

Aziza Afzal

Artist, Collaborator, & Organizer

THEATRE & ART EXPERIENCE

June 2018 - current: **Front of House & In-House Artist** at Bar Clavel

- A fast-paced, high-stress environment requiring attention to detail, organization, time management, clear and effective communication, and customer service.
- Work as host, food runner, server, in-house graphic design, and muralist
- Communicate verbally and in writing in Spanish and English

June 2015 - Current: **Co-Founder** of Welcome Homesick Productions

- Welcome Homesick is an independent theater company with five co-directors. Our company benefits from collaborations with local artists and community organizations. Our productions feature relationships between womxn and queer folks using surrealism, fantasy, horror, suspense, and interactive elements.

- ***The Yellow Wallpaper (July 2019)***: I adapted Charlotte Perkins Gilman's classic short story into a 45-minute ensemble play. I worked with my co-directors to organize, design and build the set, and perform. We managed a team of volunteers helping with the set and running the show. I designed the graphics and marketing content for the play. We performed at the Peale Center in Baltimore, MD for two sold out weekends. The show included a talk-back and group reflection activity.

- ***A Ritual (July 2016)***: A devised piece comprising six short plays reflecting on our individual and collective repeated rituals.

- ***The Skriker (December 2015)***: by Caryl Churchill. Collaboratively designed, directed, produced, and performed at the Silver Spring Black Box Consortium Theatre.

September 2018 - January 2019: **Carpentry** at Baltimore Center Stage and Single Carrot Theatre

- Worked with the set building team to construct sets using tools, machinery, and draft plans, tech assistance, painting, and creative problem solving on a budget. Overhire position.

June 2017 - August 2018: **Production Assistant** at Improbable Comedy

- Assisted in the setup and break-down of each show
- Coordinated the performers scheduling, ran pre-show and ticketing
- Illustrated monthly posters with portraits of each performer for web and print

June 2017 - October 2017: **Director and Scriptwriter** at Friends Community School, Greenbelt, MD.

- Directed, scripted, acted, and voice-acted for the endowment campaign video for the K-8 Quaker school.
- Worked closely with a small team to create a video that interviews current students, includes a brief history of FCS, explains what an endowment is, and captures the spirit of the school. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtreIKYBvpY>

August 2014 - May 2017: **Reed College**

- Thesis: *The Short Play: A Brief Moment in a Radical History*
Wrote and defended a thesis examining the history and importance of brevity in performance. Wrote 20 short plays over 20 days, taking inspiration from Suzan-Lori Parks, among others. Eleven of these plays were performed in a staged-reading of 20 Plays / 20 Days, directed by Jake Gonnella. The staged reading can be seen here: https://youtu.be/8FONm_r_ZtU
- Race and Identity in American Theatre: undergraduate class. This class provided insight into the complex problems in society and how they are examined in American theatre and gave me tools with which to address and challenge racism, misogyny, classism, and oppression in my community and beyond.
- Devising for Civic Engagement with Michael Rohd: attended a week-long workshop with Michael Rohd, founding director of Sojourn Theatre and the Center for Performance and Civic Practice.
- Assistant Director and Collaborator, *In/Divisible*: assistant-directed a year-long devised process and assisted Prof. Elliot Leffler, examining what citizens owe one another through the lens of proposed legislation by Charlie Rangel (D) to require mandatory national service and reinstate the draft.

June 2015 - August 2015: **Intern** with Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center

- Organized and scheduled workshops
- Edited the website and worked on inter-organizational communications -
- Taught book binding and studio maintenance classes for kids
- Learned papermaking and honed screen printing skills

June 2014 - August 2014: **Co-Counselor** at Friends Community School Summer Camp

- Taught theater making, creative writing, and art classes to kids ages 6-14

September 2002 - May 2018: **Actor, Assistant Director, Artist** / Lumina Studio Theatre

- A youth theatre group in Silver Spring, MD, training actors in Shakespearian theatre. Changing the play settings from their original contexts, Lumina stages recontextualized Shakespeare, contemporary noir, and surreal shorts, among other genres. In 2010, began teaching and directing middle school-aged actors on productions such as Nicholas Nickleby, Pericles, and A Midsummer Night's Dream.

SKILLS

Creative (please see my website for examples)

Printmaking: Expert in Linocut, Etching

Shadow Puppetry, Paper Mâché

Murals, Painting, Drawing

Theater Education: Devising for Civic Engagement, Anti-Racism Education

Theater Production: Acting, Directing, Producing, Devising, Makeup

Playwriting: Short Plays, Adaptations

Curriculum Planning: One-Off Classes, Long-Term Programs

Design: Posters, Adobe Photoshop, Procreate

Management and Communication

Project Management: Budgeting, Logistics, Oversight, Scheduling, Attention to Detail

Writing: Research, Editing, Grants, Promotional Materials

Event Planning: Community Gatherings, Live Performances

Interpersonal Communication: Conflict Resolution, DeEscalation, Facilitation, Restorative Justice

Cultural Competency: Native English, Basic Spanish Proficiency, Ability to Work in Multicultural Environment

EDUCATION

- Reed College BA, Theatre. 2019
- Sidwell Friends School, 2013

PUBLICATIONS

- Baltimore Magazine: [Clavel Mural](#) (September 2021)
- Khabar Keslan (News and Art related to the MENA region) Issues 0 and 2. (Spring 2017, Fall 2018)

<https://www.khabarkeslan.com/articles/2017/11/25/bismillah-in-the-light?rq=aziza%20afzal>

<https://www.khabarkeslan.com/articles/2017/5/19/here-and-there?rq=aziza%20afzal>

- Reed College Magazine (Spring 2017)

<https://www.reed.edu/reed-magazine/articles/2017/what-is-a-reedie/aziza-azfal.html>