



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

PROGRAMME

The Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Interdisciplinary Studies (Departments of Theatre and
Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies)

Kathy Bishop

1986

University of British Columbia

BSW

“Spinning Red Yarn(s): Being Artist/Researcher/Educator
through Playbuilding as Qualitative Research”

Friday, December 19, 2014

2:00 PM

Phoenix Building, Room 105

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Warwick Dobson, Department of Theatre, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

Dr. Darlene Clover, Department of Educational Psychology &
Leadership Studies, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

Dr. Monica Prendergast, Department of Curriculum & Instruction,
UVic (Committee Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Joe Norris, Department of Dramatic Arts in the Faculty of
Humanities, Brock University

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. James Young, Department of Philosophy, UVic

Abstract

This research was simultaneously collective and individual. In this dissertation, my team and I inquired into what it means to undertake playbuilding as qualitative research and be a practitioner, specifically focusing on the roles of artist, researcher, and educator from an applied theatre graduate student perspective. I drew upon the methodological and theoretical frameworks of playbuilding as qualitative research and a/r/tography. Playbuilding as qualitative research offers creative methods for un/re/covering collective and affective ways of knowing. A/r/tography offers the opportunity to explore self and roles through art-making and reflexivity. For me, both are manifestations of the same creative impulse to make meaning and generate new understandings expressed through different perspectives and processes. This research consisted of a cohort of applied theatre graduate students who collectively explored and devised a play on what it means to be an artist/researcher/educator. The play, *To Spin a Red Yarn: Enacting Artist/Researcher/Teacher* stands as an artefact to the collectives' generation, interpretation, and performance of research. In addition, I wrote an exegesis that spins my individual story within our collective. The exegesis, *Behind the Curtain*, extends the world of the play into the text by taking the reader on a dramatic journey through soliloquizing as dialogue. As a result of this study, I theorized a translated a/r/tographical framework into theatre-based language for the use by practitioners that is rooted in theatre practitioner praxis (theory and action). This praxis-based study was intended to provide knowledge for artist-researchers, educators, and theatre-makers. This research offers artists/researchers/educators access to more stories, insights, and ideas about what it means to be a theatre-based artist/researcher/educator undertaking playbuilding as qualitative research. This research opens up rich possibilities that are commonplace to theatre-makers and performing artists on how different theatrical conventions could be used in playbuilding as qualitative research. For theatre-makers who are interested in combining theatre with academic research, it offers another paradigm to consider, expand, and interconnect the work that they do. Likewise, for a/r/tographers who are theatre-based, this research offers a way to conceive the work they do rooted in theatre-based language.

Awards, Scholarships, Fellowships

2013- Interdisciplinary Graduate Scholarship, University of Victoria

2012- Interdisciplinary Graduate Scholarship, University of Victoria

Presentations

1. Bishop, K. (2014, May). *Behind the curtain: Making artistic choices about performance conventions in academic research*. Paper presented at the Canadian Society for the Study of Education- Canadian Association for Curriculum Studies - Arts Researchers and Teachers Society, Annual Conference, Ontario.
2. Bishop, K. (2014, May). *Creating standing ovations in the classroom: Expanding the cohort model through embodied learning*. Paper presented at the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference and AGM, Ontario.
3. Bishop, K. (2014, May). *Teaching arts-based practice to support knowledge democracy*. Co-presenter of workshop with Dr. Catherine Etmanski, Dr. Budd Hall and Bruno Jayme Community University of Victoria Engagement conference, Victoria, BC.
4. Bishop, K. (2014, May). *Playbuilding as qualitative research: Discovering exegesis and artwork*. Paper presented at the Theatre Union of Graduate Students Colloquium, Victoria, BC.
5. Bishop, K. (2013, June). *Theatre-based research. No Happy Endings: What can applied theatre really do?* Seminar presenter at the Canadian Association for Theatre Research Annual Conference, Victoria, BC.
6. Bishop, K. (2013, June). *Theatre as an educational/research tool for adult students: The red yarn of transformation*. Paper presented at the Canadian Association of Adult Education Annual Conference, Victoria, BC.
7. Bishop, K. (2013, June). *Taking graduate students 'Down the Rabbit Hole': A theatre-based project on becoming artist/researcher/educator*. Paper presented at the Canadian Society for the Study of Education- Canadian Association for

Curriculum Studies - Arts Researchers and Teachers Society, Annual Conference, Victoria, BC.

8. Bishop, K. (2013, June). *Presenting: Your research at Congress or your lessons in the Classroom*. Presenter for the University of Victoria's Learning and Teaching Centre at the 82nd annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Victoria, BC.
9. Bishop, K. (2013, April). *Utilizing a multiple ethics model for research-based theatre/applied theatre*. Paper presented at the Theatre Union of Graduate Students Colloquium, Victoria, BC.
10. Bishop, K. (2013, March). *Performance piece about enacting the artist, researcher, educator*. Ideafest, University of Victoria, BC.
11. Bishop, K. (2012, July). *Towards a new paradigm – a multiple ethics model for the consideration and resolution of ethical issues within research-based theatre/applied theatre work*. Seminar and paper presented at the International Drama in Education Research Institute 7th triennial Conference, Ireland, UK.
12. Bishop, K. (2012, March). *Developing as artists/researchers/teachers through research-based theatre*. Poster presented at Ideafest, University of Victoria, BC.
13. Bishop, K. (2012, Feb). *A PhD student's search for a moral imperative in research-based theatre*. Paper presented at the Festival of Original Theatre conference, University of Toronto.

Publications

1. Bishop, K. (2014). Six perspectives in search of an ethical solution: Utilizing a moral imperative within a multiple ethics paradigm to guide research-based theatre/applied theatre work. *Research in Drama Education: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance* 19(1) edition.