

# TODD SWIFT

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✉ TODDSWIFT@CLARA.CO.UK

TODD SWIFT IS A WIDELY-KNOWN POETRY ACTIVIST, HAVING EDITED OVER TEN INTERNATIONAL ANTHOLOGIES, AND ORGANIZED MAJOR READINGS FROM MONTREAL TO BUDAPEST, PARIS TO NEW YORK. HE IS AN EXPERT ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEW MEDIA, POLITICS AND WRITING, PARTICULARLY THEIR FUSION IN E-PUBLISHING AND THE INTERNET. HIS OWN POETRY IS PUBLISHED INTERNATIONALLY IN LEADING JOURNALS, TRANSLATED INTO MANY LANGUAGES, AND ANTHOLOGIZED IN MAJOR COLLECTIONS. HE IS RECOGNIZED AS BEING ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL ANGLO -QUÉBEC POET-EDITORS OF HIS GENERATION.

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## PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

*NEW AMERICAN WRITING*, EDS. PAUL HOOVER AND MAXINE CHERNOFF  
EDITOR OF SPECIAL SECTION, "THE NEW CANADIAN POETRY" 2005

*RUE DU REGARD*  
AUTHOR 2004  
Collection of poetry; DC Books, Montreal

*100 POETS AGAINST THE WAR*  
EDITOR 2003  
Anthology of poems; Salt Publishing, Cambridge, UK

*CAFE ALIBI*  
AUTHOR 2002  
Collection of poetry; DC Books, Montreal

*BUDAVOX: POEMS 1990-1999*  
AUTHOR 1999  
Collection of poetry; DC Books, Montreal

**POEMS – AUTHOR** 1990-PRESENT  
Published widely in leading journals, including: *Agenda*, *The Cimarron Review*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *Gargoyle*, *Geist*, *The Guardian*, *Jacket*, *London Magazine*, *Los Angeles Review*, *Magma*, *Maisonneuve*, *New American Writing*, *Orbis*, *Other Magazine*, *Poetry London*, *Poetry Review*, *Poetry Wales*, *Prism International*, *The SHOp*, *Stand*, *Vallum* and *The Wolf*.

**REVIEWS – AUTHOR** 1996-PRESENT  
Reviews and critical essays published widely, including in: *Books in Canada*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Literary Review of Canada*, *Magma*, *The National Post*, *PEN International*, *Poetry London* and *Poetry Review*.

Forthcoming works, as editor, include *The Carcanet Book of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Canadian Verse* (2009) and *Language Acts: Anglo-Quebec Poetry 1976-21<sup>st</sup> Century* (2007, co-edited with Jason Camlot).

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE & CREATIVE WRITING

### KINGSTON UNIVERSITY LONDON – LECTURER

2006

Part-time Lecturer for MA Creative Writing workshop and several undergraduate poetry and creative writing courses.

### LONDON METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY – LECTURER

2005-  
2006

Visiting Lecturer, on courses Poetry Forms & Genre; Reading Poetry; Creative Writing: Poetry & Drama; created module on Modern British Poetry.

### THE POETRY SCHOOL – TUTOR

2005-  
PRESENT

Core Tutor in London, UK, at the creative writing school for Poetry founded by Mimi Khalvati & Pascale Petit.

### OXFAM – POET-IN-RESIDENCE

2004-  
PRESENT

Poet-in-residence at Oxfam; Arts Council, England Grant. Curate their reading series. Have edited *Life Lines: Poets for Oxfam*, an audio CD anthology of 69 leading British poets; 20,000 units produced, launched June 10, 2006 by Barbara Stocking, Director of Oxfam.

### NTHPOSITION.COM – POETRY EDITOR

2002-  
PRESENT

An award-winning web-site based in London, UK, which is read by over 20,000 visitors each month. *The Writer's Handbook* (Macmillan) describes it as "one of the best in the world".

### POETS AGAINST THE WAR – EDITOR

2003

Coordinated team of 20 editors. Responsible for final editing of the online data-base of over 14,000 poems and essays.

### EÖTVÖS LORÁND UNIVERSITY – VISITING LECTURER

1998-  
2001

Visiting Lecturer; Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest; American Studies Department. Created and gave courses in Creative Writing, Film Studies and English Literature.

### PUBLIC EVENTS

1988-  
PRESENT

Have read at venues, events, launches and festivals, across North America and Europe, including: Budapest Book Fair; Bowery Poetry Club (New York); Poetry Society Café (London); Shakespeare & Co. (Paris); The New School (New York).

**2003:** Bath Spa International Performance Poetry Conference; Kenny's Bookstore (Galway); Featured Poet, The Frankfurt Book Fair, International Centre, October 2003.

**2004:** Horse Hospital, Spelt 3; Chaired panel on multimedia and poetics at Brunel University Contemporary Writing Environments Conference; Uppingham School Theatre (Live Poets Society); Borders Books; Red Wheelbarrow (Paris); Guest speaker at Eye to Eye: the British Council Global Conference on cultural relations (Nov 2-4, 2004, London).

**2005:** Guest speaker for Brodsky Quartet pre-concert talk, Blackheath Halls, May 7, 2005; Reading at Manchester Public Library, June 17; Poet-at-large for The Writers' Conference, Winchester University College, 24-26 June, 2005. Ledbury Poetry Festival, July 9; Manchester Poetry Festival, October 4; Essex Poetry Festival, October 8.

**2006:** Talk and Reading at Dulwich College, March 3; Reading and talk on film and poetry, National Film & Television School, May 16; Reading at Oriel Davies Gallery, Wales, June 16; Guest Poet, Berlin Poetry Festival organized by Alistair Noon, November 17; Chaired panel at New Writing Types conference, Norwich, November 23, on publishing in the digital age.

## MULTIMEDIA WORK

1988-  
PRESENT

- Work has appeared or been featured on, among others: ABC; BBC; CBC; CNN; Fox News; RIF (Paris); RTE; Reuters.
- Have created CD with Tom Walsh, *Swiftly Lazarus: The Envelope, Please* (Wired on Words, 2002), supported by a Canada Council grant.
- As screenwriter have written over 100 hundred hours of TV product for HBO, Fox, Paramount and Hanna-Barbera, among others, including *Young Robin Hood* and *The Big Garage*.

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## EDUCATION

**BA, ENGLISH LITERATURE & CREATIVE WRITING**  
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL, CANADA

1993

**MA, CREATIVE WRITING (DISTINCTION)**  
UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA, UK

2006

**PHD, CREATIVE AND CRITICAL WRITING**  
UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA, UK

PROJECTED COMPLETION 2008

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## SAMPLE REVIEWS OF POETRY COLLECTIONS, 1999-2004

### Review of *Budavox* (1999)

*National Post* (CANADA), Diana Fitzgerald Bryden, December 18, 1999

Swift is in his 30s, and he writes with assurance, verve and distinctiveness that many older poets would envy .... His examinations of violence are particularly compelling. There are not many young men born and bred in Canada who could write convincing anti-war poems, such as Swift's deft "Gorazde," with results so elegant and unself-righteous. .... He plays with words, tossing them up with supple ease, moving effortlessly between free and formal verse, between lush descriptions of club life and reflections on Rainer Maria Rilke. Sometimes he simply has fun, writing tight little lines of alliterative, crisp verse whose meanings are turned inside out and upside down, just for the hell of it. It's not often you see a poet having that kind of fun, with such sexy bravado.

### Reviews of *Cafe Alibi* (2002):

*Leviathan Quarterly* (UK), Number 7, Polly Clark, March 2003

*Café Alibi* feels packed somehow, a kind of suitcase of stylish imagery for the elegant traveler. Here are poems infused by Budapest and Paris, and written in a brilliantly intriguing way .... it's an impressive collection.

*The Hollins Critic* (USA), Vol. XL, No. 3, Harriet Zinnes, June 2003

These are the words of a poet where words come easily and are always lavishly seemingly uncontrolled but finally right, fitting, suitably apt .... an amazing book.

### Reviews of *Rue du Regard* (2004):

*Poetry London* (UK), Number 50, David Miller, Spring 2005

Todd Swift is a promising poet whose work is entertaining, ingenious, humorous and likeable. .... On the basis of the promise shown in the present collection, I look forward to the day when he reaches a fuller poetic achievement.

*Books in Canada* (CANADA), Andrew Steinmetz, February 2005

His self-consciously constructed persona is of a worldly, assured, fashionable, unrelenting, and unapologetic romantic. His poems are often as lavish as the persona, and beg the question: which came first? They are, I suppose, one and the same. Central to both is Swift's hunger for experience. In this pursuit, he fancies high and low culture alike, society and street life, as if there were no difference (as if only the inexperienced, or inhibited, would think otherwise). .... Swift's best poems are restrained, tight-lipped and tempered, yet full of sombre and subtle allusion.

*Montreal Gazette* (CANADA), Weekend Arts & Books, Carolyn Marie Souaid, January 8, 2005

Todd Swift started making a name for himself back in the late 1980s when he co-founded the New McGill Reading Series with William Furey .... well on his way to becoming one of Montreal's rising stars. .... There is some clever wordsmithing going on in these pages.... Swift is talented.