

Ishika Muchhal

Storyteller. Activist. Organizer. Leader.

EDUCATION

- **California Institute of the Arts (CalArts)**
 - **BFA in Acting, Social Science Minor, 2023**

EXPERIENCE (select)

Actor, Singer, Dancer, 2012 - present

Freelance, CA – [Performance Resume](#)

- Professionally trained in contemporary/classical dance, singing, and acting
- Connected with int'l audiences in 80+ plays, musicals, films, & TV shows

Program Associate, Community Engagement, 2023 – 2024

LA Opera Connects

- Increased outreach to senior centers by 200%, oversaw event from planning to post-analysis, & brought opera to underserved communities
- Designed materials for, staffed, & provided logistical support for events and weekly classes for students across LA and neighboring counties
- Coordinated over 80 ensemble members for annual community opera, handling recruitment, scheduling, and artist and partner communications

Dancing Storytellers Performer, 2023 – 2025

The Music Center, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Dancing Storytellers

- 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

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

CalArts Student Union

- Increased student voice in shared governance via Institute by-law revisions
- Shaped admin decisions on space planning, purchasing policy, & tuition
- Facilitated meetings on wellness, food, mentorship, IDEA, & sustainability
- Created transparency via a living handbook, surveys, & monthly newsletter
- Collaborated with theater school admin to diversify programmed seasons

Assistant to Artistic Director, 2025

Arpita Mukherjee, Hypokrit NYC

- Scheduled all meetings, oversaw interns, & tracked progress for 20 projects
- Organized film fest submission data; broke down scripts; coordinated social posts; co-wrote grant applications
- Booked studios for rehearsals and bought tickets for cross-promoting shows

Marketing Content Intern, 2021

East West Players, Los Angeles, CA

- Highlighted staff, board members, & artists by writing 15 creative [profiles](#)
- Archived 50 years of production history & designed WordPress pages
- Captured & designed social media assets to promote upcoming productions

Producing Assistant, 2019 – 20

Bootleg Theater, Los Angeles, CA

- Coordinated publicity and press interviews for the *We're Gonna Die* concert
- Scheduled 2 months of rehearsals, event catering, and talent logistics
- Increased reach of event through preparation of mailers, flyering, and merchandise distribution

CONTACT

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Los Angeles, California

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
- Later
- Canva

LANGUAGES

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

Tennis Receptionist, 2024 - 2025

Valley Hunt Club Racquet Sports

- Checked in high profile club members for tennis and pickleball sessions
- Managed court schedules, answered member questions, & organized spaces

Interview Vodcast Series Host, 2021 - present

A QISSAA with Ishika: Quintessential & Inspiring Stories of South Asian Artists

- 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 30+ episodes on YouTube, IG, FB, & Spotify to 4k+ viewers

Podcast Editor, 2023 - present

Keely Semler, Motherlands Podcast

- Organized, edited, and mixed audio files for motherhood-focused podcast
- Summarized episodes & published them to Spotify, Apple Podcasts, & more
- Tracked viewership and episode performance on Spotify for Podcasters

Campaign Canvasser and Field Intern, 2020-24

Various Campaigns, CA

- Oversaw scheduling of 100+ West Coast volunteers to call and text voters for a successful Senate election
- Knocked doors, text banked, phone banked, & wrote letters for 8 local, state, & national campaigns

Berlin Fellow, 2023 - 2024

Humanity in Action

- Explored & facilitated discourse on colonial impacts, privilege, & identity
- Developed *STREE (South Asians Talking about Reproductive Education and Empowerment)* to facilitate intergenerational conversations between South Asian women on reproductive justice & civic advocacy

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

24700, The Clarion, Logos Magazine, The Wildcat

- Wrote 50+ articles for CalArts' blog, highlighting alumna & student news
- Published award-winning news, profiles, & opinions for *Logos Magazine & The Clarion* newspaper
- Informed students on events as anchor & broadcast writer for live news

Co-VP of Communications and Policy Advocate, 2020 – 21

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

- Raised \$7000 to elect pro-choice women by planning and orchestrating virtual 50th anniversary gala
- Boosted monthly meeting attendance by creating digital marketing campaigns
- Advocated for the passing of AB 367 (Menstrual Equity Act) via letter endorsement to the state legislature

Director, Filmmaker, Producer, 2018 – present

CalArts, L. K. Taylor Performing Arts Center

- Directed & designed multiple theater productions, immersive experiences, & cabarets – directing, producing, set, costume, light, & sound design
- 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

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

Foothill Unity Center, San Gabriel Valley, CA

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

Poll Worker, 2020-24

LA County Registrar, CA

- Checked-in & registered 300+ voters for 3 elections as poll worker
- Opened and closed vote center alongside site lead, readying VSAP machines for use and storage
- Solved IT issues like print jams and accessibility functions for individual station and other volunteers

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

CalArts School of Theater, Santa Clarita, 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

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

Teacher's Assistant, 2018 – 2023

CalArts, CA

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

Podcast Marketing Assistant, 2025

Casting Confidential, Los Angeles, CA

- Worked alongside Casting Director Rose Rosen, CSA, to increase reach of *Casting Confidential* podcast through MailChimp newsletters and digital marketing campaigns

Publicity Intern, 2019

L K Taylor Performing Arts Center, Monrovia, CA

- Captured photo & video content, designed social media, & worked with staff in MUSD to publicize *Mary Poppins* summer musical
- Increased reach of event through preparation of mailers, flyering, community marketing, & calling

Team Captain and Fundraiser, 2005-2018

American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, CA

- Individually raised \$35,000+ for cancer research & patient services through fundraisers & donations
- Mobilized team of 90+ community members and in-kind donors to boost booth sales at 13 24-hour events

Ambassador and Director of Publicity, 2015-18

International Thespian Society, MHS

- Acquired sponsorships and donors for 9 shows and boosted ticket sales past historic attendance
- Liaised between drama department, city council, school board, TV and news media, and donors
- Designed t-shirts, flyers, graphics, and programs for theater shows & fundraisers

Concessions Manager, 2015 – 2018

L. K. Taylor Performing Arts Center

- Managed sales of concessions before shows and during intermission
- Generated revenue for the theater through food and merch sales

AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS

- 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
- National Women's Political Caucus – San Gabriel Valley and CA State Caucuses
- Asian Student Alliance
- Theater Movement Bazaar Associate Artist
- 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