

Reshmi Hazra Rustebakke

She/Her/Hers

A Director/Producer/Creator/Deviser, who paints and presents real life experiences of thought provoking stimulus for community growth

SUMMARY

Reshmi Hazra Rustebakke has been creating live events, theater, and web series for 15+ years. She began her career in New York working as an assistant director, director, and educator. She worked as a production manager for Playwrights Horizons Theater School, while also teaching middle school-high school students acting as well as managing a new play development process with them.

Throughout her career, she has received the Robert Moss Directing Fellowship from Playwrights Horizons, the off Broadway house. While there, she assisted directors such as Les Waters and Trip Cullman. Following the fellowship, she was at New York Theatre Workshop as an Artist of Color Fellow, now renamed the 2050 Fellowship. At NYTW, she developed a new play with Corey Conley which continued development with Lucy Owens, Nick Westrate and other artists.

Once in Chicago, she received her Masters of Fine Arts from Depaul University in Directing. While studying, she worked as an assistant director with Icelandic company Vesturport, in a Nordic collaboration between 3 international theater companies. Her theatrical work after graduation included world premiere plays as assistant director and director.

After receiving her degree, she began working in web series development and production. She worked as a Script Supervisor to Olympia, currently just off of the festival circuit. She co-directed critically acclaimed *Brujos*, nominated for a Best Indie Drama Streamy Award. The New York Times put it on its must watch list. She also co-directed *Geeta's Guide to Moving On*, which is currently in talks to produce further seasons.

Her most recent projects include *8,000*, *The Haven* and *FOBia* which are part of the most recent slate of the OTV season. *8,000* is currently under consideration for festivals and is a comedic lens on the difficulty in orgasming for people with endometriosis. *The Haven* covers a day in the life of a domestic violence shelter, each episode focused on a different character. *FOBia* follows Kay, coming to the US from Mumbai to do her MBA, determined to build a life for herself outside of her parents' control. Both are currently in talks to receive further episodes and seasons. Reshmi received a fellowship in March 2019, administered through OTV, from Pop Culture Collaborative to build a long form television show with a unique perspective. During the fellowship, OTV partnered with Sundance to host a retreat for the fellowship artists, as well as bringing the fellows to the Sundance Festival in January 2020.

In the fall of 2020 she joined the staff of The Everymom, a lifestyle blog. She works weekly as a Contributing Editor, pitching, writing, and creating instagram stories. Her writing ranges from comedic takes on fertility struggles, no-holds barred essays on mental health issues, and how politics, race, and culture all intersect with parenthood.

EDUCATION

Depaul University, M.F.A. in Directing

Chicago, IL

June 2012 completed

- Graduated with Honors, 3.77 GPA
- Assistant Directing internship in Reykjavik with Vesturport, an Icelandic national theater company on the production of *Bastards* a Nordic collaboration between a Danish company, Swedish company, and Vesturport

New York University, B.F.A in Drama and minor in Psychology

New York, NY

May 2006 completed

- 3.6 GPA
- Outstanding Achievement Award
- Assistant director to Liz Swados, of Broadway's *Runaways*

CURRENT POSITION

Freelance - *Director, Producer, Creator, Art Department,*

Chicago, IL

- June 2020: Guest Director, webisode, *50 Blind Dates*
- 2020: Director, Short Film, *8,000*,
- December 2019: Director, Free Street Theatre, *Good Grief*
- October 2019 - Director, Silk Road Rising Theatre, *Let There Be Light*
- September 2019 - Props Master, RedFire Films LLC, *Later Days*
- May 2019 - Director, Haven Productions, Web Series, *The Haven*
- April 2019 - Director, Third Focus Media and Duel Citizen Productions, Web Series, *FOBia*
- February 2019 - Director, Music Video, *Doppelganger*
- September 2018 - Director, Development, *The Violet Hour*
- November 2017 - CoDirector, Cinema Libertad/Full Spectrum Features, Web Series *Brujos Part 2*
- March 2017 - CoDirector, Cinema Libertad/Full Spectrum Features, Web Series *Brujos Part 1*
- March 2017 - CoDirector, OTV Presents, Web Series, *Geeta's Guide to Moving On*
- September 2003 to March 2017 - Assistant Director, Director at the following theater companies:
 - Free Street Theatre
 - RedTwist Theatre
 - Timeline Theatre
 - Chicago Shakespeare Theater
 - 2nd Story (storyteller, curator, director)
 - Vineyard Theatre
 - Playwrights Horizons Theater

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Contributing Editor

The Everygirl Media Group, LLC

Chicago, IL

September 2020 - Present

Contributing editor pitching and writing weekly articles for a constant rotation of publication

- Written articles with over 10,000 direct pageviews
- Writes about the intersection of pop culture, policy, and parenthood
- Focus on mental health and building healthy and strong relationships

Project Producer

Firebelly Design

Chicago, IL

October 2018 - May 2019

Project manager for web development, graphic design campaigns, and digital campaigns

- Managed budgets between \$50,000 and \$200,000
- Multi-deliverable campaigns collaborating with strategy, design and development
- Managed campaigns for companies ranging in size from Uptown Chicago to RWJF

Production Supervisor

Guy Bauer Productions

Chicago, IL

January 2018 - September 2018

- Managed a team of up to 7 producers who oversee all projects from kickoff to final delivery
- Developed training presentations and SOP materials
- Implemented company's Workfront rollout

Production Manager

Scrappers Film Group

Chicago, IL

April 2016 - December 2017

- Liaison to clients: created and enforced estimates, budgets, and timelines
- Budgets ranged from \$15,000 to \$1,000,000
- Produced commercials, branding/recruitment videos, documentaries
- Developed process for onboarding clients
- Produced multiple animated campaigns including A.I.R, BIP Lab, MDRC

Apprentice

Curiosity Productions

Chicago, IL

September 2015 - March 2016

- Administrative duties which included maintaining Salesforce accounts
- Client services
- Production office PA and on set PA for multiple commercials

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Project Manager

Independent Household

Chicago, IL

September 2013 - August 2015

- Produced home renovation projects with budgets from \$1,000 to \$15,000
- Developed plans for new organizational systems all over home and oversaw construction to completion
- Created and maintained timelines, deliverables, and daily tasks, along with travel management

Educator

CT; NY; IL

July 2007-December 2018

Various Institutions:

Depaul MFA Acting 1 and 2 Workshop, Trailblazers, Choate Rosemary Hall, 2nd Story, Playwrights Horizons Theatre School and multiple others

- Developed curriculum for acting and script analysis courses
- Taught students new play development
- Guided students on production management and guided their troubleshooting process
- Guided students to devise new plays from start to finish with
- Worked to build classes that are age appropriate

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Impact 100

- 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Co-Chair of Grant Review Committee
- Grant Review Committee Member since January 2016

2nd Story

- Company member since 2014
- Performed in several venues with different stories
- Directed gala dinner in 2017
- Curated writers from beginners to novelists

Trailblazers

- Mentor from 2017-2019
- Works with students from elementary through high school to learn basic theater devising tools culminating in workshop productions

Mezcla Media Collective

- Cohort member since 2017
- 2019 Fundraising Gala Keynote speaker

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Pop Culture Collaborative Fellow 2019
- Artist of Color Fellowship 2008-2009
- Robert Moss Directing Fellow 2007-2008

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