

OVERVIEW

Theatre director, creative facilitator, teaching artist and Dementia Activist, with 30 years of experience in physical & visually driven theatre, including over 20 years of creatively engaging with people living with dementia. Highly experienced in collaborating, setting up and leading arts, cultural and community activities & programmes with a long-standing commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of vulnerable people through high-quality arts provision. Particularly passionate about socially engaged cross-artform partnerships with a special interest in developing bespoke performances with and for people living with dementia, their loved ones and those who care for them.

CURRENT AND PREVIOUS WORK

Date	Role/Project	Company/Venue	Duties
October 2022–ongoing	Dementia the Musical, Director	Deepness Dementia Media , Western Isles, Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Script and play development, with a plan for a full scale touring production across Scotland in 2024.<i>Dementia the Musical</i> is a new musical theatre production by Ron Coleman, Scottish poet and writer living with Vascular dementia, in collaboration with renowned Jazz musician Sophie Bancroft as composer and musical director. <i>Dementia the Musical</i> is a moving and funny new piece based on the campaigning work of three of Scotland's longest serving dementia activists James McKillop, Nancy McAdam & Agnes Houston and the fight they have led to ensure people with dementia have a voice in what happens in their lives.
May – September 2022	In the Light of Day, Lead Artist and Director	Independent , Supported through a Creative Scotland Open Fund for Individuals Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Devised and directed <i>In the Light of Day</i>, a collaborative performance for people living with dementia. The project focused on hands, gloves and hand adornments, re-imagining beauty and care in the time of PPE during the Covid-19 pandemic. Shared 17 interactive performances at 13 venues (care homes, meeting/community/day centres and theatres) across 7 Scottish local authorities. Produced, directed and designed accompanying film materials and postcards to accompany the production and to provide additional engagement opportunities for our care home audiences.
September - October 2021	Die Komische Tragödie (by Yves Hunstad and Eve Bonfati), Director	Tatu Theater , at Kleines Theater Salzburg, Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Final direction of the first German production and first female version of <i>Die Komische Tragödie</i>, initially performed in French by Yves Hunstad at the Bouffes du Nord, Paris. Translated by Walter Anichhofer and performed by Caroline Richards.

<p>October 2020 - July 2021</p>	<p>In the Light of Day, (R&D Project) Lead Artist and Director</p>	<p>Independent, Supported through a Creative Scotland Open Fund <i>Sustaining Creative Development 2020/21 Award</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devised and directed initial performance and film materials for <i>In the Light of Day</i>, flexible and scalable performances for people living with dementia in care home environments (outdoors and indoors). The project focused on hands, gloves and hand adornments, re-imagining beauty and care in the time of PPE during the Covid-19 pandemic. Two work-in-progress performances of 25 minute length were held at The Elms Care Home in Edinburgh and Festival Theatre courtyard in July 2021.
<p>September 2019 - ongoing</p>	<p>BOLD-Scotland, Creative Director and Creative Lead Facilitator</p>	<p>Freelance, Creative Director of multi-year Consortium Project between University of Edinburgh, Queen Margaret University and Age Scotland fully funded by the Life Changes Trust</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BOLD (Bringing Out Leaders in Dementia) is a Social Leadership programme that draws together leaders from all walks of life, including persons with a dementia, professional and family carers and artists, on an equal footing. It provides emergent leaders with free creative development opportunities which aim to develop skills, build strong networks, increase confidence and strengthen the impact of their work. Involved in the set-up, development and planning of the project and delivery of all creative aspects of bold sessions. Initially, as a residential programme in different Scottish regions. During 2020 the programme was successfully redeveloped for online delivery for our cohort of participants from across Scotland. Curating and coordinating of End of Project event in March 2024 - showcasing existing artwork created as part of the bold programme by over 100 of our bold partners over the past 5 years as well as initiating and facilitating artwork to be created for this end of project celebration.
<p>2016 - August 2019</p>	<p>Curious Shoes, Lead Artist and Director</p>	<p>Independent, Supported through Paul Hamlyn Breakthrough and Transition Grants and Creative Scotland Open Fund Award</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed <i>Curious Shoes</i>, a collaborative performance for people living with dementia. Premiered at Capital Theatres, Edinburgh, March 2017, followed by a short tour in Autumn 2017. Remounted production and 8-week-long tour in 2019, visiting a total of 27 venues, including theatres, arts centres, care homes, day care centres and village halls across Scotland. Curated audiences of people living with dementia and facilitated audience engagement. Delivered Artful Minds workshops across Scotland attended by 42 artists. Training participants came from a wide range of art forms, including performing arts, visual arts, music, dance, storytelling, poetry, writing, design, architecture and research.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributed to research discussions on Co-Creativity with people living with dementia with Created Out of Mind event at the Wellcome Hub, London; West Yorkshire Playhouse “Arts & Dementia Symposium” at Every Third Minute (Dementia Themed) Festival; Shifting Paradigms in Dementia (Arts and Dementia) at Macrobert Arts Centre for the University of Stirling; Dementia Lab, Newcastle and ITAC 4, New York.
Aug 2016 - ongoing	Honorary Professor	School of Health Sciences, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing new innovative projects in the intersection between arts, education and health. Leading one-off training initiatives and contributing to relevant conferences and events.
Aug 2014 - Dec 2017	Breakthrough Fund Grantee (part-time)	The Paul Hamlyn Foundation, London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded a multi-year Paul Hamlyn Breakthrough Fund grant in 2014, to further advance my work developed for people living with dementia in healthcare settings into theatre and community environments, as well as infusing it with other art forms, in particular dance, design and music. As a result, created Curious Shoes, a collaborative performance for people living with dementia, and Artful Minds, an experiential training initiative for artists of all art forms.
April 2002 - Dec 2017	CEO	Hearts & Minds Based in Edinburgh, Performing arts activities delivered in 30 health care locations across 14 local authorities in Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-Founded Hearts & Minds in 1997 and set up as Scottish Arts-in-Health Charity. Developed the Scottish Clowndoctors programme for children in hospital and hospice care in 1999 and created the unique and highly acclaimed Elderflowers programme for elderly people living with dementia in 2001. Produced up to 650 performance days in 30 health care locations across Scotland across 14 local authorities, reaching a participative audience of 14,000 children, elderly people and their families annually. Forged and cultivated long-term relationships with key stake-holders. Contributed nationally to arts-in-health sector development and agenda in Scotland. Initiated all programme developments and expansions including: ‘<i>Keeping Creativity Alive</i>’ residency, for performers working with seniors in Austria, Germany, Holland, Iceland and Australia, supported by Creative Scotland.
2005-2016	Director (freelance)	Plutôt la Vie <i>A Clean Sweep</i> (2005, 2006, 2012, 2016) <i>By the Seat of Your Pants</i> (2011 - 2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dementia-friendly performance at Capital Theatres in February 2016; Scottish National tour including Highlands & Islands 2005; various international and <i>Imaginate</i>, Edinburgh International Children’s Theatre Festival, 2012. Toured extensively across Scotland, including Highlands & Islands, and England. In 2013 performed it as part of the prestigious IPAY Festival in Philadelphia.

<i>1989-ongoing</i>	Director (freelance) Various	Details available on request	
<i>1989 - 2004</i>	Performer(freelance) Various	Details available on request	
<i>1989 – ongoing</i>	Workshop Leader & Project Consultant (freelance)	Artful Minds and Mindful Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For organisations, including Scottish Ballet, Glasgow; Capital Theatres, Edinburgh; Eden Court Theatre, Inverness; Macrobert Arts Centre, Stirling; Luca Silvestrini’s Protein Dance, London; People Dancing et al.
		Compassionate Clowning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered training for various arts-in-health organisations across Europe, Canada, the Middle East and the USA. Participants have included performers from Australia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Jordan, Hungary, Lithuania, Northern Ireland, Palestine, UK, USA, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.
		Various other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Theatre, London; National Theatre, Scotland; Welsh National Opera; Royal Conservatoire of Scotland; Dundee Rep Community Department; Dancebase.

TRAINING

<i>2023</i>	Carbon Literacy Federation of Scottish Theatre, Edinburgh
<i>2022</i>	Quiet Leadership Julian Stodd, Social Leadership online training
<i>2018</i>	Create Change Institute with Anne Basting, Milwaukee, USA Certified TimeSlips Facilitator Inducted as TimeSlips Master Trainer for UK and Europe
<i>2017</i>	TimeSlips, Creative Storytelling for people with dementia Queen Margaret University and LUMINATE, Scotland
<i>2016</i>	Memory Bridge with Michael Verde, Institute for Creative Ageing, University of Bloomington Indiana, USA
<i>2012</i>	STEP UP - Mentor Training Programme Federation of Scottish Theatre, Edinburgh
<i>2011</i>	Assistant to Pierre Byland , Hearts & Minds, Edinburgh
<i>2009, 2010, 2012</i>	Voice Studio International Voice Training with Nadine George, Glasgow
<i>2005</i>	Assistant to Jos Houben (Theatre de Complicite, The Right Size), Hearts & Minds, Edinburgh
<i>2001</i>	Jacques Lecoq School - Laboratory of Movement and Design (LEM), Paris, France
<i>1999 & 2000</i>	Jos Houben , Vienna and Edinburgh
<i>1999</i>	Pierre Byland , Burlesk Centre, Locarno, Switzerland

1993-1995 **HB Studio**, New York, USA

1989-1990 **Ecole Phillipe Gaulier and Monika Pagneux**, Paris, France

EDUCATION

1983-1988 **German Literature; Psychology; Philosophy; Science of Education;**
Universität Salzburg and Universität Wien, Austria

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS AND STEERING GROUPS

2020 - ongoing Trustee and EDI Champion at **Love Music Productions**, Edinburgh

2015 - ongoing Member of **Dance for Parkinson's** Steering Group, Scotland

2013 - ongoing Member of **European Cultural Parliament (ECP)** for Scotland

2009 - 2017 Vice-Chair and Co-founder of **European Federation of Healthcare Clown Organisations (EFHCO)**

2012 - 2016 Chair at **Imagine**, Edinburgh International Children's Festival
2010 - 2012 Director at **Imagine**, Edinburgh International Children's Festival

2010 - 2011 **Starcatchers** Steering Committee (Theatre for under 3's)

2008 - 2010 **Scottish Arts Council/Creative Scotland** - Arts-in-Health Steering Committee

2007 - 2011 Director at **Plutôt la Vie** Theatre Company

2009 - 2011 **Specialist Advisor, Scottish Arts Council/Creative Scotland**
Drama, Equalities and Music Departments

2003 - 2004 **Specialist Advisor, Scottish Arts Council** - Drama Department
Specialist areas: Physical Theatre; Children's Theatre; International; Puppetry; Theatre and disability; Ethnic minorities.

2005 - 2009 Director at **Puppet Animation Scotland (PAS)**

2003 - 2005 **Scottish Arts Council** - Puppetry Review Steering Committee

ENDORSEMENT

*"Magdalena's profound sensitivity, analytical perspective and well-honed expertise position her as a unique, inspiring go-to resource for any artist interested in understanding effective, compassionate processes and methods for working with people with dementia and memory loss. Building on her decades of work in theatre and clowning, Magdalena has developed an innovative, accessible and versatile platform that promises to serve a variety of artists and service providers across disciplines. Above all, her vision for engagement and collaboration provides deeply inspiring motivation toward action. **If there's ever a chance to work with her, take it.**"* - David Leventhal, Program Director, *Dance for PD* & Mark Morris Dance Group New York
<http://danceforparkinsons.org>