



LOOK FOR THE ANNEX

The Voice of a Generation—and the Annex



Meet Terri Hawkes

Actor. Writer. Director. Activist. Neighbour.

By Perri Bender, Photos by Tom Sandler and supplied by resident

If you've ever watched a '90s cartoon and thought, "That voice sounds familiar," you may just have been hearing one of the most iconic characters of the decade—voiced by someone who now lives just down the road.

Terri Hawkes, best known to many as the voice of super-heroine Sailor Moon, is a creative force with roots that run deep in the arts—and now, deeply into the Annex. An award-winning actor, screenwriter, director, academic, and community activist, Terri brings the same passion to her neighbourhood as she does to her many roles.

"I've lived in a lot of places," she says, "but the Annex feels like home. It has this rare mix of community, arts, and nature that feeds my soul."

From Stage to Screen... to Community

Born in Montreal and raised in Calgary, Terri's love for the arts was sparked early. "My mom, Joanne Hawkes, nurtured my love of theatre," she says. A childhood filled with community theatre performances, training with The Young Canadians of the Calgary Stampede, and summers at the Banff School of Fine Arts set the stage—literally—for what was to come.

Although Terri considered law school, an offer to play Norma Jean at the Citadel Theatre took her in a different direction. The pull of the creative life led her to Toronto "where I promptly landed my first gigs—waiting tables at Hemingway's and The Windsor Arms," she laughs. "But the rest followed: TV, film, Off-Broadway theatre, and eventually writing and directing."

Her journey has taken her from NYC to L.A. and back again, with stops along the way to earn an MFA in playwriting from UCLA and, later, an MA in Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies at York. "I wanted to better understand and highlight the employment challenges faced by mothers who are artists. My academic work, like my creative work, celebrates marginalized voices, generally women, often in middle age, overcoming obstacles with grit, wit and wisdom."

Lady Ada's, Anime, and Raising Strong Voices

Today, Terri divides her time between acting, writing and directing. She just finished a stint in the writers' room and co-starred in *Lady Ada's Secret Society*, an award-winning digital series created by Shannon Fewster. "It's about STEM-loving girls who defy the traditional expectations of their headmistress by playing science based pranks on the student body. Season II premieres on Youtube, this month. We're very proud of it."

Recently, Terri has reconnected with fans of her animation work at conventions celebrating '90s and 2000s characters. "It's an honour," she says "to be reminded that a character you voiced meant something to someone. - it's a privilege."

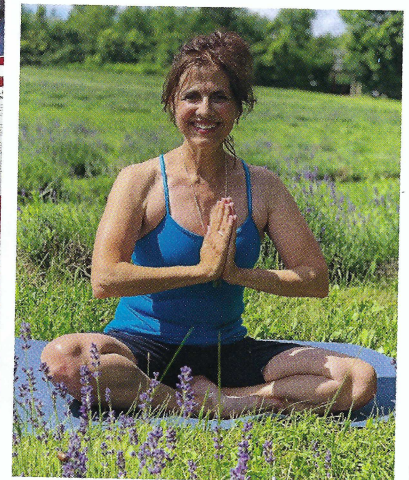
Her preferred screenwriting genre is "dramedy". She is currently developing TV scripts which examine social issues—mixing laughter with meaningful messages. "Because" she says, "I think humour can make tough topics more accessible and memorable."



^ Guests at Collect-A-Con with Terri Hawkes (aka: Sailor Moon).



^ *Lady Ada's Secret Society* Director Samantha Wan, showrunner Shannon Fewster, writer/actor Terri Hawkes.



^ Practicing yoga in nature.

A Return to the Annex—and a Call to Action

Six years ago, Terri moved back to the Annex, the very neighbourhood where she lived in her twenties. “It was like coming home. I’m on a charming former carriage lane surrounded by low rise apartments, multi generational homes, affordable apartments in houses, all surrounded by mature trees. We have a vibrant mix of neighbours including elders, students, families, artists, new Canadians. It’s the perfect mosaic of middle density that our governments say they want.”

But her return to the Annex became a call to civic engagement, influenced by her late father, Jim Hawkes, a former MP and his years of service. In response to an official plan amendment and rezoning application for a 40 metre high development that risks altering the character of the neighbourhood, Terri used her experience in political volunteerism to co-found the Dalton Road Residents Group.

“We’re not anti-development,” she clarifies. “We’re YIMBYs who support affordable, thoughtful densification that makes our community stronger for current and future residents.”

She now sits on the board of the Annex Residents’ Association, advocating for community engagement in responsible city-building alongside other dedicated volunteers who care for their community.

The Personal is Political (and Joyful)

For Terri, life in the Annex is deeply personal—and joyfully full. Her life includes her two young adult children, Alexa and Jake, and their beloved 14-year-old toy poodle, George. “He was raised to be a show dog but grew too tall,” she laughs. “We always say we rescued him from showbiz.”

Alexa is pursuing graduate studies in Amsterdam after earning a degree in Media, Information and Technoculture from Western. Jake works full-time in the film industry after graduating from Queen’s and completing a professional screenwriting program with UCLA. “They’re amazing people” says Terri. “Watching them navigate their paths is my greatest joy.”

Their family creed? “Be kind and compassionate to others and yourself, and leave this world better than you found it.”



Why She Stays

Ask Terri why she chooses the Annex, and her answer is immediate. "Where else can you bike to bookstores, admire heritage architecture, grab sushi, catch a play and walk home under a canopy of century-old trees? The Annex community is truly a Toronto treasure worth preserving while densifying. There's magic here."

She finds inspiration in music, murals, and museum visits, draws strength from close friends, fellow activists and her clan of weight-lifting women at the JCC, and decompresses with nature and yoga in the park. "I've been fortunate to have travelled across Canada and beyond—but I always love coming home to this neighbourhood."

Her message to her neighbours is simple and heartfelt:

"You are part of an engaged and caring community. You are not alone."

Terri Hawkes reminds us that our neighbourhoods are made richer by those who not only live in them—but actively help shape them. The Annex is lucky to have her.

To learn more about Terri's creative and community work:

Instagram: @terrihawkesprofessional

Website: www.terri-hawkes.com

To connect with the Dalton Road Residents Group:

daltonroadresidents@gmail.com

Don't miss the premiere of Lady Ada's Secret Society Season II this month on YouTube marbleKids.

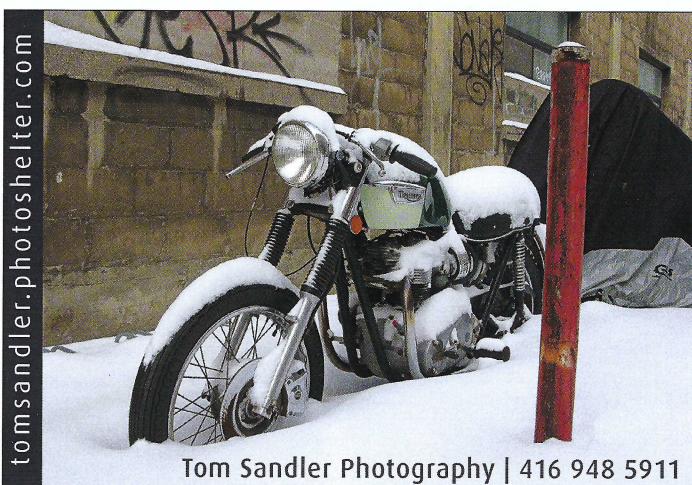
<https://www.youtube.com/@marblemediaKids>.



^ Dalton Road Residents Group, Annex Residents' Association members and neighbours break bread (or Thai noodles).



^ Jake Hawkes-Sackman, Terri, Alexa Hawkes-Sackman and George.



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