

CHANAKYA VYAS

Theatremaker | Filmmaker | Educator

Career Summary

Multidisciplinary creative professional with 10+ years of experience in theatre-making and education. Emerging filmmaker with national and international festival selections and a proven track record in leading creative teams, designing actor training programs, and producing original work. Experienced in ideation, research, writing, directing, and understanding of end-to-end production. Deeply committed to mentoring young creatives and fostering a collaborative approach to projects.

Key Skills

- Creative Direction & Team Leadership
- Scriptwriting, Research & Story Development (Theatre & Film)
- Acting Workshop Design & Facilitation
- Adobe Premiere Pro and Da Vinci Resolve
- Curriculum Development & Pedagogy
- Devised Theatre & Collaborative Creation

Filmmaking

Short Film: *LOO*

- First Prize, Karnataka Competition – Bengaluru International Short Film Festival (2023)
- Best Writing Award – Round the Frame Short Film Festival (2024)
- Official Selection – New York Indian Film Festival, IDSFFK Madurai
- NFDC Film Bazaar Recommends Viewing Room

Short Film: *Mangya*

- Filmed entirely on iPhone as part of the MAMI Select Filmed on iPhone grant 2025.
- Selected for *MAMI Select: Filmed on iPhone* under the mentorship of Konkona Sen Sharma
- Coming-of-age Marathi drama with emphasis on visual storytelling and narrative drama.

Academic Qualifications & Certifications

- **Prague Film School**, 2022 – One-month Filmmaking Intensive
- **London International School of Performing Arts** – Devised Theatre & Performance Making, 2014-2015
- **Royal Court Theatre, UK** – Playwriting Workshop with Carl Miller. 2021
- **Srishti Institute of Art, Design & Tech – Oral History Certificate Course**, 2013-14
- **Bachelor of Engineering (E&TC)**, VTU-Belgaum, 2003-2008.

Professional Work Experience

Independent Filmmaker, Writer & Actor trainer

- Wrote and directed a short film titled *Mangya*, selected for the MAMI Select Filmed on iPhone grant and mentored by Konkona Sen Sharma, showcasing innovation in mobile filmmaking and storytelling.
- Worked as an Acting Coach and Associate Director on a music video project for Ricky Kej, directed by Sairam Sagiraju for Meraki Labs.
- Currently working on an independent student short film with an alumnus of London Film School, designing a two-day acting workshop and serving as on-set acting coach support for young adults(non-professional actors) in the film.

Visiting Faculty & Course Leader – Residential Program
Drama School Mumbai | Oct 2023 – Jan 2025

- Designed and led a year-long intensive program in acting and devising, integrating practical and theoretical training for young and emerging actors and creators.
- Led the design lab, which oversees original student work, guiding them from ideation to final performance.
- Designed & taught a theoretical course on the social, political and historical context of Indian theatre for the Drama School Mumbai.

Artistic Director
Indian Ensemble, Bangalore | Apr 2018 – Jul 2022

- Directed full-length theatre productions, focusing on underrepresented narratives with strong emotional arcs.
- Incubated emerging playwrights and directors via workshops and labs, building the creative ecosystem in theatre.
- Partnered with institutions for grants and outreach (e.g., India Foundation for the Arts, British Council, Science Gallery Bengaluru), and drove mission-aligned projects.

Faculty, Theatre Department
Head Start Educational Academy, June 2015- April 2022

- Co-designed and facilitated theatre pedagogy for training programs for middle and high school students.
- Conducted teacher training programs to integrate drama-based learning methods in academic subjects.
- Devised and directed three original annual student productions, working with children aged 7-13.

Awards & Grants

Charles Wallace India Trust Award (British Council, 2014): Fully-funded scholarship to study Devised Theatre & Performance at the London International School of Performing Arts, UK.

Project 560 Grant (India Foundation for the Arts, 2020–21): Supported a community arts initiative engaging residents of local neighbourhoods by designing a board game around the revival of a lost lake, which enables collective thinking.

Science Gallery Bengaluru (2022): Commissioned for *HAMLETS Live* – an interactive digital performance based on the soliloquies from William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, presented as part of the PSYCHE exhibition.

Contact & Personal Details

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Languages: English (professional), Hindi (professional), Gujarati (native proficiency), Tamil, Marathi and Kannada (limited working fluency).