

# SOPHIE HUNTER C . V .

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I have worked professionally for 25 years in the fields of drama/theatre, education & community arts as a director, creative producer, evaluator, workshop facilitator and project manager. My key focus has always been work created for, by and with children and young people, and has involved creating, producing, managing and delivering projects, often in youth theatre, school and community contexts.

I am also a coach and trainer working with both young people and the adults who work with them. I have recently begun trading as **HOLDING SPACE**, as much of the work I love most involves holding space for others to pause, review and reflect – whether in an evaluation context, action research or a coaching context.

I am Co-Director of **Growtheatre CIC**. We run open access outdoor youth theatres for young people in Sheffield and North East Derbyshire, and also create and deliver creative projects in schools and communities, work with Sheffield University and Hallam University students, and create heritage outdoor interpretation projects.

Much of my work as a creative practitioner focuses on the telling of and listening to stories from past, present and future, and on finding connection. I am also passionate about asking questions, experiential learning, site-specific work, ritual and rites of passage, verbal and non-verbal communication, facilitating transformational change, offering reflective space and compassionate parenting.

## RECENT EMPLOYMENT AND FREELANCE ROLES:

### **Local Cultural Education Partnership, Sheffield** ongoing

On behalf of CapeUK I am currently involved in the creation and setting up the LCEP in Sheffield.

### **Breeze Culture Network, Sheffield, Doncaster and Rotherham** ongoing

On behalf of CapeUK I am currently involved in the expansion of Breeze Culture Network into these areas.

### **SNAP, Sheffield** ongoing

I set up SNAP in 2014: a network for arts and cultural providers who work with children and young people in Sheffield. I remain as an active member on the steering group.

As part of my involvement with SNAP, I took on the role as project lead for a piece of action research: **SNAP Practice**. This was a Paul Hamlyn ArtWorks funded project exploring the relationship between commissioner and artist through a 3 day process involving both systems thinking and creative reflection. I was also **evaluator** on this project.

### **Growtheatre, Ruskin in Sheffield** ongoing

Lead artist and producer for 'Crafting the Land' – a project aiming to engage Stannington community in a Heritage Lottery Funded project to offer opportunities for adults and children to be able to enjoy learning creatively, using their hands, in the fresh air - in line with John Ruskin's belief about the benefits this brings.

### **Quality Principles and the Theory of Change, CapeUK** ongoing

Co-led a pilot project for ACE focussed on testing the 7 Quality Principles (through Theory of Change) with 6 arts and cultural organisations who work with children and young people in Yorkshire and the Humber. Evaluating what difference it makes to hold a reflective space for individuals engaged in this task. Ran a conference sharing findings. Wrote a handbook to describe the method we had used for other CapeUK staff to replicate. This has become part of CapeUK's ACE bridge role offer, which I have now run for them three times, and am due to run it twice more over the next 12 months.

### **Value of theatre in schools – action research for tutti frutti** ongoing

Devising and delivering Action Research programme exploring the value that primary schools place on watching professional theatre and having a professional company in their schools.

**Evaluator for Into Film/BFI project in Leeds and Sheffield**      **October 2015 – March 2016**

Worked with 2 groups of young people to evaluate the action research CINE-TAKEOVER project, funded to bring together 2 groups of young people aged 15-19 (one group in Leeds, one group in Sheffield) to deliver 3 cinema takeover events in each city, with the aim of investigating different ways to bring audiences of this age into the cinema.

**First Art**      **January 2015 – April 2016**

Creative Producer for large-scale events and commissions for First Art, an ACE funded Creative People and Places programme focussed on NE Derbyshire, Bolsover, Ashfield and Mansfield districts. My role was to work at both a local and strategic level, finding partners and bringing them together to effect long-term change through arts projects.

**Associate Development Manager, CapeUK**      **various contracts from 2011 - 2016**

Current contracts include:

Considering a new framework for Artsmark events and development days;

Supporting the development of the Breeze Culture Network in Sheffield, Doncaster and Rotherham

Running Quality Principles Peer Reflection sessions

Past work has focussed on a variety of different projects including:

- setting up and running youth theatre networks across Yorkshire and the Humber;
- running, managing and co-evaluating a creativity festival across a family of schools in Sheffield;
- writing the state of the region report linked to education;
- working in 2 areas of Yorkshire to develop relationships with arts and cultural organisations

**Quick Shifts Dance Collective**      **June – Nov 2014 and June 2015**

Employed as consultant to lead the company members through a series of sessions in evaluation and business development.

**Art+Play exhibition**      **throughout 2013 and 2014**

Devising and delivering training for staff to encourage play in visitors to the touring exhibition. This included audience development for under 5's and their families.

**Additionally, past freelance work has included:**

- 3 years working as Learning Champion and evaluator for Encounters' A Little Patch of Ground project in Devon & London (growing food, community & awareness);
- delivering a number of art, film and growing-based research projects focussed on creative family learning in Shirecliffe Sheffield;
- co-ordinating a successful Network for Early Years practitioners specialising in EAL work & related conference;
- developing and delivering site specific performance and interactive art events for families as part of Wandsworth Arts Festival;
- delivering artist training in Bradford;
- life and performance coaching;
- education consultancy, education tours and storytelling for an historic house;
- delivering art workshops and producing a reminiscence project focussed on multicultural WW2 stories;
- many one-off workshops, training and conference creation.
- Creative Agent for Creative Partnerships in various primary and secondary schools in Sheffield, I devised and set up a number of needs-based programmes of activity aligned with staff and pupil learning needs and school development issues.

**Past PAYE employment has included:**

November 1997 to April 2004      Education Projects Officer & Crucible Youth Theatre for Sheffield Theatres

Feb 1997 - Nov 1997      Half Moon Young People's Theatre, LONDON E1 - Youth Arts Co-ordinator

Aug 1994 - Dec 1996      Northern Stage, Newcastle Playhouse, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE - Project Co-ordinator

Dec 1989 - March 1993      Big Stramash Theatre Company, GLASGOW - Founded & ran the company

**References are available on request.**