

CURRICULUM VITAE
MARLON AMARESH ARIYASINGHE
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. (reading) in Theatre and Performance Studies, Stanford University. 2023-2028

MA in English Language and Literature, University of Geneva. 2016

Thesis: The Sri Lankan Migrant Writer Historian: A study based on the construction of Sri Lankan history in *Running In the Family* (1983), *When Memory Dies* (1997), and *Cinnamon Gardens* (1998).

BA (HONS.) in English, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka 2010

Thesis: A re-turn to the days they wished would never end: A study of nostalgia and recollection in the University Novel in Sri Lankan English Literature.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Southasian theatre and historiography, migrant literature, Southasian antiblackness, performance and protest, materiality and performing objects and decolonizing actor-training methodologies.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Editorial projects

Liyanage, Saumya, Honcharova, Lyudmyla, Ariyasinghe, Marlon (eds). 2021
“Lamp in a Windless Place: Developing an Actor Training Methodology through Sri Lankan Combative Art Angampora.”
[Mise en Abyme, VIII, Issue 2, \(July-December 2021\).](#)

Papers

Ariyasinghe, Marlon. "Kalu Skin, Kalu Masks: Performing Blackness in Simon Nawagattegama's *Sudu Saha Kalu* (1979)." [Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism 37, no. 2](#) (2023): 11-26. 2023

Ariyasinghe, Marlon. "Can We Know the Dancer from the Dance? Embodied Metaphors in Angampora." *Mise en Abyme*, VIII, Issue 2, (July-December 2021). 2023

Ariyasinghe, Marlon. "Chinaman" in *The Literary Encyclopedia: Sri Lankan Writing and Culture*, 10.3.4 Ed. by Birte Heidemann (September 2019). 2019
<https://www.litencyc.com/php/sworks.php?rec=true&UID=38944>

Ariyasinghe, Marlon. "The Migrant Writer as Historian: A Glissantian Reading of the Construction of Sri Lankan History in *Running in the Family*, *When Memory Dies* and *Cinnamon Gardens*." *Phoenix: Sri Lanka Journal of English in the Commonwealth*, 2016

XIII-XIV (2016/17), 72-82.

Ariyasinghe, Marlon. "Expatriate depictions of the village in *Estuary* and *The Lament of the Dhobi Woman*." *Phoenix: Sri Lanka Journal of English in the Commonwealth*, 10-11 (2013), 89-96. 2013

REVIEWS

Ariyasinghe, Marlon. "Transoceanic Blackface: Empire, Race, Performance." By Kellen Hoxworth. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2024. Pp. 280 + 20 Illus. \$100 Hb; \$36 Pb." *Theatre Research International* 50, no. 1 (2025): 94–95. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0307883324000427>. 2025

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Performative Things: Gendered Violence and Revenant Resistance in Sri Lankan Kōlam." FGSS Decolonizing Gender & Sexuality Conference. Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Stanford University, 1 May 2025. 2025

"Racialized Other in Sri Lankan Rukada Natya: Race, Caste, and National Identity." Poster presentation. RITM Race, Social Justice, and Democracy Plenary. Afro-American Cultural Center, Yale University, 25–26 October, 2024. 2024

"Performing Counter Memory: Theatre as a Communal Space for Memorialization." 53rd Annual Conference on South Asia. University of Wisconsin–Madison, 22–25 October, 2024. 2024

"Trysts with the supernatural: (re)performing Sri Lankan Kolam." Assemble. 29th Performance Studies International Conference. University of London, 20-23 June, 2024. 2024

"Migrant Writer-Historian: A Glissantian reading of the construction of Sri Lankan History in *Running in the Family*, *When Memory Dies* and *Cinnamon Gardens*." A Translocal World? Exploring the Postcolonial Today. 8th SLACLALS conference. Kandy, October 2016. 2016

"The Vicious Cycle of Moral Hazard in Kate Jennings's *Moral Hazard* and William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*." *Economies of English*. SAUTE 2015. University of Geneva, April 2015. <https://www.unige.ch/saute2015>. 2015

"Expatriate depictions of the village in *Estuary* and *The Lament of the Dhobi Woman*." *The Postcolonial in Transition*. 7th SLACLALS conference, Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo, June 2013. 2013

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

University of Calgary Artistic Research Award: "Honourable Mention" Workshop "Angam Mechanics: Developing a performer's bodymind through embodied repertoire" at Performance Studies International, London, 2024. 2024

RAISE: Research, Action, and Impact through Strategic Engagement Doctoral Fellowship 2024
(\$9,000+3 quarters of Fellowship support)

Arts + Justice Student Grant, The Stanford Arts Institute (SAI). 2024
(\$650)

EDGE: Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education Doctoral Fellow, Stanford University. 2023
(\$12,800)

THEATRE WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED (SELECTED)

“Angam Mechanics: Developing a Performer’s Bodymind Through Embodied Repertoire.” Mid-America Theatre Conference (MATC), Atlanta, 6–8 March, 2024. 2025

“Angam Mechanics: Developing a performer’s Bodymind through Embodied Repertoire” at Performance Studies International, University of London, 2024. 2024

Angam Mechanics Actor Training Workshop, at University of Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo, Sri Lanka. 30 August 2023. 2023

Angam Mechanics Actor Training Workshop at Academic Thespians Theatre Festival 2023, Colombo, Sri Lanka. 23 July 2023. 2023

Angam Mechanics Actor Training Workshop
Freedom Gallery, Pannala, Sri Lanka. 28-29 April 2023. 2023

Angam Mechanics Actor Training Workshop, at University of Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo, Sri Lanka. 15 February 2023 2023

LITERARY PUBLICATIONS

Ariyasinghe, Marlon. *Froteztology*. Sri Serendipity Publishing House. Galle, 2011.

Dinesh Kumara, Kasun. *Under The Aborted Sky*. Trans. Marlon Ariyasinghe. 2012.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Assistant Editor, [Himal Southasian Magazine](#). Jan 2021 to Aug 2023

Team Member/Editor AHEAD DOR HEMS 73: 2021-2024
“*Lamp in a windless place: Developing an Actor Training Methodology through Sri Lankan Combative Art Forms*”, University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Senior Writer, Smart Media (Pvt) Ltd. Nov 2016 to Jan 2021
100 Horton Place, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.

Director/Workshop Coordinator, [Emmet Theatre Company](#). Jul 2014 to Feb 2016
<https://unige.ch/dife/culture/>

Assistant Metteur en Scène, [Théâtrechamp](#). Sep 2014 to Feb 2016
Thônex, Suisse.

Teacher of English Literature/Drama, [Gateway College Kandy](#). Sep 2011 to Aug 2016

Instructor of English, English Language Teaching Unit
Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Sep 2010 to Feb 2011

PERFORMANCE AND DIRECTORIAL HISTORY [Click here to access the artistic portfolio.](#)

DIRECTING CREDITS

The Last Noel by John Herbert. 2025
Mid-America Theater Conference (MATC), Atlanta. March 6–8, 2025.

Exorcism written and directed by Marlon Ariyasinghe. Nitory Theater, 2025
Stanford University. February 13-15. [Watch trailer here.](#)

Twelfth Night
Gateway College Kandy, Sri Lanka. 2019

Awards:

[Winner: All-island Ashley Halpe Memorial Shakespeare Drama Festival 2019.](#)

Best Actor, Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress.

Assistant Director: [Et si c'était moi?](#), directed by Anouchka Sommaruga. 2016
Produced by Théâtrechamp, Geneva, January-February 2016.

The Clean House, Sarah Ruhl. 2015
Produced by Emmet Theatre Company, Geneva, December 2015.
[Watch trailer here.](#)

Assistant Director: [Ça me saoule!](#) and *Melting Pot* 2015
Directed by Anouchka Sommaruga, produced by Théâtrechamp, Geneva.

[Antigonick](#) by Anne Carson 2014-2015
Produced by Emmet Theatre Company, Geneva.

Other Performances:

October 2014: "Version Originale," [La Fête du Théâtre.](#)

May 2015: [Festival d'Ateliers-Théâtre at Théâtre](#), La Comédie, Geneva.

Rizana, performed by the Lionel Theatre troupe. 2013

[A Winters' Tale](#) in Theatre Fest 2012 all-island drama competition 2012
organized by University of Canberra and Edexcel in association with
Trinity College London.

Awards: Runners Up (all-island)

Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Supporting Actress.

[A Winters' Tale](#) in the All-Island Inter-School Shakespeare Drama Competition 2011
organized by the Colombo YMCA and the Rotary Club of Colombo.

Awards: 3rd Runners Up (all-island).

[Antony and Cleopatra](#) in the All-Island Inter-School Shakespeare Drama Competition (Colombo YMCA and the Rotary Club of Colombo). 2008

ACTING CREDITS

The Gift of the Maggies by Franky Gonzales 2025
Mid-America Theater Conference (MATC), Atlanta. March 6–8, 2025.

‘Old Man’, [Strangers In The Night](#), directed by Tracy Holsinger. 2022-2023
Produced by Mind Adventures theatre company, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

‘The Boss’ [The Apartment](#) (2021). 2021
A short film directed by Sahan Fernando.

Awards:

Jury Award for Best Film (11th Agenda14 Film Festival)
Most Outstanding Performance (Bandhuka Premawardhana)
Special Jury Mention for Editing
Official Selection Jaffna International Cinema Festival 2021
Independent Shorts Awards - Best Drama Short, Bronze award (March 2022)

[Benedick](#) in *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Ben Crystal. 2014
Produced by the [Geneva English Drama Society](#).

Actor in [Emerson in the Wild](#), directed by Nicholas Weeks. 2014
Produced by Emmet Theatre Company, Geneva.

[Leontes in A Winters’ Tale](#). 2013-2014
Produced by Emmet Theatre Company, Geneva.

Colonizer 1 in [The Commode](#) by Dhanuka Bandara. 2011-2012

Henry V in *Henry V* in the All-Island Inter-School Shakespeare Drama Competition. 2005

POSITIONS HELD

Secretary of the Sri Lanka Association of Commonwealth Language and Literature Studies. [SLACLALS](#). 2010-2023

The following international conferences were organized during my tenure:

2010: ‘Post-colonial or Postmodern?’

2011: ‘The 21st Century Post-colonial’

2013: ‘The Postcolonial in Transition’

2016: ‘A Translocal World? Exploring the Postcolonial Today’

2023: ‘Continuing Postcolonialism’

Co-organizer. *SLAM 2010*: A literary conference 2010
University of Peradeniya.

Treasurer of the Executive Committee Alliance Française De Kandy 2007-2013

Member of the Executive Committee Alliance Française De Kandy 2007-2013

President of the English Literary Association University of Peradeniya 2007-2009

Treasurer of the Music Society University of Peradeniya
Committee Member of the Ceylon DRAMSOC Society

2008-2009
2007-2009

OTHER SKILLS AND COMPETENCES

Photo and video journalism and rapportage:

Extensive coverage and analysis from the ground of the Sri Lanka protests in 2022. Appearances in DW, BBC World, BBC World Radio, WION (India), National Public Radio (US), NTD News (Canada), CTV (Toronto), Arirang Global Insight (South Korea), Salaamedia (South Africa), Asharq News (Middle East), W Radio (Colombia) and many other TV and Radio channels across the world as well as providing footage and visual material for Reuters and many other news outlets.

Language proficiency:

Writing, speaking reading proficiency in English, Sinhala, and French.

Completed **Stage One** of American, British, and Sinhala Sign languages. 2022

Diplôme de Langue Française, Niveau B2 du Conseil de L'Europe. 2008

Diplôme D'Études en Langue Française (DELF) B2. 2008

Ministère De L'Éducation Nationale, France.

** References available upon request.*