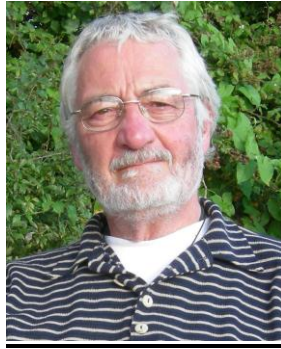


# JOHN WILLIAM SOMERS



## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Current Post** Honorary University Fellow  
University of Exeter, England

**Date of Birth:** 10 September, 1940

### Academic qualifications

1986 MEd - University of Exeter.  
1962 DLC - Nottingham University.  
1961 Teaching Certificate - Loughborough College

### Appointments

2005 - University Fellow, University of Exeter.  
2005 – 2007 Senior Teaching Fellow, University of Exeter.  
1998 – 2005 Senior Lecturer, School of Performance Arts, University of Exeter.  
1990 - 1998 Senior Lecturer, School of Education, University of Exeter.  
1978 - 1990 Lecturer, School of Education, University of Exeter.  
1976 - 1978 Deputy Headteacher, The Ousedale School, Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire.  
1972 - 1976 Lecturer, St Luke's College, Exeter.  
1970 - 1972 Head of Drama/Year Head, Imberhorne Comprehensive School, East Grinstead, Sussex.  
1967 - 1970 Head of Middle School, Head of Drama, Imberhorne County Secondary School.  
1963 - 1967 Assistant teacher, Imberhorne County Secondary School.  
1962 - 1963 Assistant teacher, Nechells Secondary School, Birmingham

## **RESEARCH**

### **Summary**

During recent years I have concentrated on developing, from detailed research, five major interactive plays. Two of these attracted total funding of £203,000 for national tours. This work is the successful use of rigorous research through practice – much of which has given rise to published papers and conference keynotes. The six-month national tour was evaluated by an independent researcher using data from 128 performances. The research positively supports the use of interactive theatre to achieve the aims of this particular programme on mental health, providing unique research evidence. I have also toured interactive plays on eating disorders, bioethics, bullying at work and stress and suicide amongst veterinarians. In developing these programmes, I have co-operated extensively with bioethicists, psychiatrists, psychologists and veterinarians. This has been an enriching experience for us all.

In addition to my current work on research through practice, I am a major contributor, on a range of international fronts, to the development of theory and practice in my field - Drama and Theatre in Education and more recently, the related field of Applied Drama.

- I founded the journal *Research in Drama Education* the leading international journal in the field, and am founding director of a triennial international research conference *Researching Drama and Theatre in Education* that attracted researchers from thirty-two countries in 2008 (its sixth meeting). The conference has become the premier international research event in Applied Drama.
- My work has appeared in research journals around the world - most recently in Germany, France, Czech Republic, Poland, UK, Canada, USA, Greece and Australia, for example. . As befits my field, I have maintained a long-term interest in research through practice, directing over forty original drama projects, each one exploring new aspects of performance work. I have been invited to talk about my work by arts organisations and universities abroad (Turkey; Brazil; Poland; Slovakia, Czech Republic, Greece, South Korea, Hungary, Japan, Taiwan, Austria, Finland, Canada for example) and in the UK (Her Majesty's Inspectorate, The Arts Council and National Drama, for instance).
- I have made several significant international links. In the period 1997-2001, for instance, I was UK co-ordinator of a four-year research link between the State and Federal Universities of Santa Catarina, Brazil and the University of Exeter. This link allowed four Exeter colleagues to experience research exchanges with Brazilian colleagues. I had a long-term link with the University of Warsaw where I have led the establishment of a course in enactment in the Institute of Resocialisation and Rehabilitation. In 2000 I was asked to become involved in a TACIS/FARE project in that Institute using drama as a medium for raising the ethical issues to do with policing in a post-communist society and have worked with the University of Warsaw staff and Police Trainers to this end.
- Since 2000 I have intensified a research interest in Community Theatre. I have directed major productions which have extended the boundaries of this form of theatre. To date I have initiated eight theatre projects in East Devon and four more are in preparation. I have made presentations in a number of countries on this work.

- In 2001 I founded the experimental, interactive theatre company *Exstream*. The company employed professional actors (many of whom are graduates of the Department) to undertake original projects that allowed audiences to interact with the story carried within the drama. Under my artistic direction, the company achieved a national reputation for excellence. In the period 2001-2005 the plays I created and developed with the company attracted £264,000 in funding from a variety of organisations. £43,000 of that funding resulted from a research collaboration with Professors Steve Hughes and John Bryant from Exeter University's School of Biological Science to develop an interactive theatre programme on bioethics. The play was developed in a final year undergraduate course and then transferred to the theatre company which undertook a four-month national tour using a grant from the Wellcome Trust. In 2003/4 research evidence from this work allowed me to develop a new play with final-year students on first episode psychosis. In the research phase, I worked closely with several service providers and users, principally Dr Glenn Roberts a consultant psychiatrist. I subsequently gained a grant of £165,000 from various sources (principally the Wellcome Trust) for a national tour of this interactive play. The tour, October 2004 – March 2005. The play received an extremely positive reception and won three national awards. At a new research project involving staff from Exeter's Postgraduate Medical School requiring the creation of an original DVD reinvention of the play (with interactive potential) will be developed and new funding is being sought for this. In February 2010 I organised a one-day seminar to explore the making of a multi-platform, digital version of this programme. The seminar attracted significant film makers, web designers, educationalists, and mental health service users and providers
- In 2004/5, I developed a new Interactive Theatre programme, *To the Core* on the topic of Eating Disorders was developed with students and toured in Devon. I co-operated with psychologists, psychotherapists and service users to ensure its authenticity. It was performed at a major Eating Disorders conference in Somerset in February 2005. Such projects develop from the sophisticated understandings I have gained into the praxis of interactive theatre. In July 2004, as guest director at the Korean National University of Arts, Seoul, I developed a new interactive play that was premiered to an invited audience. It subsequently toured in S. Korea. In 2007 I was guest director at the University of Brno, developing a new interactive theatre programme on self-harm which subsequently toured in the Czech Republic.
- In 2000 I was invited to write and direct a play to celebrate the Millennium in an East Devon Village. This work involved 120 cast members from the community and original theatre forms, including performance in seven locations within the village. It attracted widespread acclaim and subsequently I was invited to become Artistic Director of the newly formed *Tale Valley Community Theatre*. six further productions followed, all extending the boundaries of the kinds of theatre possible in rural communities. This work was extended in 2004 with a grant of £6,000 from the University's Community Link fund through the establishment of a Community Theatre School. This series of workshops on different aspects of theatre drew participants from across East Devon and has resulted in new plays, one of which, *Foresight*, was performed in East Devon in 2008, attracting a grant of £10,000 from the National Lottery. *Foresight*, involving the story of a 2nd WW German bomber which crashed in East Devon with the loss of its crew of four was performed in

promenade style in a marquee placed on the spot where one of the German bodies hit the ground. It was accompanied by an exhibition, including parts of the original plane. Members of the German airmen's families also attended.

- I have written a text on post 2nd WW advances in British education, with particular reference to a remarkable Birmingham school, Steward Street. I had access to original document of the period through archive research at the Public Records Office, Kew, and the Birmingham City Archive. I was also able to interview the Headteacher who led the school during the crucial period of experimentation and ex-pupils who provided vivid accounts of the pioneering work at the school where Drama and other arts were placed at the centre of the curriculum. The draft has been shared with Professor Tim Brighouse (until recently, Birmingham's Chief Education Officer) who has commended the copy. I was also able to interview Peter Slade, an influential drama theorist and practitioner of this period prior to his death in 2004. This material, plus information culled from the personal archive of Ken Scott is being prepared for a new book 'Pioneers of Education'.

## **GRANTS**

### **External**

2010	East Devon District Council	500
2010	Rethink	16,546
2009	Rethink	15,765
2006	Awards for All	10,000
2004	Wellcome Trust	169,000
2004	Devon Health Care Trust	5,000
2004	Devon Partnership Trust	3,000
2004	Devon Social Services	10,000
2004	National Institute of Mental Health England	16,000
2003	Wellcome Trust	42,000
2002	National Trust	500
2001	Ernest Cook Trust	5,000
2001	Elmgrant Trust	500
2001	David St John Charitable Trust	5,000
2000	East Devon District Council	3,000
2000	Tale Valley Trust	2,000
1999	TACIS/PHARE consultancy payment to School of Drama and Music	1,750
1999	British Council travel and accommodation grant for Brazilian Research	2,943
1998	TACIS/PHARE project. Support of two inputs at Warsaw University	1,005
1998	British Council travel and accommodation grant for Turkish lecture tour	1,438
1997	British Council travel and accommodation grant for Brazilian Research	2,790
1996	British Council travel and accommodation grant for Brazilian Research	2,650
1996	Four-year grant from CAPES (Brazilian research council) for three-year research project which was extended by one year	11,750
1995	British Council for exploratory research visit to Florianopolis, Brazil	1,750
1994	Baring Foundation for research on the nature of drama learning:	5,000
1992	British School of Motoring	2,300

In addition, together with my Brazilian colleague Dr Beatriz Cabral, I secured grants of approximately £25,000 from CAPES and the British Council for five Exeter colleagues who were involved in the Brazilian/Exeter research project). From 1995 I received grants of £35,000 from *Taylor and Francis Ltd* for the administration of the journal *Research in Drama Education*.

### **University**

2004	Community Link Fund	8,000
2003	Community Link Fund	5,000
1998	External Affairs Committee	1,500
1998	SPA Research Fund	3,000
1998	Departmental Fund	3,950
1998	Departmental Fund	530
1995	Department Research Fund	1,200
1995	University Research Fund	3,800
1992	University Research Fund	1,500
1991	Departmental Fund	500
1991	UFC Continuing Education Fund	1,450
1991	Departmental Fund	450
1990	University Research Fund	830
1990	Departmental Fund	500

### **TEACHING**

I have a strong record of undergraduate and post-graduate teaching. This is confirmed by student evaluation of courses on which I taught and the many invitations I receive to teach elsewhere. When I joined the School of Arts, Languages and Literatures (SALL), I taught courses in Interactive Theatre and Playwriting. I was invited to establish the MA Applied Drama which was very successful, drawing students from an international spectrum. My international work assisted in recruitment. I am particularly interested in the notion of universities as nurseries for professional work and am writing an article on this aspect of my work.

### **EXTERNAL EXAMINING**

#### **Degree programmes**

2009 – 2012	External Examiner, MA Drama, University of Warwick
2006 – 2010	External Examiner, BA Drama, Newman University College, Birmingham.
1998 - 2005	External Examiner, MA Community Theatre, The Central School of Speech and Drama, London.
1999 - 2003	External Examiner, MA Applied Theatre, Manchester University.
1994 - 1997	External Examiner, MA Drama in Education, University of Central England in Birmingham.
1992 - 1995	External Examiner, BA Drama programme, University of Reading.

#### **Recent postgraduates**

PhD 2009	CHANG, Li-Yu	University of Warwick
PhD 2008	Linda Butler	Dundalk Institute of Technology
PhD 2006	Erik Szauder	University of Central England
PhD 2005	Gareth White	University of London

PhD 2004 Persephone Sextou,	University of London
PhD 2004 Tsai, Chi-chang	University of London
PhD 2003 James Thompson	University of Manchester

### **POSTGRADUATE PERSONNEL** (recent and current)

Chryssa Sgouridou (Greece) (PhD ongoing, co-supervisor);  
 Christina Gkatzoli (Greece) – (MPhil: awarded June 2010);  
 Ha-Young Hwang (South Korea) – (PhD awarded 2009);  
 JUNG, Shu-hwa (Taiwan) (PhD awarded 2009);  
 Sharon Muiruri, (Bournemouth Theatre in Education) – (MPhil awarded 2008);  
 CHEN, Yung-ching, (Taiwan) – (PhD awarded 2007);  
 Hala Al-Yamani (Palestine) – (PhD awarded 2005);  
 Marcia Pompêo Nogueira (Brazil) – (PhD awarded 2003);  
 Joy Widows, (Guernsey) - (PhD awarded 2000);

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Major responsibilities**

**University:** Dean of the Faculty of Education 1992/95.

Chair of the University of Exeter's Academic Staff Association in 1989/90.

I have been a member of the University Council, Senate, Academic Staff Committee and Academic Policy Committee. I have been a member of various appointment committees and appeal hearings. I co-ordinated and chaired the academic staff submission during the UGC visit in 1990 and presented that submission to the UGC visiting panel in open session. I have been a University Senator twice and have served on several disciplinary boards and committees of enquiry. In addition to chairing the ASA, I was a committee member for 8 years.

**School of Arts, Languages and Literature:** I was Chair of SALL's External Relations Committee and a member of its Research Committee. I was the Department's Study Abroad co-ordinator and Careers Officer.

**School of Education:** I was a member of the School of Education Directorate and of most of the School's major committees (its promotions committee, for example). I served as Subject Chair of English and Drama most recently in the period 1995/97. I initiated and led several working parties and chaired several appointment committees.

#### **Initiatives**

In 1995 I founded *Research in Drama Education*, the leading international Applied Drama research journal.

In 1999 I founded the Exeter MA in Applied Drama. Since its inception it enrolled students from sixteen countries and has gained a wide reputation for quality.

From 1995 I devised and directed six major international research conferences and am founder editor of the research journal *Research in Drama Education*.

I founded the theatre company *Exstream* in 2001. In the six years of its existence it attracted over a quarter of a million pounds in financial support for its work. It gained critical acclaim for its interactive theatre programmes, three of which toured nationally.

Since 2000, I originated eight Interactive Theatre programmes which have been performed outside the University.

I negotiated a three-year research link between two universities in Brazil and this university that involved ten academics, all of whom visited their partner country to conduct research. This link is ongoing for some of those colleagues.

I established a very productive link with the Institute of Social Prevention and Resocialisation (IPSiR) at the University of Warsaw.

In 2004 I designed a prototype portable scenery system using original construction principles. This has been refined and a second prototype made. I expect this system to enter production for use in educational settings and by touring theatre companies.

In 2000 I conceived and directed a community play in East Devon. This initiative has grown with six further original productions and the founding of *Tale Valley Community Theatre* in 2003. Currently, four original productions: verbatim theatre, a film, a researched performance on ageing (involving school children and older people) and a site-specific performance are in preparation.

## **EXTERNAL RECOGNITION**

### **Most recent**

2011, February	Nominated for the Association of Theatre in Higher Education (North America) for the Award for Leadership in Community-Based Theatre and Civic Engagement.
2011, April	Received a Lifetime Recognition Award from Türk Eğitim Derneği (Turkish Drama Association) in Antalya, Turkey for services to drama in the UK and in Turkey.
2008, February	<i>On the Edge</i> commissioned by the <i>Time to Change</i> national mental health initiative to tour in 2009 - 2011.
2008, March	<i>Runaway</i> a film collaboration with <i>Pangea TV</i> nominated for Media Innovation awards.
2005, June	My play <i>On the Edge</i> , won the Southern Region Health and Social Care Award for its contribution to mental health awareness.
2005, December	<i>On the Edge</i> won the <i>National Institute of Mental Health in England (NIMHE) Positive Practice Award</i> . It was also joint winner of the NIMHE Service User Involvement Award.
2004, November	Invited to become a member of the Working Group of the <i>Nuffield Review of 14-19 Education and Training</i> .
2004, October	Invited to become a member of the Steering Group of the new <i>British and Irish Theatre Research Association</i> .
2004	Invited member of Advisory Committee of the Greek Drama Education Journal.
2004, September	Invited to become a member of the Advisory Group for the <i>In Place of War</i> three-year AHRB funded theatre project.
2004 May	My play 'The Living at Hurford' was the subject of a 'Farming Today special on BBC Radio 4.

2003 July	I was awarded the American Alliance of Theatre and Education Special Recognition Award in a ceremony in New York.
2002	In recognition of my contributions there, I was made a member of faculty at Warsaw University.
Ongoing	Juror for AATE Research Award

My research and practice have been the focus of several articles internationally – in the Czech Republic in Tvoriva Dramatika, (2004) and Croatia in *Dramski Odgoj*. publication.

### **Pending invited presentations**

2011, September	Sole leader Türk Eğitim Derneği two-day workshop, Bursa, Turkey.
-----------------	--

### **Past invited presentations (Selection)**

2011, April	Workshop Ekol Drama, Istanbul
2011, April	Presentation and three workshops, conference, Istanbul University, Turkey;
2011, March/April	Keynote presentation and extended workshops at the ‘18 <sup>th</sup> International Creative Drama Congress’, Antalya, Turkey;
2011, March	Presentations and workshops, Bethlehem University, Palestine.
2011, February	Presentation and workshops (‘ <i>Community and workplace change: the role of drama in supporting social cohesion and well being</i> ’), international conference, Lahti, Finland.
2011, February	Presentation and workshops, Kokkola, Finland.
2011, February	Presentation and workshops, Metropolia University, Finland.
2010, Nov/Dec	Creation of four-day workshop of leading Czech academics on researching aspects of drama and theatre; Interactive Theatre programme, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.
2010, Nov/Dec	Creation of original Interactive Theatre programme, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.
2010, November	Keynote presentations and four workshops, Applied Drama Practitioners Forum, Warsaw, Poland.
2010, October	Opening presentation, research seminar, Newman University College, Birmingham.
2010, September	Keynote presentation and two extended workshops at the ‘17 <sup>th</sup> International Creative Drama Congress’, Istanbul, Turkey;
2010, May	Presentations and workshops at Tampere Centre of Practice as Research, Finland;
2010, May	Presentation and workshops and creation of new Interactive Theatre programme, Vaasa Central Hospital, Finland.
2009, October	Opening presentation, research seminar, Newman University College Birmingham.
2009, September	Presentation to Medical General Practitioners, Cullompton on <i>The Arts and Wellbeing</i> .
2008, April	Creation at Masaryk University, Brno of an Interactive Theatre programme on self-harm. This programme has toured regularly since.
2008, March	<i>The Theatre and Community</i> , Honiton and the Arts Lectures, Honiton Library.



- 2006, October International ISPS conference, Birmingham ICC, 'On the Edge'.
- 2006, September Invited speaker, Creative Industries in Rural Areas conference, Lancaster University;
- 2006, January Visiting lecturer/theatre director, University of Warsaw.
- 2005, December Keynote speaker, 'Drama and Well-being' conference, Warsaw.
- 2005, December Workshop leader, 'Stop Klatka' Conference, Warsaw.
- 2005, December Keynote speaker, 'Drama and Discrimination conference, Warsaw.
- 2005, October Keynote speaker, Littoral Seminar, University of Bath.
- 2005, September Keynote speaker, Greek Drama Network, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- 2005, September Invited speaker, inaugural Theatre Research Conference, University of Athens.
- 2005, September Theatre Director, Greek Drama Network, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- 2005, September Theatre Director, Aristotle University, Greece.
- 2005, September Keynote speaker, Greek Drama Network, Athens, Greece.
- 2005, September Theatre Director, Greek Drama Network, Athens, Greece.
- 2005, September Workshop leader, ISAACS Conference, Manchester.
- 2005, 2005, January Invited keynote speaker, national drama seminar, University of Jyväskylä, Finland
- 2004, December Invited to make keynote presentation, international theatre conference, Athens, Greece.
- 2004, November Keynote speaker and workshop leader, Hungarian National Drama association, Budapest, Hungary.
- 2004, November Keynote speaker, National conference on Crime Prevention and the Arts, Budapest, Hungary.
- 2004, November Keynote speaker, international conference 'What do we Fear', Warsaw University, Poland
- 2004, September Theatres of Science, University of Glamorgan
- 2004, September *Tuning into Psychosis Conference*, University of Manchester (90-minute presentation
- 2004, July Keynote speaker, International Children's Theatre Festival, Tokyo, Japan.
- 2004, July Guest Director, National University of Arts, Seoul, S. Korea.
- 2004, July Keynote speaker and workshop leader, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 2004 July Invited Special Interest Group Leader, International Drama and Theatre in Education Association World Congress, Ottawa, Canada
- 2004, April Keynote speaker, *Getting in Early, Getting it Right*, Early Intervention in Psychosis Conference, Buckfast Abbey. My play 'On the Edge' was performed at this conference.
- 2004 March Guest speaker, Graduate School, University of Bristol.
- 2004 March Keynote speaker and workshop leader, International Association for Theatre for Young People (ASSITEJ) Warsaw, Poland.
- 2003 November Exeter Learning City Award for contributions to Applied and Community Drama.
- 2003, September Keynote speaker and workshop leader, University of Brno, Czech Republic
- 2003, July Keynote speaker and workshop leader, international drama conference, Taipei
- 2003, April Keynote speaker and workshop leader, AITA/IATA congress, Austria

2003, February	Lead Keynote speaker, inaugural conference, Polish Applied Drama Association 'Stop Klatka.' Workshop leader.
2003, February	Workshop/seminar leader, Institute of Social Rehabilitation and Resocialisation, University of Warsaw
2003, January	Invited speaker, Association of Science Education, Birmingham
2003, January	Invited speaker, Wellcome 'Pulse' conference, Bristol
2003, January	Keynote speaker and workshop leader, third international drama conference, Athens
2003, February	Invited speaker, LTSN Biological Science conference, Stirling University, Scotland
2002, December	Invited speaker, South West Family Therapy Conference, Dillington House, Somerset
2002, July	Keynote speaker, Theatre in Education Conference, Taipei Workshop leader, Taipei
2001	Invited keynote speaker, <i>Arts Education and Academic Outcomes</i> , The Getty Centre, Los Angeles, USA.
2000, July	Keynote speaker, National Drama Conference, Taipei Workshop leader, Taipei
2000, April	Convenor Special Interest Group, IDEA Congress, Bergen
2000, July	Invited member of the International Advisory Committee, International Drama in Education Research Institute, University of Ohio, Columbus, USA.
1999 July	Invited Keynote speaker, NATD conference, Newman College, Birmingham.
1998, October	Invited to join an EU funded, international team of academics working in the field of policing in a new democracy, University of Warsaw
1998, October	Invited to originate courses and lead their inception at the University of Warsaw (Institute for Resocialisation and Rehabilitation).
1998, October	Workshop leader and curriculum consultant at University of Silesia (Faculty of Education and Psychology).
1998, October	Invited Keynote speaker, International conference on theatre and drama in childhood, University of Newcastle, Australia.
1998, May	Invited to present a series of lectures, seminars and workshops on Drama in Education at the University of Ankara, Turkey.
1998, April	Invited speaker, National Conference on Drama in Education, University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil.
1998, April	Three-week research fieldwork in schools and surrounding communities in Santa Catarina, Brazil.
1997, November	Seminar/workshop leader, Universities of Warsaw and Silesia, and Nauczycielskie Kolegium Jezykow Obcych, Torun, Poland.
1997, June	Keynote speaker National Association of Teachers of Drama, Birmingham UK.
1996, November	Keynote speaker, Research Conference, The Central School of Speech and Drama, London UK.
1996, October	Invited to lead a series of research and curriculum development sessions, Universities of Warsaw and Silesia, Poland.
1996, August	Invited to be at the University of Calgary to work on a co-authored book on Research in Drama.

1995, September	Invited by the State and Federal Universities of Santa Catarina, Brazil, to visit Brazil to negotiate a three year academic link: sponsored by those universities, two Brazilian sponsors, and the British Council. Subsequently, four academics from each country have visited the other for co-operative research.
1995, September	Invited open lecture, State University of Santa Catarina.
1995, July	Keynote speaker, Griffith University Research Institute.
1995, May	Four lectures/workshops in Polish universities
1993, September	Creative Arts Summer School, Athens, The Cross-Curricular Drama Project.
1992, July	Keynote speaker, National HMI Drama Conference,.
1992, February	South West Arts Regional Conference, Keynote Speech.
1991, March	Lecture/theatre tour to the Slovakian Arts Academy, Slovak National Youth Theatre, Comenius University, Slovakia, Trnava High School, Slovakia

### External evaluator

I have been asked frequently to advise on the promotion of staff in other universities to permanent chairs and fellowships. In the recent past I have been requested to act as external evaluator for chairs for James McDonald (Manchester University), Dr Laura McCammon (University of Arizona, USA); Professor Juliana Saxton (University of Victoria, Canada), Dr Cecily O'Neill (University of Ohio, USA), and promotions for many other colleagues, including Dr Joe Winston, (University of Warwick) and Dr Kriben Pillay, (University of Durban-Westville). I have also refereed a number of grant applications for various funding bodies. In 2002 I served as external validator for a new degree at St Mary's College, Twickenham, UK, and as External advisor for the degree review team, The Central school of Speech and Drama. In January 2005 I will serve as external evaluator for a new Community Theatre course at Dartington.

### Other presentations

2011, April	Exeter International Applied Drama Conference: <i>'Shaping Drama for Wellbeing.'</i>
2010, September	TaPRA Conference, University of Glamorgan <i>'Community Theatre as Communal Work: a search for identity'</i> .
2009, September	<i>Community Arts and the Amateur</i> , East Devon District Council.
2004, September	<i>Theatres of Science</i> , University of Glamorgan.
2004, September	<i>Tuning into Psychosis Conference</i> , University of Manchester (90 minute presentation).
2004, September	Invited speaker, Somerset Mental Health Team, Glastonbury.
2004, February	invited speaker, Exeter Writers Group.
2003, July	'The Therapy of Drama', International Drama and Theatre in Education Research Institute, University College, Northampton.
2001, May	'Drama Making as a Research Process', <i>PARIP conference</i> , University of Bristol.

### Academic Visitors

A number of academics have chosen to come to Exeter to spend time with me and have done so under honorary status. These include:

2010-2011	Ruken Akar- Vural, Adnan Menderes University, Turkey
2005-2006	Heli Åaltonen, University of Jyvaskylä, Finland.

- 2005-2007 Dr Glenn Roberts, Devon Partnership Trust;  
 2003-2004: Leena Gardiner, Finland;  
 2002-2003: Professor Yuriko Kobayashi, Kawamura Gakuen Women's University;  
 2002-2003: Professor Choi, Yung-ai, Korean National University of the Arts;  
 2001: Dr David Wright, University of Western Sydney;  
 2001: Eva Sikorova, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic;  
 1999-2000: Sol Britt Arnolds Granlund, University of Vassa, Finland;  
 2000: Professor Bernie Warren, University of Windsor, Canada;  
 2000: Jenny Simons, University of Sydney;  
 1999: Marina Vulova, University of Sofia, Bulgaria;  
 1999-2000: Sol-Britt Arnolds Granlund, University of Vassa, Finland;  
 1998: Mary Yirenki, University of Ghana;  
 1998: Dr Patrick Mangeni, Makare University, Uganda;  
 1997-1998 Dr Hannu Heikkinen, University of Jyväskylä, Finland, (Finnish Academy  
 Scholarship);  
 1996: Dr Roberta Bramwell, University of Calgary, Canada.

### Recent original work

- 2010 Co-writer of *'Hollyhayes* a Verbatim Theatre script to be performed in June 2011  
 by *Tale Valley Community Theatre*.  
 2010 Original theatre script, *Sunnyside*.  
 2010 Original theatre/film script *Leave it to me*.  
 2009 Production and direction of original alfresco version of *Wind in the Willows*;  
 2008 Development and performance of eighteen new monologues. Storyboarding and  
 filming of these.  
 2006/7 Development of a new community play *Foresight*.  
 2008 Development of original Interactive Theatre programme, Czech Republic.  
 2006 *Practice Imperfect* a new interactive theatre programme on stress in the veterinary  
 profession. Toured to London.  
 2006 New interactive theatre project on domestic violence developed at Warsaw  
 University.  
 2005 Three interactive theatre programmes developed in Greece.  
 2004/5 *To the Core* – a new play about eating disorders toured in Devon and Somerset.  
 2003 *On the Edge* – this play has secured funding of £160,000 for a national, six-month  
 tour by the theatre company, *Exstream*, of which I am Artistic Director.  
 2002 *The Living at Hurford* – a play on rural communities and the aftermath of foot and  
 mouth disease (gained funding for production in rural communities and SW  
 theatre tour).  
 2002 *A Present for Anna* – this play secured funding of £43,000 for a national tour;  
 2003 *Smarty Scores Again* – a community play written and directed by me in a Devon  
 village;  
 2001 *Put up or Shut up* – an interactive play on bullying, toured in Devon;  
 2001 *Island of Understanding*, an interactive play on racism. Funding is being sought  
 for a national tour.  
 2000 *Parson Terry's Dinner* – a community play written and directed by me in a Devon  
 community;

### Consultancy

- 2003 – ongoing Theatre Consultant, Nigel Grainge, Architects (new theatre spaces  
 in the South West)

1995- ongoing	Consultant on Drama to Institute of Social Rehabilitation, University of Warsaw.
1995- 1999	Consultant on Drama to Faculty of Education and Psychology, University of Silesia, Poland.
1992 - 1996	Consultant to Devon Probation Service.
1992 - 1993	Consultant to Big-Brum Theatre in Education Company.

### **Editorship**

Founding Editor *Research in Drama Education*, published by Taylor and Francis.

### **MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE REGION**

There have been many. As an example, in 2004 I initiated a *Community Theatre School* in East Devon. Led by a team of professional theatre workers, this comprised sixteen workshops on Acting, Directing, Writing, Design, Music and Marketing. This highly successful initiative was made possible by a grant of £6,000 from the University's Community Link Fund, and has resulted in two new plays which will be performed in East Devon in 2005. One, involving the story of a 2<sup>nd</sup> WW German Bomber which crashed in East Devon with the loss of its crew of four will be performed in promenade style in a marquee placed on the spot where one of the German bodies hit the ground.

I am an active member of the Blackdown Artists and Makers, making presentations on Community Arts. I am working with East Devon District Council to explore the notion of 'cultural animateurs' who would stimulate arts activities in communities.

I have directed several community projects and theatre tours in the region. Notable are the direction of the Mystery play *The Passion* in Ottery St Mary Church in 1991 and the several Interactive Theatre projects that have been devised and toured in the region and beyond, including abroad (Slovakia, France, Poland). For six years, I was a member of governing body at The King's School Ottery St Mary and Chair of its Curriculum Committee. I originated, organised and was a speaker at peace education conferences in the period 1980-83 and spoke on the topic of disarmament in many meetings in the south of England in the same period. I was a founder member and Chair of East Devon Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in the period 1980-1986. I chaired and organised a rural appraisal exercise in 1995.

I have negotiated twenty-three professional placement venues in the South West and beyond for MA Applied Drama students. An annual, day-conference is held to discuss Applied Drama in the Exeter area.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Books**

*Drama as Social Intervention* (2006) (Ed with Michael Balfour), Captus Press, Canada.

*Performing Poetry* (2004), (with Linda Pagett), 119 pp, NATE, London.

*Drama and Theatre in Education: Contemporary Research*, (1996), (Ed), 230 pp, Captus Press, North York.

*Drama in the Curriculum*, (1994), 198 pp, Cassell, London. (This has been reprinted once and editions in Polish, Portuguese and Turkish are in preparation).

### **Chapters in books:**

Somers, J. 'Boalian Perspectives on Interactivity in Theatre' in *Performance Perspectives*, Pitches, J. & S. (Eds), 2011, Basingstoke: Palgrave (in press).

Somers, J. 'Theatre in communities: a bonding agent' in *Drama w STOP-KLATCE*, Stop Klatka, Warsaw, (2010), pp 106-120

Somers, J. *et al*, (2010) 'Raising Awareness in Schools' in *Promoting Recovery in Early Psychosis*, Shiers, D. *et al* (Eds) London: Blackwell

'Theatre as Communal Work: Intervention in rural communities' in *Theatre and Education at Centre Stage*; Govas, .N (Ed) Athens 2009, pp 360-369.

'The Relationship between DiE (Drama in Education) and Performance' in *Theatre and Education at Centre Stage*; Govas, .N (Ed) Athens 2009, pp 417 –421.

'Drama and Wellbeing: Narrative Theory and the use of interactive theatre in raising mental health awareness' in *Dramatherapy and Social Theatre: necessary dialogues*. Jennings, S (Ed) Routledge, 2009, pp. 193-202

'Community theatre as communal work' in *Arts Education and beyond*, Anna-Lena Østern & Hannah Kaihovirta-Rosvik (Eds) Åbo Akademi University Press, 2008

'Community Theatre in Rural Devon: an alternative model' in *Creating a Theatre in your classroom and Community* Warren, B (ed), Captus University Publications, North York, (2002) pp. 351-369.

'Drama Learning' in *Beyond the Soundbite*, LA, The Getty Centre, 2001, pp 108-116

'Discovering Seminal Stories': Community Theatre as Cultural Memory' in *Performing Democracy* (2000) Haedicke, S & Nellhaus, T. (eds) Ann Arbor, The University of Michigan Press.

'Drama e História: Projeto Peste Negra' in *Ensino do Teatro: Experiências Interculturais* (1999) Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil.

'Measuring the Shadow or Knowing the Bird: evaluation and assessment of Drama in Education', in *Evaluating Creativity*, (2000) Sefton-Green, J. and Sinker, R. (Eds), London, Routledge, pp. 107- 128.

'How Teachers Choose What to Do in Drama Lessons' in *Drama and Theatre in Education: International Conversations*, (1999) Saxton J, & Miller C (Eds) Victoria (Canada) University of Victoria Press, AERA & IDERI.

‘Research and the Teaching of Drama’ in Grady, T. and O’Sullivan, C. (Eds) *A Head Taller*, (1998) Trentham Books, Birmingham.

‘The Nature of learning in Educational Drama’, in *Drama and Theatre in Education: contemporary research*, (1996), 14 pp, North York, Captus Press.

A range of chapters and articles are currently in preparation or in press including books and journals in Australia, Greece, Poland, Brazil, the USA and the UK.

### Papers in Journals

Somers J, (2010), ‘Community Theatre: a search for identity’, in *Mailout*, March 2010, pp28-29.

‘Interactive theatre: Drama as social intervention’ in *Music and Arts in Action*, Vol 1, No 1 (2008)

Somers, J., Roberts, G., Dawe, J., Passy, R., Mays, C., Carr, G., Shiers, D., Smith, J. (2007) On the Edge: a drama-based mental health education programme on early psychosis for schools. *Early Intervention in Psychiatry*, 1: 168–176

‘How many Rachels do you know?’ in *Veterinary Times*, Vol 36, No. 35, 18 09.06 (with P. Crawford and N. Short) pp. 24-25

Arts - Therapies - Communication Vol 3, (2005), European Arts Therapy, Different approaches to unique Discipline opening regional portals, Ed, Line Kossolapow, Sarah Scoble, Diane Waller, Lit Verlag, Munster. (Distributed in UK by Global Books Marketing, 38 King Street, London 2E 8JT)

‘Jukebox of the Mind: an exploration of the relationship between the real and the world of drama fiction,’ in *Papers from an International Conference of Drama Education*, North Taiwan Arts Education Institute, Taipei, (2003) pp. 53-74; pp. 76-81

‘Umysl jako szafa grajaca: rzeczywistosc I fikcja dramy’ in *Opieka, Wychowanie, Terapia*, Warsaw: IPSiR, 4/2003 (56) pp17-21

‘Drama Making as a Research Process’ in *Contemporary Theatre Review*, Vol 12, Part 4. pp. 1-15 (2002)

‘Into the Fictional World’ in *Theatre In Education: art form and learning tool*, Attica Press, Athens (2002) pp. 163-168;

‘Story, Intertextuality and Drama in Education,’ Birmingham: NATD Journal, Vol. 18, Issue 1. 2002, pp. 64-70

‘The Effectiveness of One In-service Education of Teachers Course for Teachers’ Practice,’ in *Journal of Inservice Education*, Vol. 28, No. 1, 2002, pp. 95-114 (with Eva Sikorova)

‘The Use of Theatre in Education in Health Education’, Somers, J. & Cousins, H (2001) *New England Theatre Journal*, Vol: 12 2001 pp. 1-26

‘Vliv jednoho modelu dalšího vzdělávání učitelů na jejich praxi’ in *Pedagogický výzkum nových možností ve vzdělávání*, (2001), Ostrava University, pp 133-146

Somers, J. (1996) ‘The Nature of Learning in Drama in Education’ in Somers, J. (Ed.) *Drama and Theatre in Education: contemporary research*, York (Canada); Captus Press 5 pp.

Somers, J. (1999) ‘How Teachers Choose what to do in Drama Lessons’ in *Drama and Theatre in Education: International Conversations*, Miller, C. & Saxton, J. (Eds.) IDIERI/Uvic, Victoria, pp. 289-297

‘Jak si Učitelé Vybírají Latku’ *Tvoriva Dramatika*, Jan 2000 (28), Divadelní Vychova, Prague, pp. 6-8.

‘Od her přes improvizaci k divadlu’, Jan 2000 (28), *Tvoriva Dramatika*, October 2000 (29), Divadelní Vychova, Prague pp. 1-12.

‘Dramatika Vychova Na Konferenci – O Pedagogické Diagnostice’ *Tvoriva Dramatika*, Jan 2000 (28), Divadelní Vychova, Prague, pp. 9-12.

‘Theatre and Drama in the British Education System’, *Elitrosos*, Vol. 16, Autumn 1998, Ahaikes Ekdoseis, Athens, pp. 91-112.

‘Disney, Drama and Virtual Worlds’ *The NADIE Journal*, Vol. 22 No. 2 November 1998, NADIE, Brisbane.

‘The Birthday Party: its origins, reception, themes and relevance for today’, in *Cycnos* Vol. 14 No. 1, 12 pp, July 1997, Université de Nice, Nice.

‘Approaches to Drama Research’, in *Research in Drama Education*, Vol. 1 No 2, 10 pp, October 1996, Carfax, Abingdon.

‘Editorial’, in *Research in Drama Education*, Vol. 1 No 2, 2 pp, October, 1996 Carfax, Abingdon.

‘Theatre und Drama in britischen Schulsystem’, 111’, in *Spiel und Theater*, No 157, 6 pp, June 1996, Deutscher Theaterverlag, Hamburg.

‘Editorial’, in *Research in Drama Education*, Vol. 1 No 1, 6 pp, March 1996, Carfax, Abingdon.

‘Stories in Cyberspace’ in *Children’s Literature in Education*, Vol. 26, No 4, 14 pp, December 1995, Human Sciences Press Inc., N.Y.

‘Theatre und Drama in britischen Schulsystem 11’, in *Spiel und Theater*, No 156, 2 pp, December 1995, Deutscher Theaterverlag, Hamburg.



‘Drama in Education and the New Technologies’, *Broadsheet*, Vol. 12, No 2, 20 pp, December 1995, NATD, London.

‘Theatre und Drama in britischen Schulsystem, 1’, in *Spiel und Theater*, No 155, 5 pp, May 1995, Deutscher Theaterverlag, Hamburg.

‘Facing the Threat’, in *Wasteland Wonderland - The Arts in the National Curriculum*, Perspectives No. 49, pp 6, 1993.

‘Time Capsule: A Fusion of Drama and History’, in *Teaching History*, Number 64, July 1991, The Historical Association, London

### Book reviews

Child Play: Its importance for Human Development, (Peter Slade) in *British Journal of Educational Psychology*, Vol. 66, Part 2, June 1996, The British Psychological Society, Leicester.

Performing Life: case studies in the practice of Theatre for Development, (Ogah Steve Abah) in *Research in Drama Education*, Vol. 4 No. 1, March 1999.

### Other Publications

2009: Teachers TV: a review of ‘On the Edge’. an Interactive Theatre programme raising awareness of psychosis. At [http://streamservice.sc-streaming.com/backend/previewCam.aspx?camID=537\\_3921&width=440&height=269](http://streamservice.sc-streaming.com/backend/previewCam.aspx?camID=537_3921&width=440&height=269)

At one time I wrote regularly for *The Times Educational Supplement* (TES), the major professional UK publication. Recent contributions have included:

TES 29.1.99 *Scene is Always Shifting* (1,500 words).

TES 14.11.97 *Get the Show on the Road* (1,000 words).

TES 24.10.97 *Plays for Today*, (800 words).

TES 7.2.97 *The Sepia Screen*, (400 words).

## RESEARCH THROUGH PRACTICE

As a dramatist, I have initiated over thirty-five major productions during my career. Many of these are original works devised by me. In my field they are the chief way in which the relationship of dramatic form to content, audience and performer can be developed, tested and disseminated. They are both action research and publication in one. This procedure is widely recognised in the Arts as the most important approach in testing the relationship of an art form to society’s needs. The most potent means of publication is to present. As with articles, the results of this kind of research are open to scrutiny by peers and broadcast to a wider audience. For example:

2003-11. *On the Edge* – this play secured funding of £160,000 for a national, six-month tour by the theatre company, *Exstream*. It has been commissioned by *Rethink* as a major element of its ‘Time to Change’ national anti-stigma campaign;

2008 *Difficult Labour* – an Interactive Theatre programme on adult bullying at work;

- 2006 *Runaway* – an Interactive Theatre programme on teenage runaways. Toured in Devon schools. Made in co-operation with Devon and Cornwall Police;
- 2004/5 *To the Core* – a new play about eating disorders toured in Devon and Somerset.
- 2004/5 *Susie's Story* – an interactive play on peer pressure. Being used to research the impact of peer teaching;
- 2002 *The Living at Hurford* – a play on rural communities set in the aftermath of foot and mouth disease. Worked with psychiatrist Dr Gordon Langley and Community Psychiatric Nurses who were dealing with the problems amongst farmers (gained funding for production in rural communities and SW theatre tour).
- 2002 *A Present for Anna* – this play secured funding of £43,000 for a national tour;
- 2003 *Smarty Scores Again* – a community play written and directed by me in a Devon village;
- 2001 *Put up or Shut up* – an interactive play on bullying, toured in Devon;
- 2000 *Parson Terry's Dinner* – a community play written and directed by me in a Devon community;
- 1996, *Moulin Rouge*, a TV film shot on location in Exeter, in co-operation with Paul Jackson of Carlton TV.
- 1995, *Vive L'Angleterre!* a Theatre in Education programme dealing with the place of Britain and France in the 'New Europe'. This was toured, very successfully, in French secondary schools.
- 1994, *New Beginnings*, a television film shot in National Trust locations.
- 1993, *We Don't Cry for the Sake of Crying*, Theatre in Education project on human rights in Honduras. Toured in secondary schools in Newham, East London, for one week during March, 1993.
- 1992 *Some Gathering* a radio play broadcast on BBC Southern Region, in February, 1993.
- 1991 *The Time of the King*: March,. Following the hosting of a Slovak theatre company in November, 1989, I devised a play based on Arthurian legend which was toured in theatres in Bratislava and Trnava. Extensive coverage in the Slovak media.
- 1990 *I Wish We Were There*. A radio play co-written and directed by me. Broadcast on Devonair local radio, 16.4.90.
- 1990 The Exwick Project. (Co-ordinator and director). A scheme involving 90 pupils, 14 students, 6 school staff, Devonair radio, parents and other Exwick residents.  
Culminated in (i) A radio play broadcast on Devonair.

(ii) A live performance in the old Victorian school in Exwick.  
Reviewed extensively. Major article in Times Educational Supplement, 1.6.90.

Photographic Exhibitions. I currently have a photographic exhibition in the Drama Department, Exeter University. I recently also exhibited a major set of photographs at Hemyock Healthy Living Centre. Photographs taken by me of dramatic productions have been exhibited in a variety of locations inside and outside the University.

Published Photographs. A range of my photographs have been used in University and other publications.

Numerous contributions to broadcasts on Television South West, Somerset Sound, BBC Radio Devon, BBC Radio 4, and Devonair Radio.

### **CONFERENCE DIRECTION**

I am founder director of the international conference *Researching Drama and Theatre in Education* which met for the first time in April 1995. Participants from 33 countries attended. Following biennial meetings in April 1997 and April 1999, the conference has now been established as a triennial event, meeting in 2002 and 2005 and 2008. The next conference is in April 2011. The conference has become the premier research gathering in my field and it has made significant contributions to the development of research in Drama and Theatre in Education and Applied Drama more widely.

John Somers  
January 2011