

Curriculum Vitae

Ali (Al) Pour Issa

Instructor, Writer, Researcher, Director, and Dramaturg

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EDUCATION

ACADEMIC DEGREES

Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.), Yale University, Yale School of Drama, Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism, New Haven, CT, USA, 2011

Master of Arts (M.A.), The University of Tehran, University College of Fine Arts, Dramatic Literature, 2006

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Azad University, Central Tehran Branch, Scenic Design, 2003

DIPLOMAS, CERTIFICATES, AND WORKSHOPS

Certificate, Workshop in Documentary Department, Storytelling in Documentary Filmmaking, Mentor: Michel Noll, 2013

Certificate, Karnameh Institute of Arts and Culture, Workshop of Narrative Filmmaking, Mentor: Abbas Kiarostami, 2013

Certificate, Yale University, Center for Language Study, Teaching in the American Classroom, New Haven, CT, USA, 2009-2010

Various management workshops, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA, 2008-2010

Workshop, Playwriting Boot Camp, Yale School of Drama, Mentor: Paula Vogel, New Haven, CT, USA, 2008

Certificate and Diploma of English, Embassy CES/Bellerbys College, Advanced English Language, London, UK, 2008

Certificate, Art University, Filmmaking Course, 1998

TEACHING

New York Film Academy, Instructor, Teaching Practical and Theoretical classes of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Acting for Film Courses, South Beach Campus, Miami Beach, 2019 (**Current employment**)

- Acting for Film IV (MFA Course)
- Cinema Studies (MFA Course)
- Critical Film Studies (BFA Course)
- Film Art (BFA Course)
- Dramatic Literature (BFA Course)
- Studies in Global Media (BFA Course)
- Topics in Film Studies (BFA Course)
- Art, Culture, and Society (BFA Course)

University of Washington, The School of Drama, Teaching Assistant, (Two sections-entire

quarter), Drama 101, Seattle, WA, Spring Quarter, 2017-2018

University of Washington, The School of Drama, One session lecturer (on Symbolism), Drama 101, Seattle, WA, Spring Quarter, 2018

University of Washington, The School of Drama, Teaching Assistant, (Two sections-entire quarter), Drama 101, Seattle, WA, Winter Quarter, 2017-2018

University of Washington, The School of Drama, One session lecturer (on Naturalism and Symbolism), Drama 101, Seattle, WA, Winter Quarter, 2018

University of Washington, The School of Drama, Teaching Assistant, (Two sections-entire quarter), Drama 101, Seattle, WA, Fall Quarter, 2017

University of Washington, The School of Drama, One session lecturer (on Naturalism and Symbolism), Drama 101, Seattle, WA, Fall Quarter, 2017

Bridge Theater Ensemble, Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism Workshops, 2011-15

Shahid Beheshti University, Theater Division, Instructor of Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism, An Introductory Course on Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism, 10 sessions, 2014

House of Theater, Instructor of Dramatic Criticism, Criticism Workshop: Writing a Review, 2014

The 32nd International Fadjr Theatre Festival, The Dramatic Arts Center, Senoghteh Institute, Dramaturgy Workshop, 2014.

Karnameh Institute of Arts and Culture, Instructor of Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism, Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism Workshop II, 12 sessions, 2013

Karnameh Institute of Arts and Culture, Instructor of Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism, Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism Workshop I, 12 sessions, 2013

Platoshop Institute, Dramaturgy Workshop, 2013

Mahe-Mehr Institute, Introduction to Performance Studies, 2013

Art Department, Hoze Honari Institute, Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism Workshop, 10 sessions, 2012-13

University of Tehran, University College of Fine Arts, Theater Studies Department, Visiting Professor, Survey of New Theories in Contemporary Dramatic Literature (Graduate course for Directing Students), 2012-13

University of Tehran, University College of Fine Arts, Theater Studies Department, Visiting Professor, Seeing and Analyzing Drama I, 2012

University of Tehran, Faculty of Foreign Languages, English Department, Visiting Professor, Drama II (History of Theater from 1700 to Present), Taught in English, 2012

Soureh University of Tehran, Theater Studies Department, Visiting Professor, Critique I, 2012

Tarjoman Oloum Institute, Instructor, English Language, 2011-12

Azad University, Dramaturgy and the American Theater and Drama, A lecture session, 2011

University of Tehran, Dramaturgy and the American Theater and Drama, A lecture session, 2011

Yale University, The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Part-Time Acting Instructor, Intermediate Persian Course, New Haven, CT, USA, 2010-11

Individual Persian language tutorials, New Haven, CT, USA, 2008-10

University of Tehran, Cultural Affairs and Extracurricular Center, Instructor of Art

History, 2005-07
Individual Playwriting and Filmmaking tutorials, 2004-07

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

- “Arousal of Political Action in Counter-Public of Iranian’s “Happy”,” The American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR), San Diego, California, November, 2018.
- “Multiculturalism and Pedagogical tools: *Chess with the Doomsday Machine*,” Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference, Boston, MA, August, 2018.
- “Inclusive Storytelling,” Panelist at the assembly, The Undergraduate Theater Society of the University of Washington, May 2018.
- “Dramaturgy in Iran Today,” *Shahnameh* and Beyond: Iran, India, and Diasporic Theaters, Panelist in the section of Dramaturgy: the *Shahnameh* and Beyond, University of California at Santa Cruz, Porter College, April 2018.
- “Dramaturgy,” (Introducing the discipline of Dramaturgy based on my education at the Yale School of Drama), Panel Moderator and Lecturer, Senoghteh Institute, January 2016.
- “Adaptation and Dramaturgy of Aghehati’s *Hamlet* and Koushki’s *Richard II*: Social Activism in Iran,” “Conference of International Shakespeare: Translation, Adaptation, and Performance,” University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA, USA, March 2014.
- “Performing Negotiation,” “the Colloquium on Performativity and Translation”, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, January 2014.
- “Performing Negotiation,” “Theater and Civil Society,” the Brown International Advanced Research Institute (BIARI), Brown University, Providence, RI, USA, 2013
- “Dramaturgy of Constitutional Monarchy: Restoration, Eighteenth-Century and Mashroteh Drama,” the Yale 18th/19th C. Colloquium’s Graduate Student Conference (Under the Supervision of Professor Joseph Roach), New Haven, CT, USA, May 2010.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Travel Grand Award of Graduate and Professional Student Senate at the University of Washington, Paper: “Multiculturalism and Pedagogical tools: *Chess with the Doomsday Machine*,” Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference, Boston, MA, August, 2018.

Citation, Lecturing on Practical Areas of Dramaturgy, The School of the Arts, 2017
Citation, Lecturing, the 2nd Dramaturgy Panel with an emphasis on the nature and significance of Dramaturgy in Iran, Senoghteh Institute, 2017

The Ground Is Breathing by Ali Pour Issa, Official Selection in:

- The Second National and Eighth Internal Festival of Kargah-e-Azad-e-Film, (Tehran, Iran)
- Garifuna International Indigenous Film Festival (Beverly Hills, CA, USA)
- Nassau Film Festival (Cranford, NJ, USA)
- Healdsburg Flix Mix Short Film Festival (Healdsburg, CA, USA)
- Los Angeles CineFest (Los Angeles, CA, USA)
- PITON International Film Festival (Budd Lake, NJ, USA)

- Hoosierdance International Film Festival (Kokomo, IN, USA)
- Festival de Roteiro Audiovisual de Porto Alegre (Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brizil)
- The Hollywood & Beyond Movie Awards/ Film Festival (Los Angeles, CA, USA)
[Semi - Finalist]
- Mosaic World Film Festival (Rockford, IL, USA)
- W.I.N.D. International Film Festival (Beverly Hills, CA, USA)
- I Will Tell International Film Festival (London, UK)
[Winner of the Special Mention Award]
- Colortape International Film Festival (Brisbane, QLD, Australia)
- Frame by Sound Festival (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic)
[Winner of the Best Actress Category]
- The 39th Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF), (San Rafael, CA, USA)
- The 6th edition of FARCUME - Festival Internacional de Curtas - Metragens de Faro (Algarve, Portugal)
- Woodpecker International Film Festival (WIFF), (New Delhi, India)
[Winner of the Best Film Award in the Gender Category]
- Ottawa Digital Film Festival (Ottawa, Ontario, Canada)
- Moondance International Film Festival (Boulder, CO, USA)
[Semi - Finalist]

Citation, Lecturing on Practical Areas of Dramaturgy, The Festival of House of Theater, Khaneye Honarmandan, 2016

Bahar (Spring) by Ali Pour Issa, Official Selection in:

- The 43rd Festival of Nations (Lenzing, Austria)
[Recipient of Lenzing Award]
- Mykonos Biennale (Mykonos, Greece)
- The 2015 CineAid Film Festival (Austin, TX, USA)
- The 2015 Walser International Film Festival (Salzburg, Austria)
[Recipient of Gold Award for the film, Special Award for Remarkable Directing, and Special Award for Remarkable Actress]
- Kurzfilme-am-freitag (Eging am See, Germany)
- The 2016 Ras Al Khaimah Fine Arts Festival (Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates)
- The 5th National Hasanat Film Festival (Esfahan, Iran)

Recipient of the grant of the Brown International Advanced Research Institute (BIARI) and Santander Universities, "Theater and Civil Society," Brown University, Providence, RI, USA, 2013

Citation for working as a jury member of Dramaturgy and Performance section, Second Theater Week Festival, Art University, 2013

Citation, Critic for Farda Play-Reading Series, The Dramatists' Guild, House of Theater, 2013

Cold Ground by Ali Pour Issa, Official Selection in:

- The 8th Annual European Independent Film Festival (Paris, France)
- The 16th Annual Sonoma International Film Festival (Sonoma, CA, USA)
- The 4th Cheyenne International Film Festival (Cheyenne, WY, USA)

- The Whistle Stop F.I.L.M. Festival (Cheyenne, WY, USA)
- The 41st Festival of Nations (Lenzing, Austria)
- [Awarded Diploma]**
- Greenville International Film Festival (Greenville, SC, USA)
- Canada's 4th Iranian Film Festival (Richmond Hill, Canada)
- The 20th Annual Twin Rivers Media Festival (Asheville NC, USA)
- Iranian American Film Festival (Seattle, Washington, USA)
- The 13th Annual YARI Film Festival (Sweden)
- The 30th International Long Island Film Festival (New York, USA)

Best Translation Award, The 10th International Festival of University Theatre, *The Conduct of Life* by Maria Irene Fornes (English to Persian/Farsi), 2007

Best Translation Award, The 9th Iran International Festival of University Theatre, *Anna in the Tropics* by Nilo Cruz (English to Persian/Farsi), 2006

Citation for directing *Anna in the Tropics*, The 23rd International Fadjr Theatre Festival, 2005

Recognition for the Youngest Playwright of the 22nd International Fadjr Theatre Festival, 2004

Ranked 3rd among 2300 applicants for M.A., The Iran National University Entrance Examination, 2003

Citation for Modeling and Scene Design, *Orchids in Moonlight* by Carlos Fuentes, Stage Design Exhibition, The 7th Iran International Festival of University Theatre, 2003

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

ARTISTIC

Reader (Evaluator), 2021 Yale Drama Series (international playwriting competition),
Leader/Judge: Pulitzer Prize- winning playwright Paula Vogel, Yale University,
New Haven, CT, USA, 2020-2021

Jury Member, Judging for selecting the Winners, New York Film Academy's Made At
Home Film Festival, Miami Beach, FL, 2020

Platinum Non-Fiction Jury Member, Judging for selecting the Winners, COVID-19
International Student Film Festival, Sparta, Michigan, USA, 2020

Director and script development executive, A short fiction film, *Let Go*, Miami Beach, FL,
2020

Producer, director, scriptwriter, art director, and distributor, A short fiction film, *Welcome*,
Seattle, WA, 2018

Founder, director, consultant, instructor, supervisor-executive, The Screenplay
Development Program, Farabi Cinematic Foundation, 2017

Consultant and script development executive, a feature film script, *Slippery Road*, 2016

Producer, director, scriptwriter, set designer, art director, and distributor, A short fiction
film, *The Ground Is Breathing*, 2016 (https://youtu.be/_xmGrQLu9ww)

Producer, director, and scriptwriter, Documentary Film, *Unheard Voices*, A film about
contemporary Iranian theater), 2015 (<https://vimeo.com/126917733>)

Producer, director, scriptwriter, set designer, art director, and distributor, A short fiction
film, *Bahar (Spring)*, 2014 (<https://vimeo.com/110442893>)

Jury Member, Judging for choosing the Official Selection, The 9th Annual European Independent Film Festival, Paris, France, 2013

Jury Member, Dramaturgy and Performance section of Second Theater Week Festival, Art University, 2013

Jury Member, Judging for choosing the Official Selection, The Festival of Saturdays, Molavi Theater, 2012

Producer, scriptwriter, director, scenic and costume designer, and distributor, A short fiction film, *Cold Ground*, 2012
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqbHrdnejEo>

Script Evaluator, Literary Office, Yale Repertory Theater, New Haven, CT, USA, 2008-2011

Co-Casting, Actors Touring Company, Naghmeh Samini's *Amnesia*, Director: Bijan Sheibani (not produced), London, UK, 2008

Production team member, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, *Plastic* by Mehrdad Seyf, (Full production), Edinburgh, UK, 2008

Producer, playwright, director, set and costume designer, The Dramatic Arts Center, Khane-ye-Namaiesh Hall, *Snail*, (Full production), 2006

Producer, playwright, director, Play-reading, House of Theater, *Last Chance to Be a Husband*, 2006

Producer, director, and set designer, The 23rd International Fajr Theatre Festival, City Theater, *Anna in the Tropics*, 2005 [censored.]

Producer, translator, and director, Play-reading, The Dramatic Arts Center, *Anna in the Tropics*, 2004

Playwright, The 22nd International Fajr Theatre Festival, The Dramatic Arts Center, *My Home Is Here?!*, (Full production), City Theatre, 2003-4

Lighting Designer, The 9th International Puppet Theatre Festival, The Dramatic Arts Center, City Theatre, *Hasan Kachal*, (Full production), 2002

Artist, (New arts, sculpture, and installation), Azad University and private locations, 1999-2002

Producer, director, and writer, A short student video, *Mirror's Desert*, 2000

Acting, The Dramatic Arts Center, City Theatre, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* by Bertolt Brecht, (Full production), 1999-2000

EDITORIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Senator of the School of Drama, Graduate and Professional Student Senate, the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 2017-18

Member of Election Committee, The Union for Academic Student Employees at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 2017-18

Regional Managing Editor, The Theatre Times on-line magazine, (headquarter: NYC), since 2017

Departmental Liaison of the School of Drama, The Union for Academic Student Employees at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 2017-18

Guest Editor-in-Chief, *Farabi Quarterly Magazine*, Special Issue on "Dramaturgy and Cinema: Script Development," 2013

Guest Editor-in-Chief, *Farabi Quarterly Magazine*, Special Issue on "The Relationship of

Theater and Cinema,” 2013
 Editorial Staff (Assisting with proof-reading, formatting materials, writing, and editing),
 The Yale Publishing Course, Yale University, New Haven, Summer 2010
 Staff (Assisting Administrator), The Office of International Affairs, Yale University, New
 Haven, Summer, 2010
 Editorial Staff (Formatting materials), *Theater*, 39:1 and 39:2, New Haven, CT, USA, 2009
 Editor-in-Chief, *Graduate Student Bulletin of the International Assembly on Arts and
 Globalization*, The Center for Art Research and Advanced Studies, 2004-5

PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES AND PLAYS

- “Ten Pieces of Advice for the Emerging Artist: The Beginning of Intiman Theatre,” *The
 Theatre Times* (on-line magazine), (in English), 2017
 “Adaptation and Dramaturgy of Aghehati’s *Hamlet* and Koushki’s *Richard II*: Social
 Activism in Iran,” *The Theatre Times* (on-line magazine), (in English), 2017
 “K̄ayrk̄āh, Ḥosayn,” *Encyclopædia Iranica*, (in English), Columbia University Press,
 New York City, (Written in 2015)
 “Territory and Integration: *Clybourne Park*,” *Namayesh Magazine*, (in Farsi) 2010
 “*Salgashtegi*: Theatricalism,” *Iran Theater Website*, Review section, (in Farsi) 2013
 “Book Review of *Domesticity and Consumer Culture in Iran: Interior Revolutions of the
 Modern Era* by Pamela Karimi,” *The Journal of the Anthropology of the
 Contemporary Middle East and Central Eurasia (ACME)*, (in English), London,
 UK, 2014
 “Izumi Ashizawa: Bridge between the West, the East and the Middle East,” *Annual
 Magazine of the Yale School of Drama*, Vol. LIV, (in English), New Haven, CT,
 USA, 2010
My Home Is Here?!, *The Best Nine Student Plays II*. The 8th Iran International
 Festival of University Theatre and Sokhan Gostar Publishing, (in Farsi) 2006
 “Poetic Play,” *Bani Film Newspaper*, (in Farsi) 2004 (Co-written.)

TRANSLATIONS (ENGLISH to PERSIAN/FARSI)

- Robinson, Marc. *The Other American Drama*. Namayesh Publishing, TBA.
 Cruz, Nilo. *Anna in the Tropics*. Book. Tehran: Nila Publishing, 2013.
 Fuchs, Elinor. “Introduction.” *The Death of Character: Perspectives on Theater after
 Modernism*. Tehran: Karnameh Institute On-line Magazine, 2012.
 Fuchs, Elinor. “EF’s Visit to a Small Planet: Some Questions to Ask a Play.” *Ketab-e-
 Sahneh II (Iranian Journal of Theater)*. Tehran: Hoze Honari Publishing, 2011.
 Fortier, Mark. “Feminism and Theatre.” *Sahne Performing Arts Magazine*. Tehran: Hoze
 Honari Publishing, 2008.
 Delgado, M. Maria and Caridad Svich. “Chronology of Maria Irene Fornes.” *Sahne
 Performing Arts Magazine*. Tehran: Hoze Honari Publishing, 2007.
 Sontag, Susan. “Preface of her Works.” *Sahne Performing Arts Magazine*. Tehran: Hoze
 Honari Publishing, 2007.

- Wetzsteon, Ross. "The Elements of Style." *Sahne Performing Arts Magazine*. Tehran: Hoze Honari Publishing, 2007.
- Ranjini, Obeyesekere. "The Significance of Performance for Its Audience: An Analysis of Three SriLankan Rituals." *Faslname-ye-Honar (The Art Quarterly)*. No. 66, Tehran: The Center for Art Research and Advanced Studies, 2006.
- Schechner, Richard and James Thompson. "Why Social Theatre?" *Theatre and Society*. Tehran: Hoze Honari Publishing, 2006. (Co-translated)
- Davis, Tony. "An Introduction of Yokio Horio." *Performing Arts Magazine*. Vol. 4, Tehran, 2004.
- Davis, Tony. "An Introduction of Ming Cho Lee." *Performing Arts Magazine*. Vol. 3, Tehran, 2003. (Co-translated)
- Davis, Tony. "An Introduction of George Tsypin." *Performing Arts Magazine*. Vol. 2, Tehran, 2003. (Co-translated)

TRANSLATION (From Persian to English)

- Samini, Naghmeh. *No Goodbyes* (New play), 2010. (Persian/Farsi to English under supervision of Professor James Magruder), London & New York: Routledge, 2020.

PLAYS AND FILM SCRIPTS

- Amphiwoman* (Script), 2016 (first version), 2020 (final version)
- A Day for Birth* (Script), 2016.
- My Life Frames* (Script), 2016.
- Bahar/Spring* (Script), 2013.
- Cold Ground* (Script), 2012.
- Vertigo: Zah 'hak* (Play), 2010.
- Wedding Day* (Play), 2010.
- Snail* (Script), 2005.
- The Lost School* (Script), 2005.
- Last Chance to Be a Husband* (Play), 2004.
- The Wilderness of Mirrors* (Script), 2001.
- Eyes Wide: Sentenced to Death* (Play), 2000.

MEMBERSHIPS

- Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas, USA and Canada, 2011 to present
- Permanent member of the Union of the Association of Directors, Theater Forum, 2007 to present
- Permanent member of the Union of the Association of Playwrights, Theater Forum, 2005 to present
- Associate member of the Union of the Association of Scenic and Costume Designers, Theater Forum, 2006-2008

LANGUAGES

Excellent in Persian/Farsi and English
Some knowledge in Turkish, Azeri, Arabic, and French

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS (2010-11)

First Comprehensive Exam:

Theater Design 1876-1939

Second Comprehensive Exam:

Contemporary American Drama: 1970-2009

Departmental Exams:

Classical and Medieval Drama: Greek Tragedy

Pre-Modern Drama (Renaissance through 1880): Romanticism

DISSERTATIONS

“A Critical Review of Maria Irene Fornes’ Dramatic Works with a Translation of Her Play,
The Conduct of Life,” 2006

M.A. Dissertation at the University of Tehran Honors, GPA of 18.27 (out of 20).

The first scholarly consideration of Maria Irene Fornes in Iran

“The Design Process for a Production of *Orchids in Moonlight* by Carlos Fuentes from a
Postmodernist Point of View,” 2003

B.A. Dissertation at Azad University, Honors for the dissertation (Received grade: 20 out
of 20)

The first scholarly consideration of postmodernism in the context of stage design in Iranian
universities and institutions

CHARITABLE WORK

Filmmaker and Archivist, Documentary and Archive Association, Baranemehr NGO
(Hamiyan-e-Tabiat-e-Paak Institute), 2016

SOCIAL MEDIA

Short Biography: *Toward A Better World* (2015): <https://vimeo.com/168610814>

Facebook (Professional Page): <https://www.facebook.com/Bridge-Theater-Ensemble-Ali-Pour-Issa-224960770871782/>

Facebook (Personal Page): <https://www.facebook.com/al.puriss>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Ali_Pour_Issa

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/ali.pour.issa/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alipourissa/>