow, July 2019, San Diego, CA

Bharatanatyam dance Fellow; Collaborated with artists from all over the world to create state of the art videos

Outstanding New Student Award, May 2017, WKU

For academic achievement and involvement in the Department of Theatre & Dance

Cornelius A. Martin Award, August 2016, WKU

For achievement demonstrated through previous academic history

Producer's Scholarship, May 2016, Youth Performing Arts School

For academic achievement and involvement at the Youth Performing Arts School

MEDIA / INTERVIEWS *Clips Available at www.shyamaiyer.com*

"Louisville Library's Collider Residency Features Indian Classical Dancer Shyama Iyer" August 2019

Aired on WFPL NewsLouisville

"East Meets West" October 2018, Bowling Green, KY

Published in *Bowling Green Living*

"Shyama Iyer's experience in American and Indian music" March 2018, Bangalore, India

Aired on *All India Radio* throughout the state of Karnataka

SERVICE

Performance Studies Working Group, 2021 - 2022

Secretary

Organize presentations, workshops, and community activities for the Ohio State Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts

Graduate Syndicate, 2021 - 2022

Secretary

Organize the annual colloquium, guest workshops, and conduct fundraisers for the Ohio State Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts

Fundraiser for COVID-19 Relief Fund, January 2021

Bharathanatyam dance concert on Facebook Live that raised funds for a COVID-19 Relief fund. The community helped me raise a little over \$1000.

Potter College of Arts and Letters Dean's Council of Students, 2017 - 2020

Events and Recruitment Chair

Assist College departments and faculty at open houses, college fairs, orientation programs, facilities tours; Organize and participate in College events; Assist with Cultural Enhancement Series; Serve as a peer mentor to students

Alpha Psi Omega Mu Lambda Cast, 2017 - present

Participate in hosting events, fundraisers, scholarships, community activities, cabarets, and banquets for the theatre and dance students of Western Kentucky University as part of the National Theatre Honor Society

Performance In Color, 2019/ 2020

Produce and organize a showcase to promote diversity in the Department of Theatre & Dance at Western Kentucky University

Theatre & Dance Podcast, 2017

Co-host

Plan, produce, and publish a weekly podcast about the activities of the WKU Department of Theatre & Dance

Interfaith Louisville, 2014 - 2018

Volunteered, spoke, and performed at various events to promote religious awareness, cultural understanding, and peace in the Louisville community

Lincoln Elementary School, 2016

Conducted free Indian dance workshop and informal performance for 3rd to 5th graders

Down Syndrome of Louisville, 2016

Taught excerpts from *Hairspray* and organized a performance for participants

Gilda's Club Cancer Research Institute, 2015

Organized and performed a benefit show to raise awareness and money for the organization

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Selected Theatre Experience

<i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i>	Janet	March 2020 (Rehearsed till Tech)
<i>Bowling for Beginners</i>	Ellen	August 2019
<i>The Liars' Bench (Workshop)</i>	Olive	October 2019
<i>Hair</i>	Ronnie	November 2018
<i>9 to 5: The Musical</i>	Ensemble	April 2018
<i>Legally Blonde</i>	Vivienne	April 2018
<i>The Magic Tower</i>	Linda	March 2018
<i>What's Your Damage</i>	McNamara	November 2017
<i>Mother Courage and Her Children</i>	Katrin	November 2017
<i>Hello From Bertha</i>	Lena	April 2017
<i>One For the Road</i>	Nicky	March 2017
<i>West Side Story</i>	Teresita	October 2016
<i>Once on This Island</i>	Storyteller	Commonwealth Theatre Center
<i>The Jungal Book</i>	Mowgli	CenterStage/Central Park

Contemporary, Tap, Jazz Dance Experience

Last Chance to Dance	Solo Contemporary	December 2018
Last Chance to Dance	Contemporary	May 2018
Evening of Dance	Tap Ensemble	May 2017
Dance Project	Solo Contemporary	February 2017

Selected Bharatanatyam (South Indian Classical Dance) Experience

<i>Solo Recital</i>	August 2021	Krishna Geetham Performing Arts, Bay Area, CA
<i>Raasa Dhirana</i>	July 2021	Geeva Heritage Festival, Louisville, KY
<i>Nannu Brovu Lalitha</i>	June 2020	Geeva Heritage Festival, Louisville, KY
<i>Kabali</i>	July 2019	Geeva Heritage Festival, Louisville, KY
<i>Vaigai Express: A Trip to Madurai</i>	April 2019	St. Louis Indian Dance Festival, St. Louis, MO
<i>Anveshana Finding Guru</i>	July 2018	Geeva Heritage Festival, Louisville, KY
<i>KrishnaLeela</i>	December 2017	Sangeetha Sambhrama, Bangalore, India
<i>Solo Performance</i>	September 2017	International Festival, Bowling Green, KY
<i>Kanakanjali</i>	August 2017	Hindu Temple of KY, Louisville, KY
<i>Dharpan: Mirror Mirror</i>	July 2017	Guru Vandana Arts Academy, Louisville, KY
<i>Ramanuja</i>	February 2017	Geeva Heritage Festival, Louisville, KY
<i>Kubja: Hunchback of Mathura</i>	July 2017	Guru Vandana Arts Academy, Louisville, KY
<i>Harikatha</i>	January 2016	KFC Yum Center, Louisville, KY
H.H. Dalai Lama Opening Act	November 2016	Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana, Cleveland, OH
Solo Competitor	November 2015	Louisville, KY
<i>Arangetram: The Solo Debut</i>	August 2013	

Selected Carnatic Music Experience

<i>Solo Concert</i>	August 2019	Hindu Temple, Louisville, KY
<i>Solo Concert</i>	January 2018	Nirantaram Festival, Bangalore, India
<i>Arangetram: The Solo Concert</i>	July 2013	Ursuline Arts Center, Louisville, KY
<i>Solo Competitor</i>	April 2014	Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana, Cleveland, OH
<i>Solo Competitor</i>	March 2013	Papanasam Shivam Competitions, Detroit, MI

WORKSHOPS (attended)

- Dr. Prathiba Prahalad - Bhava (Indian Acting) Masterclass, October 2020
- Jeremy Benton - Tap Masterclass, November 2019
- Dr. Haleem Khan - *Kuchupudi* Dance Workshop, August 2019
- Pallavi Degwekar Shaikh - *Kathak* Dance Workshop, July 2019
- Sudha Chandrasekhar - *Bharatanatyam* Dance Workshop, July 2019
- Dr. Julie Lyn Barber and Dr. Amelia Rollings - Voice Masterclasses, 2016 - 2019
- Caitlin Abraham - Musical Theatre Jazz Class, February 2018
- Bob Shryock, Accademia Dell'Arte - Physical Theatre Workshop, October 2018
- Madhulita Mohapatra - *Odissi* Dance Workshop, July 2018
- Keith Fitzpatrick - Urban Hip Hop Masterclass, September 2017
- Matt Farmer - Jazz Masterclass, February 2017

REFERENCES

Dr. Stratos Constantinidis

The Ohio State Department of Theatre, Film and Media Arts; Advisor
Columbus, OH
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Dr. Julie Lyn Barber

WKU Department of Theatre & Dance; Assistant Professor and Research Mentor
Bowling Green, KY
julie.lyn.barber@wku.edu

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Dr. David Young

WKU Department of Theatre & Dance; Department Head and Professor in Acting

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Dr. Pusthakam Ramaa

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