

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 (Tehran, Iran)
Emerging Artist program with mentorship of Artist Hamid Labkhandeh

ORIGINAL DEVISED WORK

2023 **Lightning Rod Special Upcoming project set to premiere in 2026** (Devisor, Performer)-- One site of focus for this work is the American amusement park. The process begins with in-the-field research of Six-Flags amusement park. We will observe rhythms, behaviors, routines, architecture, landscape, and more as we study how amusement parks reflect, obscure, and advance a particular vision of America and a particular tradition of American mythmaking.

2023 **Stupidest, Scariest Time** (Co-Creator with Swim Pony Performing Arts)--*New devising project set to premiere in the next Fringe festival. The show is a clown meditation around humanity's relationship to time.*

2023 **9/11MAN** (Sole Creator)-- Premiered in Philly Fringe 2023-- Grotesque satire work examining the tension coalesced with the racial profiling of middle eastern folks in post 9/11 America. The show was met with incredible praise from the press and Philly theatre community.

2023 **Pig Iron's upcoming Children's Show, Title: TBD** (Co-Creator with Pig Iron Theatre Company)--*This project is currently in the devising process.*

2022 **Green Card Project** (Creator)--*Funded and Produced by the Cannonball Festival as the main BIPOC creation track-- Green Card Project is an Interactive Performance/Installation with no performers. The entire experience is performed and facilitated by audience members participating. Green Card Project that takes the audience through the process of applying for a Visa as experienced by an Iranian Citizen, opening up questions about what is truly valuable to America and what sits at the core of today's immigration policies.*

2022 **Glen Foerd Mansion Wedding Fiasco** (Co-Creator)--*a collaboration with award winning Philly ensemble, InFlux-- An evening of chaos. An entirely interactive experience revolving around a wedding fiasco where everything goes wrong, from the stolen ring to bizarre characters convincing the audience to purchase the million dollar mansion and lastly to a gorilla appearing from the crowd to end the controversial raffle with the mansion at stake.*

2022 **The Fleecing** (Co-Creator, Performer)--*Collaboration with Almanac Dance Circus Theatre--Fleecing asks questions about the ways we organize ourselves in the absence of a central authority, and asks what is more real: the corporeal reality of the body or the digital realm where we spend so much time.*

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 **PARDESI** (Performer) The story is based around an immigrant writer who is on a quest to find his voice and achieve authenticity in a culture that doesn't truthfully recognize his identity or heritage.

2021 **Historical Trolley Tour of Philadelphia** (Performer- The role of James Wilson) - Collaboration with Pig Iron Theatre Company- The trolley passes by the historical buildings and spots that played a role in constructing the American history preceding and following the British overthrow- directed by Dan Rothenberg.

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

2022-now **Science Performer at the Franklin Institute** (Creator, Performer) Using the Clown presence and dramatic territory to design creative and theatrical ways to communicate science to the public.

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

TEACHING ARTIST EXPERIENCE

2022-now **Eastern University** THEA 235 / Acting I

Adjunct Position. Through individual and group exercises, improvisations, monologues and scene studies, this course, eclectic in method, helps students develop their acting potential and sharpen their skills in interpreting scripts.

2023 **Haverford University** Devising Workshop (collaboration with Lightning Rod Special)

A small group of Haverford students are invited to work alongside professional actors/creators in a devised theater rehearsal process. The rehearsal room is accessible and engaging for students, and the goal is that they will actively be engaged in the primary steps of developing a new piece of devised theatre.

2022 **Princeton University** Fables of Our Time-ATL/MTD 498

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.

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 **Eastern University** 24 hour devising workshop

Students begin to take risks in following their creative impulses from an idea to its completion on the three dimensional stage. Throughout this process they pick up tools such as improvisation, stage composition, character development, and audience participation techniques.

2023-now **Wilma Theatre (Wilmagination)**

Creating a season-long Artist led workshops in response to Wilma's current production of Fat Ham. Students learn to use devising techniques to respond to Fat Ham. They exercise their artistic authorship to create pieces that follow the theme of the play yet carries a strong element of their very own writing voice.

2023-now **Quintessence Theatre Group** Devising and Poetry TA- J S Jenks School

Through focusing on Quintessence Theatre Group's seasonal productions as a TA I create exercises and activities that familiarizes the students with the content of the show. By utilizing devising techniques I underline the importance of the creative process and group work in production of art.

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-now Theatre Horizon Tour of Week-Long Devising Workshops

Theatre Horizon Summer Drama Camps run in one-week sessions, typically from 9 am - 3 pm. Students devise a show and present it on the last day. Teaching artists typically work as co-teachers: two TAs per group. A group has 9 - 18 kids. The work is in partnership with other organizations, mainly Parks and Rec departments.

2021-now 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.

RESIDENCIES & AWARDS

2022 Cannonball BIPOC New Work Track Grant Winner For *Green Card Project*

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

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

2021-Current **Swim Pony Performing Arts (Communications and Project 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.

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*

SELECTED PERFORMANCE

2023 **Ghost Ride** (dir.Dara Silverman/Agile Rascal Theatre Comp.)

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*

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*
Roy Hart Voice Pedagogy *Adrienne Mackey*
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*

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Quinn Bauriedel *Pig Iron Theater School, Founding Director, qbauriedel@uarts.edu*
Adrienne Mackey *Swim Pony, Artistic Director, amackey1@gmail.com*
Dan Rothenberg *Pig Iron Theater Company, Artistic Director, drothen@earthlink.net*
Nichole Canuso *Nichole Canuso Dance Company, Founding Director, nccdcdates@gmail.com*
Ben Grinberg *Almanac, Artistic Director, bgrinberg@gmail.com*