

ELEANOR KEENE

Highlights

- **Education: MA History of Textiles and Dress**
- **Great communication and people skills; experienced in public speaking**
- **Comprehensive knowledge in the history of fashion and textiles**
- **Experienced Fashion and Textile Valuer**
- **Published writer and experienced commissioning editor**
- **Experience in: cataloguing, archiving and collection handling.**
- **Sound sewing and construction skills, experience in using industrial equipment**
- **Exhibition, display and mounting dress**
- **Broad research and computer skills**

Education

2011: Certificate in Small Business, at Brookvale TAFE

2003-2006: Masters Degree in the History of Textiles and Dress, Winchester, University of Southampton.

Key assignments included a collection of papers addressing fashion in the Pacific. These included: Exploring the Iconography of the Hula Skirt; The Colonisation of the Pacific, and its Lasting Effects of Missionary Fashion; The Cultural Relationships of Cook Island Women through the Production of the Floral Leis for Performance. Along with assignments on: Contemporary NZ Fashion and its Gothic Style; Shoe Production at Clarks Somerset in the 1920s; The Production of Northern English Cotton; Identity and Consumption Through Women's Pants in the 20th Century.

2001: A paper in The History of Fashion and Dress, online from the Centre for Distance Education and Independent Learning, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

1997-99: Diploma in Theatre Costume, from East Sydney TAFE. The course included: period pattern making and garment construction, history of costume, millinery, jewellery making. I majored in theatrical headwear, creating my final collection around the romance of fairy-tales.

1996 Certificate in Fashion Headwear/Millinery, from East Sydney TAFE.

1996 Certificate in Basic Pattern Making, from East Sydney TAFE.

High School Qualifications: Sixth Form Certificate from New Zealand in: Graphics & Design, Art, English & Design Technology - Clothing & Textiles (Awarded the highest grade for subject in NZ 1995, with a mark of 97%)

Employment, Australia 2010 – Current

2016 – Current Cultural Gifts Valuer. I am a registered Government Cultural Gifts Valuer. I work with Museums and Galleries around Australia, primarily valuing fashion collections being donated through the Cultural Gifts Program. Other valuations may support the purchase /acquisition of a collection, or for insurance purposes.

Key Collections I have worked on include:

The Easton Pearson Archive – Museum of Brisbane

Speedo collection – Powerhouse Museum

The Akira Isogawa - Powerhouse Museum

Comme des Garcon - National Gallery of Victoria.

The Krystyna Campbell Pretty Fashion Gift – National Gallery of Victoria. (Ongoing)

2014 – 2021 Fashion and textile specialist with the National Trust in Old Government House. I have worked with the National Trust since the beginning of 2014 on a variety of roles and contracts. I was first employed through a NSW Museums and Galleries grant, part time, cataloguing and sorting through their vast historic clothing and domestic textile collection. It was soon determined that this project was much larger in content and scope than first thought, and continued working on this project for the Trust as funding permitted. Over 800 items have been catalogued, photographed and re-packed.

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2014 saw the first in a run of costume exhibitions to be housed at Old Government house, with others following in quick succession. I worked on all of them, in some degree.

- March 2014 Costumes from the Australian TV program *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*. I worked with the costume designer to set up the exhibition and gave fortnightly specialist guided tours.
- Sept 2014 *Clothing the People: Wartime and Edwardian Fashion* I co-curated with Glennis Murphy a private collector. This was part of National History week in 2014. It showcased never displayed costume treasures I had unearthed at the Trust, together with pieces from Glennis's collection, and small loans militarily related.
- July 2015 *Love Desire and Riches*. A Bridal exhibition. The NSW Trust purchased this exhibition from their Victorian counterparts. Unfortunately many of the loans of the originally exhibition were not extended, so I came on board to source and create, what ended up being 50% of the exhibitions new items. Major loans I negotiated garments from include: Warner Bros USA, National Film & Sound archive, and MAA&S.
- April 2016 **Miss Fisher exhibition part 2**, assisting with exhibition set up and specialist tours.

2013 –2021 Editor & Writer of Fashion for Vintage Made Magazine. I started writing for the biannual magazine from its conception in 2013 and have contributed to every issue until June 2021.

In 2016 I became the Editor of Fashion. My key responsibilities saw me commissioning the first third of the magazine, and helping to come up with themes for the issues. I also arranged photoshoots and sourced images adhering to copyright. In 2019 reverted back to being a key contributing writer.

Further contract work over 2010 - 14

Throughout 2010-14 I worked on a freelance basis, primarily in the auction and antiques industries in Sydney.

- I put together and catalogued Fashion & Textile auctions for *Theodore Bruce, Lawsons* and *David Barsby's* auctions. Arranged a contract of sale for Christies.
- I wrote a number of articles for a variety of Antique Magazines in Australia, to include *NSW Arts and Antiques, The World of Antiques & Arts, Collectables Trader* and *The Carters Antiques and Collectables*. Along with being a regular contributor to the *Vintage Made Magazine*.
- I taught an eight week evening college course in the History of Fashion at *North Sydney Community College*.
- I was employed by *HBL Mann & Judd* the Administrators of *Lisa HO* business, to help advise on the sale and disposal of her vintage reference archive collection.
- I worked casually with the Sydney Antique Centre in a sales role from 2011-13
- Had short term contracts in the antiques centers: *Camperdown Mews*, and *Balmain Road*.
- I sold low value vintage clothes through a monthly vintage clothing fair in Paddington.
- I continued to work casually on *Bonhams* sales in Australia

Employment, England 2002 -2009

Head of the Costume and Textiles department for Bonhams auctioneers. April 2007 – Dec 2009.

I was the head of the Costume and Textiles department for one of the largest chains of auction houses in the world.

I coordinated specialist auctions selling vintage and period fashion, 20th century designer couture and accessories, needlework, textiles, lace and other related items. I was responsible for:

*Sourcing, valuing and cataloguing the fashion and textile items for auction. * Attending public valuation days and private collections around Britain and Europe. * Advertising and marketing for the department: arranging web updates, press releases and the print production of the catalogues. * Meeting budgets and tight deadlines. *Trend analysis, following current fashion trends and popular culture, as well as key costume drama television programmes/film or major fashion exhibitions.

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Further roles in the UK:

Sales advisor and assistant fabric buyer, **Rossiters of Bath**. Sept 2005 – April 2007 (while studying for my MA)

Sales advisor and assistant, interiors, **Elephant Furniture**. Oct 2004 – Sept 2005

Character costume maker, **Rainbow Productions**. *Making sports mascots, cartoon and television characters. The company held the license for Warner Brother costumes in the UK.* March 2004 – Oct 2004

Sales assistant, **Harrods** department store, Oct 2003 – Dec 2003

Visitor services assistant with the **Roman Baths Museum**, Bath. Oct 2002 – Oct 2003

Employment, Australia 1998 -2002

Intern Curatorial Assistant in Fashion and Textiles, Powerhouse Museum. May 2000– Sept 2002

Museum of Decorative Arts and Science, Sydney, Australia. Worked as a Curatorial Assistant to the Curators of Fashion and Textiles. Helped to organise and set up exhibitions. Worked on the Museum's acquisitions and cataloguing. Responded to general enquires for the department.

Manager of the Wardrobe department of Sega World. March 1997 to Nov 2000

Running the Wardrobe department, Purchasing stock & stock taking. Supervising staff, rosters, pay sheets.

Television, Film and Theatre Costume Work, Sydney Australia 1998 – 2000

* **Art finisher** on Baz Luhrmann's film **Moulin Rouge**. A month of cutting, dying, twisting & setting feathers. * Casual work with Sydney's **Theatre Milliner Jean Carroll**. * **Costume design, buying and stand-by** on short film **Opus**, finalist in the 1999 Sydney **Tropfest** film festival. Director Mark Bellam. * **Costume assistant** on television drama series **Murder Call**. Dressing main cast, guest actors, assisting standby, clothing alterations. Costume designer Meg Gordon. * **Costume design, buyer and standby** on **Heaven on the fourth floor**. Director Mark Bellamy. * **Assisted in wardrobe department** on Channel Ten's **Big Sky**, as part of a TAFE work placement. Costume Designer Paul Warren.

* **Designer/buyer/maker** on film **The Changing Room**, made with the help of the Australian film commission, which opened the Woman's film festival in Sydney. Director/Producer Alyson Bell. * **Prop maker**, creating giant Sunflowers for a **Flora Margarine commercial**. COG, Andrew Jackson. * **Standby Props** on a **Toyota Commercial**. COG, Andrew Jackson. * **Character costume construction**. Working on plush character costumes for the **Atlanta Para Olympics** closing Ceremony and for an ABC Children's Television series **Magic Mountain**. Kite Studios.

Volunteer work, UK & Australia

Volunteer with the Zandra Rhode's Fashion and Textile Museum, 2002

Prior to the Museum opening in 2003, assisted with donor forms, loan agreements, budgets for grant applications.

Volunteer with the Museum of Costume, Bath, 2002

Primarily on labelling and dating costume slides, left to the museum in a bequest. Setting up cases for exhibitions.

'Bumped out' the 50 years of NIDA Costume exhibition. 1999

I worked with costume curator Katherine Adler, to dismantle and record the exhibition.