

Shabari Rao

Educator and Artist

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Formal Higher Education

PhD Scholar (2021 – Present) CETE, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

Master of Arts in Education (Dance) with Distinction (2016) Royal Academy of Dance, London

Professional Diploma in Dance Studies (2005) Trinity Laban Conservatoire for Music and Dance, London

BA Degree in Choreography (2003) Natya Institute of Kathak and Choreography, Bangalore

Teaching and Curriculum Development

(2021 – 2022) Assistant Professor: RV University, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Responsibilities included designing a four-year undergraduate performing arts programme, designing and delivering courses in performing arts.

(2021) Designer and Lead Faculty: Bheetar Bahar

A four-month online programme that used mental health tools to enable artists to process internal struggle brought about by the pandemic. This was supported by the Goethe Institute, Bangalore.

(2020–2021) Performing arts faculty: Pramiti School, Bangalore.

Responsibilities included designing and teaching online classes in Creative Dance and Physical Theater, student assessment.

(2013 – 2020) Part-Time Faculty member: Srishti Institute of Art Design and Technology, Bangalore.

Responsibilities included designing and delivering courses at the undergraduate and post-graduate level, designing curricula for the BDes in Creative Education, teaching on various teacher education programs initiated by CERTAD.

(2013 – Present) Visiting Faculty and Art Education Consultant: Azim Premji University, Bangalore.

Responsibilities included designing and leading faculty workshops in Embodied Learning, partnering with faculty to incorporate embodied pedagogies in their teaching, designing the Creative Expressions programme.

(2010 – 2011) Curriculum developer: Birla Edutech Limited, Mumbai

Created performing arts curriculum for primary schools.

(2010) Course developer: Azim Premji Foundation, Bangalore

Designed Performing Arts curriculum for trainee teachers at the Azim Premji University.

(2008 – 2010) Performing Arts Teacher: Centre for Learning, Bangalore

(2008) Performing Arts Curriculum Developer: The Teacher Foundation, Bangalore

(2006 – 2008) Dance Educator and Assistant Project Manager: Greenwich Dance Agency, London

(1999 – 2004) Dance Teacher: Natya Stem Dance Ensemble, Bangalore

Research and Publications

- (2022) Education Lab: Transmission and sharing of knowledge in dance and performance
Tanzquartier Wien, Vienna
- (2021) Enabling the Ongoing Life of Therapeutic Theatre: A Case Study of Positively Shameless,
Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism
- (2021) Decolonizing Performance Pedagogy: a position paper from Bangalore, South India
Performance Research, special edition Training Utopias
- (2020) Nothing to Show (video article)
Journal of Embodied Research, special edition on Embodiment and Social Distancing
- (2019) BodyMine: an exploration of autoethnographic performance as research
Focus on Education, Royal Academy of Dance, UK
- (2019) Still Standing 2: an experimental video essay as embodied research
Indent – Body and the Performative
- (2017) Performance, revelation and resistance: Interweaving the artistic and the therapeutic in devised theatre
Indian Theatre Journal
- (2017) Reflection on Dance as Embodied Practice
Focus on Education, Royal Academy of Dance, UK.
- (2016) Choreographic Portrait: Tilt Pause Shift
- (2015) Extending Boundaries: Embedding peer feedback in an Indian dance education context
Focus on Education, Royal Academy of Dance UK
- (2009) Seeking Out a New Role for Dance: *Journal of the Krishnamurti Schools*

Performance (Highlights)

- (2022) Artistic Director: Still Standing 4
a durational, participatory performance, commissioned by Hello!Earth, Copenhagen and premiered at the Live Art Festival, Cape Town
- (2019) Director and Performer: Open and Shut
a one-woman show that explores issues of sexual violence and impunity from the perspective of a senior woman police officer. Commissioned by Zubaan Books, supported by Goethe Institute, New Delhi.
- (2018) Director: Still Standing 1
an experimental performance that explored the embodied experience of stillness. Supported by Srishti Institute of Art Design and Technology.
- (2018) Director: Head 2 Head
a play with an ensemble of plus sized actors. Performed at Nepal International Theatre Festival (Kathmandu) and Old World Theatre Festival, (New Delhi).
- (2017) Director and Performer: BodyMine
a solo Dance/Theatre performance that explores the tension between the body as limitation and abundance. Performed at the annual conference International Federation for Theatre Research, (Shanghai), JNU and SNU (New Delhi).
- (2016) Co-director: Positively Shameless
A play that weaves together therapeutic and artistic work to investigate Child Sexual Abuse. Toured New Delhi and Hyderabad (2017), presented at the annual conference of North American Drama Therapists Association (2018), invited as artists in residence to NYU (2020)
- (2015) Co-Director: Keep Calm and #ashtag
a play for young audiences that investigates the creation of gender identities in virtual and live spaces. Supported by Goethe Institute, Mumbai and Theatre Professionals, Mumbai