

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Fort, MA, BSc (Hons)

artist-educator-researcher

I am a creative, intuitive, and organised artist-researcher, teacher educator and workshop facilitator with extensive experience designing, delivering, and evaluating artistic projects, higher education curricula, and artist professional development. I am adaptable and a quick learner, able to transfer my skills set in different contexts having worked across arts, academic, charity and corporate sectors in my 20-year career. As a socially engaged dance artist, I have developed an inclusive, empathetic, and creative practice working in community and school contexts, most notably with elders, disabled people, children and families. A skilled researcher with specialism in artistic practice research, autoethnography and arts based ethnographic research tools, I can design and deliver innovative, multi-modal, responsive, and person-centred research projects with novel outputs that engage audiences beyond academia. I have a strong understanding of research ethics, research design and thematic analysis. As an experienced writer and communicator, I write page-turning content and copy with flair, for lay, academic and specialist audiences.

Skills

- Creative thinking and problem solving
- Creative ideas generation
- Project and events management and delivery
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Proficient IT skills: MS packages, Google Workplace.
- Basic audio production skills using Reaper
- Research and evaluation
- Qualitative, thematic data analysis
- Writing for lay, academic and education audiences (reports, articles)
- Teaching, curriculum development and delivery
- Teaching artist professional development
- Socially engaged arts/dance practice
- Workshop facilitation

Higher Education curriculum design, teaching and research supervision, 2011-present

Skills

- Designing and leading multiple undergraduate and postgraduate modules of study (in person and distance learning for international students; Tutoring and assessing written work, presentations, choreography, teaching; Work placements; Research project supervision; Student support for disabled students, including neurodiversity and health related conditions)

Experience

- **Trinity Laban Conservatoire for Music and Dance, Sep 2016 – present. Hourly-paid Lecturer.** Module leader – Creative and Inclusive Dance Teaching module on the MA/MFA Dance Leadership and Community Practice Programme. Research Project Supervisor
- **Roehampton University, Guest Lecturer. 2019-present.**
- **University of Central Lancashire. Sep-Nov 18. External Academic Consultant.** Consultancy for the new qualification, PGCert Dance within Communities.
- **Royal Academy of Dance (RAD), Faculty of Education, Sept 2012 – October 2018 (Full Time), October 2018 – July 2019 (freelance).** Module Leader/Lecturer in Dance Education, Student Support Officer and Designated Safeguarding Officer: Designing, leading and assessing undergraduate and postgraduate modules in community dance, inclusive practice, dance pedagogy and choreography, including face to face and international e-learning; Contribution to programme revalidation and periodic review processes; Sole responsibility for leading Faculty Student Support services for over 1000 students across 11 programmes in 83 countries.
- **Imperial Society for the Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) Oct 2018. Lecturer.** A one week intensive for teachers on leading high quality, creative and accessible dance in school and community settings. Part of a Level 6 Dance Pedagogy programme.
- **Canterbury Christchurch University, Sep 2011- Jun 2012, Module Leader:** Dance Pedagogy, Module Leader: Dance Science.

Socially Engaged Dance Artist, 2003-present

Skills: Design, delivery, and evaluation of inclusive, artistic, and fun dance projects for diverse groups in a range of community and school-based settings; Teaching artist professional development training.

Experience

- **Greenwich Vietnam Women. 2019-present. Dance Artist.** Ongoing, adhoc voluntary and paid projects leading dance and wellbeing classes for Vietnamese women and elders.
- **Wee Movers, Dance Artist Development Day. May 2022. Facilitator.**
- **Greenwich Dance. 2019 – 2021. Dance Artist.** Projects included local dance walks for adults (2021); Family outdoor classes (2021); Parent-baby online classes (2020-2021); SEN school Charlton Park Academy project; Inclusive Dance Practice Teacher Training (2021).
- **Amici Dance Theatre Company, Jan 2017 – present, Associate Artist.** Leading workshops and performance projects with disabled and neurodiverse participants.
- **Magpie Dance, 2008 – 2012, Dance Artist, Assistant Facilitator.** Weekly classes for adults with learning disabilities in community and health/day care settings.
- **Whizz Kidz, Jul 2011-Jul 2012, Life Skills Trainer.** Planning and delivering a series of workshops to young wheelchair users.
- **3D Dance, 2011-2012, Dance Artist.** Inclusive Dance Practice training for 3rd year BA students at Canterbury Christchurch University.
- **Hordle Walhampton Pre-Prep School, Hampshire, 2003 – 2011, Dance Artist.** Annual, weeklong residencies for nursery to Year 2 at Hordle Walhampton School (Hampshire).
- **Arts Depot, 2010, Creative Dance Facilitator.** Saturday morning creative dance classes for children.

Research and evaluation, 2013-present

Skills: Practice research; Autoethnography; Arts Based Ethnography (i.e. walk journals, map making, photo journals, one-to-one interviews, group discussion, group walking workshops, observation); Thematic analysis; Open Letters and Podcasting as a tool for thematic analysis and dissemination of research; arts-based evaluation.

Experience:

- **2018-present: PhD research, Viva expected June 2024** (see education section)
- **2021 – Jul-Sep. Luca Silvestrini's Protein Dance – evaluator (work placement).** Design, implement and write up evaluation of En Route (2021), a 2.5 hour promenade performance work in Woolwich
- **2021-2023: Collective Identity Project (CiD) for Luminelle, Co-researcher (paid commission).** Commissioned as a co-researcher to design, implement a research strand embedded in an artistic project for people with Parkinson's disease. Publication forthcoming.
- **2016-2018 Dance Unstuck (ACE funded), Artist consultant.** Consultancy on project investigating the principles of universal design applied to teaching RAD graded syllabi, making ballet accessible to people with disabilities. Teaching resource output: www.danceunstuck.co.uk
- **2013-2014 Dance for Lifelong Wellbeing: Project (Royal Academy of Dance).** Part of the team that designed and delivered a research project with older learners in care settings. Mentoring the project teachers and conducting a focus group about their professional development experiences.

Management and Leadership

- **PhD Researcher and Carer Collective (Jan 2024-).** Instigator of a WhatsApp based collective for anyone undertaking doctoral research with caring responsibilities.
- **Techne. Jul to Sep 22. Creative producer/curator (work placement).** Curating an exhibition of artist-scholar's work, including film, audio and print, as part of a celebratory event hosted at ICA
- **Amici Dance Theatre Company, Trustee, Jul 18 – present**

- **Magpie Dance, various roles:**
 - ~ Trustee, Nov 18 – Dec 21
 - ~ Project Manager, The Ed Effect. Apr 12 – Aug 12. Managing and evaluating the Big Dance performance project with Matthew Bourne's New Adventures.
 - ~ General Manager (Maternity Cover) Apr 11 – Mar 12. Operational management including: administration for termly classes, projects, performances; marketing/PR; safeguarding
 - ~ Project Manager, The Transition Team and Disabled Children's Team - London Borough of Bromley, Transitions Project. Nov 10 – Apr 11. Planning and managing a performance project with 18 participants from 5 local schools.
- **Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company, Administrator then Education Manager, Sep 08 – Jul 10.** Developing, delivering, and evaluating the company education programme, including Faultline repertory-based GCSE Dance workshop programme, and teaching artist professional development.
- **Public Relations Consultant, Oct 00 – Sep 08 Graduate trainee to Account Director.** In-house and freelance consultancy in the UK, Australia, New Zealand. Developing, implementing and evaluating campaigns in the health and pharmaceutical sector.

Writing

- Woolwich Wandering Blog - <https://woolwichwandering.com/>
- Forthcoming 2024. Artist Page in the book Our Dance Democracy Ethics, Equity and Reach.
- Fort, Elizabeth (2021) Stuck Unstuck, 14 June 2021, Greenwich Dance Digital Stage <https://greenwichdance.org.uk/digital-stage/stuck-unstuck-lizzie-fort/>
- Fort, Elizabeth (2017) [Cake, Communitas and Contact](#). Animated Winter 2017
- Fort, Elizabeth (2017) [Wending through Inclusion](#). Focus on Education, Issue 18.
- Fort, Elizabeth. [The conference was called people dancing...so that's what we did](#). RAD website. 7 Jan 2015.
- Fort, Elizabeth (2013) "Duty of Care." Dance for Lifelong Wellbeing: Project Report 2013. Edited by Victoria Watts. Royal Academy of Dance: London, 18-27. <https://www.royalacademyofdance.org/dance-with-us/dance-for-lifelong-wellbeing/report/>

Education

- **2018 (Oct) to present: PhD title: "Rethinking community dance as a practice of care and place, in Woolwich, Southeast London."** AHRC funded scholarship through the Techne Doctoral Training Partnership Studentship at Roehampton University. Viva June 2024. Project website: <https://woolwichwandering.com/>
- **2013-2015: MA Community Dance (Distinction), University of Roehampton.** Recipient of the "Roehampton Dance Award for Outstanding Development as a Research Student".
- **2012-2013: Certificate in Safe & Effective Dance Practice, Trinity Laban, (Distinction-NQF Level 5).**
- **2005-2007: Certificate of Higher Education: Dance Teaching (Distinction), Royal Academy of Dance.**
- **1997-2000: BSc (Hons) Sport Science and Physiology (2:2), University of Leeds**

Professional memberships

- Member, People Dancing: Foundation for Community Dance (current).
- Member, One Dance UK (current).
- Individual Member, Cultural Learning Alliance (current).
- Member, Laban Guild (2014-2015).
- Honorary Life Member, University of Leeds Student Union (current).