

# MARYAM OBAIDULLAH BAIG

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## FOUNDING ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE

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### PLAYWRIGHT - JO CHAHO TUM

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Born and raised in Pakistan, Baig received a B.A in Political Science and English Literature from University of Punjab - Pakistan, a B.A in Art and Performance along with an MFA in Arts and Technology from University of Texas at Dallas. While her academic endeavors span across several fields of expression, her focus is detailed upon Gesture, Memory, and Performance in Storytelling.

Baig has guest lectured for Exploration of the Arts/Drawing Dimensions/Foundations (UT Dallas), Theatre Lab (Richland College), Theatre Movement (Keller High School), and has instructed at St. Patrick's High School in Karachi, Pakistan (Shakespeare in Performance.) As an actor, Baig's selected credits include: *The Fool*, *King Lear* - Dallas Shakespeare; *Shaharзад*, *Arabian Nights* -DMA; *Clio*, the world premiere of *On The Eve* - Theatre Three; *Frida*, *To Die: Go In Leaves*, *By Frida Kahlo* – Cara Mia Theatre Co.; *Pakeeza*, *SuBurbia* - Upstart Productions; *Servant Girl*, *The Old Woman in the Wood* - The Drama Club; *Varvara Nicholaevna*, *The Black Monk* – Undermain; *Puck*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Nina*, *The Seagull* - UT Dallas. Selected film: *Arbor Day*; *Heartland*.

Baig is a co-founding artistic associate of The Drama Club and a co-founding artistic director of Mutations Art Collective. For Mutations, Baig conceived and co-directed a series of readings based on different adaptations of Chekov's *The Seagull*. For this purpose, she single-handedly negotiated Emily Mann's then unpublished script of *A Seagull in the Hamptons* for a reading in Dallas, TX. With The Drama Club, Baig has appeared in all but one production as an actor and serves in roles of Creative, Development, and Producer. Baig's latest play *Jo Chaho Tum* (translation: Whatever You Want) was adapted from an 18-century Urdu fairytale for The Drama Club's *Wild*, *Wicked*, *Wyrð*. With Cara Mia Theatre Co. Baig co-wrote *To Die: Go In Leaves*, *By Frida Kahlo* which chronicled Kahlo's life and art. It received a high place on top ten productions of the year by the Dallas Morning News. For Project X Baig wrote and directed *BAN THE TAL*, a multimedia performance art piece about the birth, rise, and ideology of the Taliban. Baig created and directed *BEXCHANGED*, collaborating with Visual Art, Theatre and Dance departments at University of Texas at Dallas, documenting the nuclear arms race between India and Pakistan behind the curtain of war in Kashmir, which UTDallas mounted twice due to overwhelming interest and response.

Baig is on the Board of Directors for Deep Vellum Publishing and on the Advisory Board for Teatro Dallas. In 2015 she was named Silver Debater by Defense College - Pakistan, as Distinguished Alumna by UTDallas and as a Fellow of D Academy. Baig supports and volunteers her time for numerous causes that include: literacy through Big D Reads, advocacy for the homeless through Dallas Street Stories, racial equity through Community Conversation, cultural equity through ArtEquityNow!, public transportation infrastructure through ReImagine DART, and enhancing the city of Dallas through Coalition for a New Dallas. Baig also does volunteer consulting and content for non-profit arts organizations serving minorities, emerging new artists, and young non-profit arts organizations through her own art-centric company, Baig Communications. A permanent resident of the United States, Baig lives, works, and creates art in Dallas, TX. Recently, she has been invited to perform her writings and short stories at different venues such as Ignite DFW, The Naked Stage, and Margo Jones Theatre. Baig is on the verge of completing her first English novel, *IN MY DREAMS I'M DYING*. It will be on book shelves in the next 12 months.