

ROSHAN AMAR UJALA

THEATRE DIRECTOR · PERFORMER · PLAYWRIGHT · THEATRE SCHOLAR

Convenor, JNU Drama Club · Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Political Studies,
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PROFILE

Indian theatre director, performer and playwright with over a decade of practice and **40+ stage and street productions**, and recipient of the **National Youth Icon Award 2025 for Excellence in Theatre & Performance** (Government of India). Convenor of the **JNU Drama Club**, I direct canonical Indian and world drama (Tendulkar, Manto, Karnad, Mahasweta Devi, Camus, Badal Sarkar) and create socially-engaged theatre as a **civic and universal language** – staged for **United Nations international observances** and commissioned by Government of India ministries, the WWF and the **Delhi Police ahead of the G20**. A doctoral scholar of power and performance, fluent in English and four Indian languages, I am committed to **cultural diplomacy through the stage** and eager to build a lasting **India–Russia theatre collaboration** and bring Russian theatre to Indian audiences.

THEATRE LEADERSHIP & POSITIONS

Convenor, JNU Drama Club – Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi Jan 2023 – Present
Lead JNU's principal theatre body: season programming, direction, production, funding proposals and inter-university festival representation.

Secretary, Rangshala Dramatics Society – Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi Jan 2018 – May 2020

Student Coordinator, Mani-Kanchan (Cultural Society) – Faculty of Social Sciences, BHU 2017 – 2020

HONOURS & AWARDS

National Youth Icon Award 2025 – Excellence in Theatre & Performance – National Youth Day; Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports / Constitution Club of India Jan 2025

1st Position, Extempore – Rhetorica Debating Society, BHU Oct 2019

2nd Position, Inter-Faculty Debate (Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial) – BHU · **2nd Position, Hindi Story Writing** (World Hindi Day) – JNU 2019 / 2021

DIRECTION & PERFORMANCE – STAGE PLAYS

PRODUCTION	PLAYWRIGHT	CAPACITY	VENUE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Bayen	<i>Mahasweta Devi</i>	Director	JNUSU, KC Open-Air Theatre, JNU	2026
Gagan Damama Bajyo	<i>Piyush Mishra</i>	Director	JNUSU, KC Open-Air Theatre, JNU	2025
Khol Do	<i>Saadat Hasan Manto</i>	Director	JNUSU, KC Open-Air Theatre, JNU	2024
Thank You, Mr. Glad	<i>Anil Barve</i>	Director & Performer	Spandan Inter-Faculty Festival, BHU	2020
Ek Aur Dronacharya	<i>Shankar Shesh</i>	Director & Performer	Spandan Inter-Faculty Festival, BHU	2019
Sakharam Binder	<i>Vijay Tendulkar</i>	Director & Performer	34th Inter-University Zonal Youth Festival (AIU), LNMU, Darbhanga	2019
Uttar Pradesh	—	Director & Performer	NCC Inter-Group Competition Camp, Greater Noida	2018
SAFAR – The Road Not Taken	<i>Vajid Ali Shah</i>	Playwright & Director	DEVACON, Deva Foundation Annual Fest, Varanasi	2018
Tughlaq	<i>Girish Karnad</i>	Director & Performer	Abhikalpan Faculty Festival, BHU	2018
Zihaad	<i>Prof. S. K. Sharma</i>	Director & Performer	33rd Inter-University Zonal Youth Festival (AIU), Guwahati University	2018

Directed full-length scripts also held in active repertoire incl. *Caligula* (Albert Camus) and *Pagla Ghoda Evam Indrajit* (Badal Sarkar).

SKITS & SHORT FORM

PRODUCTION	PLAYWRIGHT	CAPACITY	VENUE / OCCASION	YEAR
Faisla Pending Hai	<i>Original</i>	Writer & Director	Intl. Seminar on Birsa Munda & Decolonizing Janjatiya Studies, CIL–JNU & ICSSR	2025
Anusthaan	<i>Original</i>	Writer & Director	Intl. Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, JNU & IIT Roorkee	2024
Istifa – The Resignation	<i>Munshi Premchand</i>	Director & Performer	Spandan Inter-Faculty Festival, BHU	2020
SANGAM – Kahani Kal Aur Aaj Ki	<i>Himanshu Kanth</i>	Director & Performer	Spandan Inter-Faculty Festival, BHU	2019
Andher Nagari Chaupat Raja	<i>Bhartendu Harishchandra</i>	Director & Performer	34th Inter-University Zonal Youth Festival (AIU), LNMU	2019
Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam	<i>Original</i>	Writer, Director & Performer	Spandan Inter-Faculty Festival, BHU	2018
Inspector Matadeen Chand Par	<i>Harishankar Parsai</i>	Director & Performer	33rd Inter-University Zonal Youth Festival (AIU), Guwahati	2018

THEATRE FOR SOCIETY – STREET THEATRE (NUKKAD NATAK), WRITTEN & DIRECTED

25+ socially-engaged productions on environment, gender, inclusion, public health and civic awareness, commissioned by Government ministries and national institutions. Selected works:

PRODUCTION	THEME	COMMISSIONED BY / OCCASION	YEAR
Ek Kadam (9-venue tour)	<i>Clean air</i>	Intl. Day of Clean Air – MoEF&CC / EIACP / Mission LIFE	2025
Naqsh	<i>Environment</i>	MoEF&CC / EIACP / Mission LIFE; Environment Club & IHA, JNU	2025
Pratibimb	<i>Sustainable living</i>	MoEF&CC & Raahgiri Foundation, Connaught Place	2024
Samvaad	<i>Environment</i>	India Gate Mega Event – MoEF&CC & WWF India	2024
Sparsh: Ek Ehsaas	<i>Deaf-blind inclusion</i>	Tactile Signing initiative – Equal Opportunity Cell & LEC, JNU	2024
SOCH	<i>Sign-language & science</i>	Intl. Day of Sign Languages, JNU Convention Centre	2023
Dharohar Ke Jharokhe Se	<i>Heritage</i>	Intl. Day for Monuments & Sites – MoEF&CC & SPA	2023
Drug Abuse Awareness	<i>Anti-narcotics</i>	Intl. Day Against Drug Abuse – Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)	2022
Blood Donation Awareness	<i>Public health</i>	World Blood Donor Day – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; & NIEPA	2022
Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat	<i>National integration</i>	BHU 104th Foundation Day	2020
Namami Gange	<i>River conservation</i>	Swachh Bharat Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Assi Ghat	2018

Further street productions: *Pravaah*, *Goonj*, *HABS*, *Ek Kadam* (Earth Day & Waste Management editions), *PEHAL* (mental health), *Pollution-Free Campus*, *Sab Padhenge Sab Badhenge*, *Swachh Bharat Mission – for TERI, SES-JNU, Deva Foundation and university platforms* (2018–2025).

MIME & MONO-ACTING

PRODUCTION	FORM	CAPACITY	VENUE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Incredible India	<i>Mime</i>	Director & Performer	Spandan Cultural Procession, BHU	2019
The Haunted Mirror	<i>Mime</i>	Director & Performer	34th Inter-University Zonal Youth Festival (AIU), LNMU	2019
Empowering Transgender Community	<i>Mime</i>	Director & Performer	Spandan Inter-Faculty Festival, BHU	2018
The Misunderstood Clown	<i>Mime</i>	Director & Performer	33rd Inter-University Zonal Youth Festival (AIU), Guwahati	2018
Child Labour	<i>Mono-act</i>	Writer, Director & Performer	Abhikalpan Faculty Festival, BHU	2019

SCREEN, VOICE & MEDIA

TITLE	FORMAT	DIRECTOR / PLATFORM	YEAR
Summer of 77	<i>Web series</i>	Dir. Sudhir Mishra – SonyLIV (upcoming)	2026
Barah X Barah	<i>Feature film</i>	Dir. Gaurav Madan	2024
Safed Bhalu	<i>Documentary</i>	Dir. Prof. Nilambuj Singh (upcoming)	–

Voice: Professional Hindi voice-over artist (narration & dubbing projects).

WORKSHOPS & THEATRE TRAINING CONDUCTED (RESOURCE PERSON)

WORKSHOP	HOST	YEAR
Stage Craft – A Theatre Workshop	Abhinay Dramatics Society, School of Engineering, JNU	2025
Acting Workshop	Abhinay Dramatics Society, School of Engineering, JNU	2024
Theatre & Life Skills (“21st-Century Life Skills”)	Linguistic Empowerment Cell, JNU	2023
“Theatre and English in Daily Life” – G20 Training	Delhi Police Academy (PTC), Najafgarh	2023
Ten-Day Theatre Training Workshop	Kasturba Gandhi Awasi Balika Vidyalaya, Shivpur (Zila BSA)	2019

JURY & ADJUDICATION

- **The Theatre of Liberation** – “Cases Against Oppression: A Courtroom Drama,” VIPS-TC (2026)
- **Udbhav 3.0** – “Theatre Roulette,” School of Engineering, JNU (2026)
- **NATYASHALA, Nirvana 2026** – “Anidra” Street-Play Competition, VMMC & Safdarjung Hospital (2026)
- **Tamasha** – “Movie Scene Enaction,” Abhinay, SoE, JNU (2025)
- **Laissez Faire 2025** – Nukkad Natak, Vasant Valley School (2025)
- **GALAXIA 2024 & 2023** – Mono-act, Bal Bhavan Public School
- **Spandan Inter-Faculty Youth Festival** – Theatre events, BHU (2023)

THEATRE TRAINING & SCHOLARSHIP

National School of Drama (NSD): Theatre Appreciation Course (2020); shortlisted / called for interview for NSD’s residential Diploma & One-Year Certificate programmes.

Doctoral research (JNU, in progress): “Power, Performance, and the Political: A Study of Witch-Hunting in West Bengal” – theatre, gender and political power.

Peer-reviewed conference papers on theatre & performance:

- “Exploring Ethical Dilemmas on Stage: Ethics and Theatre in Contemporary Performance,” National Conference on Ethics in Human Sciences, JNU (2023)
- “Gender and Performance in Regional Indian Theatre: *Shumang Leela* and *Bhavai*,” Intl. Conference on India & Southeast Asia, JNU (2023)
- “Deconstructing Gender Binaries in Experimental Theatre: Non-Binary Representation of Language and Identity,” RGNIYD & JNU (2023)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Studies – Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi	Expected 2028
M.A., Political Science – Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi	2022
B.A. (Hons.), Political Science – Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi	2020
Higher & Senior Secondary (CBSE) – Kendriya Vidyalaya No.1, Kanchrapara, West Bengal	2014 / 2016

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Guest Faculty & Academic Counsellor, Political Science – University of Delhi (Jesus & Mary College / NCWEB; School of Open Learning) and IGNOU (2024–present). **Research Analyst** (international affairs), Strat News Global (2024–present).

Teaching Fellow, Teach for India (2020).

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Focus: applied & socially-engaged theatre · cultural diplomacy · India–Russia theatre exchange · theatre for development & education. **Stagecraft:** direction · playwriting · acting · street / applied theatre · mime · voice & narration · production & festival management. **Communication:** award-winning extempore & debate, public speaking, workshop facilitation.

Languages: English (fluent) · Hindi · Bengali · Maithili · Bhojpuri · Chinese (basic). **Digital:** R, SPSS, MS Office, Canva.