

# MANYA KHEMKA

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## STATEMENT

Through the occupation of the proscenium, I have been able to slip in the shoes of numerous characters. Somewhat ironically, recreating characters I could never resonate with (drawing on the Stanislavski method) solidified my sense of self. Playing Lady Macbeth required me to channel a ferocity contrary to my otherwise amicable nature, embodying the quick-witted Portia made me feel empowered while frolicking across stage as fairy-spirit Puck was freeing. Whether I'm at a debate, navigating fast-paced, thought-provoking verbal exchanges, or taking on a role in a play, acting has encouraged me to embrace the unscripted and the unknown self.

## DISTINCTIONS

*Practitioner, Drama*

- Received Outstanding Learners Award from Cambridge Board: India's Top Scorer for IGCSE Drama
- Awarded Bronze Medal & Distinction for Grade 6 LAMDA Acting Examinations 2022
- Received full diploma for Trinity Speech & Drama; achieved Distinction in highest level 2023

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCHOOL

*Head, School Drama Club*

- Organised and participated in 3 annual school productions & the TBS@60 Talent Show 2021-2023
- Conducted weekly sessions in school club to prepare younger students for performances 2022-Present

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

*Mentor, Drama*

2022-Present

- NGO, Prajna Foundation (June, 2022-Present): I integrated drama with my social initiative Learnclusive by making it part of the curricula I designed for NGO Prajna Foundation. I have been conducting fortnightly theatre sessions for students at Prajna since June, 2022. By teaching them Indian cultural values and morality using interactive methods like drama, I'm proud to have instilled a passion for learning within my mentees while providing them with a channel for self-expression.

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

*Head, School MUN Club*

2023-Present

- Chaired 1 Interschool & 2 Intraschool MUNs; headed the Organising Committee for all three
- Represented school in 6 MUN & Debate conferences and won prizes in 4 of them

*Participant, MUN's & Debates*

2019-Present

- Attended 21 MUN & Debate conferences in total
- Awarded Best Delegate & Best Debater thrice and 8 other accolades in conferences like HMUN
- Led a 4 week long online MUN workshop for 30+ students on forming arguments & researching

*Head, School Ted-Ed Club*

2023-Present

- Weekly mentored students from Grades 6 to 9 on how to write, present and enact speeches

*Founder of social-issue writing platform, Beyond the Page*

2020-Present

- Wrote articles on issues like educational inequity; organised 12 webinars on gender inequality

*Winner, Writing Competitions*

2021-Present

- John Locke Competition Commendation Prize for my sociological essay deconstructing "identity"
- Harvard International Review Commendation Prize for essay on Gender Sociology
- Immerse Essay Competition Prize & 20% Scholarship for essay on Early Childhood Education