

# ROBERT MOTUM

Curriculum Vitae

[robertmotum.com](http://robertmotum.com)

## EDUCATION

**Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)** – University of Toronto  
Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies (expected November 2024)

Dissertation: *Scripted Borders: Performing Place and Community in Micronationhood*  
Supervisor: Dr. T. Nikki Cesare Schotzko (Committee: Dr. Jill Carter, Dr. Elliot Leffler)  
Supported by the SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship

2015 **Master of Arts**, Practising Performance – Aberystwyth University, Wales  
Thesis: *A Dis/Connection of Place: Mapping the real and the virtual in site-based performance*  
Supervisor: Dr. Andrew Filmer (Committee: Prof. Mike Pearson; Prof. Heike Roms)

2013 **Bachelor of Arts**, Honours Drama – University of Waterloo  
Thesis: *Transience: The everyday (site-specific) performance of public transit*  
Supervisors: Dr. Andy Houston, Dr. Marcel O’Gorman

## PROFESSIONAL THEATRE EXPERIENCE

*As Creative Director for the PLAY THIS, site-specific audio theatre series*

2024 *PLAY THIS: Downtown Dundas*, Tottering Biped Theatre (written by Nada Abusaleh)  
2023 *PLAY THIS: Barton Street*, Tottering Biped Theatre (written by Mollie Garrett)  
2022 *PLAY THIS: Dundurn Castle*, Tottering Biped Theatre (written by Robert Motum)  
2022 *PLAY THIS: Jackson Square*, Tottering Biped Theatre (written by Trevor Copp)  
2022 *PLAY THIS: Cotton Factory*, Tottering Biped Theatre (written by Miranda Morris)  
2021 *PLAY THIS: Ottawa Street*, Tottering Biped Theatre (written by Anna Chatterton)  
2021 *PLAY THIS: Concession Street*, Tottering Biped Theatre (written by Klyde Broox)

*As Freelance Director*

2025 *Conjugal*, University of Toronto (Assistant, Cole Alvis)  
2024 *The Trials*, University of Toronto (Assistant, Andrew Kushnir)  
2023 *A Day in a Life*, workshop  
2023 *don't cry when constellations beg to burn*, University of Toronto (Assistant, Eva Barrie)  
2022 *Train Ballet*, Urban ARteries, Theatre Gargantua  
2020 *The Winter's Tale*, University of Toronto (Assistant, Graham Abbey)  
2018 *King Charles III*, Studio 180 Theatre and Mirvish Productions (Assistant, Joel Greenberg)  
2018 *The Grass is Greenest at the Houston Astrodome*, Toronto Fringe Festival  
2017 *The 10-Second Memory Project*, Guidebook Productions  
2016 *Subterranean*, ActOne Festival, Registry Theatre  
2014 *Single and Sexy*, University of Waterloo Health Services  
2013 *Titus Andronicus*, Synchro Theatre

### *As Freelance Playwright*

- 2024 *A Future Tense*, in development with support from the Ellen Ross Stuart Opening Doors award. Awarded by Hart House, Tarragon, and the Blyth Festival; with further support from Studio 180 Theatre and Theatre Aquarius.
- 2018 *A Community Target*, commissioned by Outside the March and Why Not Theatre  
2018 – Premiere directed by Mitchell Cushman and Aaron Willis (OtM/Convergence Theatre)  
2017 – Workshop staged reading inside a vacant Hamilton Target store.  
2016 – Workshop production as part of OtM’s *Pop-Up Experience*. Directed by Ravi Jain.
- 2017 *Lockdown*, Driftwood Theatre; Directed by Sarah Phillips.

### *As Dramaturg*

- 2021 *An Essential Guide to the End of the World*, Devising Collective, University of Toronto
- 2017 *The Bell*, workshop, MT Space
- 2017 *Hamletmachine*, Elephants Collective
- 2015 *Everything Ever*, Quarantine Theatre, Manchester U.K.
- 2015 *Wallflower*, Quarantine Theatre; tour: Dublin Theatre Festival, Nooderzon Performing Arts Festival (Netherlands), PUSH Festival (Vancouver), and the Battersea Arts Centre (London).

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### *Book Chapters*

- 2025 “Tales of a Town: Archiving Place through Verbatim Theatre and Site-Specific Performance”. *Performing Ephemeria*. Playwrights Canada Press.
- 2025 “Scripted Borders: Constructing Nation through the Performance of Micronationhood”. *The Routledge Companion to Cultural Text and the Nation*. Routledge.
- 2024 “Calling from Canada: The Shift to Telephonic Theatre During COVID-19”. *Pandemic Play: Community in Performance, Gaming, and the Arts*. Palgrave Macmillan.

### *Articles*

- 2025 “The Divine Right of Queens: Mapping Micronational Performances of Queer Sovereignty”. *TDR: The Drama Review*.
- 2023 “Cyber Micronations and Digital Sovereignty”. *Digital Society*. co-authored with Dr. Harry Hobbs and Dr. Philip Hayward.
- 2022 “Performing in Public: Ethics of a Site-Specific Theatre Practice”. *Canadian Theatre Review: special issue on Ethics and Socially Engaged Theatre*.
- 2021 “Reflections on a Verbatim Approach to Staging Age”. *Theatre Research in Canada, special issue on Staging Age and Aging*.

2020 “A Community Target: Practicing a Community-Specific, Site-Specific Art”. *Comparative Media Arts Journal*, special issue on *Responding to Site-Specificity*.

*Other / Grey Literature*

2024 “Why would anyone do a PhD in theatre?”. *Intermission Magazine*, August 7, 2024.

2023 “Westarctica, Sancratosia, Slowjamastan and other fake nations may have some things to teach real ones”. [Boston Globe](#), August 30, 2023.

2022 “A Bus Tour of Hamilton”. *Gatherings Chapbook*, vol 3.1

2022 “Dr. Shira Taylor on SExT (Sexual Education by Theatre)”. Interview for the *Oral Histories Gallery* of the *Gatherings Partnership Project*.

*As Series Editor for ‘Guidebooks from Memory’*

2024 *Kingston: a guidebook from memory*. Published with support from Single Thread Theatre, Thousand Island Playhouse, and the City of Kingston Arts Fund.

2024 *Hamilton: a guidebook from memory*. Published with support of the City of Hamilton Placemaking Grant, Ontario Arts Council, and Hamilton Artists Inc.

2016 *Kitchener-Waterloo: a guidebook from memory*. Published with support from the Waterloo Region Arts Fund.

**MAJOR GRANTS AND AWARDS**

2023 *UofT Doctoral Completion Award*, \$12,000

2022 *SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship*, \$20,000

2022 *Government of Canada—Mainstreet Activator Grant*, \$25,000

2022 *City of Kingston Arts Fund*, \$10,000

2020 *Ontario Graduate Scholarship*, \$15,000

2018-  
2022 *University of Toronto Fellowship*, \$18,000 annually

**SELECTED GRANTS**

2023 *Ontario Arts Council Recommender Grant*, \$1000

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- 2023 *CDTPS Programming Grant*, \$1350
- 2022 *Hamilton Arts Council Grant*, \$1900
- 2022 *Ontario Arts Council – Career Catalyst Grant*, \$2000
- 2022 *Special Projects Grant*, Hamilton Artists Inc, \$2000
- 2021 *Canadian Association of Theatre Research Project Grant*, \$500
- 2021 *Hamilton Placemaking Grant*, \$2000
- 2019 *Ontario Arts Council Recommender Grant*, \$1000
- 2018 *Ontario Arts Council Recommender Grant*, \$1000
- 2015 *Region of Waterloo Arts Fund Grant*, \$5000
- 2014 *Aberystwyth University Postgraduate Excellence Scholarship*, £2500

## **CONFERENCES**

### As Organizer or Co-Organizer

- 2023 *An International Symposium on ‘Subversive States’*  
University of Toronto and University of Technology Sydney
- 2023 *Performing Ephemera: A Gatherings Symposium*  
Toronto Metropolitan University
- 2021 *Festival of Original Theatre: Bordered States*  
Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies
- 2013 *Capabilities Conference*  
Durham Region Employment Network

### As Presenter

- 2024 *Scripted Borders and Subversive States*  
Spring Colloquia, University of Toronto
- 2023 *On (Imagined) Community*  
Micronation Convention (MicroCon), Chicago
- 2023 *Performing Politics: (Micro)national Diplomacy*  
Canadian Political Science Association, York University
- 2023 *Urban ARteries: Using Volumetric Capture Technology for Site-Based Performance*  
Volumetric Capture Symposium, OCAD University / Ontario Tech University

- 2022 *Performing Micronationhood: documents from a dissertation*  
Micronation Convention (MicroCon), Las Vegas
- 2022 *Scripted Borders: The Political Performance of Micronationhood*  
International Federation for Theatre Research, Reykjavik, Iceland.
- 2022 *Participatory Performance Summit*  
Cultural Studies Department, Queen's University
- 2022 *Performing (on) Twitter: Documents from the Site-Specific Theatre Bot*  
Canadian Association of Theatre Research, University of Lethbridge
- 2022 *The Science of Sleeping In*  
Forum of Original Theatre; digital performance, University of Toronto.
- 2021 *Uttered into Being: The World-Building Performatives of Micronationhood*  
How to Do Things with Worlds Conference; Indiana University.
- 2021 *Surviving the Pandemic with Site-Specific Theatre*  
Canadian Association of Theatre Research; roundtable chair/organizer.
- 2020 *Site-Specific Nation: The Repetitive Acts of Micronationhood*  
American Society of Theatre Research; 'Echoes of Place' working group.
- 2020 *How to Start a Country: Micronations as Partitions/Ensembles*  
Canadian Association of Theatre Research; Concordia University.
- 2020 *Scripted Borders: Exploring the Performance of Micronationhood*  
Festival of Original Theatre; University of Toronto.
- 2018 *Shakespeare and Gender in Performance*  
Stratford Festival, 'Shakespeare and Gender' working group.
- 2018 *How I scared a 70-billion-dollar corporation, made the national press, and wrote a play:  
a reflection on community, failure, and a viral idea*  
Canadian Association for Theatre Research; Queen's University.
- 2012 *Bonfire of the Humanities*  
Canadian Association of Theatre Research; performance; University of Waterloo

## INVITED TALKS

- 2024 *Scripted Borders and a CDTPS PhD*  
For the Society of Undergraduate Drama Students, University of Toronto
- 2023 *Micronations and the Queer Heterotopia*  
Digital Micro Summit
- 2022 *Ladonia: An Auto-Ethnographic Account*  
For the SSHRC-funded Gatherings 'Roadshow' event
- 2022 *Performing the City (Class)*, University of Toronto  
Led a workshop and lecture in devised performance

- 2019 *Department of Theatre and Performance, University of Waterloo*  
Led a workshop and lecture for Dr. Andy Houston's site-specific performance course
- 2019 *Fixt Point Media*  
Discussed the verbatim creation process of *A Community Target*
- 2018 *Outside the March*  
Led a workshop and presentation on the creation of verbatim theatre

## **FACULTY POSITIONS**

- 2022- Part-time Faculty, Sheridan College  
2025 Theatre Sheridan, Faculty of Animation, Art, and Design
- 2024 Part-time Faculty, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto  
Desautels Centre for Integrative Thinking / Self-Development Lab

## **TEACHING**

- 2024 Course Instructor, *Presentations*  
Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto  
Degree Streams: Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Finance (MFin), Master of Management Analytics (MMA), Master of Financial Risk Management (MFRM).
- 2024 Course Instructor, *Making Groups Work*  
Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto  
Degree Streams: MBA, MFin, MMA, MFRM
- 2024 Course Instructor, *Doing Things with Words*  
Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto  
Degree Streams: MBA, MFin, MMA, MFRM
- 2024 Course Instructor, *Theatre / Histories*  
Sheridan College  
Stream: Technical Production for the Performing Arts Industry
- 2023 Course Instructor, *Theatre / Histories*  
Sheridan College  
Stream: Technical Production for the Performing Arts Industry
- 2022 Course Instructor, *Theatre / Histories*  
Sheridan College  
Stream: Technical Production for the Performing Arts Industry
- 2018- Teaching Assistant / Tutorial Leader for ten courses and over 500 students across all three  
2024 University of Toronto campuses including: *Mainstage Performance, Advanced Design, Performance I, Introduction to Theatre, Contemporary Theatre, Performing the City, and Introduction to Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies.*

## **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT / CONSULTATION**

- 2022 Developed a new mandatory first-year course for Sheridan College: *Theatre / Histories*
- 2021 Consultant for the Halton District School Board on site-specific audio theatre and its potential use in high school classrooms.

### **RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS**

- 2024 Co-Chair, with Dr. Harry Hobbs (UNSW) and Dr. Philip Hayward (UTS) of an international, interdisciplinary working group on micronations and other self-declared states. Currently working towards an edited collection on the topic—with authors from performance studies, law, geography, rhetoric, and history.
- 2021-  
2024 Research Assistant for Dr. Stephen Johnson and the SSHRC-funded Gatherings Partnership project. Gatherings is a national research collective of fifteen co-investigators and partners, including Playwrights Canada Press, Theatre Museum Canada, and Dance Collection Danse.

### **SERVICE**

- 2023 Co-Organizer of the ‘Gatherings Antiques Roadshow’ series with Dr. Kelsey Jacobson
- 2022 Member, *Institute for Dance Studies*, University of Toronto
- 2021 Ex-Officio for the CDTPS Graduate Student Union
- 2020 President for the CDTPS Graduate Student Union
- 2020 Representative for the CDTPS Planning Committee
- 2019 Treasurer for the CDTPS Graduate Student Union

### **SPECIAL HONOURS**

- 2018 *Ellen Ross Stuart Playwriting Award, runner-up* (Awarded by Tarragon, Hart House, and Blyth)
- 2017 *Stratford Festival Playwrights Retreat*, invited by Antoni Cimolino and Bob White
- 2016 *Director’s Lab North*, invited participant

### **SELECT PRESS COVERAGE**

*Target the Play: A Fallen Retailer Becomes Theatre*  
Macleans

*Ontario Man Writing Play About Rise and Fall of Target in Canada*  
CBC As It Happens

*Target Canada Play Marks New Stage in Retailer’s Tale*  
Toronto Star

*Target Canada Play to be Staged Later this Year*  
Huffington Post

*Play about Target set in closed, empty Hamilton Target Store*  
CBC Hamilton

*New Play Attempts to Hit the Target*  
Minneapolis Star Tribune