

CHRYSTENE R. ELLS  
CURRICULUM VITAE

1. Personal Information

e-mail: [chrystene.ells@gmail.com](mailto:chrystene.ells@gmail.com) telephone: 306-531-8465  
citizenship: Canadian Permanent Resident (US passport); on track for Canadian Citizenship

2. Education

A. Higher Education

2009 - University of Regina - MFA Interdisciplinary Fine Arts (Visual Art, Theatre, Film)  
Thesis consisted of paper and 90 minute film "*Sisu: the Death of Tom Sukanen*"  
Governor General's Academic Gold Medal for Thesis project

2005 - Expression College for Digital Arts - BSc Digital Graphic Design (Animation and Effects)

2017 (Graduation) - Vancouver Art Therapy Institute (Professional Art Therapist candidate)

B. Other Arts Training

2015	Clown	Kenn McCleod, Hectik Theatre, Regina, SK
2013	Shadow Puppetry	Lynn Jeffries, Puppet Power Conf., Calgary, AB
2013	Viewpoints Workshop	Ingrid Hansen, Int'l Fest. Animated Objects, Calgary
2010-12	Hand-Processing 16mm film	Film Retreat (x3). SK Filmpool Cooperative
2003	Digital Concept Art	Gnomon Workshop, Los Angeles
2001	Screenplay Writing	University of California Los Angeles
1999	Advanced Figure Painting	Leigh Hyams, UC Berkeley, California
1999	Water based Painting	Leigh Hyams, Esalen Institute, Big Sur, California
1997	Digital Filmmaking	Center for Electronic Arts, San Francisco
1996	Digital Graphic Arts	Center for Electronic Arts, San Francisco
1988	Mask Making	Dell'Arte School, Blue Lake, California
1985-86	Theatre and Arts	ION Theatre Lab, Calgary, Alberta
1984	Directing for the Stage	Eugenio Barba, Odin Theatre, Denmark
1984	Physical Performance	Richard Fowler/One Yellow Rabbit, Calgary, Alberta

3. Personal Art Practice Statement

My interdisciplinary art practice is informed by study and professional practice of theatre, puppetry, film, video, digital art, painting, sculpture, and animation, as well as community art projects and therapeutic art processes. My interest is in the creative expression of personal narrative and the alchemy of the personal journey.

4. Awards and Honors

2016-17	10 mo.	<b>Residency:</b> Thom Collegiate Deaf & Hard of Hearing Prgm, SK Arts Board
2015-16	10 mo.	<b>Residency:</b> Thom Collegiate Deaf & Hard of Hearing Prgm, SK Arts Board
2015	Spring	<b>Residency:</b> Thom Collegiate Deaf & Hard of Hearing Prgm, SK Arts Board
2014	Spring	<b>Marketing/Development Grant:</b> "Sisu" feature film, Creative Saskatchewan
2013	Fall	<b>Lt. Governor General's Arts Award:</b> Leadership in the Arts

2013	Spring	City of Regina <b>Mayor's Arts and Business Awards</b> : Innovation in the Arts
2013-15	multiyear	<b>Residency</b> : Common Weal Community Arts: <b>Hello in There</b> (SK Arts Board)
2012	Spring	SK Arts Board Independent Artist: Production ( <b>KaleidoCycle</b> )
2012	January	<b>Werner Herzog's Rogue Film School</b> : 1 of 65, selected from 500+ applicants
2011-12	1 year	Sask. Filmpool: <b>This Big World</b> (SK Arts Board Creative Partnership)
2011	Fall	SK Arts Board Independent Artist: Project Development ( <b>KaleidoCycle</b> )
2011	Spring	Saskatchewan Filmpool: Production Grant ( <b>Crow's Nest</b> animation)
2010	Summer	Artist in Residence: University of Regina Visual Arts
2010	Spring	<b>Governor General's Academic Gold Medal</b>
2009	Summer	Artist in Residence: University of Regina Visual Arts
2009	Fall	University President's Medal: Fine Arts Nominee
2009	Winter	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Graduate Scholarship
2008	Summer	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Graduate Scholarship
2007	Fall	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Graduate Scholarship
2007	Summer	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Graduate Scholarship
2007	Winter	Graduate Students' Association Graduate Student Travel Award
2007	Winter	University of Regina Media Production Travel Award
2007	Winter	University of Regina Faculty of Graduate Studies Travel Award
2007	Spring	Dr. William C. Riddell Scholarship Endowment
2007	Winter	University of Regina Centennial Merit Award
2006	Fall	University of Regina Entrance Scholarship
2000		Bindlestiff Lifetime Achievement Award
1990		Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award: Puppet Design, "Bitzy La Fever"

## 5. Adjudication and Curation

2015-16	Co-Artistic Director: Caligari Project Festival of German Expressionism, Regina, SK
2015	Juror: Saskatchewan Arts Board: Independent Artists, Theatre/Multidisciplinary
2015	Artistic Director: International Puppet Underground Film Festival, Regina, SK
2013	Artistic Director: International Puppet Underground Film Festival, Regina, SK
2013	Curator: PuppEx installation, Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina, SK
2012	Curator: Sask Puppet films collection for Calgary Int'l Fest of Animated Objects
2008	Juror: Saskatchewan FilmPool: Production Grants for Filmmakers
2007	Juror: Saskatchewan Playwrights Centre 25 Hour Play Competition
2006	Juror: University of Regina Fifth Parallel Gallery: Exhibition Selection
1989-97	Bindlestiff Studio Seasonal Offerings Selection Committee Member

## 4. Academic Employment

### A. Higher Education

#### Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Regina

2008 - present: Instructor/Sessional Professor

- Visual Arts: Visual Storytelling, Introduction to Intermedia
- Film: Digital 2D Animation and Motion Graphics
- Theatre: Introduction to Stagecraft

#### Fine Arts Division, Expression College for Digital Arts, Emeryville, CA

2001 – 2006: Department Head and Instructor

Courses taught at Expression College for Digital Arts

- Film and Video Directing
- Directing and Performing for Animators
- Visual Storytelling: Storyboarding and Animatics
- Pre-production: Concept Art and Production Design
- Animation Principles
- Design Basics
- Sculpting and Maquette Fabrication
- Figure Drawing, Drawing from Life, Drawing from the Imagination

## B. Other Teaching

- 2015-17 **Arts and Literacy** Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program, Thom Collegiate, Regina, SK
- Intensive arts program to support improving literacy among DHH youth
  - Visual Storytelling, Design, Colour Theory, Art History, Drawing, Media
  - Filmmaking, puppetry, mask and performance
  - variations on Therapeutic Arts interventions
- 2013-17 **Hello In There** research project, Common Weal Community Arts, Regina, SK
- Memory box project for senior citizens based on personal narratives
- 2011-13 **This Big World** project at The Saskatchewan Filmpool Cooperative, Regina, SK
- Scriptwriting, storyboarding, and film pre-production
  - Puppet and set design and fabrication
  - Puppet performance
  - Film production and editing
- 2011-12 **KaleidoCycle** project, Globe Theatre, Regina, SK
- Ensemble development
  - Clown, Puppetry and Mask performance
- 2007-08 **Moxie Films**, Regina, SK
- Acting for the Camera
  - Puppet and Prop Design and Fabrication
  - 2D Digital Graphics
- 2001 **LEAP**, Hillsdale, CA
- puppet, mask and performance classes for children
- 2001 **San Francisco Unified School District**
- Video production and directing, Adult Vocational Training
- San Francisco Unified School District**
- 1994–01
- Theatre and Performance for youth
- 1998 **Industrial Light and Magic**, San Rafael, CA
- Acting and Physical Characterization for Animators
- 1998–02 **Bindlestiff Studio Fine Arts Series**, San Francisco, CA
- Beginning, intermediate and advanced Figure Drawing and Painting
- 1992-04 **Bindlestiff Studio Theatre Series**, San Francisco, CA
- Directing for the Stage
  - Acting, Clown, Mime, Physical Performance, Stilt Walking
  - Puppet Making and Puppetry
  - Mask Making and Mask Play
- 1983-86 **Interlude Mime Theatre**, Educational Touring, Canada-wide
- Acting and Mime for Children and Youth

## 8. Projects, Exhibitions, and Performances

### A. Film and Animation (producer/writer/director, except where noted)

- current **Buffalo China** (*working title*), 2:00, w/Janine Windolph: animation/puppets  
current **Gute Schöne**, 9:00, live action puppet film, in production  
current **Crow's Nest**, 15:00, animated and puppet film, in preproduction  
2016 **Der Glöckner**, 15:00, 16mm B&W German Expressionist film  
2015 **Heart Garden**, 3:30, 8mm one take film with animation - co-director Berny Hi  
2014 **Hungry Bones**, 3:30, 8mm one take film with animation- co-director Berny Hi  
2014 **Parathyroid Punk**, 3:30, live-action puppets and animation  
2014 **Drown**, 3:30, 8mm one take film - co-director Berny Hi  
2013 **Kathleen's Diary**, 7:00, live action puppet film  
2012 **It Was a Circus**, 3:30, action puppet film  
2012 **All in a Day's Work**, 2:00, 16mm hand-processed film  
2011 **She Had Died**, 4:00, 16mm hand-processed film  
2010 **Véronique à vélo**, 10:00, 16mm hand-processed film  
current **The Making of Toozle and Tinkle**, 90:00 film, co-written with Raul Vical, in post  
2010 **High Voltage**, 5:00, Director of Animated Safety Video for SaskPower/Brown Comm.  
2009 **Sisu: the Death of Tom Sukanen** 95:00 film (Premiere: Montreal World Film Fest, 2009)  
2006 **Randy Recall** animation for documentary **Also Ran** by Paul Mariano, Gravitass Films  
2004 **How to Survive Drawing Bootcamp**, 6:00, industrial film, co-written with Raul Vical  
2002 **Goodbye Guy Guy**, 105:00 film, co-written and produced with J.J. White  
2002 **A Good Day for Hedvig** 2:30, digital 2D Flash animation  
2001 **The Search for Goo-ah**, series of 1 minute digital 2D Flash animations  
2001 **History of Bindlestiff Studio**: 15:00, documentary  
2000 **Red Hen**, 10:00, written by J. G. Ells  
2000 **Unsolved Mysteries of City Hall**, 12:00, political documentary  
1999 **The Aloof Director**, 10:00 B&W 16mm film, written and directed by J.J. White

### B. Directing and other Leadership Roles for Theatre and Live Performance San Francisco Bay Area (except where noted)

- 2012 writer, director **KaleidoCycle** by Chrystene Ells with ensemble, The Globe Theatre (Regina)  
2004 director **Pipe Dreams and Paper Trails** by Sam Chanse /Dan Weil, Bindlestiff Studio  
2001 director, dramaturg **Dirty Laundry** by Michell Arellano, Bindlestiff Studio  
2001 guest director **Damo** by Allan Manalo and Tongue in a Mood, Bindlestiff Studio  
2000 guest director **Birds**, shadow puppet play by Lorna Aquino Chui , Bindlestiff Studio  
2000 guest director **Bomba** by Allan Manalo and Tongue in a Mood , Bindlestiff Studio  
1999 director **Immigrants** street performance, Riot Act Theatre, S.F. In The Streets Festival  
1998 director **Strangers**, street performance by Riot Act Theatre, San Francisco Carnivale  
1998 director, dramaturg **Babae**, by Lorna Aquino Chui, San Francisco Working Women's Festival  
1997 director **chain reaction** by Riot Act Theatre Company / Asian American Theatre Co.  
1997 director, dramaturg **Toot Your Own Horn** by Riot Act Theatre Company  
1996 writer, director **Memento Mori** play with puppets by Chrystene Ells, Bindlestiff Studio  
1996 director, dramaturg **Pounds and Pounds of Dirt** by Riot Act Theatre Co., Intersection for the Art  
1996 director, dramaturg **Flique's Flying Circus** by Riot Act Theatre Company, Mission Street Festival  
1995 director, dramaturg **The Blind** by Riot Act Theatre Company, Cowell Theatre  
1995 director, dramaturg **One Who Walked Away**, Riot Act Theatre Co., Yerba Buena Center for Arts

1994	director, dramaturg	<b>The Dead Man</b> , by Riot Act Theatre Company, Mission Cultural Center
1993	director	<b>Death (a Play)</b> by Woody Allen, Bindlestiff Studio
1992	ensemble	<b>Radio Rodeo</b> , ensemble sketch comedy, Bindlestiff Studio
1991	ensemble	<b>Oh Holy Rodeo</b> ensemble sketch comedy, The Lab
1990	writer, director	<b>The Dummy</b> , Festival Fantocchio Int'l Puppetry Festival, Climate Theatre
1990	ensemble	<b>One for the Rodeo</b> sketch comedy, Bindlestiff Studio
1989	co-director	<b>Dark Circus</b> , by Chrystene Ells/Chris Brophy, Bindlestiff/Eureka Theatre
1989	ensemble	<b>Dark Rodeo</b> sketch comedy, Bindlestiff Studio
1988	ensemble	<b>Resplendent Rodeo</b> sketch comedy, Bindlestiff Studio
1985	director	<b>Citizens Tango</b> by David Cassel, The Nebulous Rebels, The Lab

### C. Other Acting and Performance (San Francisco, except where noted)

2000	Man Puppet	<b>The Eviction</b> by Victor Lodato, dir. Juliette Carrillo, The Magic Theatre
1996	Pasqual/Lead	<b>Memento Mori</b> by Chrystene Ells, Bindlestiff Productions
1995	Lila (reading)	<b>Cigarettes and Moby Dick</b> by Migdalia Cruz, dir. Roberto Varea, Eureka Theatre
1995	Ensemble	<b>Homer's 'The Odyssey'</b> dir. Mary Jo Price, Life on the Water Theatre
1993	Geenie	<b>Jimmie Beam</b> by John O'Keefe, dir. Chris Brophy, Intersection for the Arts
1993	Elaine	<b>Sentimental Value</b> by Reed Kirk Rahlmann, Bindlestiff Productions
1993	Young Lucius	<b>Titus Andronicus</b> adapt./dir. Stephen Pockock, Bindlestiff Productions
1992	Ensemble	<b>Radio Rodeo</b> , ensemble production, Bindlestiff Studio collective
1992	Ruth	<b>Some Fell Among Thorns</b> by Gardiner O'Kain/Stephen Pockock, SOMAR Theatre
1991	The Dummy	<b>The Dummy</b> by C. Ells, dir. S. Pockock, <b>Int'l Puppetry Festival Fantocchio</b>
1991	Ensemble	<b>Oh Holy Rodeo</b> , ensemble production, Bindlestiff Studio collective, The LAB
1991	Lucy	<b>Mingling</b> by Blancett Reynolds, Bindlestiff Productions/1800 Square Feet
1991	Wendy/Helga	<b>Gory Details</b> by Reed Kirk Rahlmann, dir. Chris Brophy, Bindlestiff Prods
1990	Mina	<b>Bram Stoker's Dracula</b> staged reading dir. Francis Ford Copolla, Zoetrope
1990	Gazelle	<b>Mando Mambo</b> by Cintra Wilson, dir. Joegh Bullock, <b>Puppetry Fest. Fantocchio</b>
1990	Ensemble	<b>One for the Rodeo</b> , ensemble production, Bindlestiff Studio collective
1990	Gazelle	<b>Amoretto di Gazelle</b> by Cintra Wilson, dir. S. Pockock, <b>Puppetry Fest. Fantocchio</b>
1990	Gazelle	<b>Finale Al Inferno</b> by Cintra Wilson, dir. Chris Brophy, <b>Puppetry Fest. Fantocchio</b>
1989	Uber Genie	<b>Dark Circus</b> by Chrystene Ells/Chris Brophy, Bindlestiff Prods/Eureka Theatre
1989	Ensemble	<b>Dark Rodeo</b> , ensemble production, Bindlestiff Studio collective
1988	Ensemble	<b>Resplendent Rodeo</b> , ensemble production, Bindlestiff Studio collective
1988	Rosie	<b>Ballad of Reg and Rosie</b> by Chrystene Ells/Chris Brophy, Intersection for Arts
1988	Antonio	<b>The Tempest</b> , adapt./ dir. Thomas Schultz, Elbows Akimbo/ Intersection for Arts
1988	Ensemble	<b>Planting in Air</b> by Darse Elman, The LAB/New Performance Gallery
1986	Ensemble	<b>Precision</b> , by The Nebulous Rebels, dir. David Cassel, Vancouver Expo 86
1986	Ensemble	<b>Activate/Activated</b> , by The Nebulous Rebels, dir. David Cassel, Edmonton Fringe
1985	Cymbaline	<b>Street performance</b> , by The Nebulous Rebels, Festival D'ete, Quebec City QU
1984	Sheena	<b>Festival Performance</b> by One Yellow Rabbit, dir. George McFaul, Edmonton Fringe
1984	Captain Ghirk	<b>Cosmic Garbage Bin</b> by C. Ells/D. Cassel, dir. George McFaul, Edmonton Fringe
1983-6	Captain Ghirk	<b>Cosmic Garbage Bin</b> , by C. Ells/D. Cassel, dir. George McFaul, 3-yr. educ'l. tour

### D. Gallery Shows and Exhibitions

2014	<b>Hello Reflections</b>	group show, paintings, The Art Emporium Gallery, Regina, SK
2014	<b>Stories They Tell</b>	group show, puppets, Chapel Gallery, North Battleford, SK

- 2013 **PuppEx** group show, Puppet Underground Fest., Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina, SK  
 2010 **Snow Ship** sculpture w/ Jesse Goddard: Fire & Ice Carnival, Dunlop Gallery, Regina, SK  
 2008 **Snow Bear** group snow sculpture: Fire & Ice Carnival, Dunlop Gallery, Regina, SK  
 2007 **Art of Sisu** solo installation: Fifth Parallel Gallery, University of Regina, Regina, SK  
 1999 **Postershow** retrospective solo show: Bindlestiff Studio, San Francisco, CA  
 1997 **Stuff We Used** solo show of sculptures and props: Bindlestiff Studio, San Francisco, CA  
 1995 **Dummy Puppets** solo show of puppets: Anon Salon, San Francisco, CA  
 1994 **Old Posters** retrospective group show: Intersection for the Arts, San Francisco, CA

## 9. Conferences and Festivals

### A. Organization and Curating

- 2015-16 Co-director **The Caligari Project** - The Cabinet, Inc.: Interdisciplinary 3-mo. arts fest of German Expressionism in film, performance, visual art (10/2016)  
 2014 Co-curator **Hello In There/Hello Out There** - Common Weal Community Arts/OSAC  
 Touring exhibition of seniors' artwork and audio voice recordings (2015-17)  
 2013-15 Curator **Int'l Puppet Underground Festival (IPUFF)** - Prairie Puppet Underground  
 bi-annual fest: Films, Workshops, Artist Talks, Performances, Regina, SK  
 2001-06 Curator **Expression Gallery** - Ex'pression College for Digital Arts, Emeryville, CA  
 Rotating exhibition of student works  
 1997-98 Director **Under 24 Performance Festival 1, 2** - Bindlestiff Studio, San Francisco, CA  
 original works by young theatre artists  
 1984-85 Curator **Eugene's Favorite Flix** - ION Centre, Calgary, AB  
 foreign and classic film series

### B. Film Screenings

#### **Der Glöckner**

- 10/2016 The Cinema of Dr. Caligari, SK Filmpool Coop/ MacKenzie Art Gallery Regina, SK  
 10/2016 Sask. Indie Film Awards, SK Filmpool Cooperative Regina, SK  
 - BEST FILM AWARD  
 - AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

#### **Heart Garden**

- 07/2015 One Take Super 8 Film Festival, Regina, SK

#### **Parathyroid Punk**

- 11/2014 SK Filmpool Premiere Screening / SK Independent Film Awards, Regina SK  
 09/2014 Bay Street Film Festival Retrospective, Thunder Bay, ON  
 09/2014 Reel Rave Film Festival, Waskesiu, SK  
 12/2014 Wild Thing: Prairie as Concept, Prairie as Environment (New York, NY)  
 11/2014 Cinema Saskatchewan on Access Television

#### **Hungry Bones/ Hungrige-knochen**

- 07/2014 One Take Super 8 Film Festival, Saskatoon, SK  
 01/2015 8 Fest 2015, Toronto, ON  
 01/2015 Dresden Festival 2015, Dresden, Germany

#### **It Was a Circus**



05/2013 Screening Under the Steeple, Cathedral Village Arts Fest., Regina, SK  
04/2013 International Puppet Underground Film Fest, Regina, SK  
03/2013 International Festival of Animated Objects, Calgary AB

#### ***Drown***

01/2014 The 8 Fest, Toronto, ON  
06/2013 One Take Super 8 Film Festival, Regina, SK

#### ***Kathleen's Diary***

09/2014 I am the Bridge, Culture Days, PAVED Arts, Saskatoon, SK  
09/2014 Reel Rave Film Festival, Waskesiu, SK  
10/2013 Red Rover: Edmonton, Saskatoon, Calgary  
06/2013 Poetry and Film, SK Filmpool Cooperative, Regina, SK  
04/2013 International Puppet Underground Film Fest, Regina, SK  
03/2013 International Festival of Animated Objects, Calgary AB

#### ***She Had Died***

04/2012 Niagara Independent Film Festival, St. Catherine's, ON  
10/2012 Saskatchewan Filmpool Premiere Screening, Regina, SK

#### ***Véronique à vélo***

09/2014 Nuit Blanche Winnipeg | La maison des artistes visuels francophonea, Winnipeg, MI  
09/2014 Reel Rave Film Festival, Waskesiu, SK  
05/2014 Festival Cinergie, Broadway Art Fest et Lumières sur Broadway, Saskatoon, SK  
06/2012 Bike-In Cinema, TRUCK Gallery/Calgary Society of Independent Filmmakers, Calgary,  
09/2011 Cinéfest Sudbury, Sudbury ON  
06/2011 Sled Island Film Festival, Calgary AB  
06/2011 Niagara Indie Film Fest, St Catherine's, ON (**Best Indie Drama Award**)  
04/2011 Show Us Your Shorts, Calgary AB April 2011 (**3 awards, including Best of Festival**)  
04/2011 Red Rover Prairie Film Festival, Calgary AB and Saskatoon, SK  
10/2010 The Godard Project Film Festival, Saskatchewan Filmpool Cooperative, Regina SK

#### ***Sisu – the Death of Tom Sukanen***

09/2014 Bay Street Film Festival Retrospective, Thunder Bay, ON  
03/2013 Talking Fresh: Writing Canada, SK Writer's Guild/SK Filmpool, Regina SK  
09/2012 Culture Days, T-Rex Discovery Centre, Eastend, Saskatchewan  
03/2011 International Festival of Animated Objects, Calgary, AB  
02/2010 Calgary Finlandia Club Director's Screening, Calgary AB  
04/2010 FinnForum, Thunder Bay ON  
04/2010 Poetry and Film, Saskatchewan Filmpool, Regina, SK  
05/2010 Director's screening, Swift Current SK  
07/2010 Finn Grand Fest, Sault Ste Marie ON  
10/2010 Bay Street Film Festival, Thunder Bay, ON (**Audience Choice Award**)  
10/2010 Petaluma International Film Festival, Petaluma CA  
03/2011 International Festival of Animated Objects, Calgary AB  
09/2009 World Premiere Montreal World Film Festival, Montreal QB  
2009 - 10 Saskatchewan Communications Network (nation-wide broadcast, Fall Lineup)

#### ***Goodbye, Guy Guy***

03/2004 New York International Film and Video Festival, New York, NY  
10/2003 Lone Pine Film Festival, Lone Pine, CA

11/2003 Battery Street Digital Festival, San Francisco, CA

### **Red Hen**

03/2001 Kita Mo Film Festival, San Francisco, CA

### **C. Papers and lectures**

- 2013 *Artist's Talk* - PuppEx, Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina, SK
- 2013 *Writing Canada* - Talking Fresh, SK Writer's Guild - Panel Member, Regina, SK
- 2013 *The Art of Puppet-filmmaking* - Fine Arts Department, U of Regina, SK
- 2012 *Life, Art, and Alchemy* - Art Institute Inland Empire, Los Angeles, California
- 2011 *PuppetFilms and Animated Objects* – University of Regina, SK
- 2011 *Director's Talk* - International Festival of Animated Objects, Calgary, AB
- 2010 *Putting Finns on Film* – panel member, FinnForum IX, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- 2010 *Tom Sukanen and Finnish Folklore* – FinnForum IX, Thunder Bay, ON
- 2009 *Crows Nest: Flight of Fancy* - Art for Lunch, University of Regina
- 2009 *Tom Sukanen and the Kalevala* – Calgary Scandinavian Club, Calgary, AB
- 2009 *Animation and the Industry* – Young Animator's Project, Calgary, AB
- 2009 *The Digital Dingo* – International Festival of Animated Objects, Calgary, AB
- 2009 *The Ghost of Tom Sukanen* – International Festival of Animated Objects, Calgary, AB
- 2008 *Digital Animation and Compositing* – University of Regina, SK
- 2008 *Art Direction and Production Design* – University of Regina, SK
- 2008 *Sisu on a Shoestring* – University of Regina, SK
- 2008 *Storyboarding and Visual Storytelling* – University of Regina Film Dept - Regina, SK
- 2008 *Digital Animation and Compositing* – University of Regina Film Dept - Regina, SK
- 2007 *Animation in Films* – Keynote - Illumination International Film Fest., Helsinki, Finland
- 2007 *Intermedia, Hybridity, Interdisciplinarity and Alchemy* – University of Regina, SK

## **10. Non Academic Employment**

### **A. Directing: Corporate**

- 2015 **City of Regina:** Animated short about the municipal budget for the internet (also design and animating)
- 2015-16 **Elections SK:** Animated shorts about voting and democracy for the internet and broadcast (also design, writing and animating)
- 2011 **SaskPower** (Brown Communications): Animated safety short for internet, conference and broadcast (also design, writing, animation)

### **B. Analogue Effects Fabrication and Design: Film**

- 1998 **Star Wars 1, The Phantom Menace:** Industrial Light and Magic  
various props, models, miniatures, costume pieces
- 1998 **Monkeybone,** Monkeybone Productions  
fabrication and design of costumes, models, and props
- 1997 **Frankenstein Meets the Wolfman,** Industrial Light and Magic (unreleased)  
finishing work on maquettes for digital feature film
- 1996 **Flubber,** M-5 Industries Inc.  
fabrication of props and models
- 1995 **Homeward Bound II,:** Chris Walas Inc.  
prop fabrication, stand-in models



1992-93 ***The Nightmare Before Christmas***, Skellington Productions  
fabrication of stop-motion puppets and their accessories

### C. Analogue Effects Fabrication and Design: Television

- 1998 ***Battletanx***, M5 Industries, national spot  
crew supervisor for "Cuddles" the teddy bear: design, fabrication
- 1998 ***Gary the Garlic***, Round Table Pizza, national spots  
Job Supervisor and designer, fabricating several different-use Gary puppets
- 1998 ***Brothers Tiki***, Nickelodeon / Wild Brain, television pilot  
stop motion and live action puppet fabrication
- 1998 ***First Union Bank***, Industrial Light and Magic, several national spots  
miniature props, buildings, environments for award-winning commercial series
- 1997 ***No Diggity***, Blackstreet/Teddy Riley, music video  
three 1/3 scale cable puppets: face sculpts, detail painting, wardrobe design
- 1995-97 ***Li'l Penny***, Nike/Weiden and Kennedy, over 20 national commercial spots:  
detail painting and wardrobe design for 1/3 scale cable operated puppet
- 1997 ***Macy's***, M5 Industries, local commercial  
crew supervisor and designer: oversized balloons of Macy's products
- 1997 ***Resident Evil 2***, Cap-Com Entertainment, national spot  
Job Supervisor, Zombie makeup artist/designer
- 1997 ***Coca Cola***, Colossal Pictures, overseas television spot  
crew supervisor and designer, fabricating five realistic bird puppets
- 1997 ***FOX Gophers***, FOX Sports Network / Industrial Light and Magic, 2 promo spots fabrication of  
two radio-controlled puppets
- 1996 ***Ruby***, Whoopi Goldberg/TriStar Columbia, television pilot  
detail painting, wardrobe, makeup, wigs for a 1/3 scale cable operated puppet
- 1996 ***Xerox***, M5 Industries, local commercial  
supervisor/primary model maker, oversized book, 3x scale faux table top
- 1995 ***Mac Donald's***, Colossal Pictures, national spot  
various miniature models
- 1994-96 ***Hershey's Kisses***, Colossal Pictures, several National spots  
hundreds of triple-scale animatable Kisses, and their flags and accessories
- 1994 ***Schweppes***, Colossal Pictures, national spot  
miniature rocket launcher pad: model and finishing work for national spot
- 1994 ***Pine Sol***, Colossal Pictures, national spot tree puppets  
design and construction
- 1994 ***The Good Guys***, Colossal Pictures, national spot  
various miniature models
- 1994 ***Final Fantasy II***, Square Soft, national spot  
Head puppet fabricator of five large monster puppets
- 1994 ***Nike Michael Jordan*** Weiden and Kennedy, industrial  
over 25 1/3-scale wardrobes for puppets, realistic painting of 12 puppet faces
- 1993 ***Twizzlers***, Colossal Pictures, national spot animatable silicone Twizzlers
- 1993 ***Reebok***, Colossal Pictures, overseas commercial spot fabrication of foam latex stop motion  
animation puppets
- 1993 ***Nabisco: Dancing Oreos, Dunking Chips Ahoy, Belly Dancing Ritz Crackers, Wheat Thins  
do the Limbo***, four national spots  
sculptor of double-scale Oreo and Chips Ahoy cookies, Ritz Crackers, Wheat Thins,  
cheese slices and vegetables for stop-motion animations

- 1992-96 **Pizza Hut**, Colossal Pictures, eight national spots  
various miniature sets, puppets, and characters
- 1992 **Hewlett Packard**, Colossal Pictures, national spot  
fabrication of five hand puppets
- 1991 **ESPN**, ESPN Christmas national spot  
stop motion puppet fabrication
- 1991 **MTV: Liquid TV**, episodic television shorts  
design and fabrication of puppets and props
- 1991 **Thank You, Thank You**, Little Caesar's Pizza, national spot  
design and fabrication of Little Caesar puppet
- 1991 **The Smart Giant**, Randazzo and Blavins/Pacific Bell, industrial video design and fabrication  
of smoking "Spot the Dragon" puppet
- 1990 **SEGA**, Goodby Silverstein, national spot  
prop and miniature costume fabrication, makeup and wardrobe
- 1990 **Fooble and Freud**, CUB Productions, children's video  
design and fabrication of "Freud the Dog" puppet/costume, other puppets

#### **D. Art Direction and Concept Art**

- 2008-09 **Injustice**, Dacian Productions, Saskatchewan Communications Network  
pen and ink drawings for one season of episodic historic crime series
- 2003 **NASA**, video game trailer  
Art Direction: concept art
- 1999 **Robot Store** (commercial)  
concept design of robots for television commercial
- 1997-98 **Frankenstein Meets the Wolfman**, Industrial Light and Magic (unreleased)  
concept art and design in Art Department of feature

#### **E. Digital Animation, Graphics, Blogs and Web Design**

- 2011 **This Big World** - project blog for community puppet-filmmaking blog  
design, assets production, blog maintenance
- 2008 **chrystene.com** - personal portfolio website design  
concept design, graphics, animation, website layout and implementation
- 2008 **Sisu Production Blog** - an interactive blog production journal  
design and assets production, blog maintenance
- 2007 **The Brickhouse** - website design for New York bed and breakfast  
concept design, graphics, website layout and implementation
- 2002 **T-Time** : interactive computer program for toddlers  
concept design, story, graphics and animation
- 2001 **First Union Bank** online commercials  
digital animation concept design, graphics, animation
- 2001 **two rats films** website design for San Francisco independent film company  
concept design, graphics, animation, website layout and implementation
- 2001 **Deep Canyon** - personal portfolio website design  
concept design, graphics, animation, website layout and implementation
- 2000 **Wormz**- digital animation for internet commercial series  
concept design, graphics animation
- 1999 **KBAM Bulldogs** website design  
concept design, graphics, animation, website layout and implementation

## F. Puppetry and Performance: Film and Television

- 2010 **Capital Ford** / Global Regina/ Shaw Television: **Cappy**  
puppeteer for a series of commercial spots featuring a loudmouth puppet
- 1999 **FOX Sports Network** / Industrial Light and Magic: **Gophers**  
Station ID - Puppeteer of animatronic gopher character
- 1997 **Whoopi Goldberg** / Tristar Columbia: **Ruby**  
Head puppeteer for television pilot
- 1997 **Blackstreet** / Teddy Riley: **No Diggity**  
Head puppeteer for music video
- 1998 **Colossal Pictures** / 3DO: **Battletanx**  
Head puppeteer for national spot
- 1998 **Nickelodeon** / Wildbrain: **Brothers Tiki**  
Head puppeteer for television pilot
- 1998 **Round Table Pizza** / M5 Industries Inc.: **Gary Garlic**  
Head puppeteer for national spot
- 1997 **Global Doghouse** / Colossal Pictures: **8 Heads in a Duffel Bag**  
Puppeteer of decapitated heads for film trailer
- 1995-97 **Nike**/ Weiden and Kennedy: **Li'l Penny Campaign**  
Head puppeteer for over 20 spots for the L'il Penny campaign with over 50 celebrities including Stevie Wonder, Tiger Woods, and Tyra Banks, directors incl. Spike Lee, Joe Pitka
- 1995-97 **HARPO Productions**: **The Oprah Show**  
three-time guest as Li'l Penny puppeteer with Chris Rock and Tyra Banks
- 1995 **Colossal Pictures** / Topps Productions: **Ring Pops**  
Hand shadow puppets for national commercial
- 1994 **Brøderbund Inc.**: **Alien Tales**  
Leedre of Duh Pak voiceover for educational CD ROM
- 1994 **Square Soft** /Colossal Pictures: **Final Fantasy 2**  
Puppeteer for multiple puppets for a national commercial
- 1993 **Nike** / Weiden and Kennedy: **Just Do It**  
Michael Jordan puppeteer for PSA spot
- 1992 CGI Productions: **San Bruno Subaru**  
Voiceover for local commercial (San Francisco Bay Area)
- 1992 **Lynn Herschman**: **Shooting Scripts**  
Female lead in independent feature film
- 1992 **Colossal Pictures**: **Miller Lite**  
Body puppeteer for national commercial
- 1991 **Pacific Bell** / Randazzo and Blavins: **The Smart Giant**  
Spot the Dragon smoking dragon puppet for Industrial video
- 1991 **Little Caesar's Pizza** / John Francis Films: **Thank You Thank You**  
Little Caesar puppeteer for national commercial
- 1991 **MTV: Liquid T.V.** / Colossal Pictures: **T.V. Jeebies**  
Puppeteer for episodic short
- 1991 **MTV: Liquid T.V.** / Colossal Pictures: **Mary Mutton**  
Puppeteer for episodic short
- 1990 **FOX Network** / Colossal Pictures  
Puppeteer for 'The Hero' for Station Identification
- 1990 **CUB Productions**: **Foosle and Freud**  
Performer of Freud the Dog for Children's Educational Video

## G. Effects and Design: Stage (San Francisco Bay Area, except where noted)

- 2012 **KaleidoCycle** by Chrystene Ells, The Globe Theatre, Regina, Saskatchewan  
design and fabrication of set, masks, shadow puppets, costumes, and props
- 2008 **Windblown/Rafales** collective / Kathleen Irwin, Knowhere Productions, SK  
design and fabrication of four puppets for site-specific performance
- 2002 **The Eviction** by Victor Lodato, directed by Juliette Carrillo, The Magic Theatre  
design and fabrication of three over-scale puppets
- 1997 **Memento Mori** by Chrystene Ells, Bindlestiff Productions  
design and fabrication of seven intricate life-sized puppets
- 1996 **When El Cucui Walks** Roy Conboy, dir. Roberto Varea, El Teatro de la Esperanza  
costume design, and design and fabrication of five skeleton animal masks
- 1996 **Greatest American Hotdog** by J.J. White Bindlestiff Productions  
set design and seven 6'x 6' portraits of the cast on canvas
- 1996 **Homer's The Odyssey** by Mary Jo Price, Theatre Forté, Life on the Water Theatre  
puppet creature and mask design for several monsters and sacrificial animals
- 1995 **Ubus in America** by I Fratelli Bologna, Life on the Water Theatre  
design and fabrication of over 15 puppets and their props and costumes
- 1995 **Dream Cycle** dir. by Chrystene Ells, r.a.t.co., Yerba Buena Center for the Arts dozens  
of props, costumes, masks, set pieces, etc.
- 1995 **The Well** by Nina Siegel, directed by Mary Coleman, Bindlestiff Studio  
bird masks and powdered wigs
- 1994 **Giants Have us in their Books** by Jose Rivera, dir. Roberto Varea, Magic Theatre  
costume design, wings, special effects
- 1993 **One Neck** by Todd Alcott, dir. by Chris Brophy, Intersection for the Arts  
props, prosthetics, makeup, gore, wounds, severed head
- 1993 **Sentimental Value** by Reed Rahlmann, dir. Chris Brophy, Bindlestiff Prods  
design/fabrication of 2-headed baby in a jar, plus various props and costumes
- 1992 **A Murder of Crows** by Mac Wellman, dir. Mary Coleman, Intersection for the Arts  
crow masks and costumes
- 1992 **Gory Details** by Reed Rahlmann, dir. Chris Brophy, Bindlestiff Productions  
costume design, design/fabrication of body parts, wounds, prosthetics
- 1990 **Some Fell Among Thorns** by Gardiner O'Kain/Stephen Pocock, SOMAR Theatre  
costume design and bleeding severed finger prop
- 1990 **The Dummy** by Chrystene Ells, International Puppet Festival Fantocchio  
design/fabrication of over 20 puppets and their props and costumes
- 1989 **"Bitzy La Fever" Trilogy** by Cintra Wilson, Int'l Puppet Festival Fantocchio  
design and fabrication of 32 puppets and their props
- 1989 **Dark Circus** by Chrystene Ells/Chris Brophy, Bindlestiff Prods./ Eureka Theatre  
several dozen puppets, sets, masks, props, costumes, etc.
- 1989 **The Tempest** Shakespeare, adapted by Thomas Schultz, Elbows Akimbo  
masks, props, costumes
- 1986 **Three Penny Opera** by Bertold Brecht, dir. Robert DeNatale, Artists' TV Access  
the three fates: intricate hand and rod puppets

## 11. Arts Groups Founded and Co-Founded

- 2015 **The Cabinet, Inc.**, Regina, Saskatchewan

an interdisciplinary, artist-run non-profit with a mandate to present unique multi-disciplinary arts events that engage the community through a variety of diverse creative modes, with a focus on specific themes and an emphasis on collaborative, cross-disciplinary creation and presentation.

2014 **Prairie Puppet Underground**, Regina, Saskatchewan

an interdisciplinary non profit organization dedicated to the celebration of puppet art through presenting workshops, world class puppet performance, and the bi-annual International Puppet Underground Film Festival PLUS (IPUFF+) in Regina

2007 **Moxie Films**, Regina, Saskatchewan

a film company focused on making independent special effects films, animations, and hybrid films with the highest possible production values on minimal budgets

1997 **Two Rats Films**, San Francisco, CA

a digital film and animation company producing digitally created shorts

1988 **Bindlestiff Productions**, San Francisco, CA

a theatrical production company dedicated to presenting original works and new adaptations; during its 30 years, Bindlestiff has produced well over 200 new plays

1994 **Riot Act Theatre Company (r.a.t. co.)**, San Francisco, CA

a theatre company comprised of teens in recovery from drug addiction, teenage single parents, and other at-risk youth who were paid to study theatre, create their own new plays and perform them in professional venues

1983 **The Nebulous Rebels**, Calgary, AB

a physical theatre touring company which presented original plays on the street, at festivals, and in unusual venues

1982 **Interlude Mime Theatre**, Calgary, AB

an educational touring theatre troupe that performed and taught theatre for K-6 in the Canadian School system and at Children's Festivals

## 12. Early Public and Volunteer Service

1994-2006 **San Francisco Unified School District, Private Industry Council, Riot Act Theatre, Bindlestiff Young Artists, and independent studio mentorships**, San Francisco, CA

To help fill the gap left by the slashing of arts programs in San Francisco Bay Area high schools, I mentored dozens of young artists through established programs and through my own studio.

Mentorships included:

- animation and digital arts
- video and filmmaking
- theatre arts (including acting, directing, producing and design)
- performance arts, including puppetry, mask, clown and ensemble collaboration
- visual arts, including painting, drawing, and sculpture

1989-2006 **Bindlestiff Studio**, San Francisco, CA

nearly two decades of volunteer service to this organization have included:

- administration, art direction and producing
- grant applications and accounting
- facilities maintenance and upgrades
- workshop and seminar facilitation
- mentorship of young and emerging artists

- donation of entire facility to Filipino American theatre group in 1997
- continuing mentorship of Bindlestiff artists and the Filipino arts community

1986-88 **AIDS/HIV caregiver and therapeutic artist**, San Francisco, CA

I attended conferences and lectures on AIDS and related topics, assisted with medicine schedules and doctor's information, and was on call for transportation and emergencies. I also guided therapeutic arts projects for patients as a means of expressing the experience of living with AIDS/HIV and associated personal and community losses.

### 13. Recent Press

- 2015 **CBC Radio Morning Edition**, Regina, SK  
*Art Could be the Next Big Breakthrough in Deaf Education*  
feature story on my work in Arts and Literacy with Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth
- 2015 **U of R Degrees Magazine**, Regina, SK (publish date late 2015)  
featured article on my work in Arts and Literacy with Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth
- 2015 **CBC Radio Afternoon Edition**, Regina, SK  
*Class helps the visually impaired express themselves through art*  
feature story on my work with Blind and Low-Vision artists (MacKenzie & Dunlop Art Galleries)
- 2015 **Global News**, Regina, SK  
*Painting a Picture*: feature on my work in Arts and Literacy with Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth
- 2014 **Cinema Saskatchewan: Access Television**, Regina, SK  
retrospective of recent films (with Berny Hi)
- 2014 **Verb Magazine**, Regina, SK  
article: *Hello In There: New exhibition explores memory, history, and forgotten lives*, Alex McPherson
- 2014 **CBC Morning Edition**, Regina, SK  
interview, *Hello In There/Hello Out There*
- 2014 **CBC Afternoon Edition**, Regina, SK  
interview, *Parathyroid Punk*
- 2013 **Saskatchewan Arts Board** annual report magazine (Fall 2013)  
feature articles on Chrystene and *KaleidoCycle* theatrical production
- 2013 **Prairie Postmodern**, Regina, SK  
ACCESS Communications: feature television show on Chrystene and puppet filmmaking
- 2013 **Prairie Dog Magazine**, Regina, SK  
cover story and feature article: International Puppet Underground Film Festival (IPUFF 2013)
- 2013 **CTV Morning News**, Regina, SK  
guest: interview about International Puppet Underground Film Festival (IPUFF 2013)
- 2013 **CBC Television News**, Regina, SK  
interview about International Puppet Underground Film Festival (IPUFF 2013)
- 2013 **Global Television News**, Regina, SK  
interview about International Puppet Underground Film Festival (IPUFF 2013)
- 2013 **Big Dog 92.7fm**, Regina, SK  
interview about International Puppet Underground Film Festival (IPUFF 2013)
- 2012 **CBC Television/Radio Canada**, Regina, SK  
feature on puppet filmmaking and Chrystene
- 2012 **Metro News**, Regina, SK: *The World's a Kaleidoscope for KaleidoCycle Creator*  
interview and article on *KaleidoCycle*, Paul Bodgan
- 2012 **Prairie Dog Magazine**, Regina, SK: *Altered State*  
article on Chrystene and *KaleidoCycle*, Carle Steel
- 2012 **Verb Magazine**, Regina, SK: *Chrystene Ells Explores Loss of Speech, Time in KaleidoCycle*



- article on Chrystene and *KaleidoCycle*, Alex J. MacPherson
- 2011 **CJTR Radio**, Regina, SK  
interview about puppet filmmaking and *The Underground Puppet Works*
- 2010 **CBC Afternoon Edition**, Regina, SK  
Michelle Hugli interview, *Sisu - the Death of Tom Sukanen*
- 2009 **Suomen Kuvalehti** (Finnish weekly magazine), Helsinki, Finland  
*Tom Sukanen tarinan uudet ulottuvuudet (New dimensions of the Tom Sukanen Story)*  
Review of film and article by Anneli Lukka
- 2009 **Vapaa Sana Finnish Canadian News**, Volume 78, VS 37, Toronto, ON  
*Sukanen preerialaiva purjehtii nyt valkokankaalla (Sukanen's prairie ship flies across screen)*  
Review of film and interview by Anneli Lukka
- 2009 **CBC Telejournal Saskatchewan**, Saskatchewan program with Francis Marchildon  
interview and television segment, *Sisu - the Death of Tom Sukanen*
- 2009 **Talk of the Town**, Access News, Regina, SK  
Wayne Slinn interview, *Sisu - the Death of Tom Sukanen*
- 2009 **Five People You Didn't Know Lived in Regina**, Global News, Regina, SK  
Interview and television segment by Ross Neitz
- 2009 **CJSW Radio**, Calgary, AB  
Nathan Taylor interview, *Sisu - the Death of Tom Sukanen*
- 2009 **Calgary Herald**, Calgary, AB: *Indie Filmmaker's Ship Has Come In*  
Volmers, Eric - Interview and feature article - *Sisu - the Death of Tom Sukanen*
- 2008 **West World Magazine**, CAA Western Canada: *Ship Out of Water*  
article about *Sisu* by Lisa Wilson-Sturm, summer 2008 issue
- 2008 **Degrees Magazine**, Regina, SK: *Dream Project*  
feature article about *Sisu* by Brian Miller, July issue
- 2007 **CBC Telejournal Saskatchewan**, Saskatchewan program  
interview and television segment about *Sisu* by Julie Marceau
- 2007 **CBC Radio, Morning Edition**, national program  
interview about *Sisu*, July 23
- 2007 **The Leader Post**, Regina, SK: *The Ship that Tom Built* by Jeff Dedekker  
weekender feature article and cover story, Sept. 8, about *Sisu - the Death of Tom Sukanen*
- 2007 **Vapaa Sana (Finnish Canadian newspaper)**, Toronto, ON: *For Tom Sukanen, With Love*  
feature article about *Sisu - the Death of Tom Sukanen*, September 13, by Minna Harmala
- 2007 **Finnish American Reporter**, Hancock, MI - *Sailing from Saskatchewan to Suomi*  
article about *Sisu - the Death of Tom Sukanen* July issue, by Veli Niinimaa
- 2007 **Moose Jaw Times Herald**, Moose Jaw, SK: *Filmmaker Follows her Dream to Saskatchewan*  
article about *Sisu - the Death of Tom Sukanen* by Shelby Parker, July 24
- 2007 **Shaw Television**, Moose Jaw, SK  
Lyle Johnson: television interview about *Sisu - the Death of Tom Sukanen*, June 14
- 2007 **CJRT Radio**, Regina, SK "Radio del Arte"  
Margaret Bessai: radio interview about *Sisu - the Death of Tom Sukanen*, July

#### 14. Other Interests

Art in healing, communication, and community service  
 American Sign Language, Deaf Culture and ASL Poetry  
 Jungian theory regarding mythology, symbology and archetype  
 Studies in Aging, and Death and Dying  
 Nature, animals, animal rescue, conservation  
 Eastern spiritual study and practice