

because there were lots of intercollegiate festivals and I was leading the BMM contingent, I found that I loved telling stories.” In his last year of college he connected with a friend who used to work with a professional theatre group and he started working on production and also as an actor.

Post graduation, Gerish took on some jobs including a writing stint at wheremumbai.com where he used to review plays and films and also did a brief stint at a midlevel marketing agency as a copywriter. “And then finally I veered into education - teaching theatre and math at Shishuvan. I used to do annual day theatre productions for them and I realized that theatre was calling to me at different points in time in different forms. I discovered my instinct and passion as a director then.”

After this, he took a break from active teaching and joined Mumbai University for a Masters in Literature. “Those two years were wonderfully enriching, because that was something I always wanted to do but there was very little understanding or atmosphere at home to be able to nurture that sensibility.” He then went back to teaching and also started working with a company called Theatre Professionals. Being on stage is where Gerish felt most alive. “When I started working with kids again I recognized just how much I enjoyed creating, crafting, putting things together, and directing. This was the point in my life when I understood that I was meant to tell stories.”

In 2016, Gerish went on to receive the Charles Wallace Scholarship by the British Council to pursue Module 1 (Oct-Dec 2016) of the Devising Theatre and Performance course at the London International School of Performing Arts (LISPA) in Berlin where he deepened his artistic, pedagogical, and spiritual journey. He recently completed his Module 2 (Jan-March 2018) of the same course at LISPA.

Looking ahead, he hopes to start a

## I REALIZED IT WAS TIME FOR ME TO REALLY CONNECT WITH MY ROOTS AND UNDERSTAND WHERE I COME FROM

new production later this year. “The plan is to continue to create original work, reach out to new, different audiences in and around the city and the country as well. I think one good thing that is happening for us is that we, in our limited reach, have been able to reach out to educational

institutions so students can get to watch our plays and interact with us.” Gerish hopes that soon *The Blind And The Elephant* reaches a point where it can fund itself and have many productions at the same time.

