

AHON GOOPTU

ahongooptu.com

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EDUCATION

M.A. in Theatre and Performance Research Florida State University	Anticipated 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

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

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
Vivero Digital Scholarship Fellow, Grinnell College	2018-19, 2019-20
Co-recipient, Pedagogical Development Grant, Digital Bridges for Humanistic Inquiry (Mellon F'dation)	2018

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Nowhere Nation: Cruising Citizenship and Performing Brown Queerness, a 'Glee'-ful Match 'Made in Heaven.'" Beyond Binaries: Fieldnotes from Queer South Asia at the Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Madison-Wisconsin. October 2022.
- "Mapping Absence in Shakespeare." Digital Showcase at the Shakespeare Association of America, Washington, D.C. April 2019.
- "Mapping Absence in Shakespeare." Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Symposium, Grinnell College. April 2019.
- "Mapping Absence in Shakespeare." Digital Tech Conference, Grinnell College. December 2018.
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Guest Artist/Lecturer, World Theatre Practice (Fall 2022), Florida State University
Lectured on contemporary Indian theatre; talked about developing my original play *Seasons of Love* and workshopped devising ideas with students for staging scenes from the play.
- Teaching Assistant, World Theatre History I (Fall 2022), Florida State University
Responsible for 33 out of 63 students; lectured on classical Indian theatre and Shakespeare.
- Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Theatre for Nonmajors (Spring 2022, Fall 2021), Florida State University
Responsible for 110 out of 600 students in this course that introduces nonmajors to the Western theatrical tradition and meets the Liberal Studies Humanities core requirement for the state of Florida.
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INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

- Program Representative, School of Theatre Student Advisory Council, Florida State University 2022—Present
Served as a liaison between the students and the administrative heads of the School of Theatre and collaborated 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.
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PROFESSIONAL THEATRE EXPERIENCE

- Festival Co-Director, *If I Had Things My Way: A Virtual Celebration of Pride* 2022
Make/Shift Theatre Company Waterville, ME
Curated performances—both new and “from the vault”—for a month-long line-up of multidisciplinary LGBTQ+ artists (and allies) across the US and internationally.
- Festival Co-Director and Playwright, *24-on-29: A Virtual 24-Hour Theatre Festival Celebrating Chekhov* 2022
Make/Shift Theatre Company Waterville, ME
Organized virtual performances of staged readings for six new works—including one of my own—written and rehearsed in 24 hours by playwrights, directors, and actors across the US and internationally.
- 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.

Research Assistant	2021
Pickle Factory Dance Foundation	Kolkata, India
Collated a pan-Indian dance and theatre database for Performing Arts Hub Norway by conducting interviews with notable artists and producers to collect information about theatre resources in India.	
Education Intern	2020
Steppenwolf Theatre Company	Chicago, IL
Researched and wrote the production study guide for <i>Animal Farm</i> that reached 20,000+ students worldwide while also developing and designing marketing collateral, and organizing and facilitating 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.	

ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

Acting and devising

Notable instructors: Forrest McClendon, Susan Blackwell, Addie Gorlin for theatre; Matt Newton for TV

<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 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

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 Coll. (devised + dir. Ahon Gooptu)	2018
<i>Don't Say 'No,' Adrija!</i>	Mohan Joshi/Ensemble	Kokoro Enterprises (dir. Anindita Banerji)	2016

Playwriting

Mentors: Irma Mayorga, Ren Dara Santiago

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

Full-length

<i>Aim and Ignite: The fun. Musical</i>	In Development	Side B Society (dir. TBD)	2023
<i>Labor Day Reunion</i>	Developmental Production	Side B Society (dir. Andres Larrea)	2022
<i>Seasons of Love</i>	Developmental Production	Red Curtain Int'l (dir. Katy Lai Roy)	2022
	Filmed Excerpt	Definition Theatre (dir. Sophiyaa Nayar)	2022

Playwriting (contd.)**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	Make/Shift Theatre Co. (dir. Zach Simms)	2022
<i>Labor Day</i>	Staged Reading	National Theater Institute (dir. Emory M.)	2019
<i>Looking For</i>			2021
<i>Arsenic and Wet Lace</i>			2021

Directing / Dramaturgy / Design / Production

<i>Sweet Charity</i>	Dramaturg	Florida State University	2022
<i>Curious Incident of the Dog...</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>Nice Fish</i>	Assistant Director/Run Crew	Grinnell College	2017

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Interviewer/Administrative Asst./Tour Guide, Office of Admissions, Grinnell College	2018—2021
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, Grinnell College Preschool	2018 & 2021
Assisted with daily classroom responsibilities and engaged preschoolers through activities.	
House Manager and Box Office Staff, Grinnell College Theatre and Dance Department	2018—2020
Managed crowds for theatre productions and tracked ticket sales at the box office.	
Freelance Reporter, <i>The Scarlet & Black</i> , Grinnell College	2017—2018
Published 20 articles on news, arts, sports, special features, and the Grinnell community.	

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Singing (tenor, F2-A4), trained under Nicholas Miguel, D.M.A., John Rommereim, D.M.A., 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)
 Bollywood movement
 Indian classical dance theatre

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Website design, poster design, social media, Adobe Photoshop, WordFly, Wufoo, WordPress, iMovie, ArcGIS, QLab, SketchUp, Episerver

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
