

Sheree Vickers

Theatre Maker & Senior Manager | Inclusive Practice Specialist & Consultant

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Professional Summary

Accomplished Artistic Director and strategic leader. Has a unique ability to work at both a senior and grassroots level, with a reputation for exceptional communication and organisational skills. A leading expert in co-creation, inclusive practice, and participatory theatre, particularly with marginalised communities, supporting young people and those with SEN/SEMH needs.

Work on inclusive, participatory practice is included in the WJEC/Eduqas GCSE Drama Study & Revision Guide and was showcased Internationally at the Catch the Wave festival in Denmark, Osaka City University's study of inclusive communities in Japan, and featured heavily in the new Arden Shakespeare publication 'Multi-sensory Shakespeare & Specialised Communities'. Author of four books, multiple resources and educational materials and the recipient of numerous awards including the National Creative & Cultural Skills: Creative Choices Award. Also known for a notable appearance on the Graham Norton Show, as one of the few trailblazing female street performers of the 1990's.

Experience

Started facilitating and directing with youth and marginalised communities in the mid-1990's, working with many organisations including Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London Bubble, Soho Theatre, Polka, Mousetrap Theatre Projects, the Royal Academy of Dance, and was the Education Officer at Unicorn, before establishing SAVVY Theatre Company.

Artistic Director & CEO | [SAVVY Theatre](#) | 2007 - 2024

- **Leadership:** Mentored and developed a team of 8 core staff, over 20 freelance artists, and a weekly membership of 120 participants. Oversaw Training and Outreach programmes. Experience in leading steering groups and committees. Built an effective team and board to realise the company's core mission.
- **Community Engagement:** Initiated and led on community outreach programmes, delivering over 900 hours of workshops annually, and regularly attracting a 60% disabled audience. Developed a 6 day-a-week participatory arts programme. Led on marketing strategies. Collected and collated data to inform and increase engagement.
- **Artistic Lead:** Produced, directed and co-created a vast array of productions, ranging in style and size, from classical to contemporary works, engaging with multiple artists and partner organisations. Touring work to venues and festivals and developing work in bespoke locations.
- **Strategic Development:** Writing business plans, impact and monitoring reports, and being responsible to the board. Raised the company's profile and delivered on strategic aims. Established and maintained productive and professional working relationships with key stakeholders and strategic partners.
- **Finance & Fundraising:** Effective and experienced in bid writing & grant management. Developed and implemented annual budgets and fundraising strategies, increasing the company's turnover year on year. Individual project management and day-to-day book-keeping. Financial reporting to ensure fiscal responsibility and compliance.
- **Venue & Staff Management:** Writing and implementing effective policies and leading on workplace culture. Staff recruitment, team management, mentoring and retention. Managed contract negotiations, HR and the day-to-day business operations for the SAVVY Studio (Fairfield Halls), ensuring compliance with industry regulations.

Key Achievements

Particularly skilled when it comes to working with people who have limited experience of theatre and the arts, with a unique ability to bring different groups of people together in shared creation. Past work includes projects in parks, supermarkets, rivers, clocktowers, schools, art galleries, libraries, community centres, hospitals, care homes, pubs, playgrounds, castles and even (on occasion), conventional theatre spaces!

- **Welcome to Camelot**: Produced a weekend of pop-up performances and walkabout characters at Reigate Castle, co-created with an inclusive company of actors, 2024.
- **Pinocchio**: Directed a performance with a community cast of over 120 on the iconic Concert Hall stage, Fairfield Halls for Croydon's London Borough of Culture, 2023.
- **Centre Stage**: Mentored a theatre-creation programme for d/Deaf and disabled artists, providing a platform to develop and showcase their work, 2022/2023.
- **Taming of the Shrew - The Drag Show**: Writer & Director, Fairfield Halls, June 2022
- **Jack & the Beanstalk - A Steampunk Panto**: Mentored a first-time writer & director. The show was developed during lockdown with the local community, and eventually realised with a fully animated set at the Ashcroft Theatre, July 2021.
- **Treasure Island**: Writer & Director, SAVVY Studio, Fairfield Halls, December 2019.
- **A Midsummer Night's Dream**: Directed and adapted this promenade production featuring an inclusive community cast working alongside professional actors, with live music, puppetry and the lovers (literally) fighting in the River Wandle, July 2018.
- **Alice's Mad Boat Party**: Directed a company of young actors in a unique production sailing up the River Thames, and collecting characters along the way, including the Mad Hatter at Richmond and the Red Queen at Hampton Court Palace, August 2018.
- **The Spy Project**: Writer & director of an interactive, secret-theatre experience combining smartphone technology, live action and the local landscape, taking audiences on a journey throughout Croydon's town centre, July 2017.
- **Wandle Valley Academy**: Lead facilitator on an 11-year residency for young people with experience of the criminal justice system, providing work experience, qualifications and weekly training workshops, 2010 – 2021.
- Worked with Croydon Council's Director for Culture & Community Safety, Senior Leadership Team at Fairfield Halls and Croydon's Business Zone throughout 2021/2022 on strategies for re-invigorating the night-time economy post-pandemic.

Training & Qualifications

- **Develop Your Creative Practice** (2024)
Currently undertaking a research project on the craft of drama facilitation and its status within the cultural industries in the UK. Funded by Arts Council England.
- **Designated Safeguarding Lead, Level 4**
Requalified 2024 (additional training in Mental Health, SEND Code of Practice, Online Safety, the Prevent Duty, Protecting Children in Entertainment ... and others)
- **Licensed Chaperone** (Requalified 2024)
- **First Aider** (Requalified 2023)
- **London Youth Quality Mark, Bronze Accredited** (For SAVVY Theatre, 2021 – 2024)
- **Additional/Ongoing Training**: Data Protection, Fire Warden, Health & Safety in the Workplace, Makaton Professional Enhancement, Good to Go & See It Safely Kite Marks (For SAVVY Theatre, 2020/2021)
- **Bachelor Fine Arts**: QUT Creative Industries, Brisbane, Australia (1992)

References available upon request.
