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VICTORIA SEES RETURN OF APPLIED THEATRE EXPERT
UVic Theatre department welcomes alumna to the faculty & back to the community

The University of Victoria’s Department of Theatre is proud to announce the arrival of a new faculty member this fall.

Dr. Yasmine Kandil is an Egyptian-born Applied Theatre practitioner whose research focuses on using theatre as a tool for self-expression with communities that are disenfranchised. She comes to UVic from Brock University (St. Catharines, Ontario) where she worked with a variety of local communities: people who are homeless, the elderly, immigrants and refugees, and police officers in training.

Dr. Yasmine Kandil received her BA in Theatre at the American University in Cairo and began working in community-based settings using theatre for social awareness and change. She worked with young children in the slums of Cairo (who worked in the trash trade), and at-risk youth in different regions of the country.

She came to Canada in 2003 to do her MFA in Theatre Directing at the University of Victoria and continued here to complete her PhD in Applied Theatre. In Victoria, she worked with the immigrant and refugee community through organizations like the Intercultural Association of Greater Victoria and the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society.

Currently, Dr. Kandil is working (with Drs. Natalie Alvarez and Jennifer Lavoie) on a SSHRC Insight Grant project to develop a training curriculum for police officers using scenarios to learn de-escalate techniques for engaging with people in mental health crisis. She is also interested in celebratory theatre and looking at aspects of inclusion and representation of minoritized groups through Applied Theatre initiatives. Her most recent devised performance, Return to the Nile: Tales of Migration, was a research project funded by Brock University’s Social Justice Research Institute that involved six undergraduate students from Brock’s Dramatic Arts program and six members of the immigrant and refugee community of St. Catharines.

“We’re very proud to welcome Yasmine, one of our alumni, back to UVic and to our community, where she has done some incredible work in the past,” says Department Chair, Dr. Anthony Vickery. “We know the impact of her research and her teaching will be felt by our students and our city.”

The Department of Theatre at the University of Victoria offers a four-year BFA degree and a BA Honours in Theatre History. Home of the Phoenix Theatre, the department presents four plays each season and its productions, actors and designers have been nominated for, and received, many Victoria arts awards. As part of their education, students participate in every facet of the Phoenix Theatre productions, from onstage to backstage, to learn about all aspects of theatre. This comprehensive approach combines an academic education with hands-on experience and produces internationally acclaimed theatre artists.

For more information about the University of Victoria’s Department of Theatre visit www.finearts.uvic.ca/theatre.

To read more about Dr. Yasmine Kandil, visit: https://www.uvic.ca/finearts/theatre/people/profiles/faculty/kandil-yasmine.php

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