

Ishika Muchhal

Storyteller. Activist. Organizer. Leader.

EDUCATION

California Institute of the Arts (CalArts)

- BFA in Acting, Social Science Minor, 2023

EXPERIENCE (select)

Program Associate, Community Engagement, 2023 – 2024

LA Opera Connects, CA

- Handled event logistics, artist management, partner communications, volunteer scheduling, event material creation, & data analysis for many performances, workshops, & events running consecutively
- Oversaw the Senior Dress Rehearsal: compiling outreach data, recruiting senior center, designing programming materials, running operations/logistics for the event, and tracking post-event analytics of attendance in Tessitura
- Assisted coordination and set up for weekly Russell Thomas Youth Artist Training Academy, helping guest artists prep students for shows & auditions
- Helped with design, distribution, set up, and tear down events for middle school, high school, and college students to attend Opera rehearsals
- Prepared informational materials, programs, and collateral for events to inform audiences about LAO programming and shows
- Generated memos for arts partners, ensuring adherence to program budget
- Coordinated 80+ ensemble members for annual community opera

VP of Communications, IDEA Chair, and Policy Advocate, 2020 – 21

National Women's Political Caucus - San Gabriel Valley, CA

- Raised \$7000 to elect pro-choice women by orchestrating a virtual 50th anniversary gala, featuring speakers from the women's movement history
- Boosted monthly meeting attendance by creating digital marketing campaigns, newsletters, social media posts, and website pages
- Advocated for AB 367 (Menstrual Equality Act) via letter endorsement to CA state legislature to get period products in government-funded schools
- Wrote caucus' IDEA policy to commit to inclusion, diversity, equity, & access, and championed bringing younger, more diverse voices to support for office

President, Vice President, Assembly Executive Committee, 2021 – 23

CalArts Student Union, CA

- Increased student voice in shared governance and issues of institutional import by co-facilitating revisions to the bylaws and student conduct policy
- Shaped admin decisions on space planning, purchasing policy, & tuition
- Facilitated meetings on wellness, food, mentorship, IDEA, & sustainability
- Created transparency & a consolidated place for students to access resources through a living handbook, surveys, & monthly newsletter
- Collaborated with theater school admin to diversify programming seasons

Assembly and Workshop Dancer, 2025 – present

Ajna Dance Company, The Music Center, Segerstrom, Dancing Storytellers, CA/NY

- Led informative Ajna assemblies with video, Q&A, interactives, and dance performances for elementary, middle, and high schools throughout NYC
- Taught 6-week Indian dance residencies, choreographing, planning formations, sharing Indian culture, and teaching dance steps to students
- Performed in the dance theater duet show *Indian Mythology and Me*
- Shared Indian culture and dance to children & families at schools, museums, parks, and libraries across Southern California with Dancing Storytellers

CONTACT

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Brooklyn, NY

SKILLS

- Acting
- Singing
- Dancing
- Directing
- Filmmaking
- Cold Calling
- Community Engagement
- Team Building
- Leadership
- Hosting/Emceeing
- Event Planning
- PR & Marketing
- Grassroots Fundraising
- Content Creation
- Sound, Photo, & Video Editing
- News & Creative Writing

SOFTWARES

- Adobe Photoshop, Premiere Pro, Rush
- Audacity
- Wix, Squarespace, WordPress
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Google Suite
- Social Media: IG, FB, YouTube, Twitter
- MailChimp
- Tessitura
- Later
- Canva

LANGUAGES

- English (native)
- Hindi (fluent)
- Spanish (conversational)

Development Producer, 2025 – present

Hakawati Collective, La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, NY

- Planned and hosted fundraiser party, securing vendor in-kind donations for raffles
- Developed and reached out to database of high-profile donors, press contacts, community advocates, influencers, and industry contacts to increase funds and audience for *The Thousand and One Nights* workshop production and Off-Broadway debut at La MaMa Theatre

Podcast Editor, 2023 – present

Keely Semler, Motherlands Podcast, CA/NY

- Organized, edited, and mixed audio files for a podcast centering reproductive justice & women's health
- Summarized episodes & published them to Spotify, Apple Podcasts, & more
- Tracked viewership and episode performance on Spotify for Podcasters

Staff Reporter, Content-Writer, News Anchor, 2016 – 2023

24700, *The Clarion*, *Logos Magazine*, *The Wildcat*, CA

- Published award-winning news articles, profiles, alumnx news, & opinions, ranging from coverage of daily news to culture and art events, entertainment op-eds to profiling state assembly members and faculty

Assistant to Artistic Director, 2025

Hypokrit Theater Company, NY

- Scheduled all collaborator meetings and managed 3 interns' assignments
- Tracked progress for 20 projects on AirTable & managed submissions to 200 film festivals on Google Drive
- Wrote script coverage for future projects & co-wrote grant & lab applications
- Booked studios for rehearsals and bought tickets for cross-promoting shows

Marketing Content Intern, 2021

East West Players, CA

- Highlighted staff, board members, & artists by writing 15 creative profiles
- Archived 50 years of production history & designed WordPress pages
- Designed media strategy, captured & designed social media assets with Canva to promote upcoming productions, & scheduled posts with Later

Berlin Fellow, 2023 – 2024

Humanity in Action, Germany

- Spent a month in Berlin exploring & facilitating discourse on Germany's colonial past and present-day repercussions, impact, privilege, and identity
- Developed *STREE (South Asians Talking about Reproductive Education and Empowerment)* to create space and community for intergenerational conversations between South Asian women on reproductive justice framework, cultural & generational nuances and biases, and civic advocacy & participation

Interview Vodcast Series Host, 2021 – present

A QISSAA with Ishika: Quintessential & Inspiring Stories of South Asian Artists, CA/NY

- Developed vodcast to share the journeys of South Asian arts trailblazers
- Focused on highlighting representation and the unique challenges and successes within our diaspora
- Livestreamed 35+ episodes on YouTube, IG, FB, & Spotify to 4k+ viewers

Director, Filmmaker, Producer, 2018 – present

CalArts, L. K. Taylor Performing Arts Center, CA

- Directed, produced, & designed multiple theater productions, immersive experiences, & cabarets
- Used filmmaking and editing skills to create short films and informational videos, educating viewers on subjects including US history, government, and voting
- Produced a variety of theatrical productions, cabarets, and events for clubs & orgs

Team Captain and Fundraiser, 2005 – 18

American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, CA

- Individually raised \$35,000 for cancer research by planning multiple fundraisers over 13 years and securing monetary and in-kind donations
- Mobilized a team of 90 members to boost booth sales at 24-hr events

Poll Worker, 2020 – 25

LA County Registrar, CA

- Checked-in & registered 500+ voters for 4 elections in NYC & LA
- Opened and closed vote centers, readying VSAP machines for use & storage
- Solved IT issues & accessibility functions for individual station & volunteers

Event Coordinator and Community Outreach Chair, 2018 – 22

Asian Student Alliance, CalArts, CA

- Grew ASA membership and student awareness of Asian diasporic events by planning and producing events like Holi, Diwali, and Asian Art Showcases
- Coordinated with artists, campus life, caterers, communications office, social media managers, and decoration team for above events

Producer, Event Coordinator, Host, and Performer, 2020 – 21

Foothill Unity Center, CA

- Raised \$6,000 for unhoused populations by producing, coordinating, and livestreaming a community engagement concert fundraiser to 400+ people

Campaign Canvasser and Field Intern, 2020 – 24

Various Campaigns, CA

- Scheduled 100+ West Coast volunteers to call voters for successful election
- Knocked doors, text banked, phone banked, & wrote letters for 8 local, state, & national campaigns

Producing Assistant, 2019 – 20

Bootleg Theater, CA

- Coordinated publicity, rehearsals, catering, talent, & press for *We're Gonna Die* concert, & increased event reach through mailers, merch, ads, & flyering

Actor, Singer, Dancer, Model, Writer, Comedian, 2012 – presentFreelance – [Performance Resume](#), CA/NY, Canada, UK

- Professionally trained in contemporary/classical dance, singing, and acting
- Connected with int'l audiences in 80+ plays, musicals, films, & TV shows
- Shared a subversive, wordplay-filled take on dating and patriarchal systems in a solo stand-up special

Tennis Receptionist, 2024 – 2025

Valley Hunt Club Racquet Sports, CA

- Scheduled and checked in club members for tennis and pickleball sessions
- Handled sales and inventory of game merchandise, equipment, snacks, and drinks
- Managed court schedules, answered member questions, & organized spaces
- Opened and closed tennis pavilion and sports center, cross-checking sales receipts and status reports

Producer/Show Manager, New Works Festival, 2019 – 20

CalArts School of Theater, CA

- Produced 3-day festival featuring 10 original student plays for the CalArts community
- Facilitated selection of plays by writing coverage of 20 pitched projects for the executive committee

Gallery Assistant, 2025 – 26

Gallery Art &, NY

- Executed sales of art pieces through Square, from pitching to packaging
- Set up, maintained, and closed shop for gallery owner & handled inventory

Teacher's Assistant, 2018 – 23

CalArts, CA

- Tracked assignments & attendance, controlled class websites, and managed schedules for faculty
- Set up classrooms, sent class emails, & liaised between faculty and student for each group's needs

AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS

- International Human Rights Arts Movement – Advisory Board & Fundraising Committee
- California Arts Council “Individual Artist Fellow” Grant
- Humanity in Action Berlin Senior Fellow
- Lillian Disney & Flora Hollingsworth Hurschler Scholarship
- LA County Arts and Culture – Arts Internship Program Grant
- AP Scholar with Distinction
- Rotary: Paul Harris Fellow, Interact Club President, Youth Leadership Award
- President's Outstanding Academic Excellence Award
- Top 10 of Class 2012-2018
- National Honors Society, International Thespian Society, California Scholarship Federation, Math & Science Academy, National Technical Honors Society