**Ella Wheelton**

**Director & Theatre Maker**

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I am a freelance Director and Theatre Maker based in Bath and the Southwest. As a director, my passion and love for theatre comes from giving a voice to the voiceless, and in using art to actively contribute and influence current political and social discussions. I believe that creative collaboration and human connection are at the heart of great theatre and they are a constant basis from which I make work. In every area of my practice I work passionately, always encouraging people to find the joy in our making.

My love of music, art, history and literature underpin the work I make; I believe that theatre is the amalgamation of all art forms, and that working with interdisciplinary approaches begets a multifaceted response… which should be encouraged! As a gay woman, I want to create and give prominence to stories that I was never told growing up, and by doing so, offer refuge to those who feel like the ‘other’ within society.

Gaining knowledge and experience from the people I work with, and maintaining curiosity and an eagerness to learn drives me personally as well as in my professional practice. I fervently believe that coming together to tell stories remains something innately human, something we hold onto as a way to connect us. I strive to make stories that are thought-provoking, inclusive and of a high artistic standard.

I have a BA in Drama and Theatre Studies from the University of Kent and an MA in Theatre Directing from Bath Spa University.

**Experience**

**Currently Acting as Movement Director on *Coldheart,* 2025.**

**Teaching experience includes:**

* Stagecoach Bath – current
* PQA Bradley Stoke – current
* Bristol Old Vic, Golbal Majority - 2024
* Director in Residence, Collegiate School Bristol – 2019 – 2022

**Movement Director**

***Lung Water* – Alana Tavern and Theatre, 2024.**

* Developed a strong movement language to compliment the directors style and creative choices.
* Choreographed transitions based on characterisation and script-based context.
* Worked efficiently and concisely to a brief.
* Maintained strong artistic vision in collaboration with the directors aesthetic wants for the show.

**Assistant Director**

***Pool (No Water) –* Burdall’s Yard, 2023.**

* Led explorative, technique-based rehearsals in contextually deepening and strengthening the actors understanding of the text.
* Developed a language in which to ground the movement elements of the show.
* Delivered movement-based workshops in order to choreograph the movement within the show.
* Worked to a brief and in conjunction with the directors overall vision while also relying on my own experience and understanding of the text as a way of offering up strong creative choices.
* Led a company in the running of rehearsals.

**Director/ Writer**

***The Tragedie of “Lady” Macbeth –* Burdall’s Yard, 2023.**

* Wrote and developed a new play, initial showing at Burdall’s Yard.
* Lead a company in achieving a single artistic vision.
* Liaised with theatre manager and undertook all production elements.
* Demonstrated competent time and logistical management.
* Lead a process of R&D’s with particular focus on cross disciplinary approach to theatre making.
* Collating success criteria for funding.

**Director**

***Tipping Point –* Agapanthus Productions. Bath Theatre Royal, 2023.**

* Worked in collaboration with a writer in directing an artistic vision for a piece of new writing.
* Worked to a writers brief while developing the theatrical framing of the piece.
* Lead a company in practitioner-based exploration of the text.

**Movement Director**

***Already Torn –* Directed by Gareth Rodd. Burdall’s Yard, 2023**

* Led an ensemble of actors in an explorative creation of the movement within the show.
* Tailored Michael Chekhov technique to lead rehearsals for an ensemble of actors with no movement experience.
* Worked collaboratively with the director on intersecting movement and story.

**Director**

***The Cormorant –* Ginger Moth Theatre Company*.* Bath Monologue Festival, Widcombe Arts Centre, 2023.**

* Displayed time management and working to a brief.
* Collaborated with a writer and explored ways of working concerning new writing.
* Executed an artistic vision within time and theatre festival constraints.
* Liaised with technical team and producer.

**Director in Residence**

***Grease –* Collegiate School. Harry Crooke Theatre, 2022**

* Devised and taught innovative and explorative, educational and theatrical based, KS3 schemes of work.
* Assisted in A – level and GCSE teaching as well as leading workshops on various practitioners such as Michael Chekhov, Anne Boggart, Stanislavski and Laban.
* Directed and choreographed the School’s annual production, ‘Grease.’
* Organised and curated inter departmental collaboration in the creation of a summer. production. Using cross curricular involvement e.g using the school band, art dep. to create set.
* Effective leadership and competent organisation of a duel cast of 80 people that included 12-18 year olds.
* Explored and defined new ways of curating school theatre – applying professional practice and standards.
* Developed ways of working with and engaging young people in theatre.

**Director/ writer**

***Dream of Midsummer Nights* – Ginger Moth Theatre Company. Eastville Park, Bristol. 2021.**

* Gained knowledge and technical experience based on the confines of outdoor theatre.
* Managed and directed a team adapting to outdoor/ public theatre confines.

**Director/ Co-writer**

***Thirty Miles From Here –* Afra Infinium. Gulbenkien Theatre, 2019.**

* Demonstrated key leadership and organisational skills in managing both people and vision in the creation of a show.
* Developed efficient time management, scheduling and rehearsal time tabling skills.
* Lead ways in working across various theatrical disciplines such as movement and music.
* Worked in collaboration with GOLKK theatre company, solidifying a multifaceted approach to my practice.

**Actor/ Co-wrote**

***Watching Windows* – Bitter/Sweet Theatre Co. Edinburgh Fringe Festival, 2016.**

* Developed and executed an artistic vision as part of an ensemble.
* Managed various production and promotional elements such as funding, marketing, logistics.
* Developed an understanding of professional expectations, especially concerning fringe theatre.
* Underwent various R&D stages, leading and curating adapting the page for stage.

**Skills**

Creativity, leadership, personable, working with people, problem solving, efficiency and literary, historical and theatrical knowledge.

**Qualifications**

MA Theatre Directing / BA Drama and Theatre Studies/ Diploma in voice and singing/ Stage combat (BASSC 5)/ Drama scholarship.

**Interests**

Hockey (county level)/ Archery/ Horse riding/ Capo Ferro/ judo.