

Kanika Asavari Vaish

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EDUCATION

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

August 2019 – Present

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

August 2013 – May 2017

EXPERIENCE

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

May 2021 – Present

- 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

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 from around the globe
- Develop works-in-progress with playwrights of various backgrounds and experience levels

Columbia University School of the Arts, New York, NY
Theater Department Administrative Assistant

August 2020 – July 2021

- Compiled weekly newsletter of alumni achievements and upcoming events for MFA theater community
- Organized MFA production calendars and marketing materials
- Prepared introductory materials for first-year orientation

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

August 2020 – May 2021

- Coordinated semi-weekly visits from guest lecturers, including playwrights and industry professionals
- Casted weekly readings of MFA playwrights' works in development

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
- Gave constructive feedback on students' weekly assignments

Atlantic Theater Company, New York, NY
Community Outreach Ambassador

October 2019 – January 2020

- Collaborated with local businesses and cultural organizations to welcome and cultivate underrepresented audiences at Atlantic events through open mics, community leader mixers, discounted sales, and post-show talkbacks

White & Case LLP, Washington, D.C.
Legal Assistant, International Arbitration Group

June 2017 – June 2019

- Served as primary assistant to trial coordinator during two-week hearing at World Bank location in Paris, including managing all trial logistics, assisting witnesses, and providing support to team of fifteen attorneys
- Researched corruption in international arbitration for treatise authored by a partner of the firm
- Revised, proofread, and prepared legal documents for hearings and submissions in a timely manner

Wellesley College Shakespeare Society, Wellesley, MA
Vice President & Diversity Outreach Chair

August 2015 – May 2016

- Updated application process and revised organization policies to increase representation among society members; coordinated holiday performances and lectures; marketed monthly events to campus community; collaborated with student organizations; met regularly with school administration