

Shahidul Mamun (Short Biography)

Shahidul Mamun (b. October, 1967) is a playwright, theatre trainer, teacher of drama and film, a former bureaucrat at the Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat, and a seasoned translator.

Shahidul received BA (Hons) and MA in English Literature from Dhaka University in 1994. He completed a Shakespeare study program from the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, UK, and later attended the SUISS Creative Writing program at the University of Edinburgh, UK. Shahidul is currently pursuing Law under the University of London.

With a translation career spanning over more than two decades, Shahidul has translated several contemporary Bengali plays into English, including six plays of Mamunur Rashid. He has translated plays of Henrik Ibsen, Bertolt Brecht, Peter Shaffer, Gurucharan Das, Rajiv Joseph, Mahesh Dattani, Brian Friel, Tennessee Williams, Shakespeare, and Howard Zinn into Bengali. Primarily writing in English, Shahidul authored three original plays including the monodrama *Distant Near* and the multinational cast play *Ashes Blood Rivers*, which have been staged in Hong Kong, Paris, Lille (France), London, Oxford, Edinburgh, Morecambe (UK), Kampala, Entebbe (Uganda), Chiang Dao (Thailand), Delhi, Kolkata, Chittagong, and Dhaka.

A former bureaucrat working in the Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat, Shahidul left his job to engage full-time as a teacher of theatre and English literature. As adjunct faculty, Shahidul has taught playwriting at the Department of Theatre (DU) and also English at the Department of Organisation Strategy and Leadership (DU). As the President of the Bangladesh Centre for Theatre Arts and Design (BACTAD), Shahidul heads the Bangladesh centre of OISTAT (International Organization of Scenographers, Theatre Architects and Technicians), headquartered in Taipei, Taiwan. Currently, Shahidul serves as honorary country director of Global Language Bridge (GLB), an international non-profit organization that provides quality English language education to young children at several orphanages and at indigenous schools.

Shahidul is the founding Director (Academics) of the Prachyanat School of Acting and Design (estd. 2001), a nationally acclaimed independent theatre school in Dhaka.

In 2026 Shahidul has presented a paper on Mro culture and ritual at the World Ritual Arts Symposium held in Ulster University, UK.

Attachment:

CV of Shahidul Mamun (3 pages)

SHAHIDUL MAMUN

Date of birth: 21 October, 1967

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Areas of Expertise:

- Playwriting:** Experienced in creating original scripts with a focus on 10-min play, 30-min play, and full length play for professional stage. Guided final year Honors students in writing researched plays, historical plays, and play on social and psychological issues.
- Theatre Workshop Facilitation:** Proficient in designing and leading workshops on History of Western Theatre, Textual Analysis, engaging participants of all levels.
- Translation (Bengali-English):** Skilled in translating complex literary and dramatic texts, preserving nuanced meaning and cultural context.
- Teaching English Literature (O and A Levels):** Expertise in curriculum delivery, including Shakespeare's tragedies and comedies, 19th Century English and American Novels, Romantic Poetry, Modernist Poetry, with a focus on critical analysis and language skills.

Academic and Creative Engagements

1. (2001 – till date): Director (Academics), *Prachyanat School of Acting and Design*. Responsibilities include giving lectures, conducting theatre workshops in western theatre, and designing course curriculum for this specialized theatre school.
2. (2004 – till date): Director of academic program at *Logophiles School of Critical Thinking* (Estd. 2004), House 19, Rd 12, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. Teacher of British and American Literature for IGCSE and GCE A level (Edexcel and Cambridge).
3. (Jan 2019 – Dec 2022): Guest Faculty in *Creative Writing* (Playwriting), Dept. of Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Dhaka. Also conducted playwriting classes at the University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh. About 30 student-produced plays were performed at the Annual Drama Festival at the University of Dhaka.
4. (2010 – 2022): Chief Trainer, *Public Speaking* at English-Speaking Union ESU, Bangladesh.
5. (2009 – till date): Conduction of workshops and lecture sessions on *Theory and Practice of Western Theatre* organized by different theatre groups in Bangladesh.

Professional Membership

- President, *Bangladesh Centre for Theatre Arts and Design* (BACTAD); BACTAD is Bangladesh centre of *International Organisation of Scenographers, Theatre Architects and Technician* (OISTAT) https://www.oistat.org/about_membership_centres.php
- Member, Executive Committee, *English-Speaking Union* ESU, Bangladesh.
- Founding Member, *Prachyanat Theatre Group*, 278/3 Kataban Road, 3rd Floor, Dhaka 1205

Published Translation Work

- *A Walk with Theatre*, Bangla Publications, Dhaka. 2016

Academic Info

- a. Cambridge CELTA (2026) from International House London (IHL)
 - b. SUISS Program in **Creative Writing** (9th July – 4th August 2018), University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK (Concentration in Playwriting).
 - c. **Shakespeare Study Course** (28th August – 3rd September 2010), Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford-upon-Avon, UK
 - d. **M.A.** (British and American Literature), Second Class, University of Dhaka. 1991
 - e. **B.A.** (Honors) English, Second Class, University of Dhaka. 1989
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1. In 2025, translated Brecht's *The Exception and the Rule*, staged by Prachyanat.
2. In 2022, my Bengali translation of Mahesh Dattani's "Seven Steps Around the Fire" has been staged to critical acclaim. Produced by Prachyanat, a theatre group in Dhaka.
3. In April 2013, commissioned by *Asian Peoples Theatre Festival Society*, Hong Kong to write a play titled "*Ashes Blood Rivers*". Actors, playwright, director, and choreographer from 5 countries collaborated in this project. The play was staged in Bangladesh, France, Hong Kong, Thailand, Uganda, and UK. The play was selected for performance at *International Drama/Theatre and Education Association IDEA World Congress 2013*, held in Paris. <http://sriver.wordpress.com/>
4. In August 2011 attended the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, UK with "*The Distant Near*", a play exploring Shakespeare–Tagore discourse in a post-colonial context. Performed by Mamunur Rashid, the play was also staged in London and St. Hilda's College, Oxford University. In December 2011, the play was staged in Kolkata Kalamandir, China, and Hong Kong.
5. Production Consultant for Sunbeams School's Drama Club's year-end production *The Lion King*. June 2011 / Roald Dahl's play *Fantastic Mr. Fox*. 2005
6. Directed Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, produced by *Prachyanat School of Acting and Design*, July 2011 [Based on Bengali translation by Prof. Zillur Rahman Siddiqui]
7. Translation of Ibsen's "*When We Dead Awaken*" has been staged in the International Ibsen Festival, Dhaka 2009. Translation has been published in the theatre quarterly *Theatrewala* Vol 8.
8. Worked as Facilitator, "*Module ৬ Script Development Workshop on Interactive Popular Theatre for Adolescents*" organized by Child Protection Section, UNICEF, Bangladesh.
9. From March 2004 to November 2004 worked as Coordinator to the Chief Scriptwriter at the *Sisimpur* Project, a Bengali language educational program jointly produced by *Sesame Workshop*, New York and *Nayantara Communications*, Dhaka with financial support from USAID.
10. Presented keynote paper titled *Shakespeare Studies in Bangladesh* at the seminar organized by *Prachyanat Theatre Group* in 2001.
11. Contributed articles on theatre productions to *The Daily Star*, *Weekly Holiday* and *The New Age*.

Original Essays and Play Translations

1. Unpublished original essay "*Representations of Irish Literary and Theatrical Revivalism in the dramatic and critical writings of Bengali Letters in 19th and 20th Century*".
2. Unpublished original essay "*Navigating the Tensions of Identity and Ideology: Trope of Quest in the Context of Empire and Globalization in Gora (1910) and Lorenzo Searches for the Meaning of Life (2021)*".
3. Unpublished original essay "*From 'minister of intent' to a man 'vanquished by famine': Unveiling the real Jack Cade in Henry VI, Part II*".

Teaching Preferences

- Teach *Academic and Business English*.
 - Teach IGCSE and GCE A level students 19th and 20th Century British and American Novels: Forster, Lawrence, Melville, Jane Austen, Hardy, Conrad, Dickens, Fitzgerald. Romantic, Victorian, & Modern poetry; Browning, Tennyson, Auden, Eliot, Yeats, British War Poets, and Seamus Heaney.
 - Teach English, European, and American dramas both as *Dramatic Text* and *Performance Text*. All major Dramatic Texts of western canon including Greek Playwrights, Shakespeare, Marlow, Ibsen, T. Williams, Albee, Yeats, Wilde, Shaw, Chekhov, Ionesco, Pinter, Shaffer, Brian Friel etc.
 - Conduct Theatre workshops in text analysis, speech and performance.
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Select Titles of graded papers I have supervised for pre-Undergraduate Students admitted to US Undergraduate Programs [2006 – 2018]:

- *Through Method, Madness, and Marketeering: An Essay on Women Denying Displacement analyzing the critical reception of Aurora Leigh and The Bell Jar*. [By Raidah Akber, studying in Mt. Holyoke College, USA]
- *Jhumpa Lahiri's Lowland: Family ties trapped between Legacies of History* [By Raidah Akber, studying in Mt. Holyoke College, USA]
- *Dream as subversion and Body as tangible, political weapon against hegemonic power structure: Comparative study of Bulgakov's "Master and Margarita", Richardson's "Clarissa", and Lakhnavi's "The Adventures of Amir Hamza"*. [By Maisha Mahzabeen studying in Agnes Scott College, USA]
- *Suroopa Mukherjee's Across the Mystic Shore: Challenges of Womanhood and the lures of spirituality* [By Anika Shorna studying in Mt. Holyoke College, USA]
- *Upamanyu Chatterjee's English, August: Crises of Post Colonial Man* [Admitted in West Texas A & M University]
- *Representation of Indian women in the writings of three Indian women Writers in the 19th and 20th century* (Toru Dutt, Rokeya Sakhawat Hussain, and Cornelia Sorabji) [Admitted to Sarah Lawrence Coll, US]
- *Kiran Desai's Inheritance of Loss – The leechlike effects of Post-colonialism*
- *Tradition and Modernity in Marilynne Robinson's epistolary novel "Gilead"*
- *Vikram Seth's "An Equal Music": Portrait of an Artist as a Musician* [done by Sabria, Samia Seraj, and Tasnia – MHC, Bard, Connecticut]
- *Comic view of modern man in Vikram Seth's Golden Gate* [Vassar College, US]
- *Kalyan Ray's Eastwords: blending Eastern tale with Western classics* [Admitted to Bucknell College, US]
- *Ambiguities of Power in Vikram Chandra's Sacred Games: An Analytical Essay* [Admitted to Bryn Mawr College, US]
- *Vikram Seth's An Equal Music: Conflict between art and human relationships* [Admitted to Mt. Holyoke Coll., US]
- *Private Life & Individual's Obsession: A Study of Personal History in Pamuk's "Museum of Innocence"* [Admitted to Mt. Holyoke Coll., US]
- *Appearance and Reality in Hari Kunzru's novel 'Transmission'* [Admitted to Maastricht University, Netherlands]

Employment and Training under Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat:

1. Assistant Secretary, Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat. April 1997 – June 2003
 2. Assistant Superintendent of Police (BCS 17th). 1997-1997
 3. *Simultaneous Interpreter* [Bengali to English] of House Proceedings. 1996-2003
 4. *Committee Officer* to several Ministerial Standing Committees, Bangladesh Parliament. 1998-2003
 5. *Research Officer* in Parliament Secretariat's *Research and Documentation* section. 2000-2001
 6. In 2002 took part in 3-month long training under Institute of Parliamentary Studies (IPS). Topics covered: Constitutional Law, Issues of Governance, Parliamentary Procedure, Secretarial Practice, Legislative Process, Operation of Law etc.
 7. Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat's representative to the Bengali Language Implementation Cell or বাংলাভাষা বাস্তবায়ন কোষ (বাবাকো) at the *Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs*.
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