

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

EMPLOYMENT

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

TEACHING

Graduate Courses	University of Kansas	2017 – Present
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- Scenography & Classic Scripts, THR 720, Spring 2024
- Direct Reading in scenography, THR 701, Fall 2023
- Theatre & Visual Culture, THR 702, Fall 2022
- Scenography & Musical Theatre, THR 820, Fall 2022
- Direct Reading in Scenography, THR 703, Spring 2021, Fall 2018
- Theatre & Visual Culture, THR 702, Fall 2020
- Scenography & Musical Theatre, THR 618, Spring 2020, Fall 2017
- Scenography and Modern Script, THR 518, Fall 2019

Undergraduate Courses	University of Kansas	2017 – Present
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- Scenography & Classic Scripts, THR 518, Spring 2024
- History of Period Style, THR 521, Spring 2024
- 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 & 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 Costume Design, THR 320, Spring 2018

GRADUATE MENTORSHIP

- Member, MFA committee, Alireza Mirzaeninezhad (Visual Art) Fall 2023-Spring 2024
- Member, MFA committee, Jenifer Cooper (Theatre-Scenography), Spring 2023
- Chair, MFA committee, Lindsay Webster (Theatre-Scenography), Spring 2022
- Member, PhD committee, Kaitlyn L Tossie, (Theatre Studies), Spring 2022
- Member, MFA committee, John Spencer Walker (Theatre-Scenography), Spring 2022

DESIGN EXPERIENCE: THEATRE & DANCE

<i>Indecent</i>	Scenery	Dir. Henry Bial	University of Kansas	2024
<i>Sweat</i>	Scenery, Costume	Dir. Darren Canady	University of Kansas	2024
<i>University Dance Concert</i>	Scenery	Chor. Maya Tillman	University of Kansas	2023
<i>What the Constitution Means to Me</i>	Scenery	Dir. Amy Corcoran	Kansas City Repertory Theatre	2023
<i>Love & Information</i>	Scenery	Dir. Jane Barnette & James Moreno	University of Kansas	2023
<i>Everybody</i>	Costume	Dir. Timmia DeRoy	University of Kansas	2022
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Scenery	Dir. Nelson Eusebio	Kansas City Repertory Theatre	2022
<i>Airmess</i>	Costume	Dir. Jonah Greene	University of Kansas	2021
<i>Cubic</i>	Costume, Scenery	Dir. James Moreno	University of Kansas	2021
<i>Family Slide Show</i>	Scenery	Dir. Ice Haggins	KC MeltingPot Theatre	2020
<i>H.M.S Pinafore</i>	Costume	Dir. John Stephens	University of Kansas	2020
<i>Water by the Spoon</i>	Costume	Cancelled due to COVID	University of Kansas	2020
<i>The Wolves</i>	Costume	Dir. Susan Kerner	Montclair State University	2020
<i>Indecent</i>	Scenery	Dir. Henry Bial	University of Kansas	2019
<i>Urinetown</i>	Costume	Dir. Eric Avery	University of Kansas	2019
<i>The Wolves</i>	Costume, Scenery	Dir. Susan Kerner	University of Kansas	2019
<i>Chasing Gods</i>	Scenery	Dir. Markus Potter	Kansas Repertory Theatre	2019
<i>Sycorax</i>	Costume	Dir. Jane Barnette	University of Kansas	2019

<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i>	Scenery	Dir. Harry Parker	University of Kansas	2018
<i>The Legend of Georgia McBride</i>	Lighting	Dir. Peter Zazzali	Kansas Repertory Theatre	2018
<i>La Cage aux Folles</i>	Lighting	Dir. Peter Zazzali	Kansas Repertory Theatre	2018
<i>Mascot</i>	Projection	Dir. Peter Zazzali	LivingRoom Theatre	2018
<i>Sunset baby</i>	Lighting	Dir. Nicole Hodges Persley	KC MeltingPot Theatre	2017
<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>	Projection	Dir. Peter Zazzali	Kansas Repertory Theatre	2014
<i>Adding Machine: The Musical</i>	Projection	Dir. Mechele Leon	University of Kansas	2013
<i>The Mousetrap</i>	Lighting	Dir. Doug Weaver	Kansas Repertory Theatre	2013
<i>Summer and Smoke</i>	Scenery	Dir. Boone Hopkins	University of Kansas	2012
<i>Dog Sees God</i>	Costume, Lighting	Dir. Danny Devlin	University of Kansas	2012
<i>Noah's Art</i>	Costume	Dir. Alex Espy	University of Kansas	2011

DIRECTING

<i>Gaza Monologues</i> (Zoom Production)	Stanford University, Abbasi Program	2021
<i>Ashes to Ashes</i> by Harold Pinter	University of Kansas	2017
<i>Nathan and Tabileth</i>	University of Kansas	2014

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.
- *At The Threshold: Contemporary Theatre, Art and Music of Iran*, Monograph by Rana Esfandiary. London: Routledge, 2023. [ISBN 9781032193762](https://doi.org/10.1080/9781032193762)
- “A Diva on the Iranian stage: Ali Akbar Alizad’s remix of Jean Genet’s *The Maids*,” *Diva: Hip Hop, Feminism and Fierceness*, edited by Benjamin Halligan, Nicole Hodges Persley, Kirsty Fairclough, and Shara Rambarran. London: Bloomsbury Press, 2023, pp. 230-246. [ISBN](https://doi.org/10.1080/9781032193762)

[9781501368264](#)

- “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. *Theatre Topics*, 31:1 (March 2021), pp. 9-16.
- “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, *Stage Director and Choreographer Society (SDC)* 5:3, (Winter and Spring 2017), pp. 35-40.
- “An Experiment with Digital Lighting in *Adding Machine: A Musical*,” Rana Esfandiary (principal author), and Mark Reaney, *Theatre Design & Technology (TD&T)* 50:4 (Fall 2014), pp. 23-29.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATION

- “Iranian Art and Performance,” *Red Hot Research*, Hosted by the Commons, University of Kansas, September 29, 2023. Watson Library. Other presenters: Kelly Sharron, Christina Holt, Faye Xiao, Alesia Woszidlo.
- “Bringing MENA World to the Midwest,” *Collaborating Against Colonialism: A Multi-Focus Group Working Session*, Middle Eastern Theatre (MET) Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) annual conference. Other presenters: Patricia Herrera, Beth Osborn, Jonathan Shandell, Nelson Barre, Scott Bradly. August 3, 2023.
- “Woman, Life, Freedom,” 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 Affairs, on April 4, 2023 at Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center, University of Kansas.
- “The Maids’ profanity of dissidence,” *Staging Politics Through MENA Theatre*, Middle Eastern Theatre (MET) Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) annual conference. Other presenters: Nahid Ahmadian and 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.
- “Being an Iranian Designer in the Midwest,” *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.
- “Presenting to Forget,” *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 (virtual). Other presenters: Bart Pitchford, Faeze Daemi, Ash Marinaccio, Fadi Skeiker. 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 (virtual). Presenters: Nahid Ahmadian, Reza Mirsajadi, Matthew Randle-Bent. August 8, 2021.
- “The (in)disposable utopia of scenography: preserving environment through theatre,” *Theatre Ecologies: Environment, Sustainability and Politics*, Scenography working group, International Federation of Theatre Research (IFTR) annual conference (virtual). Other presenters: Julie Hudson, Sofia Pantouvaki, Susanne Thurov, Michael Simon. July 12 – 16, 2021.
- “The (in)convenience of Exoticism,” *Rebel and Revel, A virtual Symposium on the Theatre of the Middle East*, held by University of Maryland in collaboration with *Reconnect Festival*. Other presenters: Marjan Moosavi and Sarah Fahmy. April 8, 2021.

- “Directing Harold Pinter in Midwest,” *Resilient Rehearsal Rooms: Feminist Directors Driving Pedagogical Change*, Black Theatre Association, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) annual conference (virtual). Other presenters: Ann Elizabeth Armstrong, Kym Moore, Christine Guillan Young. July 29 – August 2, 2020.
- Moderator and session organizer, *Pedagogy and Absence*, Middle Eastern Theatre (MET) Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) annual conference (virtual). Other presenters: Michael Malek Najjar, Marjan Moosavi, Hala Baki, Samer Al-Saber, Bart Pitchford, and Reza Mirsajadi. July 29 – August 2, 2020.
- “Bewildered they stood, like an empty oath, like a solemn Kurd: *Mountain Language* and its plea for justice,” *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. Other presenters: Bart Pitchford and Sarah Fahmy. Orlando, August 6 – 11, 2019.
- “She’s red & black, circling round, I jumped so hard, I died, there she was,” *Performing Utopia/Reclaiming the Public Sphere*, Theatre for Social Change (TASC) Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) annual conference. Other presenters: Nesreen N. Hussein, Ruth Hellier-Tinoco, Hannah Fullerton. Boston, August 1 – 5, 2018.
- “Monologues of Resistance,” *Troubling the Real in Theatrical Practice*, Theatre for Social Change (TASC) Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) annual conference. Other presenters: Joelle Ré Arp-Dunham, Nicole Tabor, Daniel Ciba, Kathryn Van Winkle, Hannah Rackow. Las Vegas, August 3 – 6, 2017.

GUEST LECTURER

- “Ta’zieh in Iran,” THR 922: Theatre Historiography, (Instr. R. Rovit) Fall 2021
- “Being a Theatre Designer,” THR 801: Professional Development Seminar, (Instr. H. Bial) Spring 2020
- “Ta’zieh in Iran,” THR 929: Theatre Historiography, (Instr. R. Rovit) Fall 2018
- “Ta’zieh in Iran,” THR 525: Theatre History, (Instr. R. Rovit) Fall 2019

GRANTS

- New Faculty General Research Fund, CLAS (KU), 2021 – 22

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Commendation for Achievement in Costume Design for the production of *Everybody*, The Kennedy Center of American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF), 2022
- Commendation for Achievement in Costume Design for the production of *Sycorax*, The Kennedy Center of American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF), 2020
- Commendation 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

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 (USITT) convention, 2019
- Department representative, Kansas Thespian Festival, 2018

University of Kansas

- Member of General Research Fund for School of the Arts, Spring 2024
- Member, University Core Curriculum Committee, 2023-26
- Member, College Academic Council (CAC), 2020-23
- Member, Faculty Senate, 2020-23
- Member, New Faculty Research Development Fund (NFRDF), 2022
- Member, Visual Art Department Search Committee, 2022

Department of Theatre & Dance

- Member, Assistant Professor of Theatre Search Committee, 2024
- Member, Assistant Professor of Dance Search Committee, 2022
- Member, 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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS/AFFILIATIONS

- Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)
- United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)