



Communication and Culture Alumna: Building a Career Six Minutes at a Time

Christine Hart is not afraid of taking risks. Two days after graduating from the U of C in Communication and Culture, she packed her bags and moved to Toronto. She began taking courses at George Brown College in Magazine Design in an effort to fine-tune her skills before applying for some of the opportunities at large advertising and communications firms.

While attending night courses and meeting new people, she recognized a need for a more stylized film & television casting facility in Toronto. She quickly decided to take over a 3000sqft. loft space in the heart of the city. She took a hands-on approach to the renovations and within a few months it was transformed into a beautiful casting facility. It soon became the most successful casting facility in the city, setting an industry standard, where many others followed her lead in trying to adopt a more theatrical approach to casting. Central Studios has been the host to many star actors, producers and directors and also doubled as an Art Gallery and event facility for Toronto artists.

After 3 years of operating her business full-time, she was approached by a buyer. Seeing it as a sign to try a new challenge, she sold her business and moved back to her roots in Calgary. She was intrigued by all the changes her home-city was experiencing and wanted to be a part of that growth. Besides, she really missed the mountains. Recognizing there was a need for people to connect, she looked into opening a speed-dating company as she had seen the trend surface in Toronto. Surprised to see speed-dating had not hit Calgary yet, she asked her friend Dana to join her in this fun venture. Within a few days, the company had been named and they were planning their first event. **Six Minute Dates**, <http://www.sixminutedates.com/>, has been in operation since January 2002 and there have been over 30 marriages through the service.

Christine is now at the helm of **Six Minute Dates** as Dana has moved to the interior BC. Christine absolutely adores being a matchmaker and helping people find their perfect match. After many requests, she is now developing a one-to-one coaching program for people who want to improve their love life. Christine is also working on a TV development contract for a Dating show and considering penning her own book.

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