

Selected Biographies of 2007 Faculty

Alice Lund

Puppetry, Sculpture

Alice Lund has been teaching workshops in puppet construction since she first began working with world renowned puppetry company Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia in 1987. During her 15 year association with the company Alice worked as a Stage Manager; Puppeteer; Workshop Instructor and Coordinator; Production Manager; and Puppet, Set and Costume Builder. She continued to work as a stage manager for Ross Creek on occasion and also to work on puppetry and props for Two Planks and a passion theatre.

She has been on faculty at Ross Creek since 2002.



Ami McKay

Creative Writing

“I was born and raised in rural Indiana. Between cornfields and Interstate-65 I learned to tell tall tales, play the piano and drive a yellow 1972 VW Super-Beetle.”

Ami writes fiction, radio documentaries and drama. As a freelance producer for CBC radio her work has aired on *Maritime Magazine*, *This Morning*, *OutFront*, and *The Sunday Edition*. Her documentary, *Daughter of Family G*, won an Excellence in Journalism Medallion at the 2003 Atlantic Journalism Awards. She has been a finalist in the Writers' Union of Canada's Short Prose Competition as well as the recipient of a grant from the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture, and Heritage. Originally from the US, she now lives with her husband and two sons in an old farmhouse on the Bay of Fundy.

Ami McKay's novel, *The Birth House*, was published by Knopf Canada, February 2006 and immediately became the best-selling Canadian novel on numerous press lists for months. Publication in the Netherlands, Germany, 4th Estate/Harper Collins in the UK, and Wm. Morrow/Harper Collins in the US followed with great reviews and sales. She is represented by Helen Heller of The Helen Heller Agency. **For a full online media kit and contact information please see amimckay.com**

Awards and Recognition

March 2004 - 2nd Place in the The H.R.(Bill) Percy Prize for Unpublished Novel by the Writer's Federation of Nova Scotia.

October 2003 - *Daughter of Family G* was selected to air on Soundprint, and aired on National Public Radio stations throughout the U.S.

May 2003 Atlantic Journalism Awards - Excellence in Journalism Award (Finalist in the Feature Writing for Radio Category, *Daughter of Family G*)

April 2003 Gabriel Award Nomination, *Daughter of Family G*

January 2003 Finalist in the Writers' Union of Canada Short Prose Competition, *Illumination*

November 2002 - May 2003 Apprentice in the WFNS Mentorship Program Paired with Richard Cumyn

Ami is a fellow of the Ross Creek Centre and began teaching at Ross Creek in 2006.

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Bob Hainstock

Printmaking

Bob Hainstock has worked in Atlantic and Western Canada as an artist for more than three decades. He is a fulltime printmaker and painter and part time art instructor at Acadia University and several private workshops. His work is primarily concerned with fictional landscape and the potentials of texture and colour but frequently explores the increasing contrasts and frictions between rural and urban

cultures and between natural and manmade environments. Bob Hainstock is an award winning author and illustrator of a best selling book on rural architectural heritage. His studio techniques include collagraphs, woodblock, etching, mono prints, mixed media and several experimental processes involving rust/oxidation. He produces hand made papers and low relief sculptures from Fundy seaweed and other native plants.



Bob is an integral part of the Ross Creek faculty, and has taught, mentored and participated in our gallery and festival shows since Ross Creek opened.

Sally Lawrence and Rob Moir

Sculpture



Since meeting in 1981 while studying art in Florence Italy with the Ontario College of Art and Design's off campus program, Rob and Sally have collaborated on a wide variety of creative endeavors such as computer manipulated collage illustration granite and wood carving water colour and oil painting to welded steel bronze and nickel silver. Sally and Rob specialize in articulating ambitious outdoor public sculpture where the skills materials and spirit of specific communities are explored and celebrated.

This is their third year teaching at Ross Creek.

Robert McCollum - Ballet

Robert trained at the American Ballet Center, the School of the Joffrey Ballet and with such renowned individuals as Maggie Black, Peggy Baker and Louis Falco in New York and danced professionally in both the United States and Canada. Mr. McCollum has a wealth of experience as a teacher, performer and choreographer. He is on the faculty of the Canadian Children's Dance Theatre, the School of Toronto Dance Theatre, the National Ballet School and the National Ballet School's Dance Teachers' Seminar. Robert has worked extensively with the Youth Ensemble of George Brown College School of Dance, teaches dance in Theatre School at George Brown and has choreographed for musical specials, opera and theatre. Robert has gained international renown as a teacher and has been the subject of numerous newspaper and magazine articles, including a full page spread in the Globe and Mail. Last year he was featured in the popular U.S. publication, Dance Teacher Magazine

He began teaching at Ross Creek in our dance programs (presented in partnership with Dance Nova Scotia) in 2006.

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Gordon Stobbe



Fiddle/ Violin

Gordon, considered a master fiddler, has for the past 28 years made his home on the East Coast of Canada. His musical interests lie in the field of traditional music, especially as it is expressed in the wide variety of North American fiddle styles. He plays fiddle, mandolin, guitar, and clawhammer banjo.

His musical career is wide and varied. His performance history, besides his work in bands, includes co-creating, hosting, and musical directing eight seasons of a traditional television variety program

called [Up Home Tonight](#) in Halifax, Nova Scotia ; five years of performing and touring with the NDWT company, a theatre company in Toronto specializing in developing and performing Canadian theatre pieces ; twelve years of hosting a weekly Bluegrass radio show "Bluegrass Express" on CHFX in Halifax, Nova Scotia ; and many recording projects and radio and television appearances. He performed in Halifax's Neptune Theatre's productions of Foxfire and Fiddler on the Roof. He has also been commissioned to compose and record scores for CBC radio dramas as well as musical work on other film and television projects. He has also been a musical coach for actors in Hollywood-produced movies shot in Nova Scotia.

Gordon is a composer on the fiddle and has many recording and publishing projects to his credit. His CD, 'Small World' was nominated for Best Roots / Traditional Solo Artist at the 2003 East Coast Music Awards. He has published many fiddle books with more to come. He has written several fiddle instruction books and has published tune collections of traditional as well as original music. These resources are now being used by fiddle teachers across Canada and the United States. He has recorded with artists across Canada. He has co-written fiddle music with *Calvin Vollrath*, *John Arcand*, Paul Gitlitz, Bernie Jaffe, and others. Gordon currently performs with a number of groups including *Razzamatazz For Kids* (children's band), the [Gordon Stobbe Trio](#) (traditional fiddle styles of North America), the [Mighty Oak String Band](#), (old-time string band music of the early 20th century with traditional twin fiddles), a trio with Kelli Trottier and Greg Simm and two dance bands made up of various members of the above bands. He plays festivals, concerts, conventions and other musical venues.

He has taught at Ross Creek since 2002.

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Rene Pierre Allain

Visual Arts

Rene is one of our master teachers, working primarily with the Academy students. Originally from New Brunswick, he began his career as a journalist and photographer, winning press awards for political photography. He made the move to visual art, with a unique sculptural paiting which has gained him international attention and led to his work being in renowned collections such as the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Plattsburgh State Art Museum, Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery, Owen Sound, University of Waterloo Art Gallery, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT. He is based in Brooklyn, NY and teaches at the Manhattan School for Visual Arts in the winter and at Ross Creek during the summers.



He has taught at Ross Creek since 2005.



Mary Ellen Maclean

Physical Theatre

Mary Ellen MacLean is a creator, actor and director working in theatre, television and film. She was a founding member of the physical theatre ensemble *Jest in Time* who toured internationally for two decades. The quartet also created and starred in three national CBC TV specials worked with symphony Nova Scotia and Performed in numerous Neptune Theatre productions. Since 2001 Mary Ellen has toured her one woman play *Frankie* across Canada and it was recently aired on Bravo TV. She worked on her new work, *Bicycle*, using dancers, actors, bicycles in residence in the studios at Ross Creek.

She has taught at Ross Creek since 2005.

Ken Schwartz

Theatre, Improv

Ken Schwartz has been teaching theatre for the past 14 years, to both children and adults and is the founding artistic director of Two Planks and a Passion Theatre. As artistic director of Two Planks, a national touring company, he has directed over 20 shows which have toured from Whitehorse to St. John's, Newfoundland. He is also a playwright, with four produced plays to his credit, including *Westray: The Long Way Home*, published by Talon Books. Ken is one of the only students ever admitted to three sections of the National Theatre School, where he chose to do both the Technical Production and Directing programs, from which he graduated in the early 1990s.



Ken began the Ross Creek summer programs and has been on faculty since our inception in 2001.