

MÉLANIE DUBOIS

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Dear Musical Stage Company,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the RBC Apprentice Program, specifically in pursuit of a practical apprenticeship in Directing supported by the Kathleen C. Freeman Leadership Development Fund. As an experienced producer and arts administrator with a passion for new works and a background in directing and performance, I am eager to contribute to the development of original, Canadian musicals ready to compete on an international level.

Though he was referring to opera, I have long asserted that Wagner's concept of *gesamtkunstwerk*, or the combination of all art forms to create a 'total work of art', would be more accurately applied to musical theatre. After spending the last year immersed in the world of opera where any deviation from the traditional repertoire is heavily scrutinized and often disregarded for being *too similar to musical theatre*, my assertion has been reaffirmed. Without question, musical theatre plays a vital role in the performing arts landscape thanks to the creative freedom that defines the genre. By applying a carefully curated blend of storytelling techniques to diverse narratives, musical theatre successfully bridges cultures, inspires conversations, and fosters social awareness amongst enthusiastic audiences.

What sets me apart as an aspiring musical theatre practitioner is my strong foundation as a producer. My producing superpower has always been an ability to envision a path forward where no path has previously been forged by looking at the big picture, strategically connecting the dots, and solving problems with creativity. My background in multi-disciplinary arts and culture festivals has equipped me with the project management skills essential in orchestrating successful productions, while also exposing me to a wide range of artistic disciplines and cultural traditions. One way I hope my artistic practice is not unique is in my demonstrated dedication to championing emerging and underrepresented voices and my commitment to creating inclusive and transformative experiences for audiences. I feel a deep personal responsibility to invite more folks to every table I have ever earned a seat at, and advocating for the artists, arts workers and audiences who keep our industry alive and thriving.

While my experience as a producer has been invaluable, I now aim to fill gaps in my knowledge and build on my directing experience to play a more significant role in the artistic process. As the leading musical theatre company in Canada, a practical apprenticeship with Musical Stage Company is the ideal platform for me to hone my directing skills under the guidance of relevant industry professionals. It would also offer valuable insight into the intricacies of musical theatre production and enhance my ability to effectively collaborate with artists from diverse backgrounds.

At this stage of my career, I am confident that an apprenticeship with Musical Stage Company would provide me with the hands-on experience and mentorship needed to propel my career forward. I am eager to learn from your team of incredibly talented professionals as they continue to make their mark on the industry, both in Canada and beyond.

I am sincerely grateful for your consideration of my application and welcome the opportunity to discuss how my unique background and aspirations align with the goals of Musical Stage Company.

Yours sincerely,



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Mélanie Dubois (she/her) is a producer and arts administrator based in Toronto, ON. who holds an Honours Theatre Studies B.A. from the University of Guelph and a graduate certificate in Event Management from Humber College.

In 2011, Dubois became the first Canadian accepted into the American Theatre Wing's SpringboardNYC program for musical theatre performance and directing. She began her professional career as the Artistic Administrator at 4th Line Theatre, a rural company dedicated to creating new musicals and plays inspired by diverse Canadian stories.

During her post-graduate studies, Dubois secured a \$5000 grant from the Humber College Community Partnership Fund that enabled her to produce the Act Fast Theatre Festival, a unique event where five original plays were created and presented live in only one day. The festival brought together 40 students from various programs, promoting cross-disciplinary collaboration and experiential learning. Each play was accompanied by short, documentary-style film introductions, offering audiences a glimpse into the creative process.

Dubois also played a crucial role as the Assistant Producer on Nordic Bridges, a national cultural initiative led by Harbourfront Centre that fostered collaboration between 20+ Canadian arts and culture organizations and artists from the Nordic Region. As part of the larger initiative, Dubois curated Nordic Talks, a panel series exploring topics related to the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. She also played a key role in the launch of CoMotion, a new international Deaf and Disability arts festival curated by Alex Bulmer.

In 2022, Dubois stepped into the role of Artistic Producer at Tapestry Opera, the only company solely dedicated to creating and performing new Canadian opera. In this role, she is proud to contribute to the vibrant landscape of Canadian performing arts.



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SKILLS

- Producing, Event Planning
- Project Management
- Principles of Graphic Design, Audio, Video + Photo Editing
- Principles of Web Design, Management, Analytics + SEO
- Event Marketing Strategy
- Social Media Management
- Digital Content Development
- Voice-Over and Voice Actor

TOOLS

- Microsoft Office 365 (Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Word, SharePoint, Teams)
- Google Suite and Analytics
- Zoom, StreamYard
- Artifax Event Management
- Social Media Platforms
- Wordfly, MailChimp
- Wordpress, Wix

EDUCATION

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE — EVENT MANAGEMENT

Faculty of Business, Humber College | 2019

BACHELOR OF ARTS, HONOURS — THEATRE STUDIES

School of English and Theatre Studies, University of Guelph | 2012

EXPERIENCE

ARTISTIC PRODUCER

Tapestry Opera | August 2022 – Present

- Collaborate with the Artistic Director and Executive Director on a robust artistic portfolio that includes the development and presentation of world premiere Canadian operas as well as stand-alone concerts and events
- Coordinate New Opera 101 training program for emerging singers and collaborative pianists, culminating in the Songbook concert
- Notable projects include: *Of the Sea* (Cusson/Ambrose, 2023) and *Dragon's Tale* (Chan/Brownell, 2023)

ASSISTANT PRODUCER, CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

Harbourfront Centre | September 2019 – August 2022

- Primary contact to 20+ Canadian arts and culture organizations
- Lead producer on *Nordic Talks*, series of panel discussions
- Interim Marketing Lead on Nordic Bridges (Sep. 2019-Dec. 2021), including development and content management of NordicBridges.ca
- Assisted Associate Producers and Guest Curators with festival programming and event logistics. Notable projects include: *CoMotion Deaf & Disability Arts Festival* (2022) and *KUUMBA25* (2020)

MANAGER

The Urban Spa Peterborough | July 2017 – May 2018

Oversaw daily operations and logistics of a European-style, boutique spa. Handled team training, guest feedback and social media management.

GROUP COORDINATOR | January 2017 – May 2018

Coordinated private group reservations of 6+ guests for a variety of occasions from weddings to corporate events

GUEST RESERVATION SPECIALIST | May 2016 – July 2017

Provided personal and exceptional customer service from reservation to check-out to ensure guest satisfaction and retention.

KEY ACCOUNT SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

Lufthansa InTouch | May 2014 – May 2015

Provided bilingual support to top North American travel agents and coordinated VIP travel services on behalf of Lufthansa German Airline.

GENERAL RESERVATIONS AGENT | May 2016 – July 2017

Provided bilingual customer support to Lufthansa's North American passengers. Provided training and coaching to new agents.

ARTISTIC ADMINISTRATOR

4th Line Theatre | November 2012 – July 2013

Managed administrative duties for this rural, site-specific theatre company.

- Coordinated auditions, rehearsals, volunteer recruitment, workshops and readings of new works in development
- Successful grant writer, managed company's involvement in the OAC's Recommender Grants for Theatre Creators funding program

SPECIAL PROJECT

FESTIVAL PRODUCER

Act Fast Theatre Festival, Humber College

September 2018 – February 2019

- Secured \$5000 grant through the Humber College Community Partnership Fund to produce this unique theatre festival where 5 original plays were created in 1 day
- Brought together 40 students from 8 academic programs offered at Humber for experiential learning and networking
- Secured \$200+ in-kind Printing Partnership with FASTSIGNS Etobicoke
- Raised over \$500 dollars for Community Partners Lakeshore Arts and the Regent Park Focus Youth Art & Media Centre

VOLUNTEER

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

New Years Eve, City of Toronto Special Events

31 December 2018 – 1 January 2019 | 15.5 hours

- Provided support during technical rehearsals
- Assisted the Stage Manager to ensure programming ran as planned
- Assisted with dressing room set-up and general event strike
- Relayed queues to host and performers on stage via Clear-Com

EVENT SUPPORT

Fundraiser Gala, Canadian Journalists for Free Expression

29 November 2018 | 10.75 hours

- Set-up photo exhibit, point-of-sale table, and event signage
- Distributed table cards per gala floor plan and seating chart
- Oversaw registration table and guest check-in
- Liaised with event hosts, guest speakers, and honoured guests to ensure all programming elements ran smoothly and on schedule

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Cavalcade of Lights, City of Toronto Special Events

24 November 2019 | 10 hours

- Assisted the Stage Manager to ensure programming ran as planned
- Acted as a secondary contact for artists on sit
- Worked directly with the performers and their manager
- Assisted with cues, dressing room set-up and general event strike

STAGE MANAGER

ZoomerShow, Zoomer Media Limited

27 – 28 October 2018 | 10.75 hours

- Worked independently to successfully manage two talk-theatre stage
- Communicated with speakers regarding schedule and time allotment
- Determined and communicated A/V tech needs to Stage Technician
- Encouraged attendance and performed ushering duties to fill theatres

FESTIVAL SUPPORT

Culture Days, Lakeshore Arts

28 – 30 September 2019 | 19 hours

- Assisted Lakeshore Arts (Presenting Partner) with set-up/strike
- Co-facilitated popular liquid chalk graffiti activity
- Engaged families with children to participate in event activities
- Provided way-finding assistance to event attendees

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DIRECTION

Hugo Van Essen	<i>Pillow Talk</i>	Act Fast Theatre Festival
Linda Kash	<i>Surprise</i>	PTBO 24Hr Project #31
Cassandra Van Oort	<i>Posting Secrets</i>	University of Guelph
Hunter Bell/Jeff Bowen	<i>[title of show]</i>	University of Guelph
Terrell Philadelphia	<i>Stop Signs Painted Over</i>	University of Guelph
Georgia Stitt/Cheri Steinkellner	<i>Mosaic</i>	University of Guelph
Mélanie Dubois	<i>Battery Life</i>	University of Guelph
Jackson Teather	<i>Mirror, Mirror</i>	St. Peter's Secondary

PERFORMANCE

Peggy Sparks, Celia Later, et al	<i>Crime City! The Series</i>	Andrew Root
Heidi	<i>[title of show]</i>	Mélanie Dubois
Peasblossom/Philostrate	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Patricia Young
Betty Johnson	<i>Funny Money</i>	Christine Everett
Reporter/Ensemble	<i>Anything Goes</i>	Jerry Allen
Wench	<i>Lock Up Your Daughters</i>	Gillian Wilson

TRAINING

Bachelor of Arts, Honours Theatre Studies; University of Guelph
Master Classes: Ed Roy (Directing/Acting), Sky Gilbert (Dramaturgy/Playwriting), Judith Thompson (Playwriting), Jerrard Smith (Design), Denis Huneault-Joffre (Costuming), Paul Ord (Production)

SpringboardNYC; American Theatre Wing 2011 Directing/Musical Theatre Performance
Master Classes: Kathleen Marshall, Sam Gold, Seth Rudetsky, Marcia Milgrom Dodge, Carl Forsman, John Ruocco, Dave Caparellotis



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Digital Portfolio
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