

**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**

- **Facilitator OISE/UofT** – Educational Pedagogy ~ Two years facilitating training for teachers from Saudi Arabia here to learn about the Canadian educational system.
- **Faculty Advisor OISE/UofT** – Coaching teacher candidates during their in-school placements.
- **Instructor OISE/UofT – Drama AQ Courses** ~ Ten 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. Expert coach/mentor to hundreds of teachers.
- **Drama Instructor – York University** ~ Taught drama 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 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 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.
- **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).

- **Ongoing Coaching** ~ Work with many professional actors, doctors, ED's on one-on-one training, corporate and not-for-profit coaching, audition preparation, scene study, and speech writing, rehearsals and presentations.
- **Classroom Teacher for the Toronto District School Board** ~ Mostly 'Inner City' experience in the diverse, and often 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.
- **Instructor – UofT – Hart House** ~ Film course for actors and directors. Designed all elements of the course content.
- **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. Visit: [www.KickStartArts.com](http://www.KickStartArts.com) and [www.RegentParkProject.com](http://www.RegentParkProject.com).
- **Whimsical Productions** ~ **Artistic Director** of my production company. Directed numerous projects: vignettes, documentaries, web series, music videos. Links available upon request.
- **Arts Educational Films** ~ **Director** of numerous films for the TDSB focusing on their arts programming – links available upon request.
- **The Regent Park Project** ~ **Artistic Director** of this initiative aimed at offering free acting and film-making training to youth in Regent Park. Working collaboratively, professional artists and community members work together to create all elements of a web series. The central goal is to create opportunities for inter-cultural dialogue and connection.
- **Eighth Fire Prophecy** ~ **Artistic Director** of this media co-op for Aboriginal youth. TDSB project. (link 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.
- **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 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 an inner city advocacy program and the youth it supports.
- ***MacBeth’s Kitchen*** – **Producer** of this modern adaptation of Shakespeare’s original. Our production was listed as one of the ‘Best of the Toronto Fringe 2006’.
- ***Regent Park*** - **Directed** this 'short' exploring issues facing youth in the community - 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*.
- **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.
- **Band Manager** - Managed a local “up-and coming” band for two years. Facilitated grant applications, bookings, club negotiations, and produced two CD’s.