

# Ishika Muchhal

Storyteller. Activist. Organizer. Leader.

## EDUCATION

- **California Institute of the Arts (CalArts)**
  - **BFA in Acting, Social Science Minor, 2023**
- **Monrovia High School, 4.38 GPA**
  - National Honors Society, Interact Club (President), International Thespian Society (Ambassador, Director of Publicity), California Scholarship Federation, Math & Science Academy, National Technical Honors Society

## EXPERIENCE (select)

### **Program Associate, Community Engagement, 2023 – 2024**

LA Opera Connects

- Increased outreach to senior centers by 200%, oversaw event from planning to post-analysis, & brought opera to underserved communities
- Designed materials for, staffed, & provided logistical support for events and weekly classes for students across LA and neighboring counties
- Coordinated over 80 ensemble members for annual community opera, handling recruitment, scheduling, and artist and partner communications

### **Dancing Storytellers Performer, 2023 – present**

The Music Center, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Dancing Storytellers

- Performed in the dance theater duet show *Indian Mythology and Me*
- Shared Indian culture and dance to children & families at schools, museums, parks, and libraries across Southern California

### **President, Vice President, Assembly Executive Committee, 2021-23**

*CalArts Student Union*

- Increased student voice in shared governance via Institute by-law revisions
- Shaped admin decisions on space planning, purchasing policy, & tuition
- Facilitated meetings on wellness, food, mentorship, IDEA, & sustainability
- Created transparency via a living handbook, surveys, & monthly newsletter

### **Podcast Editor, 2023 - present**

Keely Semler, Motherlands Podcast

- Organized, edited, and mixed audio files for motherhood-focused podcast
- Summarized episodes & published them to Spotify, Apple Podcasts, & more
- Tracked viewership and episode performance on Spotify for Podcasters

### **Berlin Fellow, 2023 - present**

**Humanity in Action**

- Explored & facilitated discourse on colonial impacts, privilege, & identity
- Developed an action project to facilitate intergenerational conversations on reproductive justice for South Asian women & empower their advocacy

### **Actor, Singer, Dancer, 2003 - present**

Freelance, CA

- Professionally trained in contemporary/classical dance, singing, and acting
- Connected with audiences through 80 plays, musicals, films, & VO projects

### **Interview Vodcast Series Host, 2021 - present**

*A QISSAA with Ishika: Quintessential & Inspiring Stories of South Asian Artists*

- Developed vodcast to share the journeys of South Asian arts trailblazers
- Livestreamed on YouTube, IG, FB, & Spotify

## CONTACT

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Los Angeles, California

## SKILLS

- Acting
- Singing
- Dancing
- Directing
- Filmmaking
- Cold Calling
- Organization
- Community Engagement
- Team Building
- Leadership
- Hosting/Emceeing
- Event Planning
- Producing
- Development
- PR & Marketing
- Fundraising
- Content Creation
- Sound, Photo, & Video Editing
- News & Creative Writing
- US Passport
- Driver's License

## SOFTWARES

- Adobe Photoshop, Premiere Pro, Rush
- Audacity
- Wix, Squarespace, WordPress
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Google Suite
- Social Media: IG, FB, YouTube, Twitter
- MailChimp, Later, Canva

## LANGUAGES

- English (native)
- Hindi (fluent)
- Spanish (conversational)

**Staff Reporter, Content-Writer, News Anchor, 2016 - present**

24700, *The Clarion*, *Logos Magazine*, *The Wildcat*

- Wrote 50+ articles for CalArts' blog, highlighting alumna & student news
- Published award-winning news, profiles, & opinions for *Logos Magazine* & *The Clarion* newspaper
- Informed students on events as anchor & broadcast writer for live news

**Co-VP of Communications and Policy Advocate, 2020 – 21**

National Women's Political Caucus, San Gabriel Valley, CA

- Raised \$7000 to elect pro-choice women by planning and orchestrating virtual 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala
- Boosted monthly meeting attendance by creating digital marketing campaigns
- Advocated for the passing of AB 367 (Menstrual Equity Act) via letter endorsement to the state legislature

**Marketing Content Intern, 2021**

East West Players, Los Angeles, CA

- Highlighted staff, board members, & artists through the writing of 15 creative profiles
  - Archived over 50 years of EWP production history & designed backend event pages on WordPress
- Captured photo/video content & designed social media assets to promote upcoming productions

**Director, Filmmaker, Producer, 2018 – present**

CalArts, L. K. Taylor Performing Arts Center

- Directed & designed multiple theater productions, immersive experiences, & cabarets – directing, producing, set, costume, light, & sound design
- Used filmmaking and editing skills to create short films and informational videos, educating viewers on subjects including US history, government, and voting
- Produced a variety of theatrical productions, cabarets, and events for clubs & orgs

**Campaign Canvasser and Field Intern, 2020-24**

Various Campaigns, CA

- Oversaw the scheduling of 100+ West Coast volunteers to call and text voters across the USA
- Knocked doors, text banked, phone banked, & wrote letters for 8 local, state, & national campaigns

**Teacher's Assistant, 2018 – 2023**

CalArts, CA

- Tracked assignments & attendance, controlled class websites, and managed schedules for multiple faculty
- Set up classrooms, sent class emails, & liaised between faculty and student for each group's needs

**Producer, Event Coordinator, Host, and Performer, 2020-21**

Foothill Unity Center, San Gabriel Valley, CA

- Raised \$6,000 for unhoused populations by producing, coordinating, and livestreaming a community engagement concert fundraiser to 400+ people

**Poll Worker, 2020-22**

LA County Registrar, CA

- Checked-in & registered 200+ voters for 2 elections as poll worker
- Opened and closed vote center alongside site lead, readying VSAP machines for use and storage
- Solved IT issues like print jams and accessibility functions for individual station and other volunteers

**Event Coordinator and Community Outreach Chair, 2018-22**

Asian Student Alliance, CalArts, CA

- Grew ASA membership and student awareness of Asian diasporic events by planning and producing events like Holi, Diwali, and Asian Art Showcases
- Coordinated with artists, campus life, caterers, communications office, social media managers, and decoration team for above events

**Producer/Show Manager, New Works Festival, 2019 – 20**

CalArts School of Theater, Santa Clarita, CA

- Produced 3-day festival featuring 10 original student plays for the CalArts community
- Facilitated selection of plays by writing coverage of 20 pitched projects for the executive committee

**Producing Assistant, 2019 – 20**

Bootleg Theater, Los Angeles, CA

- Coordinated publicity and press interviews for the *We're Gonna Die* concert
- Scheduled 2 months of rehearsals, event catering, and talent logistics
- Increased reach of event through preparation of mailers, flyering, and merchandise distribution

**Publicity Intern, 2019**

L K Taylor Performing Arts Center, Monrovia, CA

- Captured photo & video content, designed social media, & worked with staff in MUSD to publicize *Mary Poppins* summer musical
- Increased reach of event through preparation of mailers, flyering, community marketing, & calling

**Team Captain and Fundraiser, 2005-2018**

American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, CA

- Individually raised \$35,000+ by planning fundraisers, securing donations, and engaging communities
- Mobilized team members and in-kind donors to boost booth sales and fundraising for 13 24-hour events
- Sold snacks, drinks, and meals at booth, handling cash & serving

**Ambassador and Director of Publicity, 2015-18**

International Thespian Society, MHS

- Acquired sponsorships and donors for 9 shows and boosted ticket sales past historic attendance
- Liaised between drama department, city council, school board, TV and news media, and donors
- Designed t-shirts, flyers, graphics, and programs for theater shows & fundraisers

**Concessions Manager, 2015 – 2018**

L. K. Taylor Performing Arts Center

- Managed sales of concessions before shows and during intermission
- Generated revenue for the theater through food and merch sales

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## AWARDS

- Lillian Disney & Flora Hollingsworth Hurschler Scholarship 2018-2023
- California Arts Council "Individual Artist Fellow" 2022
- Humanity in Action Berlin Fellow 2023
- LA County Arts and Culture – Arts Internship Program Grant 2021
- AP Scholar with Distinction 2018
- Rotary Youth Leadership Award 2017
- President's Outstanding Academic Excellence Award 2014
- Top 10 of Class 2012-2018