



Ajoka

NEWSLETTER

Digital Issue
Jul-Aug 2020

Courses introduced on
a digital platform

Pakistan's first Virtual Theatre

Masterclass by Jessica Litwack
for students of Ajoka Institute

Online Dramatic Readings

First Ajoka Executive Committee
Meeting post lockdown

Friends of Ajoka
Shahid Jalal



AJOKA WINS ANOTHER AWARD

Despite the ongoing Covid-19, Ajoka won a Jury Special Mention Award for its documentary on Lahore Museum called, "Pakistan's Best Kept Secret" directed by Shahid Nadeem. This documentary has garnered 2m views on Facebook. We, at Ajoka, are proud and grateful for this honour.





Ajoka Theatre was set up in 1984 by a group of young people led by Madeeha Gauhar, a TV actress & theatre director.
"Theatre for Social Change"

Ajoka has faced many challenges since its conception. Covid-19 is the latest one and the entire world is affected by it one way or the other. Ajoka has been successful in rising above and beyond, delivering its promise of spreading peace, art and culture.



You Tube



ajokatheatrepakistan

AJOKA Institute Art of Acting (Online Edition)

The shift from the traditional, physical classes to digital ones was indeed a difficult challenge to overcome. A multitude of things had to be taken consideration, like internet connectivity, digital mediums, content, course design. One major trouble was... would students be willing to attend an online course on acting? Under the supervision of Ajoka Institute's Director, Nirvaan Nadeem, online edition of Art of Acting rose to fame and success.

In July, second batch had already started on major demand. the first batch was rehearsing their virtual performance simultaneously, which turned out to be a major theatrical event covered by major newspapers. It is the first ever virtual theatre performance in Pakistan.

In August, a third batch also started on popular demand. Students are signing up from USA, Saudi Arabia, small towns and major cities of Pakistan.

Nirvaan Nadeem says, "honestly, when I decided to go through with online art of acting course, I wasn't expecting such an overwhelming response... it is an achievement for Ajoka Institute... Online classes have allowed people from all over the world and remote areas to be able to attend this course easily."

- He also says, "acting isn't considered a serious field that can be learned in Pakistan. I wish to change this."



AJoka Institute's Online classes are held over Zoom on fixed days and timings. Due to an overwhelming response, preparations to start a fourth batch are underway. The second batch is already rehearsing their virtual performance which is expected to break the internet again. Ajoka Institute Director Nirvaan Nadeem says he is proud of his students more than he is of himself as their performances reflect their serious attitude and dedication toward this art form. They are a constant source of inspiration.


He is planning to resume physical classes, following strict S.O.Ps considering covid 19 is not as widespread as before.


MANTO ONLINE: PAKISTAN'S FIRST VIRTUAL THEATRE





Students of Art of Acting (online edition) performed and streamed an online play. Produced entirely on the cloud meeting platform Zoom, the play was called Manto Online, based on Shahid Nadeem's much renowned play "Kaun Hai Yeh Gushtakh". As the name suggest, the play - directed by Ajoka Institute Director Nirvaan Nadeem - is an amalgamation of different stories essayed by legendary writer Saadat Hasan Manto. The play was essentially an experimental production wherein actors from various cities including Lahore, Karachi and Houston participated via Zoom app. The production was designed in such a way that each actor was able to record their scene in isolation whilst at the same time, maintaining constant continuity.

The production received massive response and coverage by leading newspapers, including digital BBC Urdu. The actors expressed their gratitude for Ajoka and director Nirvaan Nadeem for the opportunity to be included in such an experiment. According to Nirvaan, the company has been facing many obstacles countless times before. "Ajoka Theatre has always continued its work, even in the most difficult of circumstances in the country. With Covid-19 being the latest challenge, Ajoka has still managed to come out on top," Adding on, Nadeem talked about how this is the first of many online plays by Ajoka. "Ajoka has introduced a new trend of online performances. relief to theatre lovers in these testing times."

 1.5K people responded


 Friday, July 24, 2020 at 7 PM – 8 PM

 Public · Hosted by Ajoka Theatre Pakistan

 Online with Facebook Live

Facebook
Event Insights



Ajoka Theatre Pakistan was live.
July 24 · 



Manto Online

   144

95 Comments 2.1K Views



Comment



Share



Event Performance



People Reached

53,947

+7 last 7 days

Manto Online

Extracts from Shahid Nadeem's

"Kaun Hai Yeh Gustakh"

Directed by: Nirvaan Nadeem

Cast: Students of Art of Acting Class (online)

zoom

Art of Dramatic Writing (Online Edition)



Pakistan's Premiere Writing Course also went digital! Ajoka Institute presented a new & innovative 2 month Online Course on the Art of Dramatic Writing, for those interested in honing their writing skills in conceiving, developing & refining writing for theatre and screen.

Mentored by internationally acclaimed playwright and director Shahid Nadeem, winner of Pride of Performance, former Deputy MD PTV and Executive Director of Ajoka. He took students on a journey of discovering and developing their writing talent, shared his own rich experience as a playwright.

Once these classes were held in a traditional classroom setting. Now, they're held over Zoom, with students signing up from far-fetched areas

In this day and age, and with fast changing developments in our entertainment industry, there is a serious lack of good, viable and creative writers. Films, TV or Theatre, all start out from the one who gives it birth: the Writer. The course, with a curriculum & methodology exclusively developed for the digital realm, is geared toward developing scripts that can be featured on professional platforms.

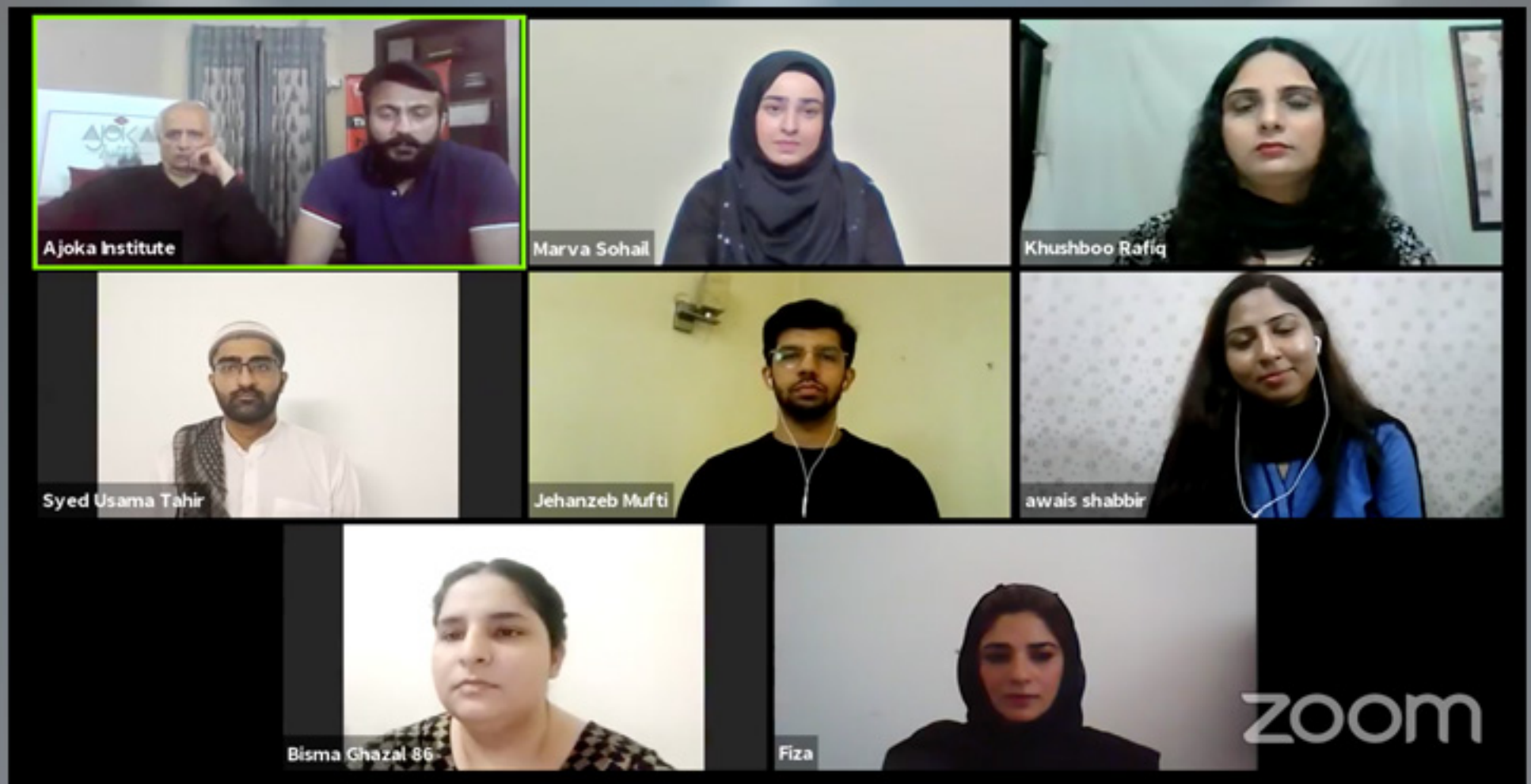
From the intricacies of character development to the subtleties of plot progression, the course explores developing scripts for Theatre and Screen. A live dramatic reading also took place at the end of the course.

Ajoka Institute gave aspiring writers a chance to polish their story telling skills. Covid-19 put temporary brakes to this wagon, but Ajoka never stops to innovate and adapt to its circumstances. Ajoka Institute continued its courses for artists and free spirits, digitally and at half the price! These certified courses are a safe haven for people who want to keep learning and growing.

Third batch of Art of Dramatic Writing (Online Edition) is already underway, with preparations to start a fourth one.



DRAMATIC READING: AN ONLINE EVENT



Ajoka Institute has held two online dramatic readings consisting of short stories and scripts written by students of Art of Dramatic Writing (Online Edition), performed by students of Art of Acting (Online Edition). The writers and actors rehearsed over and over via Zoom and even prepared special sound effects like a knock on the door, and lighting to create a dramatic vibe which would have been impossible otherwise. Under the mentorship of Ajoka Theatre Director Shahid Nadeem, the writers and actors perfected their stories and acting and brought together a wholesome performance, admired by many!





Ajoka Theatre Pakistan was live.

August 7 at 7:27 PM · 🌐

**Dramatic Reading-Art of Writing**

Art of Writing-Online Edition students present
Dramatic Reading of Original Works, developed
during ...

[See More](#)

118

73 Comments 4.1K Views



Like



Comment



Share



Facebook Event Insights

**People Reached****7,558**

The Online Dramatic Reading event garnered a lot of viewers and positive feedback. Even Director Shahid Nadeem was pleasantly surprised at the improvisation and creativity of his students.

He remarked, “it is interesting that Ajoka’s Art of Writing students were able to come up with such interesting pieces of creative writing... and they presented them with great vigor”

His students expressed gratitude and said they found hidden talents that they wouldn’t have otherwise. The performance and audience appreciation gave them the confidence to pursue their dreams and set higher goals.

This one-of-a-kind event was covered by major newspapers and news channels.

Ajoka holds first Executive Committee Meeting post lockdown, following S.O.Ps



Ajoka Executive Committee held their first meeting post covid-19 lockdown, following safety protocols of wearing masks and social distancing. The meeting was attended by key members of Ajoka; Chairperson Zara Salman, Executive Director Shahid Nadeem, General Secretary Sohail Warraich, Director Ajoka Institute Nirvaan Nadeem, Treasurer Fazal Abbas Faizi, Technical Coordinator

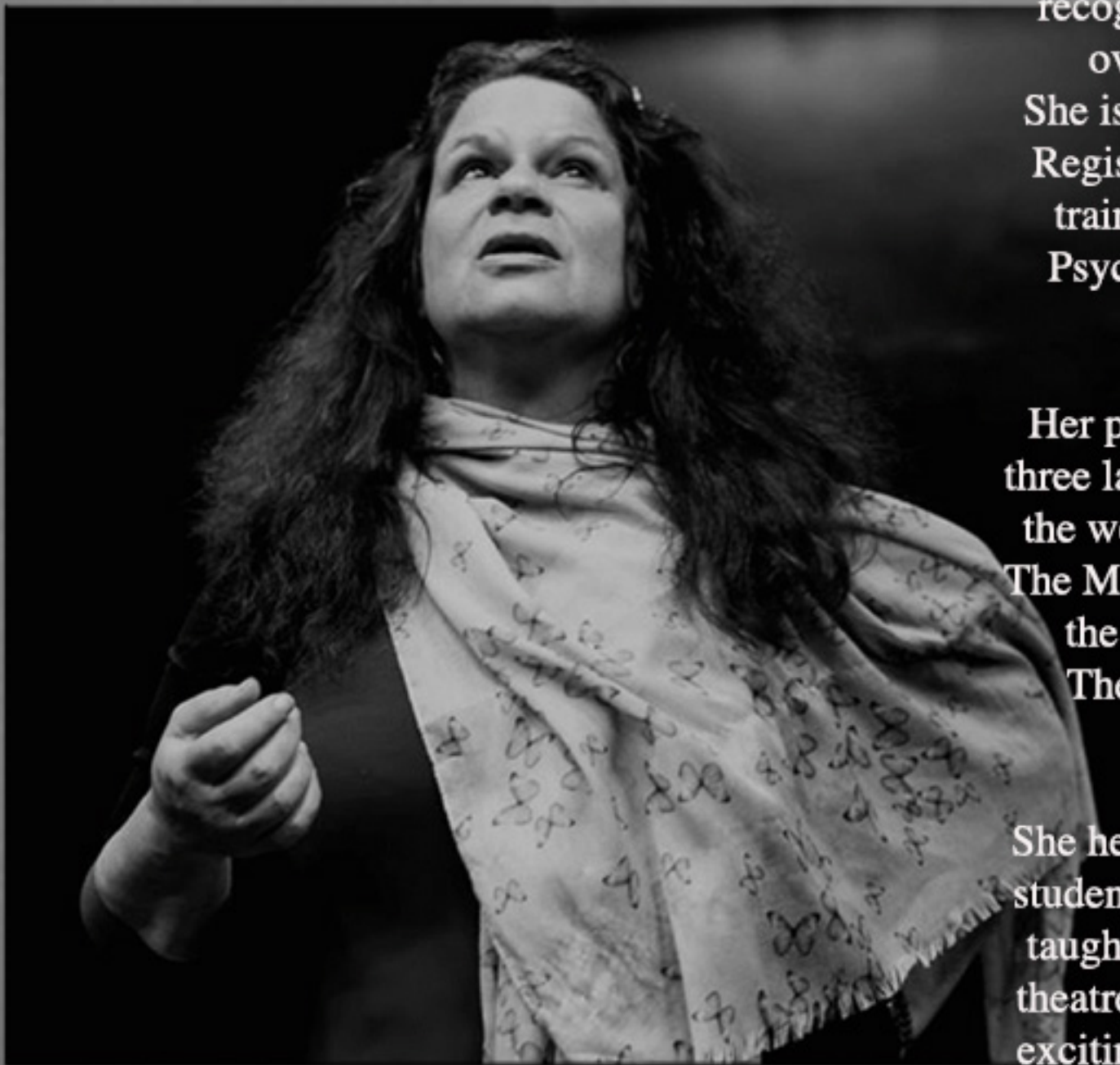
Nadeem Mir and Accounts Officer Kanwal Christopher.

Overview of online acting and writing courses were shared with the executive committee with a possibility of starting physical acting classes keeping safety protocols under consideration.

The meeting ended with discussion on Ajoka's financial situation, investment funds and the struggle to keep it afloat despite financial restraints.

MASTERCCLASS

JESSICA LITWAK



Jessica Litwak is an award winning Performing Arts professional & a recognised leader in the field with over 30 years of experience. She is a playwright, educator, actor, Registered Drama Therapist, and a trained practitioner of Playback, Psychodrama, and Theatre of the Oppressed.

Her plays have been translated into three languages and produced all over the world. She works extensively in The Middle East, Central Europe, and the UK, & is a core member of Theatre Without Borders and a Fulbright Scholar.

She held a masterclass on Aug 27 for students of Ajoka Institute where she taught techniques and intricacies of theatre. The students were thrilled to exciting things from an international professional. A fruitful Q&A session was also conducted at the end of the session.