

# KANIKA ASAVARI VAISH

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## ABOUT

Kanika Asavari Vaish (she/her) is an NYC-based playwright, director, performer, and producer currently studying Playwriting at Columbia School of the Arts. She writes about hope, transformation, and community, and believes in using theater as a form of collective healing.

## EDUCATION

**Columbia University School of the Arts**, New York, NY  
*M.F.A. in Playwriting*

**August 2019 – Present**

**Wellesley College**, Wellesley, MA  
*B.A. in English Literature (with honors) and Political Science*

**August 2013 – May 2017**

## SELECTED PLAYS – FULL-LENGTH

*Nine Ways to Plead with a God*      Workshopped in Professional Practice course with David Henry Hwang, Spring 2022  
Thesis production scheduled at Lenfest Center for the Arts, August 2022

*Jyoti's Bridge*      Workshop production directed by Phoebe Brooks  
Schapiro Studio at Columbia University, November 2021

*Meyer v. Malaysia*      Workshopped in Play Rewriting course with David Henry Hwang, Fall 2020

*Arjun's Dilemma*      Workshopped in Playwriting II course with Rogelio Martinez, Spring 2020

## SELECTED PLAYS – SHORT / ONE-ACT

*The Divine Feminine*      Staged reading directed by Sabina Sethi Unni  
Fresh Lime Soda Productions, Zoom, November 2020

*Ghost Play*      Staged reading directed by Sabina Sethi Unni  
Fresh Lime Soda Productions, Riverside Church, February 2020

*Heliconia*      Staged reading directed by Jorge Schultz  
Climate Change Theatre Action Festival, Lenfest Center for the Arts, November 2019

*Nocturnal Admissions*      Workshopped in American Spectacle course with Lynn Nottage, Fall 2019

## EXPERIENCE

**Columbia University School of the Arts**, New York, NY  
*Assistant to Head of Playwriting David Henry Hwang*

**August 2020 – Present**

- Coordinate semi-weekly visits from guest lecturers, including playwrights and industry professionals
- Cast weekly readings of MFA playwrights' works in development
- Conduct research for Professor Hwang's new projects

**Fresh Lime Soda Productions**, New York, NY  
*Co-founder and Artistic Director*

**January 2020 – Present**

- Produce semi-monthly in-person and online staged readings, workshops, and watch-parties of South Asian works, each followed by a talkback among collaborators and an average of 70 live attendees around the world
- Develop works-in-progress with global playwrights of various backgrounds and experience levels

**Columbia University School of the Arts**, New York, NY  
*Literary Manager, International Play Reading Festival*

**May 2021 – October 2021**

- Serve as the primary dramaturg and Columbia University liaison to two playwright-director teams
- Advise collaborators through casting, rewriting, and rehearsal processes
- Advertise for Festival being held as a podcast series throughout October 2021

**Barnard College**, New York, NY  
*Teaching Assistant, Playwriting Workshop*

**October 2020 – December 2020**

- Attended semi-weekly class taught by Andy Bragen; oversaw play readings; led designated class discussions; facilitated conversations between students and guest artists
- Held weekly office hours to advise students; shared constructive feedback on students' weekly assignments