

Tom Carson

Director, Administrator, Educator, Writer & Dramaturge

1589 Gowling Terrace, Milton, Ontario L9T 5J7 905-876-0252 t.carson@cogeco.ca

Selected Work Experience

Director (CAEA)

Tom Carson has been directing professional theatre productions throughout Canada for over fourteen years. A strong sense of ensemble and clear, simple storytelling characterize his work for both adults and children. Mr. Carson's productions have received nominations for awards in Toronto, as well as high critical acclaim in a variety of media. Mr. Carson has had the opportunity to collaborate with some of Canada's finest theatre artists through his commitment to new work and telling original stories.

Year Play ♦ Playwright ♦ Company

- 2006 *Popcorn Princess* ♦ Kneebone, Margolese, Carson ♦ Smile Theatre Company
- 2006 *NZR* ♦ Collective ♦ Redeemer University College
- 2005 *Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang* ♦ Jim Betts, Richler ♦ Georgian Theatre Festival
- 2005 *Everything's Coming Up Rosie* ♦ Sandra Margolese ♦ Smile Theatre Company
- 2004 *The Affections of May* ♦ Norm Foster ♦ Georgian Theatre Festival
- 2003 *Almost There* ♦ Judith Robinson ♦ Brookstone
- 2002 *The Joshua Project* ♦ Collective ♦ Redeemer University College
- 2000 *2000 Candles* ♦ Collective ♦ Brookstone
- 2000 *The Big Picture* ♦ Carson, Hassell ♦ Brookstone
- 1999 *The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe* ♦ LeClanche du Rand ♦ Carson / Brookstone
(DORA Award Nominee (Toronto), Outstanding Production, Theatre for Young Audiences, 1999/2000 and 1996/97)
- 1998 *The Compleat Wrks of Wlm Shkspr* ♦ RSC ♦ Champlain College
- 1998 *Five Alive!* ♦ Carson, Ganetakos, Whiston, Crossland and Moon ♦ Del ARTiE
(“Hit of the Fringe” – Musical)
- 1998 *The Nerd* ♦ Larry Shue ♦ Pacific Theatre
- 1997 *Tales From The Arabian Nights* ♦ Simon Johnston ♦ Youththeatre, Montreal
(Featured Production, London International Children's Festival)
- 1997 *The Wind in The Willows* ♦ Adapted by Dennis Hassell ♦ Brookstone
(DORA Award Nominee (Toronto), Outstanding Production, Theatre for Young Audiences)
- 1996 *The Good Woman of Setzuan* ♦ Brecht ♦ Concordia University

Administrator

Combined with his commitment to artistic excellence, Tom Carson has established himself as a dynamic producer of theatre, and a sound administrator of non-profit organizations. His experience in successful fundraising campaigns and grants to all levels of government has supported his work as an artist.

General & Artistic Manager, The Smile Theatre Company (2003 to Present)

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the General & Artistic Manager is responsible for all operations of the company both administrative and artistic. Smile Theatre is Canada's only professional theatre dedicated to performing for senior citizens.

- ◆ Commission and develop new work for the company.
- ◆ Produce a season of five new productions for its audience of senior citizens each year.
- ◆ Select artists and negotiate contracts.
- ◆ Oversee staff in the area of tour bookings and scheduling.
- ◆ Grant applications and oversee Corporate, Foundation and Individual fundraising campaigns.
- ◆ Manage an annual budget of over 400,000.

Producer, Carson Productions (1999 to 2000)

Co-produced a three-play season (two adult general audience new Canadian works, one Theatre for Young Audiences touring show) with Brookstone Theatre.

- ◆ Selected plays based on mandate, artistic merit and audience appeal.
- ◆ Managed media promotions.
- ◆ Negotiated and issued artistic & support staff contracts (including CAEA and ADC).
- ◆ Grant applications and Individual Fundraising Campaign.
- ◆ Implemented prudent budget controls with total operations of approximately \$100,000.00.
- ◆ Booked and managed a four-week tour to elementary schools in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto.

Artistic/Administrative Associate, Youtheatre, Montreal (1993 to 1999)

Involved in all operations (artistic & administrative) for a two-play touring season of approximately 130 performances annually throughout Québec and Eastern Ontario. Youtheatre's mandate is to create, develop and produce new works for young audiences by Canada's finest playwrights.

- ◆ Assisted the Executive Director in season planning, the commissioning of innovative writers, and development of scripts.
- ◆ Grant preparation to municipal, provincial and federal funding bodies.
- ◆ Board of Directors development.
- ◆ Budget preparation and control (Total operations approximately \$200,000).
- ◆ Initiated fundraising projects and events for corporations and individuals.
- ◆ Handled all media contact and promotions.
- ◆ Issued all contracts including playwrights, designers, actors and stage managers.
- ◆ Booked and managed an annual twelve-week elementary school tour and a three-week high school tour.
- ◆ Developed sales and marketing strategies.
- ◆ Developed a computer touring database & management system
- ◆ Managed sales staff and coordinated touring operations.
- ◆ Assisted in deficit elimination effort – goal achieved in two seasons.

Director, Trail's End Camp, Catholic Community Services

(March to September 1999 and 2000)

Directed a summer camp for 700 underprivileged and behaviorally disordered children in the Launadière region of Québec.

- ◆ Designed marketing and registration initiatives (increased enrollment by 35% in the first year, and capacity in the second year.)
- ◆ Developed budget and controls (operations of \$350,000.00 reduced deficit by 20% in the first year, and eliminated it by the second.)
- ◆ Modified existing staff structures and hired & managed a staff of 53.
- ◆ Re-visioned the camp program to focus on integrating kids with special needs.
- ◆ Oversaw and coordinated the areas of Staff, Program, Special Counseling, Kitchen & Facilities Maintenance.
- ◆ Ensured facility and staff compliance with government and camp association standards.

Educator

Tom Carson has developed aspiring artists from a variety of age groups. His motivation to teach is a special desire to encourage an appreciation for the arts and to challenge and nurture abilities. His teaching style is inclusive and direct, with an emphasis on participation and fostering positive group dynamics.

Post-Secondary

Guest Professor, Redeemer University College Department of Theatre

(2006, 2002, 1995/96)

Redeemer University College is a private accredited University located in Ancaster, Ontario, which offers a degree in theatre and communications. The Guest Professor is responsible for teaching students a production-based, single credit theatre course, which is open to all majors.

- ◆ Designed course syllabus.
- ◆ Taught a studio course in basic acting skills (with emphasis on Suzuki method).
- ◆ Directed *NZR* (2006), *The Joshua Project* (2002), an edited version of Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* (1996).

Guest Theatre Director, Champlain College (1999)

Champlain College is a C.E.G.E.P. located on Montreal's South Shore. The Guest Theatre Director is responsible for mounting a full-length theatre production with students from various disciplines.

- ◆ Chose age-appropriate material.
- ◆ Dramaturged *The Compleat Wrks of Wlm Shkspr* to feature 25 students.
- ◆ Taught basic acting technique.
- ◆ Motivated 25 youth to pursue excellence in theatre arts.

Guest Professor, Concordia University Department of Theatre (1996/97)

Concordia University is a major Canadian institution with a degree program in theatre. The Guest Director is responsible for teaching an undergraduate production course to theatre performance students. The course culminated in a production of Brecht's *The Good Woman of Setzuan* at the D.B. Clarke Theatre in Downtown Montreal.

- ♦ Designed course syllabus & reading list.
- ♦ Introduced students to Brecht's theories on theatre arts.
- ♦ Combined Suzuki exercises on actor body movement with Brechtian theory.
- ♦ Taught script analysis technique.
- ♦ Worked with student designers & technicians on production process.
- ♦ Directed a full-length production of *The Good Woman of Setzuan*.
- ♦ Evaluated students on Voice, Movement, Text Analysis and Performance.

Elementary/Secondary

Workshop Instructor, School District #47, Powell River, B.C. (2006)

Taught a series of workshops to elementary aged children on poetic expression and theatre basics.

Workshop Instructor, O.C.H.S.A. Drama Festival (2006, 2004, 2001, 1998, 1997)

O.C.H.S.A. is the Ontario Christian High School Association. Schools in the region are invited to attend a four-day festival of theatre competition and learning in Ancaster, Ontario.

- ♦ Conducted workshop on collective creation (2006).
- ♦ Adjudicated student productions (2004, 1997). Ranked productions according to text appropriateness, acting skills and production values.
- ♦ Animated workshops on basic acting technique and improvisational skills (2001, 1998).

Adjudicator/Instructor, Columbia Basin Trust Student Arts Initiative (2004)

Taught voice, movement, text analysis and dramatic writing to high school student in Creston, British Columbia over a two-week development course. Adjudicated student initiatives.

Summer Drama Intensive Creator/Instructor (2001)

Designed and taught six-day summer intensive programs for children ages 9 to 12. The course included original exercises focused on developing acting and communication skills.

Workshop Instructor, Kootenay Lake School District, Creston, B.C. (2001)

Developed and facilitated a two-week series of two-hour workshops for students (age range 7 to 17) and teachers on: character, voice, movement, and text analysis.

**Selected Artist Participant, "Artists in the Schools",
Québec Ministry of Education project (1997)**

"Artists in the Schools" is a Québec government project, which provides funds for professional artists to work with school children.

- ♦ Designed "What Theatre Is..." elementary school project, which took kids through the process of making theatre.
- ♦ Ran the project with over 350 elementary school children throughout Québec.

Writer & Dramaturge

Tom Carson's commitment to developing new work for the stage has led to a number of experiences as a dramaturge and, more recently, as a writer and storyteller.

Writer/Storyteller, *The Story of Us All* (Current)

A new spoken word performance piece for children currently in development. The project received funding from the Ontario Art's Council Literary Division

Playwright, *The Bones of William Shakespeare* (2003 to 2005)

The Bones of William Shakespeare is a play for young audiences based on *Hamlet*. It is the recipient of development grants from The Canada Council, The Laidlaw Foundation and Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Québec.

Writer/Storyteller, *One For Every One* (2002)

An independent CD project for children featuring original stories and poems. The live version became a featured performance at the Cultural Capital of Canada Festival for the Arts in British Columbia.

Author, *Unkee's Tome* (2004)

A collection of poetry for children, published by Serpent Press.

Playwright, *Flight of Nightingales* (2001)

A play for young children based on the fairy tale *Jorinda & Joringel*. Developed for production 2006/07.

Writer, *Mountain Air!* (2001)

Mountain Air! is a collection of stories and poems for children. It was produced by Carson Productions, and performed by 100 students age 5 to 17 in Creston, B.C.

Co-Writer, *2000 Candles* (2000)

Worked with a collective to write a collection of Christmas stories and songs. Professionally produced by Brookstone Performing Arts, Toronto.

"...rare, fluid and theatrical....a holiday offering whose spirit and message should last the other eleven months of the year" – Glenn Sumi, NOW Magazine, Toronto. Rated NNNN

Dramaturge, *The Big Picture* (2000)

Co-wrote a professionally produced play with Toronto Playwright Dennis Hassell. Produced in October 2000 at Brookstone Performing Arts.

"...A theatrical rocket ride." – John Colbourne, The Toronto Sun. Rated ****

Dramaturge, *Shell Game* (1998 to 2000)

Dramaturged professional theatre script with Toronto playwright Dennis Hassell from idea to production. *Shell Game* was the recipient of the New Play Development Scholarship from Lamb's Players, San Diego and received an Ontario Arts Council production grant.

Dramaturge, *The Word Tree* (1997 to 1999)

Developed a new Canadian play with playwright S.C. Pinney that dealt with poetry and human relationships. *The Word Tree* was professionally produced in 1999.

Dramaturge, *Tales from the Arabian Nights* (1996 to 1997)

Dramaturged a new adaptation of *Tales from the Arabian Nights* for children by noted Canadian theatre artist Simon Johnston. This production was produced by Youtheatre, Montreal and appeared at the London International Children's Festival.

Co-writer (book & lyrics) *Five Alive, Oedipuss n' Boots, Get Stuffed!, Go To Hell Faust, Hugo* (1994 to 1999)

Developed new musical theatre comedies for Fringe circuit (*Get Stuffed!* re-mounted at Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Port Dover).

Associate Dramaturge, *The Leaves of Forever* (1995)

Worked with renowned Canadian playwright Judith Thompson in her first theatre for Young Audiences project. Produced by Youtheatre Montreal.