



# SARA HIRSCH

Education Director / Associate Artist

Motif Poetry | Ruri Tūtohu

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**Sara Hirsch** is a London grown, internationally acclaimed writer, performer and spoken word educator. She holds a Master's Degree in **Creative Writing & Education** from Goldsmiths University and is one of a handful of trained poetry educators working in schools & communities across the world.

As a spoken word educator Sara aims to bridge the gap between *teacher* and *visiting artist*. Her wealth of experience within a vast range of educational institutions as well as extensive research into her own creative pedagogy during her Masters studies, has afforded her a unique perspective which she explores in her recent **TEDx** talk on the power of poetry in the modern classroom.

Sara has taught and performed poetry in the UK, New Zealand, Germany, Thailand, Spain, France and Portugal. She has run workshops for the **Roald Dahl Museum & Storytelling Centre**, **The Museum of London**, **Ledbury Poetry Festival**, **The Royal Central School of Speech & Drama** and **The University of London**. She runs the annual **Poetry in Performance** course at **The National Youth Drama School of New Zealand**, is an ambassador for **Orion Primary School** in North London, where she runs annual slam seasons and was **poet in residence** for **Lammas School & Sixth Form** from 2014-17.

She has presented her research on spoken word education at **Michael Rosen's Reading Revolution Conference**, **The Critical Connections Conference** and in the **EAL Academic Journal**.





## Workshops

Sara offers workshops for any age/ability, including professional development sessions for teachers. Every workshop is interactive, engaging and educational and includes aspects of both creative writing and performance. All her programmes can be tailored to suit any institution or group and range from short one-hour sessions to full day visits, week long visits, or longer-term projects. She has experience with EAL/SEN students as well as looked after children. Her workshops run alongside the curriculum to encourage confidence, creativity and communication as well as developing skills in literacy and textual analysis.

Sara also wrote and executed the **GCSE unseen poetry analysis syllabus** for years 10 & 11 at Lammas School and has adapted these workshops for international use, giving students a fresh perspective on how to approach unseen text in exam conditions and beyond.

Her accompanying book **Louder Than Words** (endorsed by Michael Rosen) includes poetry written for and about young people as well as poems by students in Sara's workshops in both the UK and New Zealand. It is a great example of how her work connects with and inspires young poets. It has been described as 'a great classroom resource' by the UK spoken word organisation **Apples and Snakes**.

*'Sara was truly inspirational across all year groups. She captivated our students from the word go and produced some very deep reflective work from them in the workshop'*

**Lisa Toner, Director of Library Services, Shrewsbury International School, Bangkok**

*'Giving young people a voice is one of the most important things you can do for a community. If you are ever lucky enough to attend one of Sara's workshops, you will see her lead by example with poetry and tutelage to capture the imagination.'*

**New Zealand Poetry Slam**

*"Sara has instilled a renewed passion and enthusiasm into our students' engagement with poetry. Inspirational, entertaining and educational!"*

**Ronald Pillay, Head of English, Lammas School & Sixth Form**