

# Mana Dhanraj Contractor

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## **RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION, and WRITING EXPERIENCE:**

### **IndieEarth Worldwide Media | *Staff Writer* | May 2013-December 2015**

- Attended and reported on conferences, performances, speaking engagements, workshops, and new recordings by professionals in the music and independent film industries of India and South Asia
- Researched and documented existing business models in the Music and Independent film industries
- Reviewed submissions, scouted for new artists, and wrote articles featuring a variety of Artists for the IndieEarth platform

### **The Kabir Project | *Researcher, Staff Writer, and Documentary Field Engineer* | August 2008-March 2011**

- Organised and budgeted multiple field recording trips across rural India
- Developed the Ajab Shahar Web Archive, a curated collection of hundreds of songs, couplets, films, and ideas that connect Bhakti, Sufi, and Baul oral traditions. All of them carefully translated, annotated, subtitled and tagged for meaningful browsing
- Part of the Creative Outreach team that organised workshops, concerts, music festivals, and poetry readings related to Kabir across India

## **ARTIST MANAGEMENT and PRODUCTION:**

### **CalArts ExPO | *Curator and Producer* | February-May 2020**

- Mediated and organised the shift from a physical festival to a digital platform
- Listened and watched over a 100 hours of music and film to curate a playlist for multiple venues
- Created a method to organise and archive entries for easier navigation
- Work directly with musicians and filmmakers to troubleshoot and ensure submissions were up to digital standards for all online platforms

### **Dada Divas (an Opera by Jacqueline Bobak) | *Producer* | REDACT Los Angeles, February 8, 2020**

- Maintained a schedule for all rehearsals including meetings with set designers, media etc
- Social media advertising and development for the show on all social platforms. This also included writing the program notes for REDCAT and curating the website
- Organised video and photographic documentation of the rehearsals and the show
- Budgeting for the show and helping with acquiring grants etc.
- Organised all hospitality for the post show reception

### **Jodhpur Riff Music Festival (Rajasthan, India) | *Artist Manger and Curator* | October 2012-2018**

- Curated performances from over a hundred selections from across the world
- Managed communications, schedules, transport and accommodation for all International performers
- Worked on a list of musical collaborations between International and folk musicians to showcase at the festival and across the world
- Translated both language and musical to artists at rehearsals
- Organised workshops on a host of of world music traditions showcased at the festival
- Curated and managed the Jodhpur RIFF instagram account

## **EDUCATION:**

- California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), MFA in Voice Arts August 2018-May 2020
- Swarnabhoomi Academy of Music (SAM), Diploma in Voice Performance and Music Management August 2013-August 2015
- Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology, BFA in Textile Design August 2006-March 2011