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THERAPEUTIC CLOWN EXPERIENCE------

Adult, Geriatric and Dementia Care

Independent Therapeutic Clown Artist, 2012 - present

Currently working in various health-care centres in Toronto in duo (i.e. with a therapeutic clown partner) on a regular basis alongside care staff to deliver patient-centred, individualized care to adults and elders coping with illness and/or disability with a focus on those living with Dementia.

>Manager and trainer of my small team of partners.

Elderclown Research Project - Therapeutic Clown Artist, 2013

>One of four therapeutic clown artists selected to deliver frequent (3 days/week) therapeutic clown services to 24 participating elders with Dementia in a CIHR-funded study to measure the effects of therapeutic clown visits on Dementia patients. The 3-month study was conducted at Baycrest Hospital by Toronto Rehab Institute Research Scientist, Dr. Pia Kontos.

Fondation Dr Clown – Therapeutic Clown Artist, 2007-2012

>Primary therapeutic clown artist working in duo (i.e. with a therapeutic clown partner) delivering regular ongoing service to elders with Dementia in care settings in Toronto (Long-Term Care, day centres for seniors)

Pediatrics

Holland Bloorview Therapeutic Clown Program - Therapeutic Clown "Dizzy" 2008 – 2011 >Worked in duo (i.e. with a therapeutic clown partner) with children with special needs and multiple disabilities on a frequent "occasional" basis.

The Therapeutic Clown Program at Sick Kids - Therapeutic Clown "Doko" – 2001 – 2011

>Worked solo for five years on the neurology/trauma/orthopaedics units visiting patients and families regularly, twice a week.

> Five years working solo on "occasional" basis, two days a month, filling in for absent therapeutic clowns as well as in the emergency and imaging departments.

>Co-creator and co-facilitator of "Intro to Therapeutic Clowning" – a two-level introductory course designed for people interested in the profession of therapeutic clowning.

Child Life Volunteer/therapeutic clown - Hotel Dieu/Kingston General Hospital - 1997

>Worked as a volunteer in the Child-Life program at both hospitals. Circulated around the pediatrics ward as "Rosy the Story-maker-upper" engaging in imaginative play with children monthly over an eight month period.

Community

Red Door Family Shelter - "Dr Dizzy Do-Right" - 2007

>Co-created and implemented a pilot program with clown partner Jamie Burnett that used therapeutic clowning to help bring joy, imagination and empowerment to children and families seeking refuge from trauma, family and/or systemic violence and/or poverty.

PUBLIC SPEAKING (Therapeutic Clowning)	
Family Councils Connect Conference 2013	"Therapeutic Clowning in Dementia Care - Building Bridges of Delight"
Alzheimer Society of Toronto PSW Day 2011 Activity Professionals of Ontario Conference 2010	"Dr Clown; A Prescription of Tenderness" "Under the Red Nose - Towards a Deeper Understanding of Therapeutic Clown Work in Elder Care"
George Brown College Field Supervisor's Workshop 2009 Sunnybrook Palliative Care Awareness Day 2009	"Dr Clown; A Prescription of Tenderness" "Therapeutic Humour"

Updated April 2024

ARTS MANAGEMENT ------

Manager of independent Therapeutic Clown Practice - Toronto 2012- current

Independent Therapeutic Artist serving multiple adult and eldercare centres in Toronto. Manager and trainer of my small team of partners with whom I work in duo.

General Manager, Dr Clown/Jovia – Toronto Division, 2007-2012

Founding partner of the Toronto Division of this Quebec-based therapeutic clown organization that brings professional artists into health-care settings to improve quality of life for children, adults and the elderly. Responsible for all areas of operation including fundraising, programming, communications, financial management, administration and training.

Treasurer, Chairman, Event Coordinator - Toronto Lindy Hop, 2000-2002

Leading member and co-founder of this non-profit swing-dance community with membership of over 300 dancers, teachers and jazz enthusiasts. Key organizer for numerous social dance events, workshops and international dance exchanges.

Assistant to the Artistic Director, All Canadian Theatresports, 1997-1999

Taught classes in improvisation and helped organize and run a weekly improvisation show at the Poor Alex Theatre in Toronto.

Artistic Director - The People's Theatre, Kingston (now called Theatre Kingston), 1994-1997

Managed this Kingston-based theatre company that produced plays, created educational programs and ran classes and workshops in the community. Responsibilities included directing, artistic programming, marketing, publicity, volunteer coordination, fundraising, financial management, general administration and public relations.

Assistant to Coordinator – Kingston Buskers' Rendezvous, 1997

Helped to organize and coordinate this annual four-day event of street performers in Kingston, Ontario, run by the Downtown Kingston Business Association.

Apprentice Artistic Director – Thousand Islands Playhouse, 1995

Assisted Artistic Director, Greg Wanless, with publicity, marketing, fundraising, accounting, seasonal programming, script development and financial planning.

Stage Manager – various community groups, 1989-1992

Effectively ensured the smooth running of rehearsals and performances as Stage Manager of the following productions: Two of Me Now – Something Permanent Theatre Company (Summerworks 1992), The Killdeer – Queen's University 1992, Camelot – Queen's Musical Theatre, 1989.

CLOWN PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVISATION (THEATRE, FILM, TELEVISION, ROVING) -------

Role	Show	Director/Prod	Year
Hariett	Red Nose District	Toronto Clown Festival	2015, 2014, 2013, 2012
Flurr	St John's Anglican Church Community Festival		2013
Flurr	Etobicoke Community Resident's Assoc.		2012
Fenelope	Morro and Jasp Behind the Nose Pandemonium Machine	Up Your Nose and In Your Toes	2011
Harriet		Diana Kolpak	2010
Dizzy Do-Right	Clown Chowder	Owen Anderson	2006
Mrs. Reena Reebossom	Cirque Du Poulet	Neil Muscott	2003-2005 (monthly)
Patina Gorgonzola	Bethany's Gate	Diana Kolpak	2004
"Clown"	Variete	Ross Manson	2004
"Clown"	Mutant X	Jonathan Hackett	2004
Doko / various characters	SPACE Night	Kathleen Le Roux	2001-2003 (monthly)
Tansy (network host)	Treehouse TV	Corus Entertainment	1997-2001
Tansy	Playing Under the Sun	Corus Entertainment	2000-2001

A Christmas Haircut

Scream Interstitials

Ask Me

Four Square

Micetro Impro

Improv Fest

Brilliant Traces

The Odyssey

The Tempest

S.P.A.C.E. Night

L'Affaire Tartuffe

Durang With a Bang!

High Speed Classics

Martadella's Gift

Someone Who'll Watch Over Me

Tansy Improvisor Improvisor Wonky Woo All Canadian Theatresports Micetro Impro Corus Entertainment Albert Howell Rebecca Northan

Billfilms

Clown Exploration

Company

Institute

The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine The National Theatre School of Canada

Scream Network

Studio For Physical and

All Canadian Theatresports

The People's Theatre, Kingston

Kingston Collegiate and Vocational

The National Theatre School of Canada

Thousand Islands Playhouse - Young

Treehouse TV

Treehouse TV

2000 1997-2000 (weekly) 2001 (weekly)

PRODUCING, DIRECTING, CHOREOGRAPHY------

Choreographer Casting Director Associate Producer, Co-Director Segment Producer, Creative Consultant Producer

Director, Producer Co-Producer Director, Producer Director, Producer Director, Producer Director, Producer Director

Director, Producer Guest Director

Assistant Director Director

TEACHING -----

Instructor of improvisation/theatre (adults/elders) Instructor of improvisation (teens) Guest teacher of improvisation (teens) Guest teacher of improvisation (teens) Therapeutic clowning workshop facilitator (adults) Clown workshop instructor (adults) Guest teacher of theatrical clown (teens) Guest teacher of theatrical clown (teens) Guest drama teacher (young children) Teacher of Lindy Hop Swing Dance (adults) Instructor of improvisation (adults) Instructor of improvisation (adults, teens) Guest drama teacher (children, teens) The Bitove Method 2014- present 2001-2005 The Second City Training Centre Crescent School 2001-2005 2001-2004 Royal St. George's College Hospital For Sick Children 2003, 2005 Harlem Hot Shots Dance Troupe 2003 **Crescent School** 2003, 2005 Cardinal Carter Academy of the Arts 2003 Leroux Froebel Bilingual Pre-school 2003 Yeah Baby Productions 2002 All Canadian Theatresports, Micetro Impro 1999 - 2000 The People's Theatre, Kingston 1997 Various schools in Kingston, Ontario 1995-1997

EDUCATION AND TRAINING ------

Dr Clown/Jovia - therapeutic clown: artistic and psychosocial training & development sessions, 2007 - 2011 Richard Ivey School of Business - Ivey Leadership Program , 2011 Alzheimer's Society of Toronto – various educational sessions 2010 - 2015 Francine Cote's Clown and Comedy School– Francine Cote 2008-2010 (levels 1 – 3) Studio for Physical and Clown Exploration (S.P.A.C.E.) - John Turner and Michael Kennard, 2001 - 2004 (Intro to Clown, Baby Clown, Baby to Stage, Joey and Auguste, Solo Clown) The Clown Farm – John Turner, 2004 – 2008 (Three intensive summer "boot camps" and Teacher Training in Manitoulin) The Second City Training Centre - Bruce Hunter, 2000 All Canadian Theatresports - Albert Howell, Ray Gurrie, Jason Offet, Rebecca Northan, 1997- 2000 Loose Moose International Improvisation School - Keith Johnstone, Dennis Cahill, Shawn Kinley, 1996 & 1998 National Theatre School of Canada - Graduate of Directing Program, 1993 Queen's University - BA Dramatic Arts, 1991

Additional training and development:

NAFHCO (North American Federation of Healthcare Clown Organizations) 2024 - various workshops HCIM (Healthcare Clowning International Meeting) 2016, 2018 - various workshops Presence - Dr Shari Gellar, John Beale

2014 Memory Bridge Alzheimer's Training Retreat - Michael Verde Therapeutic clowning - Joan Barrington (Sick Kids), Michael Christenson (Big Apple Clown Care), Magdalena Schamberger (Hearts & Minds), Wellington Nogueira (Doutores Da Alegria), Olivier-Hugues Terreault (Teatro do Sopro), Melissa Holland (Fondation Dr Clown), Pedro Fabião, Clown / Character - Leah Cherniak, Grindl Kuchirka, Fiona Griffiths, Joan Barrington, Philippe Gaulier, Francine Cote, Jean-

Bernard Bonange, Jan Henderson, Karen Hines (Bouffon), Philippe Gaulier, John Beale