

ROBERT WATSON

Playwright - Curriculum Vitae

#1012-230 King Street East, Toronto, ON, M5A 1K5 | Phone: 416.206.8502 | email: robert_watson@live.ca

PLAYS PRODUCED

Desperate Housepets

2005 Summerworks Festival - Toronto

2006 Fringe Festival Tour - Montreal & Toronto

Subsequent Productions: 2008 NovaStage - Cambridge ON, 2014 RILTS - Delta ON

A triptych of scenes about what pets think and do when their owners aren't around, the show marked my debut as a writer and producer. The Toronto Star called *Desperate Housepets* "a Fringe Triumph... like underwater Stoppard" while Kelly Nestruck (Globe & Mail) wrote that it "could have been written by a jollier Beckett."

The Balloon Tree

2006 Fringe Festival - Toronto

An adaptation of the beloved children's book by Phoebe Gilman, I wrote and produced this show at the same time as the *Desperate Housepets* 2006 tour. My first experience in writing children's theatre, I also produced and did the marketing for this production.

Just So Stories

2007 Fringe Festival - Toronto

Subsequent Production: 2015 RILTS - Gananoque ON

A fun family show that utilised the Rudyard Kipling short stories to teach various morals, *Just So Stories* was "full of bubbly energy" according to NOW Magazine, and was awarded "Outstanding Production for Young Audiences" by the publication.

Chasing Margaret Flatwood

2014 Fringe Festival - Toronto

A scathing satire that critiqued the laissez faire ways of Toronto's 1%, *Chasing Margaret Flatwood* also marked my first foray into film making. The six minute mockumentary "The Life and Times of Margaret Flatwood" that anchored the play was the first time I had written, shot and edited a filmed piece for public presentation.

The Money Tree

2014 Roseneath Theatre - Ontario Tour

A play about financial literacy for grades K – 6, *The Money Tree* toured for 7 weeks throughout Ontario schools and received the most positive teacher feedback of any play in Roseneath's 31 year history. Slated for a second Ontario tour in 2016 and North American tour in 2017.

STAGED READINGS

The Ladies Room

2008 Theatre Awakening - Toronto

A comedic yet poignant look at female empowerment, *The Ladies Room* used the same format as *The Blue Room* and *La Ronde* to show the connections between many of the social issues that face women today. Inspired by the many women I've worked alongside for years in the retail cosmetics industry.

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Greetings From Purgatory

Planned Production Date: Winter/Spring 2016

Currently in its second draft, *Greetings From Purgatory* follows the odd couple relationship between a gay man and his mother-in-law who are coping with the death of a loved one. The play features a purgatory scene that is inspired by G. B. Shaw's "Don Juan in Hell" interlude from *Man and Superman*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Playwriting Basics

2010 & 2011, Rideau Islands and Lakes Theatre School

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Theatre Awakening - Co-Founder and Producer

2008 - Present

Launched in 2008 as a conduit for the work of Andrew Lamb and myself, I produced the Summerworks production of *In Darfur* by Winter Miller in 2008, the NextStage production of *Buried* by Tessa King in 2010 and *Chasing Margaret Flatwood* in 2014. Responsibilities have included budgeting, fundraising, marketing and web design.

Hudson's Bay - Makeup Artist and Fragrance Specialist

2003 - Present

Activities/accomplishments have included: performing makeup applications, providing expertise on cosmetic and fragrance products, creating dynamic in store events, managing a cosmetic counter and overseeing a team of 6 makeup artists, #1 sales person in Fragrances in 2014 while only working part time hours.

EDUCATION

University of Victoria, Faculty of Fine Arts: 1997 - 2000

George Brown Theatre School Graduate: 2000 - 2003

Dramaturgy and Playwriting: Tarragon Theatre, Brian Quirt, 2009

Playwriting: Tarragon Theatre, Paula Wing, 2010