

sharon lewis

DIRECTOR
SHOWRUNNER
PLAYWRIGHT
WRITER
ACTOR

ABOUT

Sharon Lewis's talent successfully criss-crosses the genre of television, film, digital, print and theatre in a variety of roles as an award winning director, actor, playwright and writer.

Sharon's career has been focused on putting women of colour, particularly Caribbean woman at the forefront of her storytelling. Sharon was pursuing graduate studies when she landed a part-time job at a theatre company called **Second Look Community Arts**. That's when the creative bug hit and she began writing and directing plays and by the end of 1990 she was co-artistic director of the company. She was sent to train with Augusto Boal in London England in Theatre of the Oppressed techniques. She moved from political activist theater into more conventional theater by the mid 1990s.

She co-founded a theatre company with maxine bailey and Melanie Nicholls-King called **Sugar'n'Spice productions** which launched with their hugely successful play that maxine and Sharon co-wrote and Sharon directed called **SISTAHS**. The play garnered a Dora nomination, the run was extended, the play was published and has been produced in Toronto, Los Angeles, San Francisco and the Cayman Islands. Sugar'n'Spice went on to produce **Afrocentric**, and **Stockholme Syndrome** which also garnered a Dora award.

Sharon continued her career as a playwright and a director in Los Angeles while adding hosting, acting and filmmaking to her repertoire, always with the focus on putting Caribbean women of colour first. Sharon played the title role in the Cannes official selection film **Rude**. Sharon garnered the highest ratings for hosting the CBC live political talk show, **counterSpin** in the history of that show. She is the first woman of color in Canada to host a national prime time talk show. She is a Leo and Gemini nominated television host for **ZeD** an interactive television and web CBC show.



CONTACT



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ABOUT

Voted one of the top most powerful people in Canada by Elle Magazine in 2004, award winning writer/director/producer Sharon Lewis has been creating ground-breaking content since her 1994 play *Sistahs*. Sharon has a track record of working with a variety of top tier Canadian and International talent, including Drake, Timothy Hutton, Jennifer Beals, Maroon 5, Jason Priestly, Property Brothers - Jonathan and Drew Scott, Dan Akroyd, Clarke Johnson, Tonya Lee Williams and many more, in diverse capacities.

Her award winning short films **Chains** and **Ritch** have been sold and broadcast on such networks as BET, HBO, and CBC. She has received support for various projects from funding agencies such as the Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council, Canada Arts Council, National Film Board of Canada. She has directed over 100 hours of popular television.

Sharon has currently wrapped her debut afropunk feature film, *Brown Girl Begins* inspired by Nalo Hopkinson's award winning novel, *Brown Girl in the Ring*. Sharon wrote, directed and produced with a stellar team this groundbreaking sci fi feature film. Sharon has already received development funding towards a video game, inspired by the novel. Sharon was one of the first women of color to co-found a theatre company in Toronto, the first woman of color to host two national live TV programs, and now the first to bring to the screen a Caribbean afrofuturist feature film.

SELECTED AWARDS

- 2015 TELEFILM / TIFF PITCH THIS! FINALIST**
- 2013 CORUS BURSARY CONVERGENT MEDIA PROGRAM**
- 2013 RECIPIENT OF TIFF STUDIO ADAPT THIS SESSION**
- 2011 RECIPIENT OF THE CTV CAREER ADVANCEMENT MODULE**
- 2010 RECIPIENT OF THE QUEBECOR CONVERGENCE MEDIA FELLOWSHIP**
- 2010 RECIPIENT OF THE WOMEN IN THE DIRECTOR CHAIR BANFF FELLOWSHIP**
- 2010 RECIPIENT OF DIGITAL CENTRE WORKSHOP**
- 2009 OFFICIAL PARTICIPANT OF THE WOMEN IN THE DIRECTOR CHAIR PROGRAM**
- 2004 CANADIAN SCREEN AWARDS NOMINEE, BEST TV HOST**

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FILM & TV DIRECTOR

2017 SEE ME NOW (SHORT FILM)

Director for this award winning short film about an African American woman who is fighting to be "seen".

- Winner of the Caribbean Tales film festival short film award
- Winner of the Africa Cinema Spotlight Award

2017 BROWN GIRL BEGINS (FEATURE FILM)

Wrote the feature script, secured the funding and directed the ultra low budget film over a 15 day shoot - now being submitted to film festivals

2014-2015 ESCAPE OR DIE (SHOWRUNNER, OLN)

A 13 part doc series following the Canadian Houdini as he travels worldwide. Responsible for overseeing the writing room, content, story, post-production, look, tone and feel, liaise with the broadcasters

- Best Documentary Series Yorkton Film Festival

2013 KARMA'S A B*TCH (SERIES DIRECTOR)

Investigation Discovery (crime recreation show) responsible for writing and directing the sensitive interviews and directing the recreation portions.

2012 IN BETWEEN LIFE (SHORT FILM)

A short film that I wrote and directed over a 2 day shoot. Location scout, casting, creating the look, tone and feel of the film

- Capital City Black Film Festival
- San Diego Black Film Festival
- ReelWorld Film Festival

2009 CHAINS (SHORT FILM)

A short film that I wrote and directed over a 2 day shoot. Location scout, casting, creating the look, tone and feel of the film, secured the funding as the producer

- Short Film HBO finalist
- Chicago International Film Festival
- Eugene Int'l Film Festival: Winner of Best Sci Fi Short
- Toronto International Film Festival (special presentation)
- ReelWorld Film Festival
- Aired on HBO, aspire TV,

2006 RITCH (SHORT FILM)

- TV, Hollywood Black Film Festival: Special nomination
- Atlanta Hip Hop Film Festival: Winner Best Narrative Short
- Sold to BET tv
- Sold to DirecTV

THEATRE DIRECTOR

2006 Ten/Redefined

2006 Tales from the...

2005 Busby

1999 Shar!

1996 Pinoi

1995 Stockholm(e) Syndrome

1995 Love and other Strange Things

1995 Titus and Andronicus

1995 Riot

1994 Sistahs Poor

1994 Coups and Calypsos

B current

Theater Passe Muraille

Tarragon Theatre

Japanese Cultural Center (Los Angeles)

Castro Theatre San Francisco

Theatre Center

Cahoots Theatre (Assistant Director)

TheatrePasse Muraille (Assistant Director)

Factory Theatre (Assistant Director)

Alex Theatre

Cahoots Theatre (Assistant Director)

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WRITER

PLAYWRIGHT

- 2000** Contributing-Author, Tellin' It Like It Is : Girls' Night, monologue included in this collection of africanadian monologues, published by PUC
- 2000** Contributing-Author, Testifyin': sistahs, included in this anthology of africanadian plays, published by PUC
- 2000** Playwright, Shylock's Rules. An adaptation of the Merchant of Venice for Los Angeles Theatre Centre
- 1998** Co-author, Sistahs: a full-length dramatic play, Playwrights Canada Press

SELECTED NON-FICTION WRITER

- 2010** Author, "Popular Political Theatre and Performance A collection of articles on popular theatre", published by Critical Perspectives on Canadian Theatre in English, Vol. 17
- 1999** Co-editor, Anthology; Author, "Mercury Retrograde" a short story collection, published by Sister Vision Press
- 1997** Author, Revue Noir a short story, Maple published in the June/July/August, vol. #25, 1997, edition of this Paris based, bilingual contemporary arts magazine
- 1995** Good Bi-Girl, published in anthology called Plural Desires: Sister Vision Press
- 1993-94** Writer, Fuse Magazine "Rocking the Showboat", a comment on non-traditional casting, Vol. XVII No. 2 Winter

PRODUCED SCREENPLAYS

- 2017** Brown Girl Begins
- 2013** In Between Life
- 2010** Chains
- 2009** Ritch
- 2000** Lullaby

SELECTED TRAINING

- 2010** **UCLA: WRITING GENRE FILMS**
- 2008** **LIFT: LIGHTING FUNDAMENTALS**
- 2006** **NFB: PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR INTENSIVE**
- 2005** **IFC: DIRECTING INTENSIVE WEEKEND CLINT EASTWOOD AND DON ROOS**
- 2000-PRESENT** **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES (UCLA): DIRECTOR'S CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (IN PROGRESS)**
- 1993** **LONDON BUBBLE - AUGUSTO BOAL - THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED TRAINING**
- 1984 - 1989** **UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO: HONORS B.A. SPECIALIST: POLITICAL SCIENCE | MINOR: SOCIOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY**

*ACTOR RESUME ON REQUEST