

STOBHAN REDDICK.



The other day, I was listening to the podcast “That Made All the Difference”, in which people that have had a positive impact on the world describe the moments that changed the course of their lives. As I listened, I began to think about what moments influenced my life path, and although there have been many significant events, 3 major ones belong at the top of the list.

When I was 5 years old, my kindergarten teacher announced that we were going to do the play “Chicken Little” and she needed one student to play the lead role. I remember my first thought was, “Pick me. I want to do it.” I was thrilled when, in fact, I was chosen. I loved being on stage, and my passion for performing has been a central focus of my life ever since. Through all the dance recitals, singing competitions, and plays I have had the opportunity to learn about myself and make incredible connections with my “theatre families”. These experiences have encouraged me to be brave, creative, and dedicated. Now, I feel blessed to get the chance to share my passion for the performing arts with my students and inspire them to take risks and grow in my classroom.

Ten years after my stage debut, I was standing in front of Mr. Kalin’s chemistry class, waiting to be given my assigned seat. In an effort to get ahead, I took grade 11 chemistry when I was in grade 10 - which was a good plan, but it meant that I didn’t know anyone in my class. So, I was feeling more than a little out of place as I stood at the front of the room with all of the other students. As fate would have it, my designated seat ended up being next to Matthew Lindsay - the wonderful man I would begin dating a few months later, marry 17 years after that day, who would also become the father of our hilarious, kind, and creative son Teo. Over our 26 year years together we have lived in 5 countries and always encouraged each other to embrace the thrill of change and the adventures life presents.

When Matt and I were 25 years old we were living in China teaching ESL and we decided to take a trip to Cambodia. We were staying near Angkor Wat and met a woman named Catherine who was at the same hotel. We happened to go for dinner together and over our meal, she told us about her life as a teacher at an international school. She explained that she was teaching kids from all over the world, and to Matt and I, her job sounded like perfection. When we got back to our apartment in China started laying the groundwork for going back to Canada, getting our Bachelor of Education, and pursuing a career teaching at international schools around the globe.

These 3 moments definitely made all the difference in my life. I truly feel that the time I have spent sharing my passion for the performing arts overseas has made me a better person, and I look forward to continuing to explore the world as our little “traveling trio”. My son’s multicultural experience in Abu Dhabi has given him such a beautiful and welcoming lens with which to view the world. I can’t wait for us all to call a new country home and learn and grow together by being surrounded by a new culture as well as incredible colleagues and friends. I am grateful to the moments that brought me to this time in my life, as they have led me down an amazing path full of wild adventures, incredible people, and phenomenal experiences that have broadened my mind and accumulated into making me the person I am today. A performer. A wife. A mother. A teacher.