

## Professional and Teaching Resume

**Sheena D. Robertson**  
**B.A., B.Ed., M.ED.**

### Education and Training

- Masters of Education O.I.S.E. – University of Toronto
- Honours AQ Specialist in Drama O.I.S.E. – University of Toronto
- Bachelor of Education McGill University
- B.A. - Drama and Political Science University College - UofT
- Orff Music Teacher Training Royal Conservatory of Music
- Mentor Artist Certification Royal Conservatory of Music
- Directing Intensive - Richard Rose Equity Showcase Theatre
- Documentary Training National Film Board
- Acting training Equity Showcase Theatre
- Film training L.I.F.T.

### Teaching Experience

- **Instructor OISE/UofT – Drama/Dance AQ Courses** ~ Fifteen years teaching drama for elementary and high school teachers who are pursuing additional qualifications professionally. Have taught Levels 1, 2, 3, Honours, Intermediate and Secondary Specialists. Design all curriculum content. Have always taught dance as part of these courses.
- **Instructor OISE/UofT – Building Leadership for Change** ~ Two years teaching this 10 month-long pedagogy/leadership intensive for teachers from Saudi Arabia learning about the Canadian educational system. Additionally taught specialized drama course which I developed.
- **Faculty Advisor OISE/UofT** ~ Four years experience mentoring teacher candidates during their practicum placements in schools.
- **Drama/Dance and Literacy Facilitator – El Salvador** ~ International work training teachers in El Salvador how to use drama, dance and literacy techniques to engage their students.
- **Drama Instructor – York University** ~ Four years teaching drama/ESL to Chinese teachers visiting Canada for an intensive in the theory and practice of utilizing drama and literacy effectively in schools. Design all curriculum content.
- **Course Director – Royal Conservatory** ~ Oversaw the Foundations and three-level certification course for multi-disciplinary artists, facilitating an exploration of artistic work in school and social service settings. Designed and created modules, evaluation tools, and course content. Taught and mentored hundreds of artists.
- **Teacher Mentor** ~ Twenty- five years facilitating in-class professional development with teachers. Expertise in Ontario curriculum, and in coaching teachers re youth engagement, literacy, and the arts.

- **Consultant/ Researcher/ Youth Engagement Expert - Pathways to Education**  
~ Spent many years consulting for the Regent Park flagship site of *Pathways to Education* – an advocacy program for ‘at risk’ youth. Mentored front line workers and youth.
- **Classroom Teacher for the Toronto District School Board** ~ Mostly ‘Inner City’ experience in the diverse, low income community of Regent Park. Particularly focused on teaching all areas of the curriculum through the arts, with an intense interest in literacy skills and the arts, and how those subjects pertain to issues of social justice.
- **Ongoing Coaching** ~ Work with many professional actors (and non-actors) on one-on-one training, corporate and not-for-profit coaching, audition preparation, scene study, and speech writing, rehearsals and presentations.
- **Workshops** ~ York University, University of Toronto, Canadian Stage, Soul Pepper Theatre, Toronto District School Board, Pathways to Education, Regent Park Film Festival, nationally and internationally for The Royal Conservatory – arts, equity, social justice, literacy.
- **Arts Consulting/ Writing** ~ Many years free-lance consulting in the use of the arts in an integrative school setting. (TDSB Drama Department, Learning Through the Arts). Within that context have also written and co-written numerous study guides, curriculum and evaluatory documents and videos (TDSB, Royal Conservatory, Ontario Ministry of Education).
- **Drama Video Project** ~ As part of a *Toronto District School Board* initiative, **co-wrote, and created** video rubrics and exemplars for dance and drama for grades 3, 5, and 8.
- **Kick Start Arts! DVD’s** ~ **Co-produced, directed,** and acted as **facilitator** for these DVD’s aimed at teaching teachers how to use drama and dance in their own classrooms.

### Select Related Arts Projects

- **Kick Start Arts!** ~ **Artistic Director** of this not-for-profit. Our central mission is, to use the arts to empower students, youth and adults to express themselves through the creative process, and in doing so engage diverse communities in thought and collaboration. We partner with multiple TDSB schools on an ongoing basis. [www.kickstartarts.com](http://www.kickstartarts.com)
- **The Regent Park Project** ~ **Artistic Director/Director** of this initiative aimed at offering free acting, film-making, and dance training to youth in Regent Park. Working collaboratively, professional artists and community members create all elements of a web series. The central goal is to create opportunities for at risk youth within the professional world. [www.RegentParkProject.com](http://www.RegentParkProject.com)
- **Whimsical Productions** ~ **Artistic Director** of my production company. Directed numerous video projects, vignettes and documentaries – links available upon request.
- **Dare2Dance/tdsbCREATES** ~ **Producer** for the first two years of this TDSB Arts Department initiative.
- **Eighth Fire Prophecy** ~ **Artistic Director** of this media co-op for Aboriginal youth. TDSB project. (link available upon request)
- **Documentaries** ~ **Director** of numerous films for the TDSB focusing on their arts

programming – links available upon request.

- ***The Hot Flash ~ Produced*** the pilot of this web series created by Wendy Anderson.
- ***The Arrival ~ Directed*** this audience-interactive, multi-disciplinary performance at the Royal Conservatory's Koerner Hall with hundreds of TDSB students.
- ***Photography Work*** – Ongoing – See Whimsical Productions web site for gallery.  
~ Photography done privately, for web sites, film and theatre productions, artist shots, and for public, and not-for-profit organizations such as *Pathways to Education*, the *Royal Conservatory of Music*, and many actors and public figures.
- ***Stories From the Inner City – Director*** of this digital story telling project with, and about youth in Regent Park. Created with funding from the OAC.
- ***Lizardboy – Co-Director, Producer, Translator, Dramaturge*** of this one-man-show. National tour 2011 – Winner *Now Magazine Audience Choice Award - Summerworks Festival*, 4 out of 4 stars CBC.
- ***Time Folds – Director*** of this expressionistic short film created using the Margaret Atwood poem, and Michelle Sillagy's dance choreography.
- ***Gone – Associate Producer and First AD*** of this short film.
- ***Fresh Perspectives – Creator/Photographer/Facilitator*** of this photography project done with three inner city communities in Toronto. The final exhibit at Metro Hall included images of those communities created by the participants, portraits of the participants taken by Sheena and the other artist involved, and a vocal montage of the voices of the student-artists talking about who they are. Additional exhibits at the TDSB board office, and at *Soul Pepper Theatre* were added after the success of the initial exhibit.
- ***Facing the Challenges – Director/ Producer*** of this documentary about the early years of Pathways To Education in Regent Park.
- ***Mixed Emotions - Directed*** this experimental film project created by grade 7 students, and exploring how they see the world. Funded by an *Artist in Education* grant from the *Ontario Arts Council*.
- ***Butler Ruston Bell*** - Three years experience as an **Acting Agent**. Launched their children's department.
- ***Cast Coordinator CBC*** - Coordinated, organized and facilitated all issues pertaining to the cast of two CBC sit-coms. (Similar to the role of an Assistant Director on most television sets).
- ***Shades of Grey - Co-Wrote, Executive Produced, and Directed*** this short fictional film exploring the life of a little boy whose mother is struggling to find her place in the world.
- ***Theatre Administrator at UofT's UC Playhouse.*** - Managing actors, and directors, and producing 5 shows over the course of a year. Managed the budget (balancing all books), and coordinated learning and professional interactions amongst academic staff, students, and visiting artists.