

# AHON GOOPTU

---

[www.ahongooptu.com](http://www.ahongooptu.com)

641-831-2378

[ahongooptu@gmail.com](mailto:ahongooptu@gmail.com)

---

## EDUCATION

M.A. in Theatre Florida State University <i>Thesis</i> — Perform to Belong: New Affective In-Betweens for Transnational Minorities <i>Committee</i> — Aaron C. Thomas (chair), Irvin M. Gonzalez, Chari Aresapacochaga	2023
B.A. with honors in Theatre and English, concentration in Technology Studies Grinnell College	2021
National Theater Institute semester Eugene O’Neill Theater Center; certificate administered under Connecticut College	2019

---

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book chapters

- Gooptu, Ahon. “*The Hungry Women: Performing Gendered and Familial Desire in Titus Andronicus.*” In *Shakespeare Adaptations on the Indian Screen*, edited by Nishi Pulugurtha (solicited by Bloomsbury; expected 2023).
- Garrison, John S. and Ahon Gooptu. “Mapping the Global Absent in Shakespeare.” In *Shakespeare and Digital Pedagogy: Strategies for Teaching and Learning*, edited by Diana Henderson and Kyle Vitale, 185-197. London: Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare, 2022.

### Plays

- Gooptu, Ahon. *All That Glistens: Four Short Plays*. Grinnell, IA: Grinnell College Press, Spring 2021.
- 

## HONORS & AWARDS

Festival Selection, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Twenty by Twenty Fringe, Lime Arts Productions	2023
Shortlisted Semifinalist Playwright, 46 <sup>th</sup> Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Playwrights Foundation	2023
Shortlisted Finalist Playwright, Amplify Series Two, Definition Theatre	2022
Recipient, Alumni Excellence Award, Grinnell College	2022
Winner, Sandy Moffett Award for Practice in Theatre and Dance, Grinnell College	2021
Winner, Barbara McClenon Clark One-Act Playwriting Competition, Grinnell College	2021
Honorable Mention, Scott-Noun Prize for Racial Justice, Grinnell College	2021
Runner-up, Barbara McClenon Clark One-Act Playwriting Competition, Grinnell College	2021
Fellow, Vivero Digital Scholarship Fellowship, Grinnell College	2018, 2019
Co-recipient, Mellon-funded Pedagogical Development Grant, Digital Bridges for Humanistic Inquiry	2018

---

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Embodying Transnational and Intergenerational Affect in *Ms. Marvel*.” Emerging Scholars Symposium (Graduate Panel) at the Mid-America Theatre Conference, Minneapolis, MN. March 2023.  
*Subject for a Short Story*. Playwriting Symposium at the Mid-America Theatre Conference, Minneapolis, MN. March 2023.
- “Nowhere Nation: Cruising Citizenship and Performing Brown Queerness.” Beyond Binaries: Fieldnotes from Queer South Asia Panel at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI. October 2022.
- “Mapping Absence in Shakespeare.” Digital Showcase at the Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Washington, D.C. April 2019.
- “Mapping Absence in Shakespeare.” Digital Tech Conference, Grinnell, IA. December 2018.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Teaching Assistant, World Theatre History II, Florida State University                | Spring 2023            |
| Guest Artist/Lecturer, World Theatre Practice, Florida State University               | Fall 2022              |
| Teaching Assistant, World Theatre History I, Florida State University                 | Fall 2022              |
| Teaching Assistant, Intro to Theatre for Nonmajors (Online), Florida State University | Fall 2021, Spring 2022 |

## GUEST LECTURES

- “Tidal Shifts in the Theatre Post World War I.” World Theatre History II, Florida State University. Spring 2023.
- “Serfdom, Moscow Art Theatre, Chekhov.” World Theatre History II, Florida State University. Spring 2023.
- “Shakespeare and Midsummer.” World Theatre History I, Florida State University. Fall 2022.
- “New Work Development in Contemporary India.” World Theatre Practice, Florida State University. Fall 2022.
- “Classical Indian Theatre.” World Theatre History I, Florida State University. Fall 2022.

## INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

- Inclusion Officer & Liaison to Field Conversations Organizers, Graduate Student Caucus Cabinet, American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) 2023—Present  
 Implementing new strategies to increase representation from underrepresented communities at the annual ASTR conference and within the field of theatre and performance studies at large; serving as the graduate student body representative to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion in field conversations.
- Program Representative, School of Theatre Student Advisory Council, Florida State University 2022—2023  
 Serving as a liaison between the students and the administrative heads of the School of Theatre and collaborating with other program representatives to implement new student policies.
- Class Senator, Student Government Association, Grinnell College 2020—2021  
 Participated in committees on COVID-19 safety, student transportation during the pandemic, technology, green solutions, campus lighting, and planning a new downtown residence hall.
- 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.

---

## ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

### Professional Nonprofit Theatre

Associate and Research Assistant 2021—Present  
 Pickle Factory Dance Foundation Kolkata, India  
 Assisting with programming to reimagine the live performance experience in India by responding to the lack of unified funding and infrastructure across the country; commissioned by Performing Arts Hub Norway to collate the first-ever pan-Indian dance and theatre database.

Education Intern 2020  
 Steppenwolf Theatre Company Chicago, IL  
 Researched and wrote the production study guide for *Animal Farm* (reached 20,000+ students globally); designed all marketing material; organized and facilitated virtual Young Adult Council events.

Musical Theatre Teaching Intern and Dance Captain 2019  
 Taproot Theatre Company Seattle, WA  
 Shadowed summer musical theatre studio director and served as assistant director for six shows.

### Independent Theatre

Artistic Associate 2022—Present  
 Make/Shift Theatre Company Waterville, ME/Boston, MA  
 Programming to facilitate transnational interdisciplinary collaborations; organizing and curating our two flagship events, weekend-long *24-on-29: Chekhov Fest* and month-long *If I Had Things My Way: Pride Fest*.

Co-Founder and Managing Producer 2022—2023  
 Side B Society Tallahassee, FL  
 Led fundraising campaigns with 15 local establishments; managed all internal communication with 75+ featured artists; wrote and proofread all external communication; designed all program brochures for digital and print circulation; developed and produced 10 shows, including 6 new works and a new play showcase that highlighted narratives that do not get told on the Florida State University mainstage and in the greater Tallahassee area.

Script Reader 2021  
 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.

**Selected Theatremaking**

\* denotes world premiere

**ACTING**

Notable instructors: Forrest McClendon, Susan Blackwell, Addie Gorlin (stage); Matt Newton (TV)

<i>The Last Days of Judas Iscariot</i>	Yusef El-Fayoumy	Side B Society (dir. Meghan Nelson)	2023
* <i>The Weight of Memory</i>	Siobhan/Silvi	Make/Shift Theatre Co. (dir. Lily Webb)	2023
<i>Cancel Me</i>	King Asshole	Side B Society (dir. Meghan Nelson)	2022
<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>STI: The Musical!</i>	Derrick/Noah	Commissioned (dir. Conner Stanfield)	2020
<i>Slow Jam</i>	Charlie	The Kennedy Center (dir. Zach Simms)	2020
* <i>Three Men in a Boat + Monty</i>	Monty	Red Curtain Int'l (dir. Anastasia Damani)	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 Doepp)	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
* <i>Don't Say 'No,' Adrija!</i>	Mohan Joshi	Kokoro Enterprises (dir. Anindita Banerji)	2017

**DEVISING**

* <i>Looking For</i>	Playwright/Actor	Florida State Fringe	2023
* <i>A Darling Femininomenon</i>	Choreographer/Drag Performer	Side B Soirée	2023
* <i>I Am Fire</i>	Playwright/Dancer	Independent	2022
* <i>Taramandal! Ek Naya Safar</i>	Facilitator/Co-Playwright/Director/Actor	Commissioned	2022
* <i>Night Strings</i>	Collaborator/Co-Playwright/Actor	National Theater Institute	2019
* <i>Vibe Check!</i>	Facilitator/Director	National Theater Institute	2019
* <i>Desi Divas: Double Trouble</i>	Facilitator/Choreographer/Drag Performer	Grinnell College Drag Show	2019
* <i>Desi Divas</i>	Facilitator/Choreographer/Drag Performer	Grinnell College Drag Show	2018
* <i>Some Nights (Intro)</i>	Facilitator/Choreographer/Actor	Grinnell College	2018
* <i>Not a Moment</i>	Playwright/Director/Designer/Actor	Grinnell College	2018
* <i>soft lights for sleepless nights</i>	Collaborator/Stage Manager	Grinnell College	2018

**PLAYWRITING**

Mentors: Irma Mayorga, Ren Dara Santiago

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

**Full-length**

<i>Seasons of Love</i>	Filmed Workshop	Lime Arts Productions (dir. Laia X Comas)	2023
	Workshop Production	Red Curtain Int'l (dir. Katy Lai Roy)	2022
	Filmed Excerpt	Definition Theatre (dir. Sophiyaa Nayar)	2022
<i>Labor Day Reunion</i>	Production	Side B Society (dir. Andres Larrea)	2022

**One-acts**

<i>at the end of the tunnel</i>	Staged Reading	Grinnell College (dir. Ahon Gooptu)	2022
<i>Subject for a Short Story</i>	Staged Reading	Mid-America Theatre Conf. (dir. Stephen C.)	2023
	Staged Reading	Make/Shift Theatre Co. (dir. Zach Simms)	2022
<i>Labor Day</i>	Staged Reading	National Theater Institute (dir. Emory M.)	2019

**PRODUCING**

<i>The Last Days of Judas Iscariot</i>	Licensed Production	Side B Society	2023
<i>How to Make Friends...</i>	Licensed Production	Side B Society	2023
<i>The Aliens</i>	Licensed Production	Side B Society	2023
<i>A Trumpet Show</i>	World Premiere	Side B Society	2023
<i>Side B Debuts</i>	New Play Showcase	Side B Society	2023
<i>24-on-29: Chekhov Fest</i>	New Play Lab and Showcase	Make/Shift Theatre Company	2023
<i>Labor Day Reunion</i>	Developmental Production	Side B Society	2022
<i>If I Had Things My Way</i>	Queer Artist Showcase	Make/Shift Theatre Company	2022
<i>Taramandal! Ek Naya Safar</i>	World Premiere	Commissioned	2022
<i>24-on-29: Chekhov Fest</i>	New Play Lab and Showcase	Make/Shift Theatre Company	2022

**DRAMATURGY, DIRECTING, AND PRODUCTION**

<i>The Secret in the Wings</i>	Dramaturg	Florida State University (dir. Rouba Palmer)	2023
<i>Sweet Charity</i>	Dramaturg	Florida State University (dir. Lynn McNutt)	2022
<i>at the end of the tunnel</i>	Director	Grinnell College (commissioned)	2022
<i>Curious Incident of the Dog...</i>	Asst. Set/Projection Designer	Farmers Alley Theatre (lead: Justin Thomas)	2019
<i>The Courter</i>	Director	Grinnell College	2019
<i>Finger Food</i>	Director	Grinnell College	2018
<i>I Shall Not Hate</i> (on tour)	Run Crew	Mosaic Theatre Co. (dir. Shay Pitovsky)	2018
<i>Nice Fish</i>	Asst. Director/Run Crew	Grinnell College (dir. Ellen Mease)	2017
<i>Amrita Dhara</i>	Co-director/Choreographer	Silver Point School	2017

**ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

Freelance Essay Editor	2022—Present
Stratosphere Education	Kolkata, India
Work closely with students to craft their college essay story and guide them through the application process (for US, UK, Singapore) by workshopping, drafting, and editing their essay narratives.	
Senior Interviewer/Administrative Assistant/Tour Guide	2018—2021
Grinnell College Office of Admissions	Grinnell, IA
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.	
Teacher's Assistant	2018 & 2021
Grinnell College Preschool	Grinnell, IA
Assisted with daily classroom responsibilities and engaged preschoolers through activities.	
Research Lead	2018—2020
Vivero Digital Scholarship Fellows/Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	Grinnell, IA
Executed webs strategies to facilitate better engagement and experience across user segments while using ArcGIS to map data and troubleshoot technical issues and integrating feedback from focus groups.	
House Manager and Box Office Staff	2018—2020
Grinnell College Theatre and Dance Department	Grinnell, IA
Managed crowds for theatre productions and tracked ticket sales at the box office.	
Freelance Reporter	2017—2018
<i>The Scarlet &amp; Black</i>	Grinnell, IA
Published 20 articles on news, arts, sports, special features, and the Grinnell community.	

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)  
Shakespeare Association of America (SAA)  
Annual Conference on South Asia (ACSA)  
Mid-America Theatre Conference (MATC)

---

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Singing (tenor, F2-A4), trained under Nicholas Miguel, John Rommereim, Anne Tofflemire  
Fitzmaurice Voicework technique (beginner-level), trained under Craig MacArthur Dolezel  
Droznin movement, trained under Rachel Jett  
Unarmed stage combat, trained under Mitch McCoy  
Piano (intermediate-level training), trained under Fauzia Marikar  
Kathak (beginner-level training), trained under Vikram Iyengar and Debashree Bhattacharya  
Bollywood movement

---

## PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Technology: Microsoft Suite (incl. Outlook and Teams), Google Suite, Web strategy and execution, ArcGIS and other GIS and mapping software, Episerver, WordPress, Wordfly, Wufoo, Slack, QLab, SketchUp  
Creative: Social media marketing, Marketing campaigns, Website design, Graphic and poster design (Canva, Adobe InDesign), Photo editing (Adobe Photoshop), Video/film editing

---

## LANGUAGES

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

---