

Artist Resume

SHEENA D. ROBERTSON

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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

ARTS EXPERIENCE - WHIMSICAL PRODUCTIONS

- Whimsical Productions - Founded (1993) my own production company through which many of the following projects have been created and produced. Presently developing a number of projects (documentary, short film, theatre) with producing partners.
- Kick Start Arts – Co-Artistic Director of this not-for-profit organization aimed at creating opportunities for collaborations between professional artists and community members – both in school and community settings:
 - **Regent Park Project** – A KSA collaborative project, building a community of writers, actors, and film makers who will come together to tell the stories of Regent Park by creating a web series. The project includes training in writing, acting, collective collaboration, and production.
 - **Spectrum Collective** – Artistic Director for a collaboration with the multi-disciplinary arts organization in the Daniel Spectrum Building – an arts and cultural hub in Regent Park.
- *Engage Arts, tdsbCREATES, Spoken Word, Dance Vignettes* – Directed 20 documentaries and shorts showcasing the initiatives of the TDSB Arts Department.
- *Eighth Fire Journeys* ~ Artistic Director of this film Co-op for Aboriginal youth – a partnership with the TDSB arts department, and the Aboriginal Centre.
- *The Hot Flash* ~ Producer of this pilot for the web series.
- *The Arrival* ~ Directed this audience-interactive, multi-disciplinary performance at Koerner Hall.
- *Stories From the Inner City* – Director of this digital story-telling project about youth in Regent Park.
- *Lizardboy* – Director, Producer, Translator, Dramaturge of this one-man-show. National tour– 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.
- 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* and the *Royal Conservatory of Music*.
- *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 high school 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. Funded with an OAC grant.
- *Facing the Challenges* – Director/ Producer of this documentary about an inner city advocacy program and the youth it supports.
- *MacBeth’s Kitchen* – Producer of this modern theatrical adaptation of Shakespeare’s original. Our production was listed as on of the ‘Best of the Toronto Fringe 2006’.
- *Regent Park* - Directed this 'short' exploring issues facing youth in Regent Park for *Pathways to Education*.
- *Hattitude* – Artist/Facilitator for this community-based theatre and photography project connected to *Canadian Stage*'s season.
- *Welcome* - First Assistant Director, and Casting Director of this short film produced with grants from the *NFB* and *Bravo Fact*.
- *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*.
- *Shades of Grey* - Co-Wrote, Executive Produced, and Directed this short fictional film exploring the life of a little boy whose mother is struggling with the world.
- Theatre Administrator at UofT’s *UC Playhouse*. - An intensive paid position, managing actors, and directors, and producing 5 shows over the course of a year. Managed a large budget (balancing all books), and coordinated, learning and professional interactions amongst academic staff, students, and visiting artists.
- 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.
- Band Manager - Managed a local “up-and coming” band for two years. Facilitated grant applications, bookings, club negotiations, and produced two CD’s.
- Theatre Experience - Extensive theatre experience as a Director, Producer, Production Manager, Stage Manager, and Box Office Manager.

RELATED TEACHING/CONSULTING

- Instructor OISE/UofT – Drama AQ Courses (Stratford and Toronto) – Teach drama for elementary and high school teachers who are pursuing additional drama qualifications professionally. Have taught Levels 1, 2, 3, and Honours Specialist.
- Course Director – Royal Conservatory – OAC – Oversaw the Foundations and three-level certification course for artists (Foundations level funded in part by the OAC), facilitating an exploration of artistic work in school and social service settings. Designed and created modules, evaluation tools, and course content.
- Instructor – York U – SUON College – Teach drama to Chinese teachers learning how to teach English to their students back home. Design all curriculum content for the courses I teach.
- Arts and Educational Consulting – e.g. Recently completed the research and visioning of the Regent Park Film Festival’s new Educational Initiatives in collaboration with their ED, their board of directors, and community stake-holders.
- Instructor – UofT – Hart House – Film course for actors and directors. Design course content.
- Fifteen years experience collaborating with students and teachers utilizing ‘devising’ techniques to create dramatic works.
- Classroom Teacher - Grades 4/5, 5/6, 6, 7/8 (integrated LD/ESL) for the TDSB. Mostly ‘Inner City’ experience in the diverse, and often low income community of Regent Park. Have 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.
- Artistic Director – Kick Start Arts! – Co-Artistic Director of this company which brings top artist-educators into schools to create meaningful arts explorations with students. A particular focus of the company is on the Arts and Social Justice.
- Ongoing Coaching – Work with many professional actors (and non-actors) on one-on-one training, audition preparation, scene study, speech writing, rehearsals and presentations.
- Kick Start Arts! Co-Artistic Director – not-for-profit
- Drama Workshops - York University, University of Toronto, Canadian Stage, Toronto District School Board, various high schools in Ontario, nationally and internationally for The Royal Conservatory.
- 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, Engage Arts, Regent Park Film Festival). Within that context have also written and co-written numerous study guides, curriculum, evaluatory documents and videos (TDSB, and Ontario Ministry of Education).