

Bio:

Anoushka Ratnarajah is a queer, mixed race femme of Sri Lankan and British ancestry, and a multi-disciplinary and transnational artist and organizer. She has a BFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia and an MA in Arts Politics from NYU. She has worked as a producer, performer, writer and arts organizer with cultural and arts organizations in Vancouver, Montreal and New York. Her most recent creative projects include “Capital, Alice!”, an anti-capitalist, Alice in Wonderland themed musical; "Toasted Marshmallows" a documentary film and community building project exploring what it means to be a mixed-race woman in North America today; and “Dear Armen”, an audience-immersive theatre experience inspired by the life of Armen Ohanian, an enigmatic Armenian performer and anti-Armenian pogrom survivor, which recently finished a Pacific Coast Tour in October 2015. She is currently writing two new plays, including a musical, and procrastinating work on a solo show.

Artist Statement:

My art practice engages with many social, political and cultural issues, through a critical intersectional lens interrogating race, gender, sexuality, colonialism and capitalism. I am always interested in creating work that shines a light on histories and contemporary stories that are underrepresented in mainstream theatre and performance, and in collaborating and creating work with other women artists of colour, other queer and femme artists, and *trans artists. My solo and collaborative written and performance work focuses on my queer, femme, mixed race body and identity as a site of contradiction, marked by histories of violence and silence, but also a canvas for play, questioning and empowerment. I explore my own experiences of objectification, exoticism, and sexualization in relation to a shared history of people of colour. As a director and producer, I am interested in supporting and collaborating on work with other artists who experience marginalization, whose works examine ideas of community, belonging, and identity. I incorporate and encourage multiple mediums of creative expression into my projects, such as dancing, music and stand up comedy, as well as media analysis and historical research.