

# Sohrab Haghverdi

Devisor, Actor, Teaching Artist, Community Practitioner  
sohrabh.com

## EDUCATION

- 2018-20 UArts/Pig Iron School for Advanced Performance Training  
*MFA in Devised Theatre*
- 2014-8 University of Northern Colorado School of Dance and Performing Arts  
*BA in Theatre Arts, Emphasis on Acting*
- 2012-3 Samandarian Academy for Performance Art  
*Emerging Artist program with mentorship of Artist Hamid Labkhandeh*

## SPECIFIC TRAINING

- Lecoq Physical Theatre Technique** *Pig Iron School*
- Lecoq Pedagogy** *Giovanni Fusetti*
- Clown** *Pig Iron School*
- Bouffon** *Adam Lazarus*
- Neutral Mask and Expressive Masks (Balinese, Larval)** *Pig Iron School*
- Commedia Dell'Arte** *Giovanni Fusetti*
- Primitive Voice**, *Jean-Rene Toussaint*
- Cabaret** *Dito van Reigersberg*
- Acrobatics** *Almanac Theatre Company and Philadelphia School of Circus Arts*
- Suzuki Movement Method**, *University of Northern Colorado*
- Stanislavsky**, *University of Northern Colorado*
- Improvisation (Short Form & Long Form)** *University of Northern Colorado*

## RESIDENCIES & AWARDS

- 2021 NET(Network of Ensemble Theatres)/TEN Grant
- 2020 NET(Network of Ensemble Theatres)/TEN Grant
- 2019 Shabahang | Iranian Cultural Society of America, Community Leadership's Scholarship
- 2018 Pig Iron School, Trustee's Scholarship
- 2016 University Northern Colorado, Acting Program Merit Based Scholarship
- 2012 Samandarian Academy, Emerging Artist fellowship
- 2011 Samandarian Academy, Emerging Artist Residency Program

## TEACHING ARTIST EXPERIENCE

- 2020 **University of the Arts** *THEA 475 / Devised Performance, Fall*  
*This course invites students to consider themselves creators of their own artistic material. It teaches participants how to be precise in their physicality, breath, and gaze as they create new characters and make vibrant, original performances. Movement and improvisation are at the heart of the course, as participants learn to write on their feet and discover their own artistic impulses that yield arresting moments of live performance.*

- 2022 **Princeton University** *Fables of Our Time*-ATL/MTD 498 (upcoming)  
Assistant Teacher to Dan Rothenberg and Josephine Decker.  
*"fables for our time" is a look at children's literature, fables, and fairytales... With an eye towards How we could make powerful fables into children's theater, or children's literature, or a short film... But that somehow takes into account the changes in "mythology" that surround us as contemporary humans.*
- 2021-now **Philly ASAP**  
*As a teaching artist I provide curriculum, training, and culminating events to help sites build strong drama programs. The goal is to provide a variety of enriching and interactive experiences to nurture students' confidence and ability to express themselves.*
- 2021 **Theatre Horizon Tour of One-Day Devising Workshops**  
*Created and toured 12 one-day devising workshops across Philadelphia and Pennsylvania suburbs (King of Prussia, Norristown). Students encounter and explore the basics of material generation and composition. At the end of each workshop a 7-10 minute piece is showcased, followed by the instructor's feedback.*
- 2021-now **Theatre Horizon Autism Drama School** (Youth Drama)  
*Through improv games and creative play, students develop flexible thinking and valuable social skills. Actors learn to collaborate and share ideas as they participate in lively theatre games in an environment that celebrates their unique talents and interests.*
- 2021-now **Theatre Horizon Autism Drama School** (Playwriting)  
*Through improv games and writing exercises, participants will learn to collaborate, create strong characters, rich dialogue, and engaging story lines.*
- 2021 **Theatre Horizon Pre-K Drama school in collaboration with the Willow School**  
*Developing expressive and communication skills through theatre techniques. Students will learn the basics of drama and storytelling through the three mutually interrelated concepts of Games, Play, and Theatre.*
- 2020-now **UArts Summer School Program** *Radio Plays*  
*A summer-long workshop experience in radio drama in which students are exposed to both live radio drama as well as post production experience. Provides experience in microphone use, recording, editing, and mixing with Pro-Tools audio software.*
- 2019 **Friends Select School** *Instructor of Lecoq inspired Physical Theatre, Series of Workshops Centering "Melodrama"*  
*This course's aim is to give the student actors further opportunities to explore the importance of heightened theatricality in their devised work. It also provides a further in-depth study of the connection between physicality and the emotional states of characters.*
- 2018 **Upper Merion Township Summer Theatre School** *Sound Design for theatre.*  
*-Introduction, exploration and analysis of sound design as both an artistic and technical process.*  
*-Developing skills that lead to a greater awareness and understanding of sound in theatre, media, and our everyday lives.*  
*-Exploration and understanding of the equipment used to create sound.*

- Exploration of software and skills that apply to theatre, film, and video.
- Introduction to the audio, artistic and technical vocabulary with which a Sound Designer communicates.

2016 **UNC's College of Performing Arts Summer School** *A day-long intensive Movement Course inspired by Suzuki's Method and Viewpoints*

*Practice of physical training techniques for use in everyday life and performance.*

*Students will be introduced to the body as an instrument for communication.*

*Concepts include: training for self-use and self-expression, coordinating breath with support, and articulating form and text.*

## ORIGINAL DEVISED WORK

2021 **Love Unpunished** (Co-Creator, Performer) Collaboration with Pig Iron Theatre Company. *a dance-theatre contemplation of death and grief, set on the evacuation staircase of the world trade center. (Philadelphia Fringe Festival 2021)*

2021 **New World Rising!** (Co-Creator, Performer) *Part immersive performance, part audio play, part walking tour, this roughly 60 minute ambulatory adventure will use audio and written instructions to help you navigate your way through downtown Philadelphia. Philadelphia Fringe Festival 2021)*

2020 **SexPlay** (Creator, Performer) *MFA Thesis Project Pig Iron School/University of the Arts. A headphones-on visual and audio journey from the waking world to the subconscious dreamscape.*

2020 **Mortal Meal Services** (Creator, Performer) *a promenade-style play for an audience of one at the Woodlands Cemetery in West Philadelphia.*

2020 **Churn** (Co-creator, Developer) *A solo performance that seeks the deep dark and exalted in human ingenuity through a queered historical sci-fi epic. -This production will have a re-launch premiere at the next Philadelphia fringe festival-*

2020 **Dionysia** (Creator, Performer) *An improvised web series that takes place in an "upside down" universe. -Selected for First Time Filmmaker Sessions 2020 Festival-*

2019 **Lies of Our Lives** (Creator, Performer) *bouffon inspired amalgamation of social commentary, songs, and ritual sacrifices*

2019 **Theater of the Incredible** (Creator, Performer) *at the Pig Iron Studios, Philadelphia, PA*

2019 **Act Up!** (Creator, Performer) *A Melodrama in response to AIDS crisis in the 1980s*

2018-9 **Blindfolded Improv** (Creator, Performer) *An improvised Larval Mask play with Shakespearean elements of love, danger, and mischief.*

- o *Fringe Festival Phila. PA*

- o *Fringe Festival NY, NY*

2019 **Bordertowns** (Creator, Performer) *at the University of the Arts Caplan Theater, Philadelphia, PA*

2018 **First Look** (Creator, Performer) *Mask Improvisation at the Pig Iron School, Philadelphia, PA*

2016 **Shadow** (Creator, Performer) *A Clown and Film-Noir inspired short film, presented at "Northern Colorado Film Festival"*

2013 **White Blindness** (Creator, Performer) *A full-length play inspired by the novel, "blindness" by Jose Saramgo. Premiered at City Theatre, Tehran, Iran.*

## SOLO WORKS

2020 **THE BOY WHO MAILED HIMSELF TO AMERICA** (Creator, Performer) *autobiographical journey explored in the clown territory*

2020 **Revelation** (Creator, Performer) a dance-theater film inspired by legendary Persian poet Hafez.  
2020 **Hell Is Me!** (Sole Writer) a durational devised piece that allows the audience to follow a person's day to day life within two weeks of the quarantine.  
2020 **Saeed in Distance** (Creator, Performer) *An exploration of Melodrama and Cabaret via Zoom, Hosted by Dito van Reigersberg*  
2019 **A Dripping Installation for The Clown's Red Nose** (Creator) *Submitted as an original piece for UArts installation festival, Philadelphia PA*  
2017 **Coping With America** (Creator, Performer) *A one man show about an Iranian refugee who tries hard to fit in, Performed at Theatre Esprit Asia, Aurora Colorado*

## SELECTED PERFORMANCE

2019 **Sweeps or The Violence Play** (dir. Linnea Bond) *The Foundry at PlayPenn, Philadelphia PA*  
2018 **The Crucible** (dir. Rand Harmon) *Little Theatre of the Rockies, Greeley CO*  
2017 **The last Days of Judas Iscariot** (dir. Olivia Laine) *Greeley Garage Sale Theatre, Greeley CO*  
2017 **Juicy and Delicious** (dir. Nate Whitehead) *Underground Theatre Festival, Greeley CO*  
2017 **A Pocket Full of Fists** (dir. Daniel Mothershed) *Atlas Theatre, Greeley CO*  
2016 **Blood Privilege** (dir. Brian Miller) *Theatre Company of Lafayette, Lafayette CO*  
2016 **Marathon '33** (dir. David Grapes) *University of Northern Colorado, College of Dance and Performing Arts Greeley CO*  
2016 **Herself A Scripture** (dir. Rose Van Dyne) *Underground Theatre Festival, Greeley CO*  
2015 **I Love You Doesn't Count** (dir. Yasmine Youssefi) *Underground Theatre Festival, Greeley CO*  
2014 **Incarnate** (dir. Olive McGowan) *Underground Theatre Festival, Greeley CO*  
2014 **Harry's Hotter at Twilight** (dir. Rhyann Sims) *Underground Theatre Festival, Greeley CO*  
2013 **The Zoo Story** (dir. self) *Samandarian Academy for Performance Art, Tehran Iran*  
2012 **Doll's House** (dir. Hossein Kiani) *City Theatre, Tehran Iran*

## CIVIC PRACTICE

2020 **Civic Practice Project in Collaboration with Lutheran Settlement House** *A three months long collaboration through phone calls with the elderly members of LHS to write a story about their experience throughout the pandemic. The final story was published in LHS newsletter in the form of a comic strip, Philadelphia PA*  
2017 **Colorado's Love** *Produced and hosted a year-long civic practice program on Denver's KRKS 94.7FM centering interviews with the Iranian refugee community regarding life in America and issues around home and identity, Denver CO*

## ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

2021 **Swim Pony Performing Arts (Communications Manager)** *Helmed by artistic director Adrienne Mackey, Swim Pony was founded in December of 2009 to give a name to the body of genre-defying work she creates with an ensemble of multidisciplinary artists in Philadelphia. Swim Pony creates unique and deeply investigated live experiences that defy tradition, and invite audiences to become curious, critical thinkers in the world.*  
2021 **Pig Iron Theatre Company's Franklin's Secret City (Project Manager)** *an app-adventure for two players aged 10-100. Part game, part audience created performance,*

*part audio experience, Franklin's Secret City is an alternate universe of secret societies, hidden technologies, and inventions that border on magic, all hidden within Philadelphia's historical sites and artifacts.*

## **PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES**

**Quinn Bauriedel** *Pig Iron Theater School, Founding Director, [qbauriedel@uarts.edu](mailto:qbauriedel@uarts.edu)*

**Adrienne Mackey** *Swim Pony, Artistic Director, [amackey1@gmail.com](mailto:amackey1@gmail.com)*

**Dan Rothenberg** *Pig Iron Theater Company, Artistic Director, [drothen@earthlink.net](mailto:drothen@earthlink.net)*

**Nichole Canuso** *Nichole Canuso Dance Company, Founding Director, [ncdcdates@gmail.com](mailto:ncdcdates@gmail.com)*

**Ben Grinberg** *Almanac, Artistic Director, [bgrinberg@gmail.com](mailto:bgrinberg@gmail.com)*