

Rayesh Gunasekera

ICACM

International Casting & Creative Management
Sydney, NSW 2010

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Diversity, Authenticity and Visibility

Biography

Born and raised in Sri Lanka, Rayesh Gunasekera emigrated to Australia in 2008. Graduating in 2012 with an Advanced Diploma in Acting from The National Theatre Drama School, he had gone on to work with innovative theatre practitioners, both local and Sri Lankan. Being fluent in both Sinhala, and English, he has made it a necessity during his creative journey to explore both cultural backgrounds and thereby bridge the gap towards creating a greater understanding among his audiences.

To this effect Rayesh worked closely with National Theatre Drama School to perform in groupthink, rollercoaster dynamics from "The Conquest of the South Pole" (2010) to the serving-of-hate-crime-injustice in "The Laramie Project" (2011) and fatalistic love set in Ancient Greece in "Orpheus & Eurydice" (2011). Equally as importantly was highlighting the bicultural setting of his South Asian ancestry against the spectacular American waterfall setting on screen in "To Niagara with Love" (2012).

Aside from acting Rayesh has taken a step towards honing his craft as a screenwriter and director, studying at RMIT University. Through this he has greater hopes for creating stories that would transcend cultural barriers, and also help him find his unique artistic vision. He has already begun to make this stride by directing 2016's "The Marriage Proposal" with Performing Arts Circle as well as "The Bear & the Proposal", which were both received enthusiastically.

Other than his days on track and field and captaining a team during his high school days, Rayesh is fairly proficient in mixed martial arts including Wing Chun and karate and can adapt to any style quickly.

D.O.B: 28/06/1987

Age Range: 18-40

Height: 168cm

Hair: Short Black Straight

Body Type: Medium Build

Ethnicity: South Asian (Sri Lankan/Indian)

Experience

THEATRE

2019 "Exposure" Creative development, Malthouse Theatre, Southbank, VIC (Performer) Dir: Mark Pritchard

2016 "The Bear & The Proposal" Play, Melbourne, VIC (Director) Dir: Rayesh Gunasekera

2016 "The Pearlfishers" Opera, Melbourne Opera, State Theatre, Melbourne, VIC (Dacoit) Dir: Michael Gow

2016 "The Day I Left Home" Play, Melbourne Theatre Company, Lawler Theatre, Southbank, VIC (Poorna & Other) Dir: Alex Pinder

2016 "The Marriage Proposal" Play, Performing Arts Circle, RIVERGUM Arts Centre, Hampton Park, VIC (Lomov) Dir: Rayesh Gunasekera

2015 "A School for Husbands" Play, Performing Arts Circle, Chandler Theatre, Keysborough, VIC (Ergaste) Dir: Jayasri Chandrajith

2014 "A Casual Chat" Play, Animareal Productions, Rivergum Arts Centre, Hampton Park, VIC (Arun) Dir: Gayan Kanishka Rajapaksa

2011 "Orpheus & Eurydice" Play, National Theatre Drama School, Melbourne Town Hall, Melbourne, VIC (Various roles) Dir: Andrew Gray

2011 "The Laramie Project" Play, National Theatre Drama School, The National Theatre, St Kilda, VIC (Various roles) Dir: Mark Constable

2010 "The Conquest of the South Pole" Play, National Theatre Drama School, The National Theatre, St Kilda, VIC (Rudi) Dir: Terrence O'Connell

COMMERCIAL

2018 "Family Violence Behaviour Change Campaign – Inner Dialogue" TVC, Commoner, Brunswick, VIC (Background Office) Dir: Thomas Hyland

TELEVISION

2019 "Secret Bridesmaids' Business" Romantic thriller TV series, Seven Network, Hampton, VIC (Resident) Co-dirs: Tori Garrett & Jennifer Perrott

2012 "To Niagara With Love" TV series, Boston Lanka Productions, Boston & New York, US (Ravindu) Dir: Chitral De Mel

Education

2016-2018 Advanced Diploma of Professional Screenwriting, RMIT University, Melbourne, VIC

2015 Art of Movement in The Service of The Actor, Norman Taylor Workshop, Melbourne, VIC

2011 Advanced Diploma of Acting, The National Theatre Drama School, St Kilda, VIC

Skills

- Languages: English (fluent), Sinhala
- Accents: Australian, East Indian, Sri Lankan, American (Standard), English (Standard, RP)
- Film, TV & Theatre: Acting, directing, writing, movement
- Acting Styles: Improvisation (general), method, Shakespearean, Stanislavski
- Vocal Range: Tenor
- Vocal Style: Opera
- Dance: Salsa
- Instrumental: Bongos
- Athletic: Running (track and field, captaincy, sprinting), Crossfit training, jogging, MMA (Wing Chun, karate, kung fu), racquet (badminton), recreational (table tennis/ping pong), team sports (cricket, rugby union)
- Jobs: Bartender
- Licences' Held: Full driver's licence