Hershey Suri Production History

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Artistic Director of Pop Up! Productions and Artistic Associate of Shattered Globe Theatre

Education

Shattered Globe Theatre Protégé Program *Chicago, IL* **2023**
Pomona College Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance *Claremont, CA* **2021**
Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts; NYU Tisch School of the Arts Abroad Program *London, UK* **2020**

Directing

Angels Falling (New Work) **August, 2026**
Theatrelab First Look Series, *New York, New York*
Directed ethnographic thriller play about religion, murder, and what it means to observe and judge the truth. This workshop production was specially selected for TheatreLab's first look series.

Love in the Time Of___(New Work Development) **January, 2026**
Adams Theatre Company, *Chicago, Illinois*
Selected and directed this production through Adams Theatre Company at Theatre Wit in Chicago. This production sharply interrogates the gap between idealized pop-culture romance and the messier realities of modern intimacy. By navigating a world of "Hallmark Christmas" tropes, dating app musical numbers, and intimate character vignettes, the production successfully explored the friction between novelty and long-term connection. Under my direction, the play utilized a diverse, six-actor ensemble to bring to life a wide-ranging spectrum of queer-coded and multigenerational love stories .

We Sent Her to the Sea (New Work Development) **March, 2025**
The Understudy, *Chicago, Illinois*
Selected as a Director for the Understudy's Freshly Brewed series, I directed Maddie Powell's brilliant femme-centric play entitled "We Sent Her to the Sea," which received a sold-out audience and glowing feedback. Following the staged reading of the play, the production received inquiries from multiple theatre companies including Shattered Globe Theatre, Raven Theatre, and Jackelope Theatre company.

And Tomorrow (New Work Development) **February, 2025**
Subtext Studio, *Chicago, Illinois*
In support of Subtext Studio's New Work Development series, I directed a new work written by Los Angeles-based playwright, Ally Lardner, discussing the messiness of being in your early 20's, heartbreak, and friendship. Through the process, I worked in person with Lardner and multiple Los Angeles and Chicago based BIPOC actors to present a staged reading of the work at the Fine Arts Studio building in downtown Chicago. Following the reading, we engaged in a talkback with the audience to assist the script's future development in Los Angeles.

Next to Normal (New Concept) **May, 2024**
South Asian Institute, *Chicago, Illinois*
In collaboration with the South Asia Institute, I conceived and directed the world premiere of the South Asian version of Next to Normal - a Tony Award Winning Musical. Under my direction, we incorporated the Hindi language, Punjabi culture, and Indian traditions into a popular musical theatre production - exposing a primarily white audience to Indian culture and the Indian culture to impertinent themes of mental health stigma in our society. We partnered with community partners such as Vajra, Brown Man Therapy, Chicago Kasam, and others to honor the stories of South Asians struggling with the same themes of depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia that the musical discusses. The two weekend run brought in an audience of over 600 people from across the United States.

Addams Family The Movie Musical (New Concept) **May, 2021**
Remote
On the onset of the Pandemic, myself and POP's Executive Producer (Max Fine) were granted $20,000 to create a community through theatre and developed a new way of recording live theatre in a remote world. POP! directed a professional remote movie musical project of the Addams Family for the Claremont College Consortium. We managed a team of 60 student artists, designers, actors, and editors and presented our work to Netflix and Paramount Pictures.

5 Lesbians Eating A Quiche (Production) **March, 2018**
Pomona College, *Claremont, California*
Directed this production and partnered with the Queer Resource Center to host talkbacks to discuss the environment of our campus and its impact on the identities of LGBTQ+ individuals and how we can create safer spaces around campus.

Awards

Class of 2026 Broadway Theatre Producers Of Color: Selected as a member of a select group of BIPOC producers chosen for an intensive Broadway producing program. Focused on commercial theatre development, budgeting, and inclusive leadership under the mentorship of Tony Award-winning industry professionals.

Chicago Cultural Center New Play Residency 2025 (Musical Awardee): Show that I am lead producing was selected as one of four production companies for the City of Chicago's prestigious New Play Residency, a program that provides funding, rehearsal space, and public presentation opportunities to develop new theatrical works. Awarded $16,500 to collaboratively create and workshop Chalo! as part of DCASE's initiative to support risk-taking, equity, and innovation in Chicago's cultural landscape. The residency includes a two-month creative development period at the Chicago Cultural Center, culminating in public readings and engagement opportunities connecting artists and audiences across the city.

2024 Jeff Impact Fellowship: I was honored as a 2024 Jeff Impact Fellow and received a $10,000 award by the Joseph Jefferson Awards for her work as a director, cultural worker, and community organizer following her production of "Next to Normal." This recognition celebrates her commitment to uplifting historically excluded communities and reimagining collaborative, justice-centered models of theater-making. With the support of the fellowship, the award is to assist me in continuing to develop community-rooted programming that prioritizes care, accessibility, and equity—advancing the company's mission to create transformative, inclusive spaces for artists and audiences alike.

Reviews

"Jeff Awards Welcome 2024 Class of Jeff Impact Fellows" on April 17, 2025 by A.A. Christi from BroadwayWorld.
"Alexandria to Make Off-Broadway World-Premiere this May" on April 15, 2025 by Chloe Rabinowitz from BroadwayWorld.
"Next to Normal: A Welcome Portrayal of Living with Mental Illness" on June 10, 2024 by Mrinal Gokhale from Brown Girl Magazine.
"Theater Review: Next to Normal in a New Cultural Context" on July 3, 2024 by Nitya Mehrortra from F News Magazine.
"Preview: The Underground Society for Music Portrays a World Where Music is Banned" on July 3, 2024 by Nancy S. Bishop from 3rd Coast Review.
"Next to Normal Gets a South Asian Perspective" on May 22, 2024 by Taryn Allen from the Chicago Reader.
"Elon University "Luminosity" festival shines light on LGBTQ+ stories, communities in theater" on February 18, 2024 by Sarah T. Moore from Elon News Network
"Student Production of Lin Manuel Miranda's '21 ChumpStreet' Tackles Injustice in US Police System" on December 14, 2019 by Keaton Schiller from The Student Life.
"The Proof Is In The Quiche: Student Production Celebrates Queer Theatre," on March 30, 2018 by Mabel Lui from The Student Life