

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  
CLOUD/danslab Den Haag
- 2017 Workshop Imprography / Miri Lee  
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

- 2024 Wereldmuseum Rotterdam Rotterdam, Netherlands Analemma is a queer act to create rituals in a reality where people experience hybrid identities, and live multicultural realities that came into being because of painful histories and realities of colonialism. This work is a performance ritual, workshop, and film installation. 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 question how supporting one and another looks like in the process of decolonization and in reflecting upon our shared colonial histories. Inspired by Muslim/Sufi traditions of Gnawa, Zar, and whirling Dervish; Japanese Butoh, Surinamese Winti culture, Hindu rituals, South African Gqom. [fazleshairmahomed.com/analemma](https://fazleshairmahomed.com/analemma) Group

## PROJECTS

- 2024 Netherlands [fazleshairmahomed.com/works/legacy-seeds/](https://fazleshairmahomed.com/works/legacy-seeds/) 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. “What do you feel when you think about the spiritual power of plants and ancestry?” After Fertile Ground, the plant spirit which migrated 50 years ago with the Nani (mother’s mother) of Fazle from Surinam to the Netherlands, continues to be an important inspiration in the artistic and spiritual practice of Fazle Shairmahomed. In 2024 it shifted into a community festival initiated by Dancing on the Edge where contributions of different artists came together in community rituals. To learn more about the contributions of other artists please check out Dancing on the Edge. Who are we when we narrate our stories through plant spirits? Legacy & Seeds performance ritual has been developed through a series of Labs and the BAUairDOTE residency in an open creation and preparation process. The process and performance ritual has been led by Fazle Shairmahomed with plant spirits and artists-in-community Anima Jhagroe-Ruissen and Farah Rahman, other community members and in collaboration with DOTE, Shaymaa Shoukry and Ahmed

- 2022 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.  
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- 2022 ANALEMMA a decolonizing club dance ritual centering queer people of color Theater Rotterdam Rotterdam, Netherlands Performative Film 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 Saleh.
- 2023 Fertile Ground / , Netherlands [fazleshairmahomed.com/works/fertileground/](https://fazleshairmahomed.com/works/fertileground/) a decolonizing ritual by Fazle Shairmahomed, Ruby Joemai, Damani Leidsman, Şevval Kayhan & 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. “What do you feel when you think about the spiritual power of plants and ancestry? Fertile Ground / is an art project of which the seeds are being sown, about community healing and plants, slowly growing into a performance ritual, dance, music, workshops, a costume installation, podcast, and more. Fertile Ground / Snake Plant This project started with a personal research into the spiritual relation between the Snake Plant (Vrouwentong), which my Nani (mother’s mother) brought 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. In my dance I embody the plant spirit, a relation that I have been developing by dancing with and for the plant, building intimate relations of touch, communicating through air and earth. In this project others will also be invited to develop such personal spiritual relations with plants, leading to unique dances. Fertile Ground / costume installation The costume designed by Ruby Joemai is a tool to practice communal healing, inspired by many different plants and flowers, you are invited to write on it as well.
- 2019 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

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/)  
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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/)  
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2021 UMAD Kunsthafen / Masala Movement / INDERNET Festival Keulen, Germany

aims to break out of racist and sexist constructs that have been oppressive for our existence and well-being.

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 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.

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- 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](http://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.

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

Group

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.

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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/](https://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/Solo](http://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-evening-curated-by-anthony-hu%CC%88seyin/Duo](http://worm.org/production/queer-performance-art-evening-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/1Group](http://www.satellietgroep.nl/climate_as_artifact/1Group)
- 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/Group](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/Group](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 'Capitalocean' 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/](https://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



Legacy & Seeds, 2024



Fertile Ground / , 2023

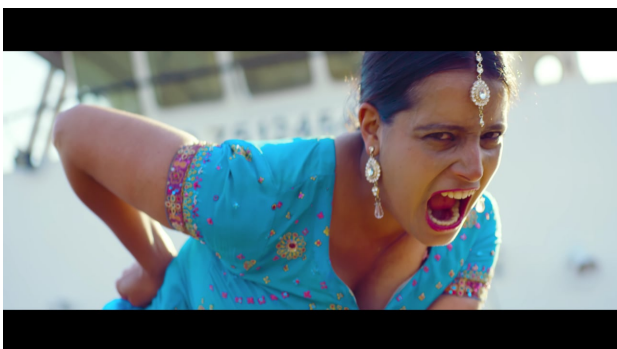


ANALEMMA a decolonizing club dance ritual centering queer people of color, 2021

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