

Curriculum Vitae

Education and Qualifications

1994-2003	PhD (Dept. of African Art and Archaeology) Subject: Dogon Masks in the 21st century School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
1987-1990	B.A. (Hons) Theatre Design (2:1) Nottingham Trent University
1986-1987	Foundation Course in Art and Design St. Martins School of Art
1984-1986	A levels (Art, History of Art, French, English) Camden School for Girls, London

Independent Consulting Work

	Main Responsibility: Director of my own Interpretation and Masterplanning consultancy.
2019	Power Hall: Science and Industry Museum, Manchester Interpretation Consultant and Advisor on gallery representation
2018	Oxford House: Redevelopment Project Interpretation Consultant and advisor on Interpretation Strategy
2018	Lest We Forget (AHRC Research Project): Project Advisor and Facilitator Historic Royal Palaces
2018	Tower of London: Beyond the Deepening Shadow: Producer of the tours for visually impaired and hearing impaired visitors
2018	Clandon Park: National Trust. Interpretive Planning and Visitor Experience Consultant for the National Trust. Creation of the Visitor Experience Vision Statement for the new Clandon Park
2018	Tower of London: 4 & 5 Tower Green: Interpretive Planning and Visitor Experience Consultant for Historic Royal Palaces. Creation of the Visitor Experience Vision Statement for the restoration of 4 and 5 Tower Green
2018	Royal Museums Greenwich: Endeavour Project, Interpretation Consultant

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Past Museums and Heritage Work

2014- 2018

Tower of London (for Historic Royal Palaces): Creative Programming and Interpretation Manager

Main responsibilities included: Project Lead on all Tower based projects: responsible for the creation of interpretation plans, creative direction, creation of project briefs and appointment of all consultants, project management from concept through to install. Liaising with senior management regarding project scheduling and resourcing. Involvement in medium to longterm strategic thinking.

Projects Included:

- Tower Core Story: Project Lead on the delivery of HRP's first Interpretation Plan for the Tower of London, (2017-2036) ensuring that the Tower's offer will delight existing audiences, and build new audiences, whilst building relevance, coherence and quality in the next 20 years
- Re-presentation of the Bloody and Beauchamp Towers: Project Lead, Project Manager and Interpretation Manager. (Completed October 2018)
- Tower Visitor Facing Framework Study: Project Lead, using the Tower Core Story to build coherence, re-articulate and re-brand the visitor journey. The key output was a new visitor map, re-branded way-finding, new signage and a new guidebook. (Completed Winter 2017- Autumn 2018)
- Middle Tower Entry Phase I and II: Project Lead in creating the plan for a new Introduction and Arrivals experience for visitors. (Phase I completed Autumn 2018)
- Pride, Power and Politics: Project Lead and Project Manager in the creation and production of the Tower of London's first LGBT+ Tour as part of HRP's Palace Pride programme (Completed May 2018)
- Re-presentation of the Medieval Palace: led graphic and lighting re-design and install and commissioned new chandelier installation (Completed October 2017)
- Royal Fusiliers Entrance Project: Project Manager in project to build coherence and understanding for visitors at the threshold of the Fusiliers museum. (Completed January 2017)
- Re-presentation of St John's Chapel, White Tower: Interpretive Planner, ensuring narrative alignment and coherence of the project within the wider context of the White Tower and Tower of London site. (Completed 2016)

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- Armoury in Action: HRP's Project Lead alongside Royal Armouries to replace the former Hands on History Gallery in the White Tower with this new interactive gallery. (Completed Winter 2017)
- Queen's House Roof: Interpretation Manager for the conservation of the roof and Project Lead in the design and installation of the temporary scaffold hoarding
- Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red (Installation of Poppies in the Moat): Project Manager during the installation and removal phase. (Completed Autumn 2014)
- Equality and Diversity Team Lead: participation in Equalities action learning set, Women's Network for Change, led workshops in accessible text writing
- Tower Access Review: Project Lead in the delivery of the Tower's Access review, (Completed Summer 2017) including my acting as advisor on the implementation of new governance structure to ensure the action plan is delivered

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2011-2014

Exhibitions Interpretation Curator, Royal Museums Greenwich
Projects included:

Main responsibilities included: interpretive planning, object display, workshop facilitation, internal and external presentations to key stakeholders, report and brief-writing, exhibit scriptwriting, editing and proofing, image and A.V. procurement, tendering and appointments, management and creative management of artists, designers and A.V. consultants, monitoring budgets, and contracts

- Royal Observatory Reinvigoration project: interpretative, strategic and creative lead for the delivery of a future vision for the Royal Observatory. Delivery of the short term upgrade to both interpretation and way-finding (2014)
- Rum, Sodomy and the Lash: team lead, content developer and project planner for exhibition and accompanying programme exploring the hidden history of sex and sexuality at sea (2014)
- The Great Map: content management and advisor on design development of a giant map installation and tablet based mobile app that delivers 100 British maritime stories for a family audience (2013)
- Ansel Adams: from the Mountains to the Sea: on-site co-curator; interpretation developer and programming advisor (2012)

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- Neptune Court Re-display: managed the interpretation and object display, advised on design development, audio visual production and interactive development (2011-2012)

- Astronomer Royals: managed the interpretation for this new introductory gallery in Flamsteed House, Royal Observatory (2012)

- Measuring the Universe: interpretation lead and advisor on design development (2012)

- Arctic Convoys: interpretation lead and advisor on design development (2011)

2009-2011

Dogon Now: Masks in Motion: Guest Curator of a touring exhibition for the Museum for African Art, New York. Scriptwriter, author of catalogue and director of A.V.

2010-2011

Treasure and Transform: Curator of an exhibition for Bath and North East Somerset Council on the Vision for the Future of Bath

2005- 2009

Ralph Appelbaum Associates (Museum & Exhibition Design Consultancy): Senior Content Developer. Projects included:

- Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter: content co-ordination and design development on 10 new permanent galleries

- Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro: project leader on the Museum's Master Plan

- Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library, Nigeria: content developer, design development and workshop facilitator

- Black Cultural Archives, Brixton: senior content developer and design advisor

- Horniman Museum (HLF bid for a new Natural History Gallery): content developer

- Ailsa Craig Visitor Centre, Scotland: content developer and design advisor

2004

Discover Greenwich Visitor Centre, Greenwich: consulted on Master Plan, assisted on concept for the design brief and overall visitor experience

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1998-2001

The Building Exploratory, Hackney: Deputy Director and Exhibition Designer: Overall responsibility for the design and management of the design team, and implementation of the exhibition. Responsibilities included: financial planning, fundraising, and programming, office management and co-ordination, appointment and management of artists, contractors, and volunteers.

Film and Theatre Design Work

Freelance Theatre and then Film Designer with responsibility for sets and costumes (for theatre productions).

1997

Jo Brand- Like it or Lump it: Art Director for Vera (TV Productions)

1997

24:7: Assistant Art Director for Scala Productions

1996

B Monkey: Art Dept. Assistant for Scala Productions

1995

Macbeth and Romeo And Juliet, Costume designer for Shakespeare U.K., USA Tour

1995

Raising Mrs Rossetti: Set and Costume designer, The Link Theatre, Holborn

1995

The Cracked Pot: Set and Costume designer, Courtyard Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

1994

Days Of Pride: Set and Costume designer, Living Archive, Milton Keynes

1994

About Face: Set and Costume designer, Salisbury Playhouse

1993

The Mandrake, Repunzel and A Passion for The Countryside: Set and Costume designer, Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company

1993

The Giraffe, Pelle And Me, Dracula and Romeo and Juliet: Set and Costume designer, The London Bubble Theatre Company

1992

The Adventures Of Pinocchio: Set and Costume designer, Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company

1992

Journey: Set and Costume designer, Theatr lolo, Cardiff and tour

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| 1991 | Set and Costume designer of The Good Person Of Sichuan, Faction Theatre company, Leicester Haymarket Studio and tour |
| 1991 | Set and Costume designer of Message In A Bottle, Theatr Iolo, Cardiff |
| 1991 | Set and Costume designer of Animal Farm, Leicester Haymarket Studio Theatre |
| 1990 | Set and Costume designer of Torched, Finborough Arms Theatre |

Publications

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| Forthcoming | Dogon Now: Masks in Motion, Catalogue for Museum for African Art, New York |
| 2017 | Introducing Dogon Masks and Mask Performances, an essay for ReCollecting Dogon, the Menil Foundation, Texas |
| 2011 | Objets d'hier, Art d'aujourd'hui, in Dogon, Télérama hors série, Paris |
| 2006 | What's in a Dogon Mask, Res, Journal of Anthropology and Aesthetics, New York |
| 2006 | Dogon Masks at the turn of the Millennium, African Arts, UCLA |
| 2004 | Les Masques Dogon au Tournant du Millenaire, in Regards sur les Dogon, (exhibition Catalogue), Ed. Rogier Bedaux, Leiden |
| 2000 | Imina Sangan or Masques à La Mode, in Re-Visions: New Perspectives On The African Collections Of The Horniman Museum, Ed. Karel Arnaut, The Horniman Museum and Gardens, London and The Museu Antropologico Da Universidade De Coimbra |

Lectures

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| 2019 | Interpreting the Sacred, Visitor Experience Symposium, St Paul's Cathedral, Salisbury Cathedral and Lancaster Priory |
| 2017 | Core Strength: Building Relevance at the Tower of London, Building Relevance at the Tower of London', Relevance 2017, the International Council of Museums DEMHIST and CECA Annual Conference, Tower of London |
| 2017 | ReCollecting Dogon, Menil Foundation, Texas |
| 2013 | Participation on Trial, Museums Association Conference, Liverpool |
| 2009 | Dogon Masquerade: New Perspectives on African Art, NYU, New York |

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2005	Masques à la mode (Dogon Masks at the turn of the millennium), AEGIS, London
2005	Masques Dogons in a Changing World, Symposium: Emerging Scholarship in African Art, Columbia University, New York
2005	Super-dip and Sardine cans: Dogon masks at the turn of the millennium, SOAS
2004	Masques à la mode: Dogon masks at the turn of the millennium, ACASA Boston
2000	Dogon Masquerade: Encompassing the Global, African Society Annual Conference, Trinity College, Cambridge
1994	Dogon Masquerade, Christies: African Art Summer Course, London

Professional Development

2013	Clore Leadership Short Course
2014-2018	Training at Historic Royal Palaces included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing Resilience• Demystifying Finance• Managing People Programme• Managing Difficult Conversations• Negotiation Skills• Project Management

Additional Roles

2015-2019	Trustee of Oxford House: advisor on Redevelopment Project. (Completes May 2019)
2003-2009	Treasurer, Friends of Mali, UK
1996-today	Advisor to the Board of Joliba, British N.G.O. based in the Dogon Region, Mali
1993-1995	Judge for the London Fringe Awards

Testimonials

Michael Day CVO;

Chief Executive, Historic Royal Palaces,

“Polly’s most important piece of work at Historic Royal Palaces was to lead The Tower Core Story project. This project required a great deal of consultation, understanding the physical site, how all the current interpretation functions and mediating the views of many different colleagues. It is immensely to her credit that the finished result was produced with great clarity and insight – and will provide exactly that organising framework we wanted for years of projects to come. “

Richard Harrold

Director, The Tower of London

“Polly was the creative force behind the representation of two of our most important historic spaces, the Beauchamp and the Bloody Towers. The result is a powerful and engaging evocation of the stories those spaces tell, innovative in method, accessible to all and appropriate to old and young alike.”

Katherine Skellon

Creative Director of Skellon Studios

“Polly is a top-notch Content Developer. I have worked on a diverse range of projects with Polly and she is invaluable. She is thoughtful, tenacious, bold in ideas and fun to work with. Her past theatre design experience and her spatial understanding enriches her skill set making her a valuable team member. I highly recommend her.”

Polly
Richards
Interpretation
Masterplanning
Exhibitions