

# Elisabeth Armstrong – Costume Maker

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## Employment History - All references available on request

Sept 2010 – present	Wycombe Abbey Abbey Way High Wycombe HP11 1PE	<b><u>Costume Maker</u></b> Wycombe Abbey is an independent boarding school with its own working theatre, we stage around 7-9 productions every year to a professional standard. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Making new costumes, (period and modern) altering and reviving existing stock.</li><li>• Attending costume fittings and dress rehearsals</li><li>• Running production budgets</li><li>• Attending department and production meetings</li></ul>
Jan 2011 - present	Freelance	<b><u>Costume Maker</u></b> Working alongside my job at Wycombe Abbey I provide bespoke costumes and corsets to private clients and larger companies. Most recently I made the principal costumes for the cabaret show 'Sensual Dreams' at the London Hippodrome. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bespoke wedding dresses and evening wear</li><li>• Modern corsetry for dance/burlesque/cabaret</li><li>• Period costumes for re-enactors and theatre companies</li></ul>
Sept 2008 – Sept 2010	Spirit Productions Ivy House 35 High Street Bushey, Hertfordshire	<b><u>Costume Maker/Touring Costume Mistress</u></b> Spirit is a musical and dance production company with shows touring in the UK and internationally. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cutting/fitting/constructing dance and show costumes, altering and reviving existing stock</li><li>• Touring in the UK and abroad</li><li>• Attending dress rehearsals and fittings</li><li>• Running monthly budgets, show budgets and costume bibles.</li><li>• Dealing with international logistics of touring shows.</li></ul>
Dec 2007 – Sept 2008	Past Pleasures Historical Interpretation Unit 2 Capital Park Godalming, Surrey	<b><u>Costume Manager/Maker</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Making period costumes and reviving existing stock</li><li>• Attending costume fittings and inductions</li><li>• Attending dress rehearsals</li><li>• General maintenance and repairs of costume</li><li>• Costume logistics for Historic Royal Palaces</li><li>• Sourcing and purchasing fabrics and accessories</li></ul>
May 2007 – Dec 2007	Past Pleasures Historical Interpretation  Godalming Surrey	<b><u>Costume Assistant/Maker</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assisting with costume fittings</li><li>• Alterations and repairs</li><li>• Making and sourcing new costumes</li><li>• Assisting with dress rehearsals</li><li>• Maintaining stock levels, buying haberdashery and consumables.</li></ul>

## Key Skills

- Corsetry (drafting and construction) both period and modern styles.
- Couture hand and machine sewing techniques, specialising in bridal and eveningwear.
- Historical hand sewing techniques for period garments.
- Embroidery, beading and surface embellishment.
- Experience in jewellery making, millinery and footwear.
- Pattern drafting specialising in women's wear.
- Excellent knowledge of costume and fashion history.
- Knowledge of stretch fabrics and dance costumes.
- Experience of teaching and working with children.
- Admin skills including running production budgets and show bibles.
- Experience of working on large scale productions both in the UK and abroad.
- Good working knowledge of industrial and domestic sewing machines, over lockers and industrial workroom equipment.
- Costume buying.
- Backstage dressing.
- Running wardrobe maintenance.



## Academic Qualifications

2004 - 2007

London College of Fashion

BA Hons - Fashion Design Technology (Grade - First)

1994 – 1999

Princess Margaret Royal Free  
Windsor

A-levels in Art & Design, Graphic Communication and English  
Literature.  
8 GCSE's (including Maths and English)



## Work Experience

July 2014

**Shakespeare's Globe**  
London

**Costume Workroom Assistant**  
Making and reviving costumes for 'Holy Warriors'

September 2006

**Diesel Clothing**  
Catwalk Show  
Pinewood Studios

**Backstage Dresser**  
Dressing models for Diesel's 'Test Patrol' Catwalk Show.

September 2006

**Angels The Costumiers**  
London

**Costume Assistant**  
Working in the costume warehouse helping with maintenance and costume returns.

May – July 2006

**Past Pleasures**  
Godalming, Surrey

**Costume Assistant**  
Making and reviving costumes for Hampton Court Palace and the Tower of London.  
Running wardrobe maintenance.

June 2004

**Graduate Fashion Week**  
London

**Backstage Dresser**  
Dressing models for graduate fashion week.