

Annie Katsura Rollins

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy — Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture Concordia University; Montreal, Quebec Canada Current GPA: 4.08	Expected 2018
Master of Fine Arts — Theatre Design University of Minnesota; Minneapolis, Minnesota USA GPA: 3.8/A	2010
Bachelor of Fine Arts — Musical Theatre Performance Carnegie Mellon University; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania GPA: 3.73/A-/Dean's List	2002

AWARDS & GRANTS

• Fine Arts In-Course Merit Award, Concordia University	2014-2015
• Humanities Departmental Conference Award, Concordia University	2014
• Conference and Exposition Award, Concordia University	2014
• Hitting the High Notes Scholarship, Concordia University	2013-2015
• John W. O'Brien Graduate Fellowship, Concordia University	2013-2014
• International Tuition Remission Award, Concordia University	2013-2018
• Travel and Study Grant, Jerome Foundation	2013
• Cultural Community Partnership Grant, Minnesota State Arts Board	2012
• Artist Grant, Puffin Foundation	2012
• Next Step Grant, Minnesota Regional Arts Council	2012
• Fulbright Fellowship, US Department of State	2011
• Artist Initiative Grant, Minnesota State Arts Board	2011
• Red Pockets Travel Grant, University of Minnesota	2010
• Hsiao Scholarship, University of Minnesota	2010
• Travel Grant, University of Minnesota Theatre Department	2010
• Travel Grant, University of Minnesota Theatre Design MFA Program	2010
• Cultural Community Partnership Grant, Minnesota State Arts Board	2009
• Jerome Fellowship, New York Mills Cultural Center	2008
• Community Art Residency, New York Mills Cultural Center	2008
• Red Pockets Travel Grant, University of Minnesota	2008
• Janet M. Ryger Memorial Scholarship, University of Minnesota	2008
• Tuition Reimbursement Award, University of Minnesota	2007-2010
• Adelyne Roth Levine Memorial Award, Carnegie Mellon University	2002

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Chinese Shadow Puppetry; Fieldwork in China

2008-current

The bulk of my research experience is centered around traditional Chinese shadow puppetry and its current state in mainland China. Though my PhD Thesis is focused on Chinese shadow puppetry's 1500-year old master-apprentice system and traditional methods of dissemination, my research extends to many other areas; contemporary politics and its effects on the folks arts of China, how Chinese folk arts are navigating unprecedented urbanization and modernization, the issue of fake antiques and theories of archiving live folk art performance. My research methods consist primarily of practical apprenticeship with living puppet-making and puppeteering masters alongside oral history interviews, performance documentation and traditional literary research. This fieldwork's continuing progress is online at www.annierollins.wordpress.com and www.chineseshadowpuppetry.com.

FIELDWORK TRIPS

April-July 2014, Travel and Study Grant; Jerome Foundation

- Created the third mobile shadow production performed around Beijing
- Began apprenticeship with Gansu puppet makers and traditional troupes
- Attended the first-ever UNIMA Asia Puppet Festival in Nanchong, Sichuan
- Continued apprenticeship with Tengchong Shadow Puppet Troupe in Yunnan Province
- Photo/video documentation of performances, practice and teaching methods

September 2013

- Created the second mobile shadow bike project that performed in the hutong neighborhoods of Beijing with local and foreign shadow artists
- Continued apprenticeship with the Lu Family cutters in Tangshan, Hebei

November-December 2012; Artist Grant, Puffin Foundation

- Visited Taiwan to work at Lin Liu-Hsin Puppet Museum, analyzing their Chinese shadow puppet collection
- Participated in the Taiyuan Puppet Theatre's shadow outreach project to aboriginal Taiwan villages

May-June 2012

- Visited Hunan Province and worked with two traditional troupes
- Attended the first-ever UNIMA International Festival held in mainland China, worked with shadow puppet troupes in attendance

February-December 2011; Fulbright Fellowship

- Canvassed eight provinces in mainland China for the last remaining shadow puppet practitioners; Hebei, Shanxi, Shaanxi, Gansu, Shandong, Yunnan, Sichuan, Hubei

- Continued apprenticeship with the Huaxian Shadow Puppet Troupe
- Began apprenticeships with cutting master Wang Tianwen, Lu
- Conducted oral interviews with masters and practitioners
- Photo/video documentation of performances, practice and teaching methods
- Worked with museum collections to better familiarize and identify puppets, craft-level, time period
- Created a successful mobile shadow performance that performed in the Hutong neighborhoods of Beijing

June-August 2008, University of Minnesota & China Center Funding

- Three-month apprenticeship in shadow puppet making and performing with the Huaxian Shadow Puppet Troupe, Shaanxi, China.
- Toured with troupe to document and observe countryside performances throughout the summer

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant – PROD211 Theatre Production

2014

Department of Theatre; Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec

- Assisted Professor Joanna Donehower with class organization and course materials
- Guest lectured students on puppetry techniques and theory

Teaching Assistant – Community Art Education

2014-2015

Department of Art Education; Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec

- Mentor undergraduate community art education students during their practicum projects within the community
- Conduct Midterm and Final evaluations for student teachers

Guest Lecturer (Various)

- Human Factor in Cultural Relations for Culture in International Politics course; Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec 2014
- Shadow Puppetry for the Scenic Design Class; Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec 2013

Lead Teacher

2012

Puppetry, Saint Paul Conservatory for the Performing Arts; Saint Paul, Minnesota

- Cultivated the school's curriculum for puppetry
- Guided students through hand, rod, and shadow puppet making
- Worked with students on puppet character building, performance

Lead Teacher

2012

Scenic Design, Penumbra Summer Institute; Saint Paul, Minnesota

- Developed the program's theater design curriculum

- Taught students scenic, costume, lighting and sound design basics
- Oversaw student designs for final production

Teaching Artist Residencies (Selected List)**2010-current**

Designed and conducted artist residency programs on topics within the Puppetry field to students varying from elementary to professional.

- Chinese Shadow Puppetry; Droom Theatre, Netherlands
- Experimental Shadow Puppetry; Qinghua International School, Beijing
- Shadow Puppetry; Boys and Girls Club of America, Minnesota
- Chinese Shadow Puppetry; Confucius Institute, University of Minnesota
- Large Scale Puppetry; New York Mills Cultural Center, Minnesota
- Reuse Puppet Making; Davinci Academy of Arts and Sciences, Minnesota
- Shadow Puppetry; Minneapolis Park Board, Minnesota

Teaching Assistant**2007-2010**

Theatre Department, University of Minnesota

- Oversaw production in both the prop shop (2 years) and light lab (1 year) for all university theatre productions
- Guided demonstrations and practicums for undergraduate theatre students serving in the respective shops

PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS**Interactive Presentations (Selected List)****2009-current**

These interactive lectures always utilize a multi-media platform, performative aspect and an opportunity to participate in an activity.

- *Chinese Shadow Puppetry*, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2014
- *Chinese Shadow Puppetry*, Linden Centre; Yunnan, China, 2011, 2014
- *Chinese Shadow Puppetry's Modern Milieu*, Reitveld Academy; Netherlands, 2012
- *Chinese Shadow Puppetry*, Passage to China, Chinese Heritage Foundation; Minnesota 2012,2013
- *Chinese Shadow Puppetry During the Cultural Revolution*, China Culture Center; Beijing, China 2011
- *Chinese Shadow Puppetry*, Midwestern Moon Festival Conference, USCPFA-Minnesota; Minnesota 2008

Teaching Demonstrations (Selected List)**2009-current**

Taught demonstrations and workshops on topics within the Puppetry field to a diverse field of participants.

- *Chinese Shadow Puppetry*; Center for Puppetry Arts, Atlanta 2014
- *Shadow Puppetry*; Open Eye Figure Theatre, Minnesota 2012, 2013, 2014
- *Chinese Shadow Puppetry*; Families with Children from Asia, Minnesota, 2014
- *Chinese Shadow Puppetry*; In the Heart of the Beast Theatre, Minnesota 2012

- *Hospitality Center for Chinese Student*; University of Minnesota, Minnesota 2013
- *Puppetry in the Classroom*; Shanghai Theatre Academy, China 2011
- *Chinese Shadow Puppetry*; Confucius Institute, University of Minnesota 2011
- *Puppet Manipulation and Character Building*; St. Mary's University, Minnesota, 2009
- *Puppetry 101*; Arts Center on 7, Minnesota, 2009

EXHIBITIONS

Miniature Traditional Chinese Shadow Puppets

The Art Institute of Chicago's Thorne Miniature Room; Permanent Installation 2014

- Created a set of 1" scale traditionally-cut leather Chinese shadow puppetry and scenery with fully jointed capabilities for display in the Chinese Thorne Miniature room

Chinese Shadow Puppet Photo Exhibition

Beijing Design Week; Intangible Cultural Heritage Museum in Community 2014

"Shadow's Story: Across Historical Memory, Across Cultural Heritage"

- My fieldwork and artifact photography in Chinese shadow puppetry

Chinese Shadow Puppet Exhibition

Les Trois Jours de Casteliers Festival; Montreal, Quebec 2014

- Exhibited fifteen hand-cut leather Chinese shadow puppets as a part of the *Marionnettes en Vitrine!* exhibition.

CONFERENCES & LECTURES

"A Revolution in Chinese Shadow Puppetry: a case study of a puppet form's transition from folk to modern commercialism"

Institut International De La Marionette, International Colloquium; Charleville, France 2014

- Presented a paper on the effect of the Communist and Cultural Revolution on Chinese shadow puppetry's current manifestations in modern day China.

"Chinese Shadow Puppetry's Future in the Avant Garde"

Performance Studies International Conference #20; Shanghai, China 2014

- Participated in a panel presentation on folk puppet traditions and their current expressions in modern artist's work, including my own.

"Finding a Way-In: Tacit Knowledge and Apprenticeship as Research Methodology"

Concordia University's Graduate Humanities Conference; Montreal, Quebec 2014

- Presented a paper on apprenticeship as research method and subject and its implications in the emergent field of Research Creation

“Chinese Shadow Puppetry’s Practitioners”

US China People’s Friendship Association, National Conference; Richmond, Virginia 2013

- Presented a paper on the current state of Chinese shadow puppetry in mainland, China with a focus on four current practitioners.

“Navigating Survival: Can Chinese Shadow Puppetry Survive the Digital Age?”

Ballard Institute of Puppetry; University of Connecticut, Connecticut 2012

- A chronological look at Chinese shadow puppetry’s history through the 1900s.
- Presentation of current practitioners with an analytical assessment of their methods to navigate survival.

“Migration of Shadows”

CHIME European Foundation for Chinese Music Research, Asian Performance Conference; Royal Holloway, England 2011

- A Poster Session on the effects of urbanization on Chinese shadow puppetry

PRODUCTIONS/PERFORMANCES**HANDS****2014**

Petit Banquet Concrete at the Phenomena Festival; Montreal, Quebec

- Creator/Director/Performer
- Miniature shadow show of live painting to a manifesto about Hand Intelligence and Regression

Whispers and Murmurs**2013**

Café Concrete; Montreal, Quebec

Artscape Festival; Baltimore, Maryland

- Creator/Director
- A short shadow puppet performance based on the notion of Carl Jung’s “shadow selves” and our nascent ability to make peace with them

没有什么可说 (There’s Nothing to Tell)**2012/2013**

In the Heart of the Beast Theatre; Minneapolis, MN

- Writer/Director/Designer/Performer
- A Chinese-American Shadow Story based on the fictional life of a Chinese shadow puppeteer’s life through the Communist Revolution; Heart of the Beast Theatre, Minnesota

The Spice of Life**2012**

Outdoor performance, in the Hutong Alleyways of Beijing’s Old City; Beijing, China

- Creator/performer
- Beijing Hutong Shadow Bike Tour II, an exploration of ethnic diversity in Beijing’s food culture

胡同生活 (Hutong Life)**2011**

Outdoor performance in the Hutong Alleyways of Beijing's Old City; Beijing, China

- Creator/performer
- Beijing Hutong Shadow Bike Tour I, an exploration of Hutong neighborhood culture

little BIG world**2010**

The Soap Factory; Minneapolis, Minnesota

- Creator/designer/performer
- A miniature puppet performance centered around youth culture in Minneapolis, captured on live video. The audience partakes in both a live filming and the making-of the film simultaneously, questioning ephemera, community and relationships in the process.

After Sunset Shadows**2009/2010**

Outdoor Performances throughout the Minneapolis Parks Board System; Minneapolis, Minnesota

- Creator/director/performer
- A touring summer show of both original and well-known folk tales, geared towards a family audience

New York Mills Puppet Pageant**2008/2009**

Continental Divide Festival; New York Mills, Minnesota

- Creator/Director
- Community collaborative puppet pageant celebrating the fall harvest

Shadows and Reflections**2009**

Xperimental Theatre; University of Minnesota, Minnesota

- Creator/director
- Collaborative devised shadow puppet performance with six undergraduate students

CONSULTING**Chinese Shadow Puppetry Identification**

Lin Liu-Hsin Puppet Theatre Museum; Taipei, Taiwan 2012

- Worked to identify age, region and characters for Chinese shadow puppet artifacts within the collection

Chinese Shadow Puppet Collection Assessment

Indiana Children's Museum; Indianapolis, Indiana 2012

- Worked to assess the Cui Yongping Chinese shadow puppet collection for possible acquisition by the museum

ACADEMIC JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Rollins, Annie. **“Chinese Shadow Puppetry’s Changing Apprentice System; Questions of Continuance and a Survey of Remaining Shadow Puppet Practitioners in Mainland China 2008-2013.”** *Asian Theatre Journal*, forthcoming. Print.

INDUSTRY PUBLICATIONS

Rollins, Annie. **“The Last Masters.”** *Puppetry International*, Issue #35 (2014) 8-11. Print.

Rollins, Annie. **“An Uncommon Woman and Puppet Pioneer.”** Rev. of *Shadow Woman*, by Grant Hayter-Menzies. *Puppetry International*, Issue #35 (2014) 34. Print.

Rollins, Annie. **“Fake It Till You Make It; China’s Folk Art Knock-off Culture.”** *Hipporeads.com*. Hippo Reads, forthcoming. Web.

Rollins, Annie. **“The Inheritance of Shadows.”** *Puppetry International*, Issue #30 (2011) 32-35. Print.

Rollins, Annie. **“The Slow Exchange.”** *Blog.fulbrightonline.org*. Fulbright Student Program Blog. Web. 7 Oct. 2011.

WEBSITES

www.chineseshadowpuppetry.com

The first comprehensive information website on Chinese Shadow Puppetry in English

- Creator/Administrator/Sole contributor
- Launched Spring 2013
- Currently garnering over 1200 visitors per month and averaging 80% new visitors.

www.annierollins.wordpress.com

Chinese shadow puppetry fieldwork and research blog

- Sole contributor
- Launched Winter 2010
- Over 75 posts
- Over 25,000 visits total

ACADEMIC INVOLVEMENT

Senior Representative

Graduate Humanities GSA, Concordia University; Montreal, Quebec

2014-2016

- Program committee member for Program Appraisal and Search for New CISSC Center Chair
- Maintain relations between student body and department
- Advocate for student body on all relevant issues
- Maintain activity and visibility on all social media networks
- Plan and execute all departmental socials

Head Coordinator**2015**

Graduate Humanities Conference, Concordia University; Montreal, Quebec

- Leading all committees for the conference; conference themes, conference theme design, conference organization and logistics, key note speakers, solicitation of and review of submissions

Co-coordinator**2014**

Graduate Humanities Conference, Concordia University; Montreal, Quebec

- Publicized our call for papers and attendance to the conference
- Selected applications within a committee
- Coordinated presentation schedule and all additional events
- Chaired panels

Graduate Design Advisor**2008-2010**

University of Minnesota Xperimental Theatre; Minneapolis, Minnesota

- Guided undergraduate students in all theatre design fields
- Worked to cultivate good design communication between designers and the rest of the creative team
- Oversaw design builds, load-in and strike

AFFILIATIONS**UNIMA – Union Internationale de la Marionette, Member**

Since 2012

US China People’s Friendship Association, Member

Since 2012

LANGUAGES

- Fluent in English
- Working knowledge of Chinese (Mandarin)