

Hafiz Karmali
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Director / Designer, Performer, Translator

EDUCATION

- 2001 - 2006 Ph.D. Candidate (Ismaili Philosophy) at Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (EPHE), Dept. of Religious Studies, Sorbonne University, Paris.
- 1999-2001: Diplôme des études approfondies (DEA equivalent to M. Phil.) Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Sorbonne University, Paris.
- 1985-1989: Advanced Theatre Training, American Repertory Theatre at Harvard.
- 1983-1985: Master of Fine Arts (Directing), Carnegie-Mellon University.
- 1979- 1983: Bachelor of Arts (Honors Drama), University of Alberta.

THEATRE PRODUCTIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS

2011: *Rumi x 7 = Tales from the Masnavi* as part of a new series, *Islam 101: A Basic Guide*, presented circus style with clowns, acrobats, dancers and an intercultural music ensemble; and the world premiere of *Night Over Erzinga*, an Armenian memory play, Golden Thread Productions, San Francisco.

2009: **ReOrient Festival**, Golden Thread Productions, San Francisco: directed 3 short plays as part of the festival: *Abaga* (The Future) by Torange Yeghiazarian; *A Marriage Proposal* (Egyptian adaptation of Chekhov) and *The Review* (a "skype" play) by Yussef el-Guindi. Conference Panelist on the subject of "Theatre and Peace-Building."

2008: *Ali to Karim - A Tribute to the Ismaili Imams*. An epic docu-drama that tells the story of the Aga Khan & his Ancestors - toured 7 cities in the USA (Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas, Chicago, Atlanta, Miami and New York).

July 2007: *Aiglemont*, staging of devotional odes at the inauguration ceremony for the Golden Jubilee (50th Anniversary) of His Highness the Aga Khan as Imam of the Ismaili Muslims.

2006: *Island of Animals*, a fable from the Islamic world by the Ikhwan al-Safa, Golden Thread Productions, San Francisco.

2003: *Caravane de la Paix*, a concert in collaboration with French and Afghan poets promoting peace in Afghanistan performed at UNESCO, Paris.

1998: Member of UK team of volunteers for the Aga Khan's visit to Sheghan river bank in Afghan-Badakhshan.

1998: *Sons do Tempo*: concert for inauguration ceremony, Centro Ismaili Lisboa. Guests of Honour: President Jorge Sampaio, His Highness the Aga Khan and Prince Aryn Aga Khan.

1998: *Island of Animals* (Ikhwan al-Safa) Ismaili Centre, London.

1996: *Legend of the Baltit Fort*: moonlight garden performance at the Serena, Gilgit (Northern Pakistan) sponsored by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC). Guests of Honour: H.H. the Aga Khan and Prince Aryn Aga Khan.

1995: Member of UK team of volunteers for the Aga Khan's first visit to Tajikistan.

1995: *Buzkashi*, presentation of Kyrgyz style polo-match for His Highness, Murghab plains.

1995: *Water for Life* (AKF Ball, London): dance-theatre featuring performers from Gujarat. Guest of Honour: Princess Zahra Aga Khan.

1994: *Azân - A Call to Prayer* (Grosvenor House): lyrical drama featuring musicians and dancers from Tajikistan in collaboration with talent in the UK. Guest of Honour: H.H. the Aga Khan.

1994: *Rumi x 7 = Tales from the Masnavi* performed in Uzbek in Tashkent with a company of circus performers (Sponsored by the European Commission).

1993: *The Raven; The Love of Three Oranges* by Carlo Gozzi, Montreal.

1992: *Rumi x 7 = Tales from the Masnavi* performed in Urdu in Aliabad, Hunza sponsored by ITREB Pakistan and the Institute of Ismaili Studies.

1991: *Conference of the Birds* (Attar), Ismaili Centre, London.

1990: *The Shoemaker's Prodigious Wife* (Federico Garcia Lorca) at Avignon-Off Festival in France (recipient of an arts grant from Canadian government).

1979 - 1989: *Les Aveugles* (Michel de Ghelderode); *Tragedy of Mansur al-Hallaj* (Salah Abd as-Sabur); *Act Without Words I* (Samuel Beckett); *Orison* (Fernando Arribas); *Striptease* (Mrozek); *Biography: A Game* (Max Frisch); *Woyzeck* (Georg Buchner); *Leonce & Lena* (Buchner); *The Three Sisters* (Chekhov); *Dialogues of Buster Keaton* (Garcia Lorca); *The Man with the Flower in his Mouth* (Pirandello); *Uncle Vanya* (Act One, Chekhov); *Cristobal & Rosita* (Garcia Lorca).

ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR

1985 – 1990: *Sweet Table at the Richelieu* (Ronald Ribman), *The Serpent Woman* (Carlo Gozzi), *Good Woman of Setzuan* (Bertolt Brecht), *The Miser* (Molière) all directed by Andrei Serban at American Repertory Theatre; *Alcestis* (Euripides at A.R.T.) and *Golden Windows* (original work produced at B.A.M) directed by Robert Wilson.

TRANSLATOR (French to English)

- *The Paradox of Monotheism; Ismaili Symbolism of the Cross* by Henry Corbin for a website in his honor, <http://www.amiscorbin.org>
- Christian Jambet's introduction to Nasiruddin Tusi's *Rawdat al-taslim* as appeared in *La Convocation d'Alamût*, Verdier, 1996. Abridged version published as a Philosophical Commentary in *Paradise of Submission*, IIS, 2004.
- Daniel De Smet's study of Fatimid philosopher Hamid ad-Din al-Kirmani, *La Quiétude de l'Intellect*, Peeters, 1995.
- Translation of a series of articles on Iranian culture for *Encyclopaedia Iranica* and IIS publication, *The Spirituality of Shi'i Islam: Beliefs and Practices* by M. A. Amir-Moezzi.

TEACHING

1994: Guest Lecturer at University of Quebec in Montreal.

1988: Guest Lecturer at Harvard School of Extension Studies

1987 – 1989: Teaching Fellow for Professor Robert Brustein's lectures on Modern and Post-Modern Drama at the English Department, Harvard University.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Oct 1996 – June 1997: pioneering Relief Officer for Focus Humanitarian Assistance in Afghanistan during Taliban regime: established infrastructure, recruited local staff and implemented emergency relief programmes in Kabul, Pul-i-Khumri and Badakhshan.

CONSULTANT

Spring 1994: Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC): field research and feasibility study for a Silk Route Festival to showcase performing arts in Xinjiang, Hunza, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan i.e. preliminary work for what developed into the Aga Khan Music Initiative, Central Asia (AKMICA).

Summer 1994: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Uzbekistan): reporting on means by which to revivify the indigenous cultural traditions for Registan Square in Samarkand.

Jan - Dec. 1992: Institute of Ismaili Studies, Senior Intern: adapting literary texts « from the page to the stage » and devising creative pedagogical approaches to religious formation in drama workshops sponsored by IIS / ITREB in India, Pakistan, Canada and the United Kingdom.

PROGRAMME OFFICER

October 1997 - June 1999: National Council for the UK: responsible for preparing Jamatkhana development / architectural project proposals and drafting various policy documents for the President of the National Council.

VIDEOGRAPHY / SOUND TRACK DESIGN

Jamatkhanas: A Journey (Part I and II) - architectural documentary tracing the establishment of Jamatkhana in India, the migration of Ismaili Muslims to East Africa and subsequently to the West (Ismaili Centres in London, Burnaby and Lisbon).

Wedding Ceremony - collaborated on video production for Information Department, Aiglemont.

Centro Ismaili Lisboa - architectural documentary featuring an interview with Raj Rewal.

EXHIBITIONS

1999: Ismaili Centre, London: illustrations of *Island of Animals* with theatre production.

1997: *Tea with the Taliban*: Photojournalism: living conditions during civil strife in **Afghanistan** and relief projects undertaken by Focus Humanitarian Assistance.

1996: Photographic Exhibition: *AKDN and Ismaili Muslims* with architectural display to promote South Croydon Jamatkhana Development Project.

1994: Grosvenor House, London: *Tajik Ethnography*: collaboration on a display of Badakhshani artifacts, costumes, musical instruments and photo essay on Samarkand and Bukhara.

1991: Ismaili Centre, London, *Conference of the Birds*: presentation of Graham Day's etchings.

PUBLIC RELATIONS & PUBLISHING

Press Releases; interviews on BBC Radio (World Service) and CBC Radio; articles for *Arts & the Islamic World* (London) / *Society of Stage Directors* (New York City).

WEB SITE DESIGN

Co-authored Web Sites for *Island of Animals* & *Focus Humanitarian Assistance*.

LANGUAGES

French (fluent); Dari/Farsi (advanced); Arabic (beginner); Russian (elementary); Urdu/Hindi (elementary); Gujarati/Kutchi (conversational); Kiswahili (?).

TRAVELOGUE (in alphabetical order)

Afghanistan: Tokham - Khyber Pass (along Afghan-Pak border near the Federally Administered Tribal Areas); Focus Humanitarian Assistance in Kabul, Pul-i-Khumri, Mazar-e-Sharif and Badakhshan. **Egypt:** research and video documentation of Ismaili heritage sites in Cairo and Aswan. **India:** AKF & IIS field assignments in Mumbai and Gujarat. **Iran:** video documentation of Ismaili heritage sites in Alamût, Lamasar and Mahallat as well as religious traditions in Qom, Anjudan, Kerman and Mashhad. **Pakistan:** Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Islamabad, Northern Areas of Pakistan: Gilgit and Hunza. **Tajikistan:** Dushanbe, Gorno Badakhshan. **Uzbekistan:** performance in Tashkent; UNDP consultant in Samarkand & Bukhara. **Western China / Xinjiang:** AKTC research of performing traditions in Tashkurgan & Kashgar.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Ali to Karim: "Theatre Production" award at the Interfaith Film Festival 2011 (affiliated with The Pluralism Project at Harvard); AKF International Scholarship; Harvard University Bursary; Carnegie-Mellon Scholarship; AKF Canada Grant; Aga Khan Awards for Achievement; Dean's List.