

Robert Farid Karimi

*Social Engagement | Artist * Narrative Design * Education * Interdisciplinary Multimedia Performance*

SUMMARY

Arts professional with 25 years of expertise as cross-disciplinary producer, director, educator, conceptual dramaturg, and social engagement artist. Extensive track record as award-winning international performer, multimedia artist, author, poet and public speaker, including HBO, La Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara, Off-Broadway, Chicago Theater, MCA – Chicago, Nuyorican Poets Café, Contemporary Museum Baltimore, San José Museum, General Mills, Def Poetry Jam, The Smithsonian, and SXSW as well as community centers, shelters, prisons, & community kitchens. Bilingual (Spanish) educator with experience in curriculum development and instruction at the college level as well as K-12. Success with small/large-scale event planning & fundraising nationwide; grant recipient from numerous funders such as Creative Capital and Andy Warhol Foundation. Consultant working with foundations, orgs, writers & artists to provide fund development support, project management, and creative direction.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (2000 – 2020)

Assistant Professor, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

Facilitate beginning performance courses, and collaborate to develop MFA and BA programs in Theater

Teaching Artist (Highlights)

I design curriculum/taught spoken word and performance workshops nationwide at universities, middle schools and high schools; presented theater workshops; created and delivered Interactive Performance Storytelling curriculum to adults.

- Interactive Storytelling, Designing Performance, USC Interactive Writing
- Unit One/ Artist in Resident, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana
- Community Food Workshop, Sonoma State
- Comedy Screenwriting Workshop, TPT/Minneapolis Fdn
- Out North Summer Institute for Mixed Ability Youth, Anchorage, Alaska.
- Lead Teaching Artist, Freestreet Theater

Theater Instructor, Walking the Beat – Fountain Theater, Los Angeles

Facilitated a conversation and gameplay between LAPD officers and Hollywood youth as they played a game about police brutality I designed. Gameplay built trust and sparked dialogue for final devised show.

Theater Instructor, Del York Academy – Lagos, Nigeria

Established foundational 4-week intensive curriculum for live performance utilizing Meisner, NeoFuturism, Improv, Performance Art technique to lead Nigerian professionals in creating devised culturally based stories for multiple live platforms that engage audience to play with performers.

Team Teacher, USC Roski Art & Design

Piloted a new Foundations course, taught students in both departments how to apply concepts and develop processes across media. Co-facilitated class discussion, aided in the curriculum development, provided conceptual support for students' projects.

Co-Facilitator/Curriculum Designer, Emerging Importance of Arts to Health Policy and Practice, MeHarry Medical College

Worked with team of professors to co-design curriculum and create a certificated university-level course to teach performance and engagement techniques to medical professionals.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (continued)

Curriculum Designer/Lead Instructor, ThePeoplesCook Project

Designed curriculum and interactive food educational activities for small workshops and large audiences, taught students to make their own comedy cooking show connecting cultural stories to food using improv & other techniques, taught nutrition and nursing students from Arizona State University and community health ambassadors from the neighboring communities how to use techniques of humor and play from my Cooking Show to make health pedagogy more delicious and engaging.

Secondary School Teacher, Newark, CA; Chicago, IL; Minneapolis, MN

- Developed Poetry Program for 11-12th graders
- Worked with University of Minnesota on a literacy and theater program
- Taught 12th grade literature in a high school with over 29 languages
- Taught ESL to 10th and 12th graders
- Created a scaffolded theater program for 6-12th graders in Chicago

LISTING OF COURSES TAUGHT

Black Panther TCB Burrito Workshop, Columbia College, University of Illinois

With my quixotic chef character as their leader, group builds a burrito based on the Black Panthers' 10-point plan to learn how I assemble theater games and humor, to cook up my performances.

Taking on the Freshman 15, University of Illinois

A collaborative community-based design thinking workshop to build objects and platforms to answer: How can culture, food wisdom, recipes, and my mom help us debunk the myth of the Freshman 15?

Game Design Workshop, University of Illinois

Introducing serious games and teaching the fundamentals of mechanics, dynamics, and aesthetics, fun and playtesting through playing games. Groups ultimately make their own games

Grocery Store-ees, various

A social engagement workshop where students share wisdom and learn how to shop for food. While engaged in this activist, we create story poems in the grocery store, then share on social media

Pop Music Performance Workshop: Human Altars, Univ. of Illinois, Perspectives Charter School

Using theater games with music, develop characters and start the seeds of human altars for day of the dead, discussing how do we embody those that have left us and introduce the concepts of installation art.

ART 105 Art and Design Studio I, USC

Introduction to the fundamental elements in art making, design creation and thinking, including key principles of process and critical analysis.

ART 106 Art and Design Studio II, USC

Introduction to the fundamental elements in art making, design creation and thinking, including the key principles of process and critical analysis through time-based art.

The Emerging Importance of Arts to Health Policy and Practice, MeHarry Medical College

A summer intensive course which explored diverse ideas and practices associated with the visual and performing arts in the allied health fields, toward an understanding of the emerging importance of the arts

to health policy and practice. We examined discussions and debates regarding culture, embodiment, creativity and community, especially as they relate to individual and community health.

LISTING OF COURSES TAUGHT (continued)

Inroads Mentor Workshop, Loft Literary Center

A summer workshop for emerging writers of color where I worked on clarifying their voice in their respective forms and discussed how to use oral interpretation to edit their poems and manuscripts.

Interdisciplinary Writers Lab, Kearney Street Workshop

A master's class for writers of color where I taught the performance of poetry and story

Deliciousness Workshop, Arizona State University

Taught interactive cooking classes to graduate nursing and nutrition students in partnership with health coaches in the Latina community of Phoenix (promotoras) on how to use performance, humor and storytelling to improve engagement in their delivery of health information around Type 2 Diabetes.

Guerilla Theater Workshop, Macalester College

Designed/taught workshop where students learn to create guerilla performance

Hip Hop Theater Workshop, Macalester College

Using DJ, created and taught a workshop to get students to embody various metaphors in hip hop and punk rock music to create personal stories inspired by the DJs music

Social Engagement Strategies, Maryland Institute College of Art

Worked with students in Social Practice department to understand the best way to engage their neighbors, which previously did not trust them. Rather than focus on the object, taught them how to construct a more human-centered engagement with humor, food and joy.

Artist in Residence – Curation/Performance, Columbia College

Worked with students in curatorial class to create an interactive Day of the Dead exhibit that served as a pop-up restaurant set. Also, worked with theater students to create characters for performance art.

Theatricality of Poetry, Story & Memory: A Well of Voices and Experiences – Performance Poetry

Taught how to use the body as an access point to access experiential and sensory memories. Using sense-memory in the oral interpretation of your work, depending on the interests of the participants.

Assembled Ingredients Performance Workshops, Locations below

Exploration on how to use disparate ideas to weave together stories, poetry and performances with an eye towards creating a process for students to use no matter what form of expression they utilize. Each workshop tailored to each university professor's curriculum. Most workshops ended with a physical or spoken performance.

Amherst
UT San Antonio
Carleton College
Columbia College
DePaul University
Hunter College
Lehigh University
Northeastern
St. Catherine
San José State

Smith College
San Francisco State University
Stanford University
UC Berkeley
UC Irvine
UC Santa Barbara
U of Alaska, Anchorage
U of Maryland
U of Massachusetts
University of San Diego

EDUCATION

University of Southern California, MFA, Roski School of Art & Design
University of California, Los Angeles, B.A., English/American Studies

TRAINING

Voice

UCLA Theater, Musical Theater, Independent Training to train my voice to sing as high as Freddie Mercury

Movement

UCLA Theater, 500 Clown Physical Theater, Plasticene, Kalarippayattu

Playwriting, Screenwriting

UCLA Film School, UCLA Theater, USC Film, Second City, Brian Freeman, Paula Vogel

Improvisation

Second City, NeoFuturists, 500 Clown

Performance

UCLA Theater, Cornerstone Theater, Guillermo Gomez Peña, Elia Arce, Nao Bustamante, James Luna, Tanya Saracho, Mel Shapiro, Sterling Houston, Meisner, Stanislavski, Strasberg, Adler

Directing (Film/Theater)

Laurie Carlos, Ellen Sebastian Chang, Film Arts Foundation Short Film Production Workshop

Poetry/Fiction/Non-Fiction Writing

Lorna Dee Cervantes, Jeff Hallford, Sandra Cisneros, Ruben Martinez, Tyehimba Jess, Bao Phi, Michele Serros, Raúl Salinas, Luis Rodriguez, Michael Warr

Community Engagement

Cornerstone Theater, Suzanne Lacy, Ricardo Levins Morales, Bill Cleveland, Roberto Bedoya

Other Training

Themed Entertainment (USC), Design Thinking Training (USC), Game Design (USC), Interactive Entertainment and Health Interventions (USC), Secondary Evaluation, Classroom Facilitation (San Jose State/UCLA), Freirian education training and Ethnography-based research methodology (UCLA), Facilitation for sexual health and cultural issues (UCLA)

SELECTED AWARDS

Creative Capital, USA Artist Finalist, Warhol Foundation, Knight Foundation, Zellerbach Fund, San Francisco Cultural Equity, Pushcart Prize Nomination, USC Dean Award, MAP Fund, NEA, NPN Creation Fund, SuperValu Foundation, Towner Award for Innovation, Illinois Arts Council Fellowship for New Performance Forms, National Poetry Slam Championship, Alliance of Artists Communities' Voices & Visions Award, Anchorage Mayor Youth Arts Award, Teacher of the Year

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE (2000 – 2019)

Artistic Director, ThePeoplesCook Project

Designed interactive comedic cooking shows that integrated cultural and culinary education; facilitates audience engagement projects and produces interactive exhibits and videos. Served over 50,000 people and collaborated with hundreds of artists.

Lead Producing Artist, Kaotic Good Productions

Built touring multimedia arts company. Leads creative vision and branding. Partnered with fiscal sponsor to develop operational systems; raised, managed budgets up to \$150,000. Leads project management for residencies, curated visual/performing arts events.

Narrative Designer

Experimental Design

Created storylines and design narrative details of a world building project for a health and wellness center for the Mississippi Choctaw Nation

Creative Developer

Immersive Artistry

Member of leadership team that developed the Virtual Mixed Media Museum for Times Square project. Collaborated with creative consultants to organize, design structure, and overall experience of museum.

MxR Studios:

Co-led creative development, wrote narrative structures for VR game for general anxiety disorder (GAD) patients.

Independent Arts Consultant, various

- elevated thought: Consulted on game design for cultural mapping project in northeastern MA
- Kresge Foundation: Consulted on the creation of the FreshLo Initiative
- Lazy Hmong Woman Productions: Established infrastructure; advised on community engagement & artistic development of Hmong theater company
- Intermedia Arts: Built the first public practice lab for social practice artists to test out live interactive experiences before they interact with a larger community
- Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center: Developed design department and technology upgrade

Artistic Director, Guild Complex, Chicago

Developed literary programming and diversified and increased audience for historic literary arts center. Produced and hosted literary and performance events; managed production budgets, fostered cross-cultural relationships both locally and throughout U.S.

Coordinator, Asian American Spoken Word Summit

Organized events consulted partner organizations in creating a national coalition of Asian American spoken word artists, hosted events, and collaborated with a national board to further develop the project.

Freelance Writer

Wrote feature articles and edited various op/ed articles about subjects such as film, theater, mixed race, culture, & community issues for publications such as *Mizna*, *Asian American Literary Review*, & *L.A. Times*.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & RESIDENCIES

Keynote Speaker, Up-Start Social Media Impact Conference meet Farid Mercury

Panelist, Fast Company Innovation Conference

Keynote Speaker, FreshLo Initiative, Kresge Foundation

Keynote Speaker, Association of Performing Arts Presenters

Panelist, AWP, Writing on Fault Lines: Central American Literary Diasporas.

Presenter, Ford Foundation, Up-Start Co-Lab with Yo-Yo Ma

Presenter, Exemplar, Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (A2RU) Conference

Panelist, NEA: Artists as Social Entrepreneurs, ArtXDetroit,

Grand Marshall, Día de Los Muertos Parade, Chicago, IL

Keynote Speaker, Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy

Keynote Speaker, Alliance for Artist Communities

Residency, Kohler Arts/Industry

Residency, McColl Center as part of Knight Artist Residency Grant

SELECTED ARTS MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIPS

James P. Shannon Leadership Institute, Wilder Foundation Multicultural Arts Management Internship, ARTS, Inc./Cornerstone Theater Arts Management Training, Creative Capital

COMPUTER SKILLS

Adobe Publishing Suite, Unity, Scrum, Jira, Wrike, Office, HTML, Final Cut Pro, Adobe Video Editing Suite, Audacity, Pro Tools, Ableton Live, Audio Hijack and more

Published Work/Audio/Video

BOOKS

“Half-Muslim Chronicles: speculative story-poems of the impossible halfling”, Upstart Press (2020)

POETRY, PERFORMANCE TEXT

Parents’ Fairytale: an excerpt of Self (the Remix), California Dreaming, Production Aesthetics in Asian American Art, UH Press (2018)

Venganza of the Dream People, The Wandering Song: Anthology of Central American Writers, Tia Chucha Press (2017)

Catholic Boy Not Pictured: an excerpt of Self (the Remix), Mizna, VOL 16. 2 (2015)

Questions From a Mixed Worker Who Reads, Mizna: Prose, Poetry and Art Exploring Arab America, VOL. 15.1 (2014)

reinvention of zero, Latino Literature Today: Anthology of Latino Literature, Longman Press, (2005)

RECORDINGS, AUDIO / TV

“Lumpia Campesina”, screening on Xfinity May and October 2019

“Sabiduria: Eating to Heal: Latino USA; <http://latinousa.org/2013/10/04/sabiduria-food-as-medicine/>

ASU Discovers New Perspectives On Research: Diabetes of Democracy, http://www.azpbs.org/asu/asu_discovers/, (2013)

The Mighty Xicamtl, Latino USA/NPR, <http://www.futuromediagroup.org/lusa/2012/08/03/the-mighty-jicama/> (2012)

Healthy Cooking, A Performance Artist’s statement, <http://www.npr.org/2011/11/27/142821483/healthy-cooking-a-performance-artists-statement>, (2011)

Robert Farid Karimi’s remixed self, <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2010/feb/22/robert-farid-karimis-remixed-self/>, (2010)

“wonderful world of mohammed”, Nation of Immigrants CD, The Loft Literary Center, (2009)

“Get Down With Your Muslim Catholic Self (def jam remix),” Def Poetry Jam, HBO, (2004)

Hijo del Soul, Spoken Word Album, YQue?! Records, (2001)

“reinvention of zero”, “pena de muerte”, Raza Spoken Here Vol. 2 CD, Calaca Press, (2000)

“get down with yr muslim-catholic self”, “porque bailas como un negrito” - I am A Poet (CD), Phillip Shiemann/Goethe Institute, Dusseldorf, Germany, (2000)

ESSAYS/FEATURE ARTICLES

“Upon the necessity of being Half-Muslim: The Mayor of Haramabad speaks,” *Hyphenations: Anthology of Muslim Performance*, Syracuse University Press (Pending review), (2020)

“Silver & Black Terrorists, Steve Kerr & Aboutrika Piñatas,” *Mizna: Prose, Poetry and Art Exploring Arab America*, (2018)

Etheridge Woodson, Stephani, Seline Szkupinski Quiroga, Tamara Underiner, and Robert Farid Karimi. "Of models and mechanisms: towards an understanding of how theatre-making works as an 'intervention' in individual health and wellness." *Research in Drama Education: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance* 22, no. 4 (2017): 465-48

“Songlines for future culturewalkers: (Betty) White (Crocker) bank take little (house on the prairie) bank”, *Good Time for the Truth*. Minnesota Historical Society Press, ed. Shin, Sun Yung, (2016)

“Afterword, “If I Eat Lebneh, I Must Be Lebanese, Right? (food for your head about food)”, *Mizna: Prose, Poetry and Art Exploring Arab America*, (2014)

Unlost in the Supermarket: An Audio Teleplay of an Unfinished Soap Opera/Telenovela Called San Pablo, MN, *Asian American Literary Review*, (2013)

shuffled (the MJ remix) - a tribute to Michael Jackson, (2009)

“how i found my inner DJ: an explanation of sampled consciousness,” *Total Chaos: The Art & Aesthetics of Hip Hop*, Basic Civitas Books, (2007)

“Shocked Back to Reality (or time to be Guatemalan again)”, *War & Silence: Kearney Street Workshop*, San Francisco, (2003)

“Selena: How San Antonio Remembered Her,” April 7, (1995)

“Inauguration of Governor Bush, a profile in a day of the life of a journalist watching George W. Bush become Governor,” January, (1995)

Bibliography

Lerner, Ruby. "Radical Creativity as a Lever for Social Change: Why it Matters, What it Takes." In *Theatre, Performance and Change*, pp. 213-222. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, 2018.

Macarena-Ávila, Jesús. "Digi-alterity: Chicago's Digital Mexican and Mexican American Imagists from 1990 to 2010." *Diálogo*, vol. 20 no.1,2017,pp.149-157.ProjectMUSE, doi:10.1353/dlg.2017.0006

Szkupinski-Quiroga, Seline, Jennifer A. Sandlin, and Robin Redmon Wright. ‘You are what you eat!?: Crafting the (food) consuming subject through cooking shows. Eds. R. Flowers, and E. Swan. New York, NY: Routledge, (2016)

Krauss, Austin. *Prolegomena: To Any Future Synthesis of HIP-HOP and the Novel That Will Be Able to Present Itself as Dope and All-The-Way-Live*. Diss. State University of New York at Albany, (2016)

Quiroga, Seline Szkupinski. “Performative Storytelling as Knowledge Creation.” (2016)

Quiroga, Seline Szkupinski. “Unpacking the Challenges of Transdisciplinarity Within the Arts and Sciences.”(2016)

Blissett, Sarah. “Food and Theatre on the World Stage ed. by Dorothy Chansky and Ann Folino White (review).” *Theatre Journal* 68.3: 488-489., (2016)

Bibliography (continued)

Ortiz, Amalia L. *The Canción Cannibal Cabaret and other songs: Feminists of a dystopian future repurpose a punk past.* The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, (2016)

Quiroga, Seline Szkupinski. "Performative Storytelling as Knowledge Creation." *Hypatia Conference: Exploring Collaborative Contestations and Diversifying Philosophy*, (2015)

Lunch with Robert Karimi: Comedy and Food are my vehicles,
<http://www.sanjose.com/2014/02/11/lunch-with-artist-robert-karimi-comedy-and-food-are-my-vehicles/>, (2014)

Winham, Donna M., et al. "Integration of theatre activities in cooking workshops improves healthy eating attitudes among ethnically diverse adolescents: A pilot study." *ICAN: Infant, Child, & Adolescent Nutrition* 6.2 : 99-108. (2014)

Szkupinski Quiroga, Seline. *Unpacking the Challenges of Transdisciplinary Collaboration Between the Arts and Sciences.* (2014).

Winham, Donna M., et al. "Nutrition education integrates culture via storytelling in cooking workshops for community nutritionists." *Experimental Biology Conference Boston*. Vol. 21. (2013)

Seung Yu, Kenneth. "Robert Farid Karimi Interview." (2013).

Bacalzo, Dan, et al. "The First National Asian American Theater Festival (review)." *Theatre Journal* 60.2 (2008): 283-285.

Hafner, Andrew Habana. "Sampling an inner DJ with hip hop hopes:(Re) writing immigrant identities for English language learners in classroom third spaces." *Radical Teacher* 97:36. (2013)

Cooking Up A Conversation: Gastrodiplomacy in Contemporary Public Art,
<http://publicdiplomacymagazine.com/cooking-up-a-conversation-gastrodiplomacy-in-contemporary-public-art/>, (2013)

van den Eijnden, J. S. *9/11 and the Socio-Politics of Poetry.* MS thesis. (2013)

'Viva is a new take on dinner theater',
<http://www.startribune.com/entertainment/stageandarts/176975001.html>, (2012)

Sachs, Aaron. "A Personal History of Desire in Porn and Hip-Hop." *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies* 7: 1-20. (2011)

Pacini Hernandez, Deborah, and Inc ebrary. *Oye Como Va: Hybridity and Identity in Latino Popular Music.* Temple University Press, Philadelphia, (2010)

Akbari, Hamid, and Azar Khounani. *Iranians in Chicagoland.* Arcadia Publishing, (2005)

Hernandez, Rod. "Between Black, Brown & Beige: Latino Poets and the Legacy of Bob Kaufman." *Callaloo* 25. :190-196. (2002)

Anijar, Karen. "Selena—Prophet, profit, princess." *God in the details: American religion in popular culture*:83-102. (2001)

Pettus, Jason. "Robert Karimi at Mad Bar.", <http://voices.e-poets.net/KarimiR/review.shtml>, (2000)

List of Work

SOLO & GROUP PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITIONS

All projects following feature myself as co-producer, writer, designer, and performer, unless noted

once we honor and lift the weight we fly (then we gotta deal with the cages and the racism)

Legend and Legacy: José Guadalupe Posada and Contemporary Latinx Art², CSUDH (2019)

Varietades: Little Central America: 1984

(writer/performer)

An intergenerational ensemble of Central American performers explores the connection between 1984 and the current atmosphere and administrative xenophobia confronting Central Americas

Grand Performances, Los Angeles (2019)

Pickles and Hopscotch

Offal Exhibition, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (2019)

Swimming Pool Party

An interactive game experience which focuses on how intergenerational trauma plays a role in the disproportionate amount of people of color that cannot swim.

Visions & Voices, USC (2019)

Artist in Resident: Phys Ed Dept at USC

A residency working with the PE Staff to develop a show about Swimming while sparking more joy in the workplace and developing a performance with USC students and professors, creating a template for future residencies

USC (2017-2018)

I am a Man: Solidaridad

(Designer)

Cooper Building (2018)

Cards Against Iranians - Poetry of Xenophobia

(Game Designer/Graphic Designer/Experience Designer)

Cooper Building (2018)

Police the Police

(Game designer/experience designer)

Cooper Building (2018)

Cards Against Iranians, et plus

(Game designer/experience designer/performer)

FLAX Foundation - Ford Amphitheater (2018)

Viva La Slow & Low

(experience designer/performer)

Smithsonian (2016)

Viva La Cook

(designer/director/performer/experience designer/producer)

McCull Center for Art & Innovation (2015)

Culinary Art Car

John Michael Kohler Arts Center (2014)

Muertos de la Risa with Soulful Nutricuates Residency

ElevArte (2014)

SOLO & GROUP PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITIONS (continued)

LOVEFOODLOVE

a 2-week residency to spread the participatory meme that love (by cooking and eating together) is a revolutionary act utilizing the principles of the Black Panther Free Breakfast for Everyone, events, and bringing the CounterRevolutionaria into another part of San José
MACLA (2014)

Viva La Soul Power

(lead experience designer/curator)

a 6-week residency with College students with events, happenings throughout Chicago. curated interactive Day of the Dead Exhibit with Columbia students, taught workshops in interactive ensemble work, and remixed pop-up restaurant to include students with professional performers
Columbia College (2013)

CounterRevolutionaria: Low Rider Kitchen Cart

(lead experience designer/bicycle designer)

a low rider kitchen cart honoring San José's low rider culture and providing a space for people to cook and eat together when activated on the city streets.

Around the Table: Food, Creativity, Community, San Jose Museum (2013-14)

Intermedia Arts Social Practice Lab Artist Residency (lead experience designer/creator)

a 2-year residency to create a public artist lab to explore how to build an interactive participatory meme about culture as a source of well-being, end, and how do you create dynamic nourishment through artistic practice? Culminated in exhibition and series of performances

Intermedia Arts (2011-2012)

Occupy Lunch + Dinner, & Breakfast

(producer/performer/designer)

a 3-week residency in collaboration with MICA where the principles of the Cooking Show ideas were used on various public events - an Iron Chef battle at a Soul Food Restaurant, occupation of a plaza in Baltimore, & various interventions with food trucks & youth food makers.

Contemporary Museum - Baltimore (2011)

28 Days of Good Energía

(experience designer/director/writer/performer/producer/co-curator)

an interactive transmedia comedy experience that sparked people to use their cultural stories and rituals for community well-being in the time it takes to change a behavior

Viva La Soul Power: Feed & Be Fed

(experience designer/co-curator)

cross-cultural interactive exhibit around the traditions of Día de los Muertos

Intermedia Arts (2012)

Viva La Soul Power: Open Kitchen

a series of themed potlucks that focused on creating cultural consciousness around food using central questions that sparked conversations about what we consume and how we nourish each other

Intermedia Arts (2011-2012)

Miracle Makers: El Milagro of the Tortilla

with a corn grinder, created an old-fashioned tortilla factory: audience members made tortillas from scratch while they told stories to each other to reconnect to the cultural origins of their food.

El Milagro Exhibit/Intermedia Arts (2012)

SOLO & GROUP PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITIONS (continued)

Black Panther Free Breakfast for Everyone

an early Sunday morning breakfast honoring the tenets of the Black Panther Party's Free Breakfast for Youth to create a community cultural discussion of the personal history and power of a nourishing breakfast
Northern Spark (2011)

Diabetes of Democracy Project Test Kitchens

the process to create a live comedy cooking experiences that uses cultural recipes & stories to battle Type 2 Diabetes

Columbia College (2012), Asian Arts Initiative (2012), Arizona State University (2012), Intermedia Arts (2011), Carpetbag Theater (2011), Jumpstart Performance Co. (2011)

Self (the remix) dir. by Ellen Chang

a dance party meets one man show about Iranian Guatemalan + DJ + Disco Jesus + Moshpits
Intermedia Arts (2011), Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company (2010), Asian Arts Initiative (2010), Macalester College (2009), Touchstone Theater (2009), Sandglass Theater (2009), Heartbeat Ensemble (2009), The Loft/Playwrights' Center (2008), Asian American Theater Conference (2006), Jumpstart Performance Co., (2006), Hothouse, Chicago, IL (2005), Hecho En Califas Festival, Berkeley, (2004), National Student Conference on the Mixed Race Experience (2004), Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2003), United States of Asian America Festival, (2003)

Farid Mercury dir. by B. Freeman

a performative rock concert about an Old Story: Boy meets Queen, learns how to be an Iranian Man
Feria del Libro Internacional Guadalajara (2009), Bijou Theater/Knoxville, TN (2009), Ashby Theater/La Peña Cultural Center (2009), Dreamland Arts/Kaotic Good (2009), TeAda Productions/Highways (2008), Late Night - Pillsbury House (2005)

The Cooking Show con Karimi y Comrades

Latino Arts Milwaukee (2011), UC Santa Barbara (2009), Bedlam Theater (2008), John Michael Kohler Arts Center (2008), Asian American Arts Initiative (2009, 2007), Legion Arts (2007), Pangea World Theater (2006 & 7), The Lab (2008), Talento Bilingüe Houston (2007, 2008), NYC Asian American Theater Festival (2007), Nexthetics Festival, SF (2004)

Hmoob-land(Hmong-land)

(lead deviser/experience designer/director)

a world where Miyazaki meets Viola Spolin to trash Hmong stereotypes
Bedlam Theater/CHAT/Kaotic Good (2009)

yo-tu: reclamando mi zero

(performer/illustrator/experience designer)

a dynamic graffiti installation conversation between the connectedness of artist and audience about the connection of the history of Mayan and Iranian number systems to define our reality during a time of war
Columbia College (2006) - Lo Romantico Exhibit

shaving time

(writer/co-director/performer)

a video/live performance about an Iranian guy who must shave before he can cry for the people who died on 9/11

Art Space (2004), Gallery 13 (2004), Gene Siskel Theater (2003)

SOLO & GROUP PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITIONS (continued)

Justice is in the eye of the beholder

(co-designer)

A digital mural exploring the connection between police racial profiling and anti-immigrant laws
Galeria de la Raza (2001)

McMuertos

(writer/performer/experience designer)

a live multimedia installation that satirized the commercialization of Day of the Dead through the creation of a McDonalds-like environment/altar

Museo del Barrio, New York City (2002), Oakland Museum, Oakland (1999), Yerba Buena Arts Center, San Francisco (1998)

Other Selected Performances and Appearances

SXSW (South by Southwest)

Loft Literary Center with Michelle Myers

Hothouse (Chicago)

National Poetry Slam Finals

Henry Miller Library with Keith Antar Mason

Fuel (San Jose) w/the Last Poets

DeAnza College w/Saul Williams

Voices for the Voiceless- Amherst

Funkadesi 8th Anniversary Celebration

Pedro Petri Benefit

30th Anniversary Celebration Kearney St.

Workshop

Just/Art Conference -Stanford University

Hapa Reading - Kearney Street Workshop

Seattle Poetry Festival with Michael Warr

Hybrid Project - Intersection for the Arts

Asian Pacific Islander Spoken Word Summit

NuyoricanPoet'sCafé: FeaturedSlam after 9/11

The Green Mill

Anchorage Juvenile Detention Center

Chicanopalooza, Mexican Heritage Center

CabaretdelSoul&Karl Denson's Tiny Universe

Resistencia Bookstore

Headlands Center for the Arts

Esperanza Peace & Justice Center

San Antonio Poetry Festival

Austin International Poetry Festival

Filmography

How to Fall in Love in A Brothel (2019)

Producer

Aunty: Music Video for Aunty by The Bar (2018)

Writer, Director, Producer

Lumpia Campesina (2018)

Selection at Hawaii International Film Festival, Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival, Center for Asian American Media, San Diego Asian American Film Festival

Writer, Director, Producer

Letters To Our Grandchildren (2014)

Producer

5 PSAs for Minneapolis Fdn ONE Minneapolis (2012)

Director, Writer

It's All in the Plate (2012)

Co-writer, Performer

Mero Adobo (2011)

Writer, Director, Producer

Abierto/Open (2010)

Co-writer, Co-director

i'm feeling you by Harold Mendez (2005)

Director, Editor

Porque Bailas Como Un Negrito (2005)

Writer, Director, Producer, Editor

Shaving Time (2003)

Writer, Co-director, Producer

Performances Directed

Keeb Kwm | Stories of Our Life

Lazy Hmong Woman Productions/ThePeoplesCook St. Paul Tour (2014)

Viva La Soul Power

kaotic good productions/Intermedia Arts (2012), Chicago (2013)

Travels with Whitey

Teatro Del Pueblo (2014), Impact Theater (2014)

Viva Las Roots

kaotic good/Intermedia Arts (2011)

Various Staged Reading/Development

Theater Mu (2008-2012)

Confessions of a Lazy Hmong Woman

Out North/Kaotic Good (2010), Intermedia Arts (2011)

Performances Directed (continued)

sia(b)

Theater Mu, CHAT/Kaotic Good (2009)

Hmongland

CHAT/kaotic good (2009)

Cooking Show con Karimi y Comrades: Holiday Party for the People,
Talento Bilingue de Houston & The Lab (2008)

playing with our food

Out North, Anchorage, AK, (2007)

unmasking our battles

Out North, Anchorage, AK, (2005)

blindfolded

Freestreet Theater, (2004-2005)

Myth and Performance Project

Freestreet Theater, (2004)

Cooking Con Karimi: The quest for the secret ingredient

Rhinoceros Theater Festival, (2003)