



Nakul Bhalla

Mechanical Engineer, Actor

Director, 🎭 Ambigrammist

🎭 IMDb

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🌐 <https://nakulbhalla.com>

A first-principles investigator, design thinker, & a methodical doer who enjoys solving complex & intricate problems. I love deriving order out of chaos using structured, engineering thought combined with a deep & astute understanding of emotional design & human motivations

Experience

2012-Present. Independent Performing-Arts Professional

- Creative leadership of 20-30 highly talented, motivated & opinionated professionals spanning actors, sound, lighting, sets, costumes, communication designers, & all operational crew
- Strategic community building, & navigating through the extremely competitive space of the Indian film industry
- Facilitating workshops to provide acting tools for speech clarity, vocal projection, emotional range development, physical expression, text interpretation, stage presence, confidence-building, & strengthening team dynamics through better communication & trust
- Conducting business role plays for empathy building, negotiation skills, & navigating tough workplace conversations

Stage Acting: 200+ shows, 16 plays (15 Eng), 100,000+ audience at theatres like NCPA, Prithvi, Rangashankara. Regular literature readings at British Council Library. Frequent theatre collaborators - National Awardee Prakash Belawadi, Ashok Mandanna, Arjun Sajani, IFA Founder Anmol Vellani

Theatre Directing: 4 large-scale productions - David Mamet's The Shawl (with Uber as transport partner), Quentin Tarantino's Reservoir Dogs (World Theatre Day), Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap, & Neil Simon's Fools

Film Acting: 3 Feature films - Tu Hai Mera Sunday (w/ Shahana Goswami - London Film Festival, Netflix, Hotstar), Bell Bottom (w/ Akshay Kumar, Lara Dutta - Amazon Prime), Wingman, Short film - Mission Mars: Keep Walking India (w/ Dharma Productions), Web show - High (MX Player)

Voice Work: 4 audio-books - Jaya, The Secret Of The Nagas, Leadership At Infosys, In Loving Memory, & several radio ads

TV Commercials: Acted for Vodafone, Royal Challenge, Ola Cars, RBL Bank, Epson Projectors, TVS Wego, & Axis Bank

Business Role Plays & Theatre Workshops:

- *Clients* - Dell, Deloitte, Flipkart, CISCO, GE, NOVO Nordisk, EMC², Asian Paints, Accenture, Abbott, Zyme, KPMG Global Services
- *Focus areas* - Advanced Communication Skills, Influencing Across Cultures, Manager Development, Building Trust & Networks, Managing Difficult Conversations, Leaders as Coaches, Communication for Impact, Assertive Skills

2009-11. R & D Engineer - Foley Designs Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru

- Studying existing products & solutions through field research & teardown analysis, & providing incremental or innovative redesigns as per market need/client requirement
- Identifying & deciding focus groups, & conducting user-research
- Keeping abreast with advancements in manufacturing processes, new technologies, & properties of different materials, through literature & via liaising with SMEs, to provide optimal-turnout, cost-effective solutions

Titan Fastrack: Suspended watch-display mechanism for brick & mortar stores - Redesigned the snap-lock & key for pilferage-proofing, & for easier handling. Reduced watch-theft by 99%, whilst providing for single-hand unlocking

Quadrio Labs: Hearing solutions - Collected, collated & presented customer insights to design team for new hearing-aid designs, vis-a-vis ergonomics, user experience, aesthetics & expectations. Conducted field trials of new prototypes for design refinement

Wipro: New CFL designs - Presented consumer insights on CFL usage patterns & points of discontent with existing designs. Refined the electronic ballast in accordance with BIS standards. Presented new designs that were less bulky, provided softer, non-intrusive & vision-friendly lighting, whilst maintaining existing luminous intensity. Studied the manufacturing-line, & recommended changes to accommodate the new designs

Vayu: ICU beds - Studied existing mechanisms for elevation & Trendelenberg movements for manually operated & motorised ICU beds. Designed a new mechanism, for manual operation, that was minimal, robust & easy to handle

Textile mills, Coimbatore: Ring placement device - Redesigned the existing, 'jugaad'-driven device used to place rings to prevent entanglement of thread during spindling. Improvement reduced device failures & thus, saved factory time

2008-09. Research Assistant - Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

Aero-acoustics & Plasma Dynamics Lab: 2D localisation of acoustic emission source for design of a Large Aperture Directional Array (LADA) of microphones

- Solved locating an acoustic source with two microphones placed in the same line as the source, in the absence of the possibility of triangulation

Centre for Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences: Diurnal to interannual variability of the tropical Indian Ocean & the South Asian Monsoon

- Worked towards improving the resolution of the existing prediction model, by providing data on variations in the sea surface temperatures, salinity, water density, & ocean currents in the Bay of Bengal area, & their effects on the monsoon

2008. Engineer (Central Planning) - Larsen & Toubro Komatsu Ltd., Bengaluru

- Worked on supply chain rationalisation, & was part of the strategic planning team
- Was team leader during a one-month orientation program at L&T Mysore, winning the best team title - through tasks such as quizzes, presentations, & recreational group activities

Achievements

- Best Actor Award for Yes Minister, Saarang (IIT Madras), Unmaad (IIM Bangalore), 2008
- Best Actor and Best Overall Production Awards, for A No Play by Sarah Provost, Short+Sweet International Theatre Festival, Bangalore, 2012
- Invited to Indian Institute of Technology, Palakkad to give an Extramural Lecture, 2017

Education

2004-08. Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering - Manipal Institute of Technology

Electives: Finite Element Methods (FEM), Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)

Industrial Training: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Aircraft Division, Bengaluru


Final Project: CFD Analysis of centrifugal air blower with backward blades, for design optimisation. Used softwares CATIA & Ansys Fluent for modelling & analysis respectively

Campus Placement Offers: From Infosys Ltd., Larsen & Toubro Ltd.

Literary & Debating Society: Joint Secretary - Designed & organised literary/puzzle events all year round, & for the annual cultural festival - Revels

Dramanon Theatre Company: Creative Director - Selected scripts, auditioned actors, secured sponsorships & directed the plays for 4 large-scale productions, & acted in 3 others

Skills & Hobbies

- Kalaripayattu, the martial art
- Swimming (competitive)
- Calligraphy -  **Ambigrams**

Training

2012 Performing Shakespeare - Workshop with John Bashford, HOD Acting at LAMDA

2012 Source of Performance Energy - Workshop with Veenapani Chawla, Vinay Kumar, Nimmy Raphel, Suresh Kaliyath (Adishakti Theatre)

- Vocal Training
- Kalaripayattu, the martial art & derived physical forms
- Music rhythm patterns and Breath practices for vocal and psychological expression, used in Koodiyattam, with their roots in the Natyashastra

2013 Voice and Text for Shakespeare - Residency with Veenapani Chawla (Adishakti Theatre)

2013 Performing Shakespeare Soliloquies - Residency with Tim Supple, in London

2013 Solo on Stage - Workshop with Anmol Vellani, Toto Funds the Arts

2014 Voice and Speech - Workshop with Anmol Vellani, Toto Funds the Arts

2014 Performing Shakespeare - Residency with Tim Supple (Adishakti Theatre) - Text interpretation, creation of character, & physical realisation with King Lear as central text

Annexure

Films

Title	Role	Director	Production Company
Bell Bottom	Monty	Ranjit M. Tewari	Pooja Entertainment
Wingman (The Universal Irony of Love)	Karan	Anuj Gulati	Anuj Gulati
Mission Mars: Keep Walking India (Short)	Anirudh	Imran Khan	Dharma Productions
You Are My Sunday / Tu Hai Mera Sunday	Mehernosh	Milind Dhaimade	Love and Faith Films

Television

Title	Role	Director	Production Company
High	Dr. Nakul	Nikhil Rao (Jamic Films)	MX Player

Theatre

Title	Role	Director	Theatre/Producer
Copenhagen	Werner Heisenberg	Prakash Belawadi	Rangashankara, Centre for Film & Drama
Shikhandi	Lord Shiva / Narrator	Faezeh Jalali	National Centre for Performing Arts
Gajab Kahani (The Elephant's Journey)	Commander / Narrator	Mohit Takalkar	Prithvi Theatre, Aadyam Festival
Shylock (The Merchant of Venice)	Antonio	Surendranath	Ranga Shankara Theatre
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	Randle P. McMurphy	Arundhati Raja	Jagriti Theatre
The Royal Hunt of the Sun	Martin - Young / Old	Prakash Belawadi	Rangashankara, Centre for Film & Drama
Venus in Fur	Thomas Novachek	Arjun Sajnani	Rangashankara Theatre
The Shawl	Director	Nakul Bhalla	Jagriti Theatre, SparkPlug Theatre
The Man for All Seasons	Richard Rich	Arjun Sajnani	Nehru Centre Mumbai
Avasthe	Krishnappa Gowda	Prakash Belawadi	Rangashankara, Centre for Film & Drama
Hardy's Apology	Srinivasa Ramanujan	Prakash Belawadi	Rangashankara, Centre for Film & Drama
Man with a Violent Temper	Nikolay Andreitch	Anmol Vellani	Rangashankara, Toto Funds the Arts
This Sic	Alan	Sharanya Ramprakash	Rangashankara, Dramanon Bengaluru
Pizzazz	Frank	Sharanya Ramprakash	Rangashankara, Dramanon Bengaluru
Alarms and Excursions	Dr. G P Conroy	Sharanya Ramprakash	Rangashankara, Dramanon Bengaluru
	Chris	Sharanya Ramprakash	Rangashankara, Dramanon Bengaluru

Audio

Title	Author	Role	Production Company
The Secret of the Nagas	Amish Tripathi	Narrator / Lord Shiva	BooksTalk Audiobooks
Jaya	Devdutt Pattanaik	Narrator	BooksTalk Audiobooks
Leadership at Infosys	Matt Barney	Narrator	BooksTalk Audiobooks
In Loving Memory	Daniel Paul Singh	Narrator	Amazon Audible