

Roxana Pope

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Professional Career - 2005- Present

“ Directed by Roxana Pope, Tehran Backyard, is a vivid and impressive portrait of working class life in the Islamic Republic, devoid of the plaudit-seeking posturing that dogs much of Iran’s film output, while carrying, a subtle and touching women’s punch.” (Peyvand Khorsandi Word Press review August 2007)nominated for a Royal Television Award.

*“Suppose Life, Devised by writer/director Roxana Pope, composer Dee Isaacs and designer Iulian Fortuna, is a magical performance, brimming with exquisite visual images and soundscapes that both haunt and beguile.... If you think you know the Botanic Gardens prepare to be amazed by this life-affirming journey.” (Susan Nickells The Scotsman) ***** 5 star review. March 2006*

Director (Freelance film & theatre 05 to present)

Director of ‘RED BURKA’ a short documentary set in Southern Iran about the historic Red Burka masks: for distance-proximity series produced by LX films Portugal, SDI and Gulbenkian foundation. Premiere July 2008.

- Director of TEHRAN BACKYARD executive produced by Scottish Documentary Institute – a half hour documentary about the life of an extraordinary cleaning lady in Tehran. (Currently appearing on film festival circuit) world premiered at the London International Documentary Film Festival and Nominated for a ROYAL TELEVISION AWARD May 2008. Winner first Place at Next Frame film festival USA. Selected for Lisbon Documentary Film Festival in October 2008.
- Director of THE LOST HAPPY ENDINGS by Carol Ann Duffy. An outdoor film and theatrical extravaganza featuring 50 musicians, 150 performers. Original score Dee Isaacs. Edinburgh Botanic Gardens March 2008. (Funded by Creative Scotland and Edinburgh City Council)
- Director of SUPPOSE LIFE, a promenade outdoor theatrical performance through Glasshouses of the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh. March 8-11th 06. Creative development of the show funded by SAC and Edinburgh City Council. March 2006

Writer (Freelance 05-present)

- Co -Writer of the feature film TROUBLE SLEEPING for Scottish Screen/BBC Scotland/ Maka Films. Premier will be Edinburgh International Film Festival June 2008. WINNER OF Scottish BAFTA for best new film
- Dramaturg for JIHAD, a devised dance/theatre piece for company Insaan, Tramway June 2007
- Dramaturg for the devised play HARLEQUINO’S REVENGE a collaboration between Lung Ha theatre company & Paragon New Music Ensemble. Tramway, Glasgow & Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh April 2007.
- Writer of KILLING TIME for the Playwrights’ Studio Scotland – performed during ‘Play Aloud’ during Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2006
- Writers’ Residency with BBC Radio Scotland by producer David Ian Neville November 2006
- Selected by Federation of Scottish Theatre as a dramaturg to take part in Cove Park Residency to explore new ways of theatre practice. October 2006

Performer/Singer (Freelance 05-present)

- Wellcome Trust and London Philharmonic, FROM THE HEART project led by composer Eugene Skeef. June 2007.
- Singer and actor National Theatre Studio, London, two weeks development with Theatre Rites July 2007
- Acting in two new BBC Radio 4 dramas –THE INTERVIEW & BAGHDAD BURNING. Directed by Jessica Dromgule.
- Singer for original sound track composed by Jim Sutherland for the film TROUBLE SLEEPING

Relevant professional experience 1999-2005 (highlights)

Writer (freelance)

- Ongoing -BBC Scotland TV Drama: commissioned as a writer to work with the editors Regina Dunphy and Ciara Conway from an original concept for a drama series through to a first draft episode script.
- 2004 - writer /director of THE BRIDGE aerial crane show for Boilerhouse Theatre Company. (Played to 18,000 people in two nights Les Accroche-Coeurs, Angers France and Edinburgh Festival)
- 2003 – Writer of the screenplay for the short film LEILA (16 minutes) funded by Scottish Screen/BBC and executive produced by Cineworks Glasgow. The film was shown at The Edinburgh Film Festival 2002 as well as the Bristol Film Festival, Hamburg Film Festival, Buenos Aires, Dubai Film Festival. Selected as one of the top 10 digital films by UK Film Council for that year.
- 2001 - Director and writer LOOK IN THE SHADOWS: commissioned by The Millennium Forestry Commission – working in Roslyn Glen – inspired by the natural habitat, the woodlands and all the ancient myths performed at Theatre workshop.
- 2001 - Co-writer and performer of SUZY-SORAYA with Philippa Vadafari, an aerial piece performed at the Centre for Contemporary Arts in Glasgow and directed by John Binnie.

Director (freelance)

- 2005 - Director of ORPHEUS IN THE GARDENS, a large scale outdoor musical promenade performance, composed and produced by Dee Isaacs. Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh.
- 2004 - Director of DEAD POINT a one woman aerial show, created in Fabrik (centre of contemporary theatre & dance in Postdam, Germany) The show toured the UK as part of Circus Bytes, a showcase of new UK theatre/circus work ending at the Riverside Studios Hammersmith, in October 2003.
- 2003 -Director of A BOAT SAILED ON SEVEN SEAS composed by Dee Isaacs and performed in The Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, large-scale outdoor theatre music piece.
- 2002 -Director of the new Opera, FESTUS composed by Dee Isaacs performed at The Tramway Glasgow and the Traverse Edinburgh. Funded by The Tramway in Glasgow, Scottish Arts Council, Grindlay court and Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

Performer / Singer (freelance)

- 2005 - Playing the character Dora, in new BBC One & CBBC Children's TV Drama Series THE PLAYGROUND. Directed by Rick Stroud
- 2004 - lead role in MAJNOUN a new Anglo-Iranian play by Mehrdad Seyf produced by 30Birdproductions Theatre Company at Riverside Studios, Hammersmith
- 2003 - Performer and singer in the premier of THE GOOD BODY, a new play by Eve Ensler (Olivier award winning writer of Vagina Monologues); performed with Eve Ensler and Pete Vilk for the first time as part of the Ulysses theatre Festival on Brioni Island Croatia.
- 2002 - devised and performed in a new writing performance project, RED with Boilerhouse Company, Edinburgh. Toured various venues across UK.

Theatrum Botanicum 1994-9 (Co-founder / full time performer/director)

- THE TEMPEST performing Miranda with Roger Lloyd Pact as Prospero, Edinburgh Festival 1999
- MACBETH Lennox/Lady Macduff with Dani Minogue as Lady Macbeth Edinburgh Festival 1999
- MILLENNIUM PROJECT: Devising theatre, The Earth Centre, Doncaster, 1999
- AN AFRICAN JULIUS CAESAR: co-director, Edinburgh Festival 1999 and British Council tour of East Africa. 1999 - Herald Archangel Award for Best Play
- PREACHER MAN: co-director / performer Edinburgh Festival 1997; British Council tour of East Africa 1998
- THE SEASONS: Director. Pavarotti Music Centre, Mostar, Former Yugoslavia. Musical with cast of 200 for the opening of the War Child creative arts centre, 1997
- PLANT HUNTER: co-director / performer, Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh Festival 1996, **Fringe First Winner**
- EUROPA: co-director of opera composed by Nigel Osborne for the opening of ceremony of the Sarajevo Arts Festival 1995.
- LINNAEUS, PRINCE OF FLOWERS: co-director. Edinburgh, Glasgow, New Zealand 1995. **Fringe First Winner**
- GRIMM, THE TELLING OF THE TALES: performer devised piece, Traverse Theatre Edinburgh and Moscow State Theatre, Russia. **Winner of The Guardian Critics Award**

Relevant Training & Education

- 2006-07 MFA film directing at Edinburgh College of Art on a Screen Academy Scholarship.
- 2005 "The Clown & Buffoon" a week long intensive training workshop with Jos Huben of Theatre Complicite in clown, buffoon and movement technique.
- 1996-97 Ecole International de Theatre Jacques Lecoq, Paris.
- 1996 Shakespeare's Stage: training course with tutors Simon McBurney, Brian Cox, Kenny Ireland and Cecily Berry.
- 1992-95 Edinburgh University B.Sc. with distinction in Anthropology and Arabic