

# Donna Ison

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## Summary:

Communications specialist with skills including, but not limited to:

- Writing/editing articles, essays, web content, press releases, and educational materials
  - Developing scripts for theatre, television, commercials, and film
  - Promoting and building relationships through social media outlets
  - Grant writing
  - Teaching classes, mentoring individuals, and facilitating workshops
  - Producing theatrical productions and organizing arts-focused community events
  - Proficient in Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Photoshop, Paint, and QuickBooks
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## Professional Experience:

### Freelance Writer/Instructor/Producer

2012 - Present

- Penning articles/web content for publications/organizations, including *MD-Update*, *Keeneland Magazine*, *JustFund KY*, *LinQ Magazine*, *skirt! Magazine*, *Broads United*, and *Bluegrass Dog*
- Writing accurate and compelling historical drama for museums nationwide, including Eiteljorg Museum, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Thomas Clark Center for Kentucky History, Institute of Texan Cultures, Minnetrista Museum, Hunt-Morgan House, and Callahan Museum
- Developing, directing, and producing live theatre for the Body-Love Project, Kentucky Women Writer's Conference, Lexington Fairness, Shakespeare Youth Project, and Sisters Provocateur
- Teaching a variety of writing classes at The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning
- Designing curriculum and leading workshops for Theatre in Museums Conference, Books in Progress Conference, The Girl Project, The Swallowtail Project, Full Circles Foundation, Nomadic Ink, IT Theatre Works, and Teen Howl Poetry Series
- Maintaining an ongoing presence through social media, blog, and speaking engagements
- Featured performer at Holler Poets, KY Women Writer's Gypsy Slam, The Girl Project, Wild Women of Poetry, Voices Heard, Alltech Poetry Slam, and Bowery Poetry Club (NYC)

### Lexington Fairness – Further Out: A Multimedia Celebration

June 2016 – Oct. 2016

#### Freelance Editor/Producer/Event Planner

- Collected and edited poetry and prose from twenty-eight LGBTQIA contributors for *Out: An Anthology of LGBTQIA Kentucky*
- Designed, published, and set up distribution for anthology through CreateSpace
- Launched social media platform and marketing strategy resulting in sold-out performance
- Garnered In-Kind donations from Lexmark, Dutch's Bake Shop, The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, and *LinQ Magazine*
- Developed, produced, and directed "Queerology 101," a live theatre production
- Procured event space, catering, visual art, musical guests, and media coverage

### *skirt! Magazine* Lexington

August 2010 – December 2012

#### Editor

- Researched, conducted interviews, and wrote profiles on 200+ local, newsworthy individuals
- Doubled website traffic through updating and adding engaging content daily
- Grew social networking presence for *skirt!* on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Pinterest

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- Launched weekly newsletter that gained 1000 subscribers
- Planned, promoted, and hosted monthly skirt! After Work to boost visibility and garner goodwill
- Chose content and laid out the magazine according to skirt! National guidelines

**National College**

**Jan. 2010 – Aug. 2010**

**Career Center Director**

- Guided 100+ students through the process of setting career goals, choosing well-suited jobs, and gaining employment
- Helped graduates navigate on-line career search sites
- Created standout resumes, cover letters, and follow-up correspondence
- Advised on personal presentation and etiquette
- Conducted individualized interview coaching

**HoldTime.Net**

**2008 - 2009**

**Production Consultant/Copywriter**

- Wrote industry specific “Message-On-Hold” scripts for clients
- Created quarterly newsletter and promotional materials
- Edited recordings for on-hold messages using Sound Forge editing software
- Met with clients to determine specific goals and establish appropriate communications plan

**University of Kentucky College of Medicine**

**2006 - 2007**

**Coordinator of Standardized Patients**

- Recruited, interviewed, and hired 25+ new employees
- Promoted the program and thereby attracting three additional professional schools
- Created recruitment, educational materials, and medical test cases
- Trained standardized patients in all areas of physical examination and history taking skills
- Scheduled and proctored exams

**Education:**

Bachelor of Arts- Communications/Theatre/R-TV

Morehead State University

**Honors/Awards/Memberships:**

- Advisory board member for Voice HEaRd, in conjunction with The Girl Project (2017)
- Winner of Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning’s Annual Flash Fiction Contest (2016)
- Nominee for Lexington Fairness’ “Ally of the Year” for production of “Out: A Celebration” (2015)
- Recipient of Artist Enrichment Grant from The Kentucky Foundation for Women (2008, 2012)
- First Runner-Up for Ace Magazine “Best Live Performance” for The Sisters Provocateur (2012)
- Recipient of Art Meets Activism Grant from The Kentucky Foundation for Women (2008, 2009)
- Kentucky Women’s Writers Conference Gypsy Poetry Slam winner (2009)