

DANISH IQBAL

Professor, AJKMCRC

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Award-winning producer, playwright, director, and media professional with over four decades of contributions to theatre, radio, television, advertising and literature.

Renowned for scripting 41+ stage plays, 57 documentaries, and 31 Dastangoi Scripts, blending traditional storytelling with contemporary themes. Recipient of **15+** National Awards.

AWARDS & HONOURS

- **Lassa Laul Award** | GOI-Ministry of I&B | Best Documentary (*Kahani Ek Mukhbir Programme Ki*)
- **Gandhian Philosophy Award** | GOI-Ministry of I&B | Documentary *Sandarbhon ke Akashdeep*
- **3 National award for Best Drama** | Min of I&B | Play *Bail jo Dharti Neeche, Jungali Booti, Patjhar ke baad ka Mausam*
- **Mohan Rakesh Samman** | Sahitya Kala Parishad | Play *Dilli Jo Ek Shehr Thaa*
- **Public Service Broadcasting Awards** (2x) | GOI-Ministry of I&B | Documentaries *Awaz ki Dore* (Kosi Floods) & *Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai*
- **Ghalib Award for Theatre & Drama** | **Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan PIP Award**
- **Excellence in Arts & Media (Lifetime Achievement 2021)** | **Jamia Excellence Award**

- **13 Productions** nominated for international awards (ABU, AIBD) as India's official entry.
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ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- **M.A. Philosophy** (Gold Medallist) | **B.Sc. (Chemistry Hons.)**
 - **UGC NET Qualified** | Recipient of **JRF (Junior Research Fellowship)**
 - **Professional Training:** BBC, Deutsche Welle, National Academy of Broadcasting
 - **Honorary Fellow:** Indian School of Business, Hyderabad
 - **Mentor:** *YUVA Scheme (PM's Initiative for Young Authors* on Freedom Struggle Unsung Heroes)
 - **Advisory Panel Member:** National Book Trust of India, Ministry of Science & Technology, NCPUL, Ministry of Education among nine others.
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CREATIVE WORKS & PERFORMANCES

Stage Plays (Selected from 41)

- **Raqs-e-Natamaam** (Biopic on Noor Jehan | Performed in London, Dubai, Mumbai)
- **Dastan-e-Ram: The Urdu Ram Leela** | **Madhubala: A Celestial Star** (Dance Drama)
- **Anti-National Ghalib** | **Sir Iqbal** | **Mughal Bachcha** (Staged in Sydney)
- **Dara Shikoh** (Directed by M.S. Sathyu | Considered a contemporary classic)
- **Chand Roz Aur Meri Jaan** (Staged in India, Pakistan & Dubai) | **Kuchh Ishq Kiya Kuchh Kaam**
- **Shakespeare Adaptation:** *Do Deewane Sheher Mein* (Performed in Singapore, Delhi, Mumbai, Sharjah)

Dastangoi Performances (Selected from 31)

1. **Daastan-e-Gandhi** | **Daastan-e-Mahabharat** | **Daastan-e-Ram**
2. **Daastan-e-Subhash Chandra Bose** (Documentary by *Awaz the Voice*)

3. **Daastan-e-Khusro | Daastan-e-Ghalib | Daastan-e-Begum Akhtar** (with Kathak)
4. **Dastan-e-Bollywood** (Stories of Meena Kumari, Madhubala, Sahir Ludhianvi)

Documentaries & Films

- **INDIA WINS FREEDOM** (Based on Maulana Azad's book)
- **Biographical Films:** Industrialist Seetaram Jivarajka, Philanthropist Ratan Singh Sharma
- **Zee TV Series:** Documentaries on Ghalib, Dilip Kumar, Madhubala, Sahir Ludhianvi

Radio & Podcasts

- **670 Radio Plays** for Prasar Bharati | **BBC Drama Series:** *Life Gulmohar Style*
- **Podcast Series:** *Dastan-e-Bollywood* (Red FM), *Qissa Chahar Darvesh* (Rekhta), *Amir Khusrau*

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS (Selected)

- **Books:**
 - *Dastan-e-Ram* (Hindi, Vani Prakashan, 2023)
 - *Shehr-i-Kashmir* (Edited for INTACH, 2011)
 - *Kashmiriyat* (Translated for Skyline, 2010)
 - *Dara Shikoh* (Drama Script)
 - *Aalami Shahkaar par Mabni Dramey* (under publication)
- **Research Papers:**
 - *Urdu Theatre and Nothingness* (Gottingen University, Germany)
 - *Logical Positivism in Scientific Explanation* (MAAS Journal)
 - *The Absurd-Tragedy of Being an Urdu Playwright* (AAS Conference, Honolulu)
- **Articles:** *Gandhian Micro-economics* (Yojana), *Narco-Terrorism* (Yojana)

MEDIA & BROADCASTING CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Life Gulmohar Style: BBC Series**
 - **Drama Serials:** *Dehleez, Tinka Tinka Sukh* (Praised by *Time, Newsweek*)
 - **Science Programming:** *Chhoo Mantar* (Vigyan Prasar), Collaborations with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam
 - **JAZBA:** Scripted Awarded TV Series with Brgdr. V K Saxena (26 part)
 - **Advertising:** Copywriter for *Swan Advertising* (Bombay, 1981)
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RECENT LIVE PERFORMANCES (2020–2023)

- **Dastan-e-Sir Syed & Dastan-e-Jamia** (Shows in many countries)
 - **Warrior Women of Bharat** (India Habitat Centre | Kathak, Odissi, Bharatnatyam ensemble)
 - **Partition in Literature** (National Museum, Aug 2022)
 - **Mahatma Gandhi in Urdu Poetry** (Rotary Club, Bikaner)
 - **Kabir: The Myth & Mystique** (Musical Presentation for DC Diaspora)
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SKILLS & EXPERTISE

- Playwriting | Screenplays | Theatre Direction | Documentary Scripting
 - Radio & Podcast Production | Academic Research
 - Multilingual (Urdu, Hindi, English) | Cross-Cultural Collaborations
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