Rana **Esfandiary**

Assistant Professor . Department of Theatre & Dance . University of Kansas .

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| EDUCATION |  |  |
| Ph.D. (with honors), Theatre Studies | University of Kansas | 2018 |
| MFA (with honors), Scenography | University of Kansas | 2013 |
| BA, Playwriting  | Art University of Tehran, Iran | 2009 |

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| EMPLOYMENT |  |  |
| Assistant Professor  | University of Kansas | 2019 – Present  |
| Visiting Assistant Professor | University of Kansas | 2017 – 2019 |

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| TEACHING |  |  |
| **Graduate Courses**  | University of Kansas | 2017 – Present  |
| * Direct Reading in scenography, THR 701, Fall 2023
* Theatre & Visual Culture, THR 702, Fall 2022
* Scenography and Musical Theatre, THR 820 Fall 2022
* Direct Reading in Scenography, THR 703, Spring 2021, Fall 2018
* Theatre & Visual Culture, THR 702, Fall 2020
* Scenography and Musical Theatre, THR 618, Spring 2020, Fall 2017
* Scenography and Modern Script, THR 518, Fall 2019
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| **Undergraduate Courses**  | University of Kansas | 2017 – Present  |
| * Approaching Design, THR 215, Fall 2023
* History of Period styles, THR 520, Fall 2023
* Approaching Design, THR 215, Spring 2023
* Computer Aided Design, THR 517, Spring 2023
* Theatre & Visual Culture, THR 302, Fall 2022
* Scenography and Musical Theatre, THR 618, Fall 2022
* Popular Culture: Instagram, THR 380, Fall 2021
* Scenographic Techniques, THR 116, Fall 2021, Fall 2020
* Theatre & Visual Culture, THR 302, Fall 2020
* Approaching Design, THR 215, Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2017
* Scenography as Cultural Narrative, THR 302, Spring 2019
* Beginning of Costume Design, THR 320, Spring 2018
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| DESIGN EXPERIENCE: THEATRE & DANCE |
| *Sweat* | Scenery | Dir. Darren Canady | University of Kansas | 2024 |
| *University Dance Concert* | Scenery | Choreographer. Maya Tillman | University of Kansas | 2023 |
| *What the Constitution Means to Me* | Scenery | Dir. Amy Corcoran | Kansas City Repertory Theatre | 2023 |
| *Love & Information* | Scenery | Dir. Jane Barnette & James Moreno | University of Kansas | 2023 |
| *Everybody* | Costume | Dir. Timmia DeRoy | University of Kansas | 2022 |
| *Twelfth Night*  | Scenery | Dir. Nelson Eusebio | Kansas City Repertory Theatre | 2022 |
| *Airness* | Costume | Dir. Jonah Green | University of Kansas |  2021 |
| *Cubic* | Costume, Scenery | Dir. James Moreno | University of Kansas | 2021 |
| *Family Slide Show* | Scenery | Dir. Ice Haggins | KC MeltingPot Theatre | 2020 |
| *H.M.S Pinafore* | Costume | Dir. John Stephens | University of Kansas | 2020 |
| *Water by Spoon* | Costume | Dir. TBD | University of Kansas | 2020 |
| *The Wolves* | Costume | Dir. Susan Kerner | Montclair State University | 2020 |
| *Indecent* | Scenery | Dir. Henry Bial | University of Kansas | 2019 |
| *Urinetown* | Costume | Dir. Eric Avery | University of Kansas | 2019 |
| *The Wolves* | Costume, Scenery | Dir. Susan Kerner | University of Kansas | 2019 |
| *Chasing Gods* | Scenery | Dir. Markus Potter | Kansas Repertory Theatre | 2019 |
| *Sycorax* | Costume | Dir. Jane Barnette | University of Kansas | 2019 |
| *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* | Scenery | Dir. Harry Parker | University of Kansas | 2018 |
| *The Legend of Georgia McBride* | Lighting  | Dir. Peter Zazzali | Kansas Repertory Theatre | 2018 |
| *La Cage aux Folles* | Lighting  | Dir. Peter Zazzali | Kansas Repertory Theatre | 2018 |
| *Mascot* | Projection  | Dir. Peter Zazzali | LivingRoom Theatre | 2018 |
| *Sunset baby* | Lighting  | Dir. Nicole Hodges Persley | KC MeltingPot Theatre | 2017 |
| *The Comedy of Errors* | Projection  | Dir. Peter Zazzali | Kansas Repertory Theatre | 2014 |
| *Adding Machine: The Musical* | Projection  | Dir. Mechele Leon | University of Kansas | 2013 |
| *The Mousetrap* | Lighting  | Dir. Doug Weaver | Kansas Repertory Theatre | 2013 |
| *Summer and Smoke* | Scenery | Dir. Boone Hopkins | University of Kansas | 2012 |
| *Dog Sees God* | Costume, Lighting | Dir. Danny Devlin | University of Kansas | 2012 |
| *Noah’s Art* | Costume | Dir. Alex Espy | University of Kansas | 2011 |

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| DIRECTING |  |  |
| *Gaza Monologues* (Zoom Production) | Stanford University, Abbasi Program | 2021  |
| *Ashes to Ashes* | University of Kansas | 2017 |
| *Nathan and Tabileth* | University of Kansas | 2014 |

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| SCHOLARLY PUBLICATION |  |  |
| * In Press, “Designing with the Idea of Sustainability and Climate Change: Teaching Design Within the Bounds of Time, Money, and Physics.” By Lindsay Webster and Rana Esfandiary. Under review by *The International journal of Education in the Arts (IJEA)*, Guest Editor, Carly Holzwarth, Drama Section Editor, Jeanmarie Higgins, Editorial Assistant, Aruhsi Grover.
* *At The Threshold: Contemporary Theatre, Art and Music of Iran*

Monograph by Rana Esfandiary. Taylor & Francis Group, Routledge, Published on October 20th, 2023* “Queering the Iranian Stage: Ali Akbar Alizad’s remix of Jean Genet’s *The Maids* with Reza Abdoh’s profanity of dissidence,” will be published in co-edited collection *Diva: Hip Hop, Feminism and Fierceness*, edited by Benjamin Halligan, Nicole Hodges Persley, Kirsty Fairclough, and Shara Rambarran, Bloomsbury Press, published on October 5th, 2023.
* “ATHE 2020 Roundtable: Pedagogy and Absence,” Rana Esfandiary (principal author), Michael Malek Najjar, Marjan Moosavi, Hala Baki, Samer Al-Saber, Bart Pitchford, and Reza Mirsajadi. Published in *Theatre Topics*, March issue 2021.
* “A Case Study of Directorial Courage: An Iranian Director’s Subversive Production of Lorca’s *The House of Bernarda Alba*,” by Rana Esfandiary (principal author under pseudonym of Joie Miroux) and Peter Zazzali, published in *Stage Director and Choreographer Society (SDC)* journal, Winter and Spring 2017.
* “An Experiment with Digital Lighting in Adding Machine: A Musical,” Rana Esfandiary (principal author), and Mark Reaney, published in *Theatre Design & Technology (TD&T)* journal, Fall 2014 (Vol. 50 No 4).
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| SCHOLARLY PRESENTATION |  |  |
| * Presenter at *Red Hot Research*, Hosted by the Commons, University of Kansas, September 29, 2023. Watson Library. Presenters: Rana Esfandiary, Kelly Sharron, Christina Holt, Faye Xiao, Alesia Woszidlo.
* Presenter at panel titled, *Collaborating Against Colonialism: A Multi-Focus Group Working Session*, Middle Eastern Theatre (MET) Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) annual conference. Presentation titled, “Bringing MENA World to the Midwest.” Presenters: Patricia Herrera, Beth Osborn, Jonathan Shandell, Nelson Barre, Scott Bradly. August 3, 2023.
* Presenter and Moderator at panel titled, *Global Conversation: Public Demonstration in Iran*, organized by the Commons, The KU Iranian Community Associations, the Global Awareness Program, the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, International Affair, on April 4, 2023 at Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center, University of Kansas.
* Presenter at panel titled, *Staging Politics Through MENA Theatre*, Middle Eastern Theatre (MET) Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) annual conference. Paper titled, “The Maids’ profanity of dissidence.” Presenters: Nahid Ahmadian, Aycan Akçamete. July 31, 2022.
* *MENA in American Universities*, MENA Theatre Makers Alliance (MENATMA) Fall convening, hosted by The Rutherford Initiative, University of Oregon, Golden Thread Productions, Noor Theatre and Art2Action, Inc. via Zoom and Facebook Live, November 5, 6, and 7 2021.
* *Presenter at virtual Salon #32: Mena Designers in US Theatre,* hosted by Wingspace Theatrical Design based in New York, via Zoom and Facebook Live, November 4th, 7-9 pm ET.
* Presenter at roundtable titled, *Decolonizing Applied Theatre in the Middle East and North Africa*, Middle Eastern Theatre (MET) Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) annual conference. Paper titled, “Presenting to Forget.” Presenters: Bart Pitchford, Faeze Daemi, Ash Marinaccio, Fadi Skeiker. Virtual, August 8, 2021.
* Moderator and session coordinator, *Globalism and Iranian Theatre*, Middle Eastern Theatre (MET) Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) annual conference. Presenters: Nahid Ahmadian, Reza Mirsajadi, Matthew Randle-Bent. Virtual, August 8, 2021.
* Presenter at panel titled, *Theatre Ecologies: Environment, Sustainability and Politics*, Scenography working group, International Federation of Theatre Research (IFTR) annual conference, paper titled, “The (in)disposable utopia of scenography: preserving environment through theatre.” Presenters: Julie Hudson, Sofia Pantouvaki, Susanne Thurow, Michael Simon. Virtual, July 12 – 16, 2021.
* Presenter at *Rebel and Revel, A virtual Symposium on the Theatre of the Middle East*, held by University of Maryland in collaboration with *Reconnect Festival*. Paper Titled, “The (in)convenience of Exoticism.” Presenters: Marjan Moosavi and Sarah Fahmy. April 8, 2021.
* Presenter at roundtable titled, *Resilient Rehearsal Rooms: Feminist Directors Driving Pedagogical Change*, Black Theatre Association, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) annual conference. Presenters: Ann Elizabeth Armstrong, Kym Moore, Christine Guillan Young. Virtual, July 29 – August 2, 2020.
* Moderator and session coordinator, *Pedagogy and Absence*, Middle Eastern Theatre (MET) Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) annual conference. Presenters: Michael Malek Najjar, Marjan Moosavi, Hala Baki, Samer Al-Saber, Bart Pitchford, and Reza Mirsajadi. Virtual, July 29 – August 2, 2020.
* Presenter at panel titled, *Restaging Islam: The Changing Landscape of Middle Eastern Theatre and Politics*, Theatre for Social Change (TASC) and Religion and Theatre (RT) Focus Groups, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) annual conference, paper titled, “Bewildered they stood, like an empty oath, like a solemn Kurd: *Mountain Language* and its plea for justice.” Presenters: Bart Pitchford and Sarah Fahmy. Orlando, August 6 – 11, 2019.
* Presenter at panel titled, *Performing Utopia/Reclaiming the Public Sphere*, Theatre for Social Change (TASC) Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) annual conference, paper titled, “She’s red & black, circling round, I jumped so hard, I died, there she was.” Presenters: Nesreen N. Hussein, Ruth Hellier-Tinoco, Hannah Fullerton. Boston, August 1 – 5, 2018.
* Presenter at roundtable titled, *Troubling the Real in Theatrical Practice,* Theatre for Social Change (TASC) Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) annual conference, paper titled, “Monologues of Resistance.” Presenters: Joelle Ré Arp-Dunham, Nicole Tabor, Daniel Ciba, Kathryn Van Winkle, Hannah Rackow. Las Vegas, August 3 – 6, 2017.
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| GUEST LECTURER |  |  |
| * Guest Lecturer in THR 922: Theatre Historiography, (Instr. R. Rovit) Fall2021.
* Guest Lecturer in THR 801: Professional Development Seminar, (Instr. H. Bial) Spring 2020.
* Guest Lecturer in THR 929: Theatre Historiography, (Instr. R. Rovit) Fall 2018.

Guest Lecturer in THR 525: Theatre History, (Instr. R. Rovit) Fall 2019.  |

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| GRANTS |  |  |
| * New Faculty General Research Fund, KU, 2021 – 22.
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| HONORS AND AWARDS  |  |  |
| * Commendation Award for Achievement in Costume Design for the production of *Everybody*, The Kennedy Center of American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF), 2022.
* Commendation Award for Achievement in Costume Design for the production of *Sycorx*, The Kennedy Center of American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF), 2020.
* Commendation Award for Achievement in Scenic Design for the production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, The Kennedy Center of American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF), 2019.
* Kuhlke Humanitarian Award, University of Kansas, 2018.
* Joseph R. Roach Dissertation Research Award, University of Kansas, 2016-2017.
* Diversity Leadership Award, Group Category, Interactive Theatre Group, University of Kansas, 2016.
* New Theatre Guild Scholarship, University of Kansas, 2015-16.
* Robin J. Huggins Scholarship, University of Kansas 2011-2012.

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| SERVICE  |  |  |
| **National/Regional** |
| * Reviewer of two manuscripts for *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*, March, 2023.
* Conference Planner, Middle Eastern Theatre Focus Group (MET), Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), 2019-2022.
* Founding member, Middle Eastern Theatre Focus Group (MET), Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), 2019.
* Department representative, The United States Institution for Theatre Technology convention, 2019.
* Department representative, Kansas Thespian Festival, 2018.
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| **University of Kansas** |
| * Member, University Core Curriculum Committee, 2023-26
* Member, college Academic Council, 2020-23
* Member, Faculty Senate, 2020-23
* New Faculty Research Development Fund (NFRDF), 2022.
* Member, Visual Art Department Search Committee, 2022.
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| **Department of Theatre & Dance** |
| * Member of MFA Thesis Defense for Alireza Mirzaeninezhad, Department of Visual Art, Fall 2023-Spring 2024.
* Member of MFA Thesis Defense for Jenifer Cooper, Department of Theatre & Dance, Spring 2023
* Chair of MFA Thesis Defense for Lindsay Webster, Department of Theatre & Dance, Spring 2023
* Member of MFA Thesis Defense for John Rhor, Department of Theatre & Dance, Spring 2022
* Member of Doctoral Thesis Defense for Kaitlyn L Tossie, Department of Theatre & Dance, Spring 2022
* Member of MFA Thesis Defense for John Spencer Walker, Department of Theatre & Dance, Spring 2022
* Member, Theatre & Dance Assistant Professor Search Committee for Dance, 2022
* Member, Theatre & Dance Costume Shop Manager Search Committee, 2022
* Member, Assessment & Pedagogy Committee, 2021-Present.
* Member, Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, 2020
* Presenting Joy, collaborative Theatre event with Office of Multicultural Affair and Spencer Museum, 2021.
* Member, Literary Management Committee, 2019-Present.
* Member, Theatre Festival Committee, 2020.
* Member, Dance Visiting Assistant Professor Search Committee, 2020
* Member, Scholarship Committee, 2019-Present
* Member, Scenography Committee, 2018-Present
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