

AHON GOOPTU

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EDUCATION

- 2023 M.A. in Theatre and Performance Research
Florida State University
- 2021 B.A. with honors in Theatre and English, concentration in Technology Studies
Grinnell College
- 2019 Fall 2019 cohort at National Theater Institute
Eugene O'Neill Theater Center
Including a two-week residency with Complicité in London, UK
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PUBLICATIONS

Book chapters

- 2022 "Mapping the Global Absent in Shakespeare," co-authored with John S. Garrison, in *Shakespeare and Digital Pedagogy: Strategies for Teaching and Learning*, ed. Diana Henderson and Kyle Vitale
Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare

Plays

- 2021 *All That Glistens: Four Short Plays*
Grinnell College Press
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HONORS & AWARDS

- 2022 Semi-Finalist Playwright for Amplify: Series Two
Definition Theatre, Chicago
- 2021 Sandy Moffett Award for Practice in Theatre and Dance
Grinnell College
- 2021 Barbara McClenon Clark One-Act Playwriting Competition (Winner)
Grinnell College
- 2021 Scott-Noun Prize for Racial Justice (Honorable Mention)
Grinnell College
- 2020 Barbara McClenon Clark One-Act Playwriting Competition (Runner-up)
Grinnell College
- 2018 Pedagogical Development Grant
Digital Bridges for Humanistic Inquiry: A Grinnell College/University of Iowa Partnership
Co-recipient with John S. Garrison
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CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 “Mapping Absence in Shakespeare”
Digital Showcase at the Shakespeare Association of America, Washington, D.C.
- 2019 “Mapping Absence in Shakespeare”
Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Symposium, Grinnell College
- 2018 “Mapping Absence in Shakespeare”
Digital Tech Conference, Grinnell College
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Introduction to Theatre for Nonmajors (Fall 2021, Spring 2022) at Florida State University
This 600-student course introduces non-majors to the Western theatrical tradition and meets the Liberal Studies Humanities core requirement for the state of Florida. As a graduate teaching assistant, I was responsible for 110 of these students.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2018—2020 Lead Student Developer of *Mapping Absence in Shakespeare*
Digital Bridges for Humanistic Inquiry Project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Vivero Digital Scholarship Fellowship, Grinnell College
Grinnell, IA
Created an online pedagogy tool, using ArcGIS, mapping the global absent in Shakespeare’s 40 plays (Collaborators: Dr. John Garrison and Dr. Katherine Walden).
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INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

- Committee Member, Theatre and Dance Student Educational Policy Committee, Grinnell College 2018—2021
Interviewed applicants for new faculty hires, conducted reviews of current faculty for promotions and tenure, organized alumni panels for current students, and participated in implementing new policies.
- Committee Member, English Student Educational Policy Committee, Grinnell College 2018—2021
Interviewed applicants for new faculty hires, conducted reviews of current faculty for promotions and tenure, contested the foreign language requirement for multilingual international English majors.
- Secretary, International Student Organization, Grinnell College 2018—2019
Maintained a record of all cabinet and general meetings, archived all event materials, and coordinated with administrative staff and students to organize campus-wide cultural events.
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PROFESSIONAL THEATRE EXPERIENCE

- 2022 Festival Co-Director and Playwright
24-on-29: A Virtual 24-Hour Theatre Festival Celebrating Chekhov
Make/Shift Theatre Company
Waterville, Maine
Organized virtual performances of staged readings for six new works written and rehearsed in 24 hours by playwrights, directors, and actors across the US and internationally.

- 2021 Script Reader
The Reminder Plays Project
Philadelphia, PA
Evaluated the eligibility of the submissions to create a new database for plays centering queer narratives, written by queer-identifying playwrights in the Philadelphia area.
- 2021 Research Assistant
Pickle Factory Dance Foundation
Kolkata, India
Collated a pan-Indian dance and theatre database for Performing Arts Hub Norway (PAHN) by conducting interviews with notable artists and producers to collect information about theatre resources in India.
- 2020 Education Intern
Steppenwolf Theatre Company
Chicago, IL
Researched and wrote the production study guide for *Animal Farm* that reached 20,000+ students worldwide while also developing and designing marketing collateral, and organizing and facilitating virtual Young Adult Council events.
- 2019 Musical Theatre Teaching Intern/Dance Captain
Taproot Theatre Company
Seattle, WA
Shadowed summer musical theatre studio director and served as assistant director for six shows.
- 2019 Assistant Scenic and Projections Designer
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time
Farmers Alley Theatre
Kalamazoo, MI
Assisted Justin Thomas with the artwork for the show, most of which made it on to the final set and projections.

MEDIA COVERAGE — selected

- 2022 “Inaugural Sandy Moffett Award recipient soars in *Taramandal! Ek Naya Safar*” (Review)
The Scarlet & Black
<http://www.thesandb.com/article/inaugural-sandy-moffett-award-recipient-soars-in-taramandal-ek-naya-safar.html>
- 2021 “Staging a life in theatre”
The Campaign for Grinnell College
<https://campaign.grinnell.edu/our-stories/ahon>
- 2021 “The Pivot”
The Grinnell Magazine
<https://magazine.grinnell.edu/news/pivot>
- 2020 “Art that speaks to the moment: Grinnell College presents Sarah Ruhk’s *Eurydice*”
The Scarlet & Black
<http://www.thesandb.com/article/art-that-speaks-to-the-moment.html>

- 2019 “Tech and talent immerse audience in Farmers Alley’s ‘Curious Incident’” (Review)
Encore Michigan
<https://www.encoremichigan.com/2019/03/tech-and-talent-immersed-audience-in-farmers-alleys-curious-incident/>
- 2019 Students bring diversity to the stage in “East, West”
The Scarlet & Black
<http://www.thesandb.com/article/students-bring-diversity-to-the-stage-in-east-west.html>
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ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2018—2021 Senior Interviewer/Administrative Assistant/Campus Tour Guide, Office of Admissions,
Grinnell College
Conducted student interviews, drafted write-ups, led information sessions, and brainstormed and curated content for social media to recruit students during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2020—2021 Class Senator, Grinnell College Student Government Association
Participated in committees on COVID-19 safety, student transportation during the pandemic, technology, green solutions, campus lighting, and planning a new downtown residence hall.
- 2018 & 2021 Teacher’s Assistant, Grinnell College Preschool
Assisted with daily classroom responsibilities and engaged preschoolers through activities.
- 2018—2020 House Manager/Box Office Staff, Theatre and Dance Department, Grinnell College
Served as house manager and on box office staff.
- 2017—2018 Freelance Reporter, The Scarlet & Black, Grinnell College
Published 20 articles on news, arts, sports, special features, and the Grinnell community.
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PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Social media, website creation, poster design, WordFly, Wufoo, WordPress, iMovie, Canva, ArcGIS, QLab, Adobe Photoshop, SketchUp, Episerver

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Acting (see below)
Playwriting (see below)
Theatre devising (see below)
Fitzmaurice Voicework technique (beginner-level), trained under Craig MacArthur Dolezel
Singing (tenor, F2-A4), trained under Nicholas Miguel, Ph.D. and Anne Tofflemire
Droznin, trained under Rachel Jett
Unarmed stage combat, trained under Mitch McCoy
Piano (intermediate-level training)
Bollywood movement
Indian classical dance theatre

LANGUAGES

Bengali	native fluent-speaking and reading and knowledge
Hindi	conversational-speaking and reading knowledge
Urdu	conversational-speaking knowledge
French	beginner-level speaking and reading knowledge

ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE – selected**ACTING**

Notable instructors: Forrest McClendon, Susan Blackwell, Matt Newton, Addie Gorlin

<i>As You Like It</i>	Jaques	Florida State University (dir. Fred Chappell), 2022
<i>AMEND (Midsummer)</i>	Demetrius	Florida State University (dir. Rouba Palmer), 2021
<i>Torch Song Trilogy (Int'l Stud)</i>	Ed	Grinnell College (dir. Audrey Boyle), 2021
<i>Eurydice</i>	Lord of the Underworld	Grinnell College (dir. Irma Mayorga), 2020
<i>Slow Jam</i>	Charlie	The Kennedy Center (dir. Zacharee Sims), 2020
<i>Spring Awakening</i>	Hanschen	Grinnell College (dir. Nolan Boggess), 2019
<i>The Seagull</i> (selections)	Konstantin	National Theater Institute (dir. Blake L.), 2019
<i>Echoes</i> (selections)	The Person	Taproot Theatre (dir. Anna Doepf), 2019
<i>Almost, Maine</i> (selections)	Lendall	Taproot Theatre (dir. James Faley), 2019
<i>Image of an Unknown...</i>	Ali	Grinnell College (dir. Lesley Delmenico), 2018
<i>The Universal Language</i>	Don	Living Room Theatre (dir. Sooji Son), 2017

World premieres:

<i>Taramandal! Ek Naya Safar</i>	Anish	Independent (devised + dir. Ahon Gooptu), 2022
<i>STI: The Musical!</i>	Derrick/Noah	Independent (dir. Conner Stanfield), 2020
<i>Three Men in a Boat + Monty</i>	Monty	Red Curtain Int'l (dir. Anastasia Damani), 2020
<i>Night Strings</i>	Ensemble	National Theater Institute (devised), 2019
<i>Not a Moment</i>	One-person show	Grinnell College (self-devised), 2018
<i>Don't Say 'No,' Adrija!</i>	Mohan Joshi/Ensemble	Kokoro Enterprises (dir. Anindita Banerji), 2016

PLAYWRITING AND DEvised WORK

Mentors: Irma Mayorga, Ph.D. and Ren Dara Santiago

Notable instructors: Celine Song, Cori Thomas, Donna DiNovelli, Caridad Svich

Full-length

<i>Seasons of Love</i>	Staged Reading	Definition Theatre	2022
<i>Unwanted</i>			2020

One-acts and short plays

<i>at the end of the tunnel</i>	Staged Reading	Grinnell College	2022
<i>Subject for a Short Story</i>	Staged Reading	Make/Shift Theatre Company	2022
<i>Labor Day</i>	Staged Reading	National Theater Institute	2019
<i>Not a Moment[#]</i>	Performance	Grinnell College	2018
<i>Looking For</i>			2021
<i>Arsenic and Wet Lace</i>			2021

DIRECTING / DESIGN / PRODUCTION

<i>The Curious Incident...</i>	Asst. Scenic/Projections Designer	Farmers Alley Theatre	2019
<i>The Courter</i>	Director	Grinnell College	2019
<i>Finger Food</i>	Director	Grinnell College	2018
<i>soft lights for sleepless nights</i>	Stage Manager	Grinnell College	2018

<i>I Shall Not Hate</i> (on tour)	Run Crew	Mosaic Theatre Co.	2018
<i>Amrita Dhara</i>	Co-director	Silver Point School	2017
<i>Nice Fish</i>	Assistant Director/Run Crew	Grinnell College	2017