

Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

## FAZLE SHAIRMAHOMED

Fazle Shairmahomed is a performance maker, dancer/performer, and improviser. He graduated in cultural and social anthropology (MA 2012 University of Amsterdam) and Middle Eastern Studies/Arabic (BA 2010 University of Leiden). Fazle creates rituals of decolonization, in which he transforms his relationship with spectators, and challenges understandings of inter-sensoriality. He often refers to problematics in the politicization of his body as a Dutch Surinamese-Hindustani Muslim queer gay guy. This experienced reality creates an urgency that shapes his artistic choices. During his studies he started with modern dance and improvisation, which brought him to Butoh, Body Weather, contemporary whirling, and other dance practices.

### COLLABORATION

CLOUD/danslab

### WEBSITES

[www.fazleshairmahomed.com](http://www.fazleshairmahomed.com)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

[/www.instagram.com/fazle\\_shairmahomed/](https://www.instagram.com/fazle_shairmahomed/)

[www.facebook.com/Zlefa](https://www.facebook.com/Zlefa)

[vimeo.com/user66434163](https://vimeo.com/user66434163)

### MEMBER OF ARTISTS' INITIATIVE/COLLECTIVE/INCUBATOR

Ja

### MEMBER OF A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION/ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION

nee

## EDUCATION

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 2011 - | Culturele en sociale antropologie (MA)                |
| 2011   | Universiteit van Amsterdam diploma                    |
| 2005 - | Midden-Oosten Studies/Arabisch (BA)                   |
| 2010   | Universiteit Leiden diploma                           |
| 2016   | WeTec Lab / Anja Hertenberger KABK Den Haag           |
| 2016   | Research group Sensing Body<br>CLOUD/danslab Den Haag |
| 2017   | Workshop Imprography / Miri Lee<br>Amsterdam          |

2017	Workshop Butoh & Noguchi Taiso / Yuko Kaseki & Mari Osani Berlijn
2016	Workshop Butoh & Body Weather / Yuko Kaseki & Sherwood Shen Berlijn
2017	Workshop Body Weather / Frank van der Ven Amsterdam
2016	Workshop Dance and music improvisation / Katie Duck Amsterdam
2015	Cursus Improvisatie Dansdrift/Ana Leonor Ladas CLOUD/danslab Den Haag
2016	Axis Syllabus research group CLOUD/danslab Den Haag
2016	R&D improvisatie DansBrabant/MuDaChiefs

## EXHIBITIONS

2022	<p>ANALEMMA a decolonizing club dance ritual centering queer people of color CC Amstel Amsterdam, Netherlands A group of queer people of color create a common space for a spiritual process of decolonization in a reality where different ancestries have been brought together in painful ways. Through this ritual, you are invited to think about the relationship with your ancestors. Together, we create a space of intimacy even when we experience distance through our personal histories and current realities, which are filled with trauma, but also with a desire for healing and resilience. When it comes to reflecting upon our shared colonial history, we all have different roles and places in the process of healing. In this ritual, we center queer people of color. We will question how supporting one and another looks like in the process of decolonization, and in the reflection of our shared colonial histories.</p> <p><a href="https://fazleshairmahomed.com/analemma">fazleshairmahomed.com/analemma</a> Group</p>
2022	<p>ANALEMMA a decolonizing club dance ritual centering queer people of color Theater Rotterdam Rotterdam, Netherlands Performative Film</p>

## PROJECTS

2019	<p>Anushthaan Den Haag, Netherlands In this decolonizing ritual we call upon ancestors through the particular histories and bodies of Fazle and Farah, both Surinamese-Hindustani. Ancestral spirits who have suffered and thrived through a history of colonialism, histories which are embodied in the audience questioning the relationships of our humanity. As a healing practice it aims to break out of racist and sexist constructs that have been oppressive for our existence and well-being.</p>
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Installation A group of queer people of color create a common space for a spiritual process of decolonization in a reality where different ancestries have been brought together in painful ways. Through this ritual, you are invited to think about the relationship with your ancestors. Together, we create a space of intimacy even when we experience distance through our personal histories and current realities, which are filled with trauma, but also with a desire for healing and resilience. When it comes to reflecting upon our shared colonial history, we all have different roles and places in the process of healing. In this ritual, we center queer people of color. We will question how supporting one and another looks like in the process of decolonization, and in the reflection of our shared colonial histories.

[fazleshairmahomed.com/analemma](https://fazleshairmahomed.com/analemma)  
Group

- 2022 Vrouwentong Tolhuistuin / Read My World Amsterdam, Netherlands A decolonizing ritual by Fazle Shairmahomed, Ruby Joemai & community members Healing is communal, healing is spiritual, healing is in the body and in spaces in between, healing is to be in harmony with plants and nature. In this new ritual everyone is invited to think about the question: "What do you feel when you think about the spiritual power of plants and ancestry? The development of this ritual ongoing, which is rooted in the spiritual relation between the plant Vrouwentong (Snake Plant), the Nani (mother's mother) of Fazle Shairmahomed, and themselves. Nani brought this plant with her when she migrated from Surinam, a land which was then still colonized by the Dutch, in the year before independence. Nani has been nurturing this plant ever since, and gifted several branches to her children and some of her grandchildren. The Snake Plant is native to tropical West Africa from Nigeria east to the Congo, as part of a colonial history. This plant has become a symbol of migration, rootedness, family and hybridization. The costume designed by Ruby Joemai is a tool to practice

communal healing, inspired by the leaves of the Snake Plant, you are invited to write on it as well.  
[fazleshairmahomed.com/works/vrouwentong/](https://fazleshairmahomed.com/works/vrouwentong/)  
Group

2022 Vrouwentong Afrika Museum Berg en Dal The costume designed by Ruby Joemai is a tool to practice communal healing, inspired by the leaves of the Snake Plant, you are invited to write on it as well.  
[fazleshairmahomed.com/works/vrouwentong/](https://fazleshairmahomed.com/works/vrouwentong/)  
Group

2022 Vrouwentong BAK voor actuele kunst Utrecht, Netherlands The costume designed by Ruby Joemai is a tool to practice communal healing, inspired by the leaves of the Snake Plant, you are invited to write on it as well.  
[fazleshairmahomed.com/works/vrouwentong/](https://fazleshairmahomed.com/works/vrouwentong/)  
Group

2021 UMAD Kunsthafen / Masala Movement / INDERNET Festival Keulen, Germany In short film UMAD (Hindi: emotional overflow) you witness the spiritual journey of decolonization for four artists with roots in Surinam, India, and the Netherlands. They negotiate with histories of forced labor migration and colonialism, the erasure of cultures they belong to, cultures they have come to belong to, and the oppressive systems which continue to exist today. All of them have been touched by the Dutch colonial project, but are shaped differently through their personal experiences in life through religion, gender, and sexuality, which becomes visible through their authentic visions on decolonization and healing. The short film is part of program including a writing ritual, group conversation on the concept of ancestry, spoken word and more.  
[fazleshairmahomed.com/works/umad/](https://fazleshairmahomed.com/works/umad/)  
Group

2021 UMAD Piet Zwart Rotterdam, Netherlands In short film UMAD (Hindi: emotional overflow) you witness the spiritual journey of decolonization for four artists with roots in Surinam, India, and the Netherlands. They negotiate with histories of forced labor migration

and colonialism, the erasure of cultures they belong to, cultures they have come to belong to, and the oppressive systems which continue to exist today. All of them have been touched by the Dutch colonial project, but are shaped differently through their personal experiences in life through religion, gender, and sexuality, which becomes visible through their authentic visions on decolonization and healing. The short film is part of program including a writing ritual, group conversation on the concept of ancestry, spoken word and more.

[fazleshairmahomed.com/works/umad/Group](https://fazleshairmahomed.com/works/umad/Group)

- 2021 UMAD Podium Mozaiek / Humans of Film Festival Amsterdam, Netherlands In short film UMAD (Hindi: emotional overflow) you witness the spiritual journey of decolonization for four artists with roots in Surinam, India, and the Netherlands. They negotiate with histories of forced labor migration and colonialism, the erasure of cultures they belong to, cultures they have come to belong to, and the oppressive systems which continue to exist today. All of them have been touched by the Dutch colonial project, but are shaped differently through their personal experiences in life through religion, gender, and sexuality, which becomes visible through their authentic visions on decolonization and healing. The short film is part of program including a writing ritual, group conversation on the concept of ancestry, spoken word and more.
- [fazleshairmahomed.com/works/umad/Group](https://fazleshairmahomed.com/works/umad/Group)

- 2021 UMAD Theater Zuidplein Rotterdam, Netherlands In short film UMAD (Hindi: emotional overflow) you witness the spiritual journey of decolonization for four artists with roots in Surinam, India, and the Netherlands. They negotiate with histories of forced labor migration and colonialism, the erasure of cultures they belong to, cultures they have come to belong to, and the oppressive systems which continue to exist today. All of them have been touched by the

Dutch colonial project, but are shaped differently through their personal experiences in life through religion, gender, and sexuality, which becomes visible through their authentic visions on decolonization and healing. The short film is part of program including a writing ritual, group conversation on the concept of ancestry, spoken word and more.

[fazleshairmahomed.com/works/umad/Group](https://fazleshairmahomed.com/works/umad/Group)

2021 ANALEMMA a decolonizing club dance ritual centering queer people of color  
De Studio / Antwerp Queer Arts Festival Antwerpen, Belgium A group of queer people of color create a common space for a spiritual process of decolonization in a reality where different ancestries have been brought together in painful ways. Through this ritual, you are invited to think about the relationship with your ancestors. Together, we create a space of intimacy even when we experience distance through our personal histories and current realities, which are filled with trauma, but also with a desire for healing and resilience. When it comes to reflecting upon our shared colonial history, we all have different roles and places in the process of healing. In this ritual, we center queer people of color. We will question how supporting one and another looks like in the process of decolonization, and in the reflection of our shared colonial histories.

[fazleshairmahomed.com/analemma](https://fazleshairmahomed.com/analemma)

2021 ANALEMMA a decolonizing club dance ritual centering queer people of color  
Theater Ins Blau / FAT Leiden, Netherlands A group of queer people of color create a common space for a spiritual process of decolonization in a reality where different ancestries have been brought together in painful ways. Through this ritual, you are invited to think about the relationship with your ancestors. Together, we create a space of intimacy even when we experience distance through our personal histories and current realities, which are filled with trauma, but also with a desire for healing and resilience. When it comes

to reflecting upon our shared colonial history, we all have different roles and places in the process of healing. In this ritual, we center queer people of color. We will question how supporting one and another looks like in the process of decolonization, and in the reflection of our shared colonial histories.

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- 2021 ANALEMMA a decolonizing club dance ritual centering queer people of color Theater de Generator Leiden, Netherlands A group of queer people of color create a common space for a spiritual process of decolonization in a reality where different ancestries have been brought together in painful ways. Through this ritual, you are invited to think about the relationship with your ancestors. Together, we create a space of intimacy even when we experience distance through our personal histories and current realities, which are filled with trauma, but also with a desire for healing and resilience. When it comes to reflecting upon our shared colonial history, we all have different roles and places in the process of healing. In this ritual, we center queer people of color. We will question how supporting one and another looks like in the process of decolonization, and in the reflection of our shared colonial histories.
- [fazleshairmahomed.com/analemma](https://fazleshairmahomed.com/analemma)  
Group

- 2020 UMAD Tolhuistuin / Ready My World Amsterdam, Netherlands In short film UMAD (Hindi: emotional overflow) you witness the spiritual journey of decolonization for four artists with roots in Surinam, India, and the Netherlands. They negotiate with histories of forced labor migration and colonialism, the erasure of cultures they belong to, cultures they have come to belong to, and the oppressive systems which continue to exist today. All of them have been touched by the Dutch colonial project, but are shaped differently through their personal experiences in life through religion, gender, and sexuality, which becomes visible through their authentic visions

on decolonization and healing. The short film is part of program including a writing ritual, group conversation on the concept of ancestry, spoken word and more.

[fazleshairmahomed.com/works/umad/Group](http://fazleshairmahomed.com/works/umad/Group)

- 2020 UMAD Lab111 Amsterdam, Netherlands In short film UMAD (Hindi: emotional overflow) you witness the spiritual journey of decolonization for four artists with roots in Surinam, India, and the Netherlands. They negotiate with histories of forced labor migration and colonialism, the erasure of cultures they belong to, cultures they have come to belong to, and the oppressive systems which continue to exist today. All of them have been touched by the Dutch colonial project, but are shaped differently through their personal experiences in life through religion, gender, and sexuality, which becomes visible through their authentic visions on decolonization and healing. The short film is part of program including a writing ritual, group conversation on the concept of ancestry, spoken word and more.  
[fazleshairmahomed.com/works/umad/Group](http://fazleshairmahomed.com/works/umad/Group)
- 2018 A decolonizing ritual Tropenmuseum Amsterdam, Netherlands The first ritual of a series of performances in preparation of 'Anushthaan', a decolonizing ritual  
[www.facebook.com/events/626977547644886/](https://www.facebook.com/events/626977547644886/)  
Solo
- 2018 Anushthaan Ubik Rotterdam, Netherlands The second ritual of series performances in preparation of the decolonizing ritual Anushthaan. In this decolonizing ritual we call upon ancestors through the particular histories and bodies of Fazle and Farah, both Surinamese-Hindustani. Ancestral spirits who have suffered and thrived through a history of colonialism, histories which are embodied in the audience questioning the relationships of our humanity. As a healing practice it aims to break out of racist and sexist constructs that have been oppressive for our existence and well-being.



[worm.org/production/queer-performance-art-evenening-curated-by-anthony-hu%CC%88seyin/](http://worm.org/production/queer-performance-art-evenening-curated-by-anthony-hu%CC%88seyin/)  
Duo

- 2018 Discourse with Clay Elektriciteitsfabriek  
Den Haag, Netherlands In collaboration  
with Masha Ru, a ritualistic  
performance with clay and bodies.  
[www.satellietgroep.nl/climate\\_as\\_artifact/1](http://www.satellietgroep.nl/climate_as_artifact/1)  
Group
- 2017 ErosThanatos Theater de Regentes Den  
Haag, Netherlands In a society where  
many cultures strive to coexist, yet  
dominated by a few, many different  
sexualities are socially constrained.  
Where is the place for the two male  
dancers from different cultural  
backgrounds in this European context  
when it comes to spaces in between  
desire, obsession, sexuality and  
spirituality? Coloured with sounds  
controlling and directing this space, a  
metamorphosis which is ultimately  
about existentiality suggesting a certain  
kind of spiritual purification and  
blurring the tension between life and  
death as conceived in many recent  
Western ideologies. A controversial  
vulgar sex and death scandal in Japan  
forms the inspiration for this  
performance. The story follows an  
erotic relationship of Sada Abe who  
eventually cuts off the penis and  
testicles of her lover Kichizo Ishida on  
May 18, 1936. Since then it has been  
interpreted by artists of different kinds.  
This work has been developed  
independently in CLOUD/Danslab (The  
Hague) and BodLabOT (Amsterdam).  
[fazleshairmahomed.com/works/erosthanatos/](http://fazleshairmahomed.com/works/erosthanatos/)  
Group
- 2017 ErosThanatos Ehka Production Ehka  
Production, Finland This work has been  
developed independently in  
CLOUD/Danslab (The Hague) and  
BodLabOT (Amsterdam).  
[fazleshairmahomed.com/works/erosthanatos/](http://fazleshairmahomed.com/works/erosthanatos/)  
Group
- 2016 Aequilibrium (exhibition: Capitalocean)  
W139 Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Aequilibrium a ritual of decolonization  
Ancestors who endured indentured  
labor, who had suffered, were

punished, abused, and murdered, but also revolted against oppression and de-humanization. A recent history which has been and is being erased and silenced. This ritual is an embodiment of those who lived indentured labor for those souls we have lost on the seas. This work has been developed as a research for the exhibition 'Capitolocean' at W139, organized by artist Sara Pape Garcia. Initiated from an interest in the crystallization of sea water into salt, predicting and waiting for the arrival of sea sparkle at the seashore of Den Haag. Investigating the crystallization of sea salt on my body and bodies of others has brought me to development of an improvisation score, titled 'Synaesthesia of Space', as an invitation to navigate through the exhibition at W139. This research also resulted in a live video installation in collaboration with Jan Huijben, titled 'Hydrophiliae', in which the crystallization of sea water on my dark skin reflects a meditative state in which the contrast between salt and skin are interferred by a breathing humid entity. The perfection of water drops is habitually disturbed and transformed into a new shape.

[fazleshairmahomed.com/works/aequilibrium-2-0/](http://fazleshairmahomed.com/works/aequilibrium-2-0/)  
Group

## SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2016 - PR Manager for Modern Body Festival  
2016

2013 - -- Cultural organiser at CLOUD/danslab  
On-going



ANALEMM a decolonizing club dance ritual centering queer people of color, 2021



ANALEMMA a decolonizing club dance ritual centering queer people of color , 2021



UMAD, 2020



UMAD trailer - a short film on decolonization, 2020  
0:55



UMAD decolonizing rituals aftermovie, 2020  
8:14



Anushthan, 2019

Aequilibrium 3.0 - a decolonizing ritual (portrait Free  
Spirits - NPO), 2019  
9:00



Teaser Anushthan - a decolonizing ritual , 2019  
1:39



Official Trailer Anushthan - a decolonizing ritual, 2019  
1:48



ErosThanatos, 2017  
1:40