

Jill Chambers

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Employment

Mar 2022 – March 2023 Circus Central Outreach Officer

Worked in partnership with a number of organisations including Percy Hedley Foundation, Hexham Book Festival, The Angelou Centre and South Tyneside Council to devise and deliver participatory circus skills workshops, projects and cabaret performances around the region. Coordinated in-house term-time classes programme for adults and children at Elswick and Shieldfield premises, assisted the Acting CEO in operations management and wrote funding reports for Community Foundation, The Newcastle Fund, Performers Without Borders (Sport England) and North of Tyne Combined Authority.

2013 - 2022 Northern Print Communication & Events Coordinator

Worked as part of a small team on a range of live events from virtual studio visits during Covid lockdown to a Guinness record for the world's longest linocut print and the International Print Biennale in 2014 and 2016. Managed membership of 170 studio artists, generated social media content, designed and constructed Northern Print's current website on the Shopify platform and integrated it with point of sale.

2007-present time Freelance Project Manager/Administrator and Artistic Director

Project Manager for Spellbound literary initiative (Northumberland Arts Development) which delivered 108 workshops to children and adults at libraries throughout Northumberland, Editor and Designer of Articipate newspaper for Newcastle City Council, Artistic Director of Rabbit Damage Theatre working with Northumberland County Council, Wansbeck District Council, ARC Stockton, The Maltings in Berwick and Theatre Royal Newcastle's Learning Space - raised over £10K for Bridging the Gap performance, Event Administrator for Burgham Horse Festival (Northumberland County Council); Research, Admin & Event Manager for Grit & Pearl public arts consultancy.

REFEREES

For a CV that includes current referees please email
jill@smoke-and-mirrors.co.uk

smoke + mirrors

www.smoke-and-mirrors.co.uk

EDUCATION

2008 York St John University

Postgrad. Cert in Contemporary Arts Practice

1998 University College Scarborough (York University)

2:1 Combined Honours Degree in
Theatre Studies and Dance

1995 Tynemouth Sixth Form College

3 A Levels (Theatre Studies, English Lang & Lit
and Art & Design) A/S Level and GCSE Dance

1992 Marden High School, Cullercoats

10 GCSEs grades A-C including
English and Maths

TRAINING

2022 High Speed Training

Designated Safeguarding Lead (Level 3)

2017 Association for Cultural Enterprises

Retail Resilience Programme

2007 Pacific Institute

STEPS Programme (Positive Mindset Strategies)

2006 Theatre Cap-a-Pie

Arts Award: Bronze/Silver Assessor Status

2002 Independent Theatre Council

Arts Marketing Training (delivered by
Morris Hargreaves McIntyre)
Incorporation and Charitable Status
Training

2011-2012 Northumberland College

Performing Arts Lecturer

Ran the NCFE Theatre Studies course at Northumberland
College for c.40 students and regularly guest lectured for
c.15 Foundation Year Art & Design students. During this time I
taught arts and business skills to c.70 students in a series of
1.5hr lectures at Newcastle College.

2006-07 Sage Software

Tested and advised on financial software packages and
payroll year end.

2004-06 Wansbeck District Council

Community Arts Development Officer.

Raised £60K for Cultural Services dept, programmed,
marketed and evaluated into the Blue performance strand
which brought nationally touring companies including
Motionhouse, Third Angel and Horse & Bamboo to
community spaces in S.E Northumberland. Devised and
managed a range of participatory arts initiatives including a
youth theatre with Cap-a-Pie and a creative play project
with Bare Toed Company.

2003-04 JW Chambers Newsagent

Career break to assist with family business owing to father's ill
health.

2003 Newcastle College

Lecturer in Performing Arts. (Maternity Cover)

Devised, taught and assessed BTEC ND Acting module to
c.20 students.

2001-03 No Limits Theatre

Company Administrator

Booked, managed and marketed two eleven venue
national tours to venues including White Rock Theatre in
Hastings, Dartington Arts and the Lawrence Batley Theatre in
Huddersfield. Ran office, helped to raise £35K in funding and
oversaw the company's transition to become a company
limited by guarantee and a registered charity including
appointing a board of trustees.

2001 University of Hull Scarborough Campus.

Academy Administrator.

Globally marketed International Shakespeare Summer
Academy with assistance from the British Council, ran office,
assisted with visa applications, managed student matters
and acted as company manager during week-long
performance at Edinburgh Fringe including booking
accommodation and travel.

1999-2001 Baja Beach Club

Dynamics Coordinator

Led weekly recruitment auditions and taught dances and
performance skills to staff team of c.60 people. Managed
entertainment each night in conjunction with the DJ. Baja
was Scottish and Newcastle's top taking outlet nationally
and won the BEDA Discotheque of the North 2000 award
presented by Julian Clary at the Birmingham Hilton
Metropole Hotel.

ARTWORK

2018 Solo work: *The Safe Space*

Written, dir. & performed by Jill Chambers

This solo performance took place at Graduate Studio Northumbria as part of the studio collective's *Splinter* show. The piece was performed repeatedly for the duration of the preview night in a cupboard for an audience of two at a time and lasted five minutes. Involving a live mixed soundtrack and video projection the piece was a reaction to the escalating culture wars amplified by social media and initially offered audience members sanctuary whilst instead delivering humour and an experience that was more unsettling and claustrophobic.

2010 Rabbit Damage: *Wherever I Lay My Hat*

Dir, devised and performed by Jill Chambers, Jaye Kearney & Tom Walton

A devised piece for three actors exploring notions of 'home' which was created during the company's time at the Bridging the Gap associate company and co produced with ARC in Stockton, The Maltings in Berwick and Theatre Royal Newcastle's Learning Space. The show was performed twice at each venue and the company received £10K in ACE lottery funding.

07/09 Rabbit Damage: *Safety First*

Written, Dir. & Performed by Jill Chambers

This self-devised thirty minute solo piece was selected for the coveted final slot at the York St John University *Perform 07* festival before being re-worked for Northern Stage's First in Three scratch event in July '09. The work explored themes of lost love and solitude drawing parallels with a fear of commercial flight.

2007 Rabbit Damage:

The Mysterious Curse of Plessey Woods

Dir. Jill Chambers

Ensemble Member

Following a series of performed tours for up to 800 people in previous years this was a 45 minute musical performance with an original score and script that played three times to capacity audiences of 233 people per show. Lit almost entirely by bonfires and flaming torches the piece was custom-made for Plessey Woods Country Park in Northumberland and involved a team of fifteen performers comprised of drummers, vocalists and actors.

2007 Collaborative Installation: *Green and Pleasant Land*

A collaborative installation produced in the grounds of York St John University reflecting commonly perceived aspects of 'Britishness.' The work was selected to appear in the York Lux festival 2007. A host of white umbrellas were hung under an oak tree which was made to rain water under its canopy. Images of traditional British icons were projected onto the underside of the umbrellas.

2002 Scarborough Project:

The Manifestoes of Tadeusz Kantor

Dir. Prof. Noel Witts

Ensemble member.

This collection of Kantor's manifestoes was delivered by four performers stood on balconies and staircases to the delegates of the Kantor Symposium for the Centre for Performance Research in the atrium of the Welsh National Library in Aberystwyth.

2001/2 Scarborough Project: *Joe Stalin's Empire*

Dir. Prof. Noel Witts

Ensemble member / Stalin's Daughter

Performed at:

The Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Edinburgh Festival Fringe: Rocket Demarco Venues
Sibiu International Theatre Festival: The Gong Theatre, Sibiu, Romania

This four-handed devised piece of documentary theatre about the repercussions of the malign rule of Joseph Stalin around Eastern Europe received a four-star review in the Scotsman at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and was highly commended at the Sibiu International Theatre Festival.

2002 Collaboration with Alan Booty: *Reflections*

Dir. Jill Chambers

This half hour devised piece was set on an island of sandbags in the middle of a real pool of water created in a studio theatre environment at the University of Hull Scarborough Campus. It was created in response to a devising process using a single performer and source material from their life and explored themes of longing and isolation.

1998 Icon Theatre: *Icon*

Dir. Jill Chambers

Performed at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe: Roman Eagle Lodge.

Icon was a fast-paced, unsettling, multimedia devised piece for five performers about the media's influence on public and private morality. It received a four star review in the Scotsman and was well received by other members of the press, ScotsGay Magazine described the piece as 'theatre to blow the mind.' Excerpts of the show were filmed in an Edinburgh nightclub for a programme on postmodern theatre by Scottish Television.

ADDITIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING

2016-17 Circus Central

Poi Spinning and Performing Safely with Fire Courses

2004-07 Joan Trainor

Alto/mezzo soprano vocal coaching

1997 Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts

Intensive Summer School in Acting (2 wk course)