

SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY
(An international university established by 8 SAARC
nations) New Delhi, India
Website: <https://sau.int/>

**ADMISSION FOR SESSION - JANUARY
2025**

New Online Courses: <https://sau.int/new-courses/>

FACULTY OF ARTS AND DESIGN

Short-Term Online Certificate Course

THEATRICAL ARTS AND ACTING TECHNIQUES

Duration: 3 Months - 40 Hours

Pedagogy: Theory - 25% & Practical - 75%

Distinct Feature: South Asian perspective in theatre arts and acting techniques

COURSE COORDINATOR/RESOURCE PERSON

Prof. (Dr) Ambrish Saxena [+91 9810059895]

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Faculty of Arts and Design

South Asian University (SAU)

RESOURCE PERSONS: SENIOR ACADEMIC/INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

1. Dr Nitin Mane

Accomplished Actor, director, and writer

Senior Faculty, Christ University, Bengaluru; Ex-FTII, Pune faculty

Taught theatre at ASFD, Amity University, Noida, and ACFM, Hyderabad

Screen and stage performances in Marathi, Hindi, English, Telugu, and

Kannada <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nitin-m-69b133136/>

<https://www.instagram.com/creativevibein/profilecard/?igsh=eWtvaXl4cHByYXR3>

M.A. in Theatre and an M.F.A. in Acting from Louisiana State University, USA

2. Mr Rajesh Singh

Chief of the Repertory Company, National School of Drama (NSD), New Delhi

Worked with Shri Ram Centre Repertory and Sahitya Kala Parishad Repertory

Specialisation in Theatre Design, Direction and Stage Management

<https://nsd.gov.in/delhi/index.php/about-repertory/>

A graduate from NSD with specialization in Theatre Techniques and Design

Studied at London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (INLAKS Scholarship)

2. Ms Kajal Suri

Director, Author, Writer, and Poetess

Programme Executive, Akashvani, Prasar Bharti

Direction of scores of plays, participation in many theatre festivals across India

https://www.instagram.com/kajalsuri_/?hl=en

Festival Director of Vijay Suri National Theatre Festival and other festivals

Recipient of National Iconic Award for contribution in literature and theatre

SYLLABUS AND CONTENT DELIVERY

INTRODUCTION - 2 HOURS

1. Introduction to SAARC and SAU
2. Student-Teacher Exchange: Aspirational Action Plan

MODULE 1 - 8 HOURS

EVOLUTION OF SOUTH ASIAN THEATRE

1. Overview of South Asian theatre (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal)
2. Evolution and impact of colonisation on South Asian theatre
3. Key traditions: Sanskrit Theatre, Folk Theatre, and Modern Theatre
4. Natyashastra as foundation of theatre in Indian subcontinent
5. The Eight Rasas (emotions) and their application in acting

Practical exercises:

1. Expressing emotions through body language
2. Perform short solo improvisations based on a chosen *Rasa*

MODULE 2 - 8 HOURS

FOLK THEATRE FORMS OF SOUTH ASIA

1. Overview of *Tamasha* (Maharashtra) and *Yakshagana* (Karnataka)
2. Folk theatre forms from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka

Practical exercises:

1. Characterization techniques in South Asian styles (rehearsal)
2. Balancing realism and stylisation in performance (rehearsal)
3. Practice: Building a character's emotional arc (rehearsal)
4. Folk theatre Scene work and constructive feedback

MODULE 3 - 8 HOURS

THEATRE DESIGN, LIGHTS, AND STAGECRAFT

1. Set design – Creative design of the stage as per requirement of scenes, stage property
2. Stage lighting – Types of lighting, light designing, placement and projection of lights
3. Music and Sound – Composition of music, support of music/sound from backstage
4. Costumes – Clothing and accessories used by actors during a stage performance
5. Makeup – Enhancing features of an actor as per the character portrayed by him/her

Practical exercises:

1. Building characters with the help of stagecraft
2. Rehearsal focusing on characterization

MODULE 4 - 12 HOURS

IMPROVISATION, VOCAL AND PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

1. Acting techniques – Developing basic skills of acting
2. Basics of improvisation: Spontaneity and teamwork
3. Improvised storytelling using South Asian folk tales
4. Improvisations, based on story, situation, and characters
5. Voice modulation, diction, and physical control

Practical exercises:

1. Improvisation exercises by using a given dialogue
2. Voice training: Breathing and projection techniques
3. Diction and pronunciation in multilingual contexts
4. Body language and gesture -physical characterization
5. Using gestures and movements to communicate

VALEDICTION: 2 HOURS

1. Final Performance of prepared scenes/solo pieces with feedback and discussion
2. Certification distribution/feedback