

MEHER JAFFRI

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EDUCATION

THE NEW SCHOOL – Master’s of Arts (**FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR**)

New York

- Master’s of Art’s degree in Media Studies (Media, Film and Theatre)
- Recipient of a Fulbright scholarship to complete Master’s degree
- Received 50% Dean’s Merit Scholarship from the New School

MCGILL UNIVERSITY - Bachelor of Commerce

Montreal

- Major in Business Management, Concentration in Entrepreneurship and Minor in Philosophy

WORK EXPERIENCE – FILMMAKER, THEATRE & OTHER (DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/WRITER)

BODHI WORKS MEDIA

2010- Present, **Karachi**

Founder | Director | Producer

- Founded Film, Video and Theatre Production company
- Conceptualization and oversight of every aspect of the company from the creative and technical decision-making of films from development to production, to the business management aspects including legal, accounting, crewing, casting, business development and raising investment.
- Under my leadership, the company has amassed a considerable portfolio including the following:

❖ THEATRE PLAYS

- **Director / Producer – ‘THE WHITE PLAGUE’** Sept 2023 – Sept 2024, **Karachi/Lahore**
 - Received widespread critical acclaim for an Urdu adaptation of a feature length Czech play in collaboration with the Art’s Council and the Embassy of the Czech Republic, first staged in Karachi on Nov 2023 and again in Karachi and Lahore in August-September 2024
 - *The Friday Times* review: [“The White Plague at Alhamra: Watching Zia Mohyeddin’s last commissioned play”](#)

- *The News* review: [“Power, profit and pandemic”](#)
- *The Express Tribune* review: [“Staging a Pandemic: The White Plague returns to Karachi with a lot more questions”](#)
- *Dawn Newspaper* review: [“The Plague and Human Predicament”](#)
- *Medium* review: [“The White Plague’: The Nuances of War, Disease and Resistance”](#)

- **Director – ‘AUR AURANGZEB’** **2017**
Adapted Bengali feature play ‘Evam Indrajit’ into English and directed at the Lyceum School
- **Producer / Co-Director – ‘LIFE’** **2017**
An experimental performance piece devised with the students of Kiran Foundation, Lyari at the culmination of a 2-month theatre, spoken word and storytelling workshop devised with the grant support of the Davis Projects for Peace.

❖ TV SERIES/EPISODIC

- **Creator/ Writer/Producer - 'THE CHOSEN ONE'** (working title) **Currently in development**
 - 6 episode miniseries currently in development, Canadian-Pakistani co-production
 - Official Selection for Series Mania's Writers Campus (Series Mania Forum) in March 2022 in Lille
 - Official selection of TIFF Series Accelerator in September 2022 in Toronto
 - Invited to participate at Berlinale Series Market in February 2023 in Berlin
 - Quarter finalist of the 2023 Slamdance Screenplay competition; semi finalist for the Sundance Episodic Lab in 2021

❖ FEATURE FILMS

- **Co-Producer – ‘NOCES’** (English Title: **'A WEDDING'**) **2016**
 - Belgian / French / Pakistani / Luxembourg co-production
 - Official selection: Toronto International Film Festival 2016, Rotterdam International Film Festival 2016, Istanbul Film Festival 2016
 - Nominated for Best French-Language, Lumieres Awards, eight Margritte Awards, won 2 awards
 - Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GktPm1iH53E>
- **Producer – ‘SEEDLINGS’** (Urdu Title: **'LAMHA'**) **2012**
 - Winner, NYCIFF 2013, DCSAFF 2013; SAARC Film Festival 2013
 - Pakistan’s official entry to the SAARC Film Festival 2013
 - Theatrical Release in 2013 in Pakistan
 - Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqMCKiQKVck>

❖ SHORT FILMS, DOCUMENTARIES & MUSIC VIDEOS

- **Producer – ‘UDAAN’** (Short Doc) – Official selection: AFI Doc Festival **2021**
- **Director & Editor - 'DUMMY'** (Short Film) **2016**
- **Producer - ‘THE WAVES’** (Short Film) - Honorable Mention: NYC Indie Film Festival **2013**
- **Producer - 'RUCKUS'** (Short Film) - Screened at TED Global Conference 2012 **2012**
- **Director, Producer & Editor - 'ISHQ KINARA'** (Music Video feat. Zoe Viccaji) **2016**
- **Producer - 'JAB KOI'** (Music Video feat. Zoe Viccaji) **2013**
- **Producer – 'BEAUTIFUL'** (Music Video feat. Musician Omar Farooq) **2011**

❖ COMMERCIALS AND CORPORATE DOCUMENTARIES

- **Director & Producer** - Series of Construction Videos (Associated Constructors Limited)
- **Director & Consultant** - 25 videos for Entrepreneurship Training Program (Punjab Skills Dev. Fund)

- **Producer & Director** - 25 episodes for Fulbright Talks Series 2018 (USEFP)
- **Producer & Director** – Commercial digital film series for English Biscuits campaign (Ogilvy)
- **Producer & Director** - Multiple corporate videos (Wahed Invest)
- **Producer** - Mobilink television commercial (D'Hamidi Agency)
- **Director & Producer** - “Yoga with AQ” TV series (Health TV)
- **Producer & Director** – “The Roundsquare Conference” (The Lycuem School)

KARACHI FILM SCHOOL

Nov 2024 - present, **Canada**

Senior Faculty at the Karachi Film School teaching acting and filmmaking.

TIGER'S EYE PICTURES ON INC

Aug - Nov 2022, **Canada**

Casting Director (Pakistan) (freelance) on Canadian feature film **'THE QUEEN OF MY DREAMS'**

Managed the casting of the Pakistani cast on the Canadian film directed by Fawzia Mirza

Z2C PAKISTAN PVT. LTD (affiliate of Publicis Group)

June – Nov 2021, **Karachi**

Content Strategy Consultant (contract)

- Heading strategy to develop a digital OTT streaming platform, application, and content strategy for one of Pakistan's largest media buying, planning and communications firm, Z2C (parent company of Starcom Media Agency Pakistan).
- Key responsibilities include conducting extensive market research and analytics to devise a business plan and strategy for the development of an online digital platform for entertainment and sports content.

HAMILTON-MEHTA PRODUCTIONS

Aug 2019 – Nov 2019, **Canada /Sri Lanka**

Production Manager (freelance) on Canadian feature film **'FUNNY BOY'**

- Managed the feature film production of 'Funny Boy' under Oscar-nominated writer/director Deepa Mehta and producer David Hamilton, adapted from best-selling novel of Shyam Selvadurai, working with Canadian, Indian, Pakistani and Sri Lankan crews.
- Officially selected by Telefilm Canada to represent Canada at the 2021 Oscar's for Best International Feature Film category
- Distributed by Ava Duvernay's distribution company ArrayNow
- Released by Netflix in December 2021

DAVIS PEACE PROJECT FOUNDATION

2017, **Karachi**

Grantee & Theatre Producer/Director

- Awarded the Davis Peace Project Grant 2017 on proposed theatre/performing arts program in Karachi
- **'Peacebuilding through Storytelling'** was a 2-month project that conducted theatre, storytelling and spoken word workshops amongst underprivileged students in partnership with Kiran School, Lyari with the aim of using art and creative expression to foster critical thinking skills and peace-building initiatives.

FREQUENCY MEDIA

April 2015 – Aug 2015, **Karachi**

Director (freelance) for **'SPRITE STREETS'** (TV series)

- A 5-episode musical documentary commissioned by Sprite (Coca- Cola Corporation Pakistan). Working directly under the founder of renowned international “Coke Studios” series, Rohail Hyatt.

CREW MOTION PICTURES

Aug 2014 – March 2015, **Karachi**

Producer (freelance) on Pakistani feature films, '**LYARI BYPASS**' (true crime on the four-decade Lyari gang-war) and '**BLOODY NASREEN**' (based on the graphic novel about a Pakistani female street fighting vigilante)

- Represented and pitched films in development at the Asian Film Market 2014 (at Busan Int. Film Festival, Korea) and the European Film Market 2015 (at the 65th Berlinale, Berlin)
- Successful in securing 25% German co-production deal and letters of intent for 15% gap financing and deal with reputed German International Sales Agent

DAWN MEDIA GROUP

Aug 2014 – March 2015 **Karachi**

Producer & Writer (freelance) – spearheaded development and headed the writer's room to develop the script and talent for '**THE BUREAU**' a 24-episode television crime series for Pakistan's leading media channel.

MATEELA FILMS

May 2014 - July 2014, **Karachi**

Assistant Director (freelance) on Pakistani feature film entitled '**GARDAB**' commissioned by the Karachi Youth Initiative (USAID); Director: Harun Massey

ONE MOTION PICTURES

Oct - Dec 2012, **Karachi**

Film Consultant (freelance) on Pakistani feature film entitled '**O21**'; theatrically released in Pakistan in 2014

TEDxKARACHI

Feb 2010 - July 2010, **Karachi**

Manager (freelance) Successfully organized and executed Pakistan's first ever TEDx, featuring founder and curator of TED Global, Chris Anderson, Asad Umar (CEO, Engro), Jacqueline Novogratz (CEO, Acumen Fund) and other notable speakers; alongside organizing committee (former Senior TED Fellows) Awab Alvi and Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy.

ACUMEN FUND PAKISTAN (Subsidiary of Acumen Fund, New York)

2009 - 2010, **Karachi**

Knowledge & Communications Consultant

- Report Writing & Research; Proposal Writing; Management; Media Relations; Communications; Community Outreach & Business Development
- Oversight, extensive field and desk research and writing of a market assessment on 'Affordable Housing Finance in Urban Pakistan'.

Associate – Housing Portfolio

2008 - 2009, **Karachi**

- Working primarily with Acumen investee Saiban and their low-income housing developments *Khuda Ki Basti-3* (Karachi) and *Khuda Ki Basti-4* (Lahore)
- Conducted research in portfolios and metrics and completed due diligence on existing and high-potential investments in the low-income housing and low-income housing finance space in Karachi and Lahore.
- Developed TOR for a Affordable Housing Finance research and consultancy project

ONTARIO COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN

2007- 2008, **Toronto**

Business Development Officer - Successfully raised government, corporate and private funds via donor campaigns, sponsorships, grant applications and events, communicating effectively between internal and external stakeholders.

WORK EXPERIENCE – ACTOR

<u>PRODUCTION TITLE</u>	<u>ROLE</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>MEDIUM</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
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The Queen of My Dreams (Director: Fawzia Naqvi)	Supporting Lead	Shut Up & Color	Feature film	2023
Ghao (Director: Haseeb Hasan)	Lead	Zee5	Web-series	2021
Churails (Director: Asim Abbasi)	Supporting	Zee5	Web-series	2020
Next Scene (Director: Sunil Shanker)	Lead	Syna Productions	Short Film	2020
Remembrance Day (Director: Tracy)	Lead	NAPA Festival	Theatre	2020
Equus (Director: Sunil Shanker)	Supporting	NAPA Repertory Theatre	Theater	2017
A Woman Alone (Director: Sheema Kirmani)	Lead	Tehrik-e-Niswan	Theatre	2015
6 Characters in Search of an Author (Director: Fawad Khan)	Lead	NAPA Repertory	Theatre	2014
Jackson Heights (Director: Mehreen Jabbar)	Supporting	Urdu 1	Television	2014
Ahista Ahista (Director: Haseeb Hasan)	Guest Appearance	HUM TV	Television	2014
The Portrait of Rumi (Director: Rouvan Mahmood)	Lead	Dadadali	Theatre	2013
Shukk (Director: Yasir)	Supporting	ARY Entertainment	Television	2013
The Man on a Black Horse (Director: Rouvan Mahmood)	Lead	Dadadali	Theatre	2012
Mamma Mia! (Director: Nida Butt)	Supporting	MAD Productions	Theatre	2009

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & FILM/SERIES LAB SELECTIONS

Charles Wallace Fellowship (**Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust and British Council Pakistan**)
Slamdance Screenplay Competition – Quarterfinalist (**Slamdance**)
Series Mania Forum (**Series Mania**)

2024, UK
2023, US
2023, Lille

Berlinale Series Market (73rd Berlin International Film Festival)	2022, Berlin
Berlinale Talents 2021 invited as Alumni in-person (73rd Berlin International Film Festival)	2023, Berlin
TIFF SERIES ACCELERATOR 2022 (47th Toronto International Film Festival)	2022, Toronto
SERIES MANIA WRITER'S CAMPUS 2022 (Series Mania)	2022, Lille
Berlinale Co-Pro Series Market (72nd Berlin International Film Festival)	2022, Berlin
BERLINALE TALENTS 2021 (71st Berlin International Film Festival)	2021, virtual
Women's Room Fellowship (Pat the Dog Theatre Creation - Waterloo)	2020 - 2021, Kitchener
Goethe Institute Film Talent Fellowship (Goethe Institute & Prince Claus Fund)	2017-2018, Karachi
Davis Peace Project Grant (US\$ 10,000) (International House, NYC)	2017, New York
Women in Leadership Fellowship (International House, NYC)	2016 - 2017, New York
The Orchard Project Episodic Lab (The Orchard Project) (virtual)	2022, New York
FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP (Fulbright Commission)	2015 - 2017, New York
European Film Market (Berlin International Film Festival)	2015, Berlin
Asian Film Market (Busan International Film Festival)	2014, Busan
MasterCard Scholarship (MasterCard)	2005, Singapore

OTHER

- Citizenship: Canada and Pakistan
- Languages: English, Urdu, Hindi