

Teaching Grant Final Report

A. General Information

Project Title	Rohina Malik – University/Public performances
Principal Investigator	Kimberly Jew
University ID	u6003549
Department	Theatre; Ethnic Studies
Rank	Associate Professor
Campus Address	240 S 1500 E; PAB #206; Salt Lake City, UT 84112-0170
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Secondary Investigator	Lynn Deboeck (lynn.deboeck@utah.edu)
Chair	Harris Smith (*It should be noted that the chair who originally approved this project was Gage Williams, who was the former chair.)
Year implemented	October, 2018
Current date	March 25, 2019

Instructions

1. Enter the information requested above and *on the next page*. There is no word limit for items on the next page, but brevity is appreciated.
2. Save your document in Word .doc format (not .docx), appending your last name to the file name, for example: Smith_FinalReport_2008.doc.
3. Send your report as an email attachment to the Teaching Committee's Liaison, Katie Haslam. The address below is an active link:

katie.haslam@utah.edu

B. Project Summary *(Briefly explain how money was used.)*

The money was used to pay Chicago-based playwright and solo-performer of Southeast Asian heritage, Rohina Malik, who came and performed for our Department of Theatre, Diversity Scholars, and Gender Studies students, as well as the general public, including for the classes within Gender Studies (particularly those of GNDR 3100 – Medusa and Manifestos: Identity and Protest in the Information Age), the Diversity Scholars Program, and members of a special topics course entitled THEA 4701 (Gender on the Global Stage). She offered two performances of her award-winning play, *Unveiled*. The play tells the story of five different Muslim women who, post-911, reveal their own personal beliefs and reasons for wearing a hijab, or head scarf.

C. Educational Benefits *(Briefly explain how project enhances our educational mission.)*

This performance resulted in three specific long-term impacts for our students. Firstly, the exposure of a female and Muslim performance-narrative enabled our students to push back against what Nigerian feminist author Chimamanda Ngozi calls the “single story,” enabling genuine empathy to develop while recognizing intersectionality. In both discussion and class projects, students have shown themselves to be empowered to broaden their understandings of difference and keep an open mind when encountering those from cultures other than their own—a necessary trait for a socially-conscious person, student, scholar and performer.

Secondly, Rohina Malik, as an established and working playwright and performer, living in one of the most thriving theatre cities across our nation—Chicago—provided our theatre and art students with connections to a larger network of theatre workers who might be able to help them post-graduation. Ms. Malik offered assistance with her understanding of the Chicago theatre scene as well as her connections with television executives who have sought her out and commissioned work from her about the Muslim experience. In this way, she helped to reveal the process behind the media products we consume on a daily basis and showed the students where and how they could enter to tell their own stories.

Thirdly, the tenuous nature of the female students at the U (according to the Director of Institutional Analysis here at the U, we’ve only just in the last few years closed the gap of female student enrollment rates in proportion to male student enrollment rates—and graduation and retention remain on-going issues) was combatted by the increase in representation of a successful, empowered woman who, according to many of the female students who witnessed her performance, inspired them to continue their education and go for their dreams. Ms. Malik’s performance deeply impacted their lives and futures as students here at the U, providing them a clear example of a woman who was able to succeed in a career while also keeping her faith, commitment to family and ideals intact.

Efforts to maintain the impact of this visit include making plans to have Ms. Malik return to perform another of her original works, perhaps with the UPresents season and developing a personal relationship with the performer that could result in Skype sessions in future classes where she is able to provide her perspective and help as a diverse artist. She has also expressed an interest in helping with writing, performance and women’s leadership workshops.

D. Additional Resources (If available, list URLs of websites, titles of books or CDs produced, etc.)

Here is more information about the performer and play:

<https://rohinamalik.weebly.com/unveiled.html>

And here is a copy of the poster:

Unveiled
a one-woman show, by Rohina Malik

FREE EVENT!

October 19, 2018 @ 7pm
October 20, 2018 @ 1pm
AT THE POST THEATER
245 South Fort Douglas Blvd. Building 636

Come join us for an evening of live performance you won't soon forget! Chicago-based playwright and solo-performer, Rohina Malik, will perform her piece, *Unveiled* about five different Muslim women and their views on wearing the hijab post-911. Hear what prominent Chicago newspapers are saying:

"Rohina Malik, the hugely talented writer-actress at the center of the Victory Gardens solo show "Unveiled," is a remarkable new theatrical voice in Chicago. In her rich, upbeat and very enjoyable 70-minute collection of five character studies of Muslim women in modern-day America, Malik gives voice to characters from whom we hear far too little in the theater."
Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune

"Unveiled offers a provocative, insightful and uplifting theater experience."
Tom Witom, Pioneer Press

"Powerful solo show... five riveting tales of Muslim women"
-- Jack Helbig, Chicago Reader

