

Curriculum Vitae

Christella Litras



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Website: www.cautioncollective.co.uk

Education and Qualifications

1998-2001 Bretton Hall, University of Leeds

BA HONS in Popular Music:

Performance

Composition

Technology Of Music

Instrumental-Keyboard and Vocals

1997-1998, Clarendon College-Nottingham

HNC in Popular Music

1995-1997, Clarendon College Nottingham

B-TEC National in Popular Music

(Grade 6 Piano)

(Grade 5 theory)

Previous Employers: West Yorkshire Playhouse, Sony Records. Space 2, Kala Sangam, Alchemy, The Puppet broadcasting Company Ltd. Creative Partnerships, Creative Origins, Interplay Theatre, Carnival Messiah Company, Leeds young Authors, LS7 Results, Nottingham Playhouse, Adzido, Told By an Idiot, Nitro, David Gest, Martha Reeves, Kim Weston The New Art Exchange, Reemap, Stratford theatre. Hoot, Map, Pocket Projects, HQ arts.

Composer/Musical Director Credits:

First Cut (Stage play, West Yorkshire Playhouse, 2010) restaged 2011

– Directed by Gail McIntyre.

Dubwise Lik (Stage play, West Yorkshire Playhouse, 2009)

– Directed by David Hamilton and Gail McIntyre. (*Produced by Space 2*)

Speak Out (Stage play musical at The Carriageworks-Commissioned by LS7 Results 2009) --Directed by Joseph Buckley

Turn It Up (Stage play, The New Art Exchange, Nottingham, 2008)

– Directed by Rachael Young

Cheiftancy (Stage play, SevenArts Theatre, Leeds, 2008)

– Directed by Chantelle Davies and Ernest Brew

Ruffwell Scandals (Stage play, Carriageworks, Leeds, 2008)

– Directed by Chantelle Davies. (*Produced by Reemap*)

Down In The Dumps (Stage play, Nottingham Playhouse, 2008)

– Directed by Leah Chilliery

Heartbeat Riddim Chant (Stage play, West Yorkshire Playhouse, 2007)

– Directed by Joe Williams. (*Produced by Space 2*)

Misrepresented People (Stage play, Nottingham Playhouse, 2007)

– Directed by Oneness Sankara

Word Temple (Musical/Poetry/Stage play, West Yorkshire Playhouse, 2004) UK Tour '04-'06

– Directed by Amani Naphtali

Snow Black and Rose Red (Stage play, Stratford Theatre, London, 2001)

– Directed by Geraldine Connor

Living Stories (Stage play, West Yorkshire Playhouse, 2000)

– Directed by Gail McIntyre

Ye-Ye (Choreographic Platform, Yorkshire Dance, 2000)

– Directed by Ayo Jones

Composer Credits:

Firebird (Dance Piece, Phoenix Dance, 2010)

– Directed by Sharon Watson

Come Skank Wid I (Stage play, West Yorkshire Playhouse, 2006)

– Directed by Joe Williams. (*Produced by Space 2*)

Carnival Messiah (Stage play, West Yorkshire Playhouse, 1999) restaged: WYP, 2002. Queens Hall, Trinidad 2004-2005. Harewood House 2007.

– Directed by Geraldine Connor

Musical Director Credits:

Our Day Out (Stage play, Nottingham Playhouse, 2008)

– Directed by Allie Spencer, (musical arrangement by Christella Litras)

Rita and I (Rehearsed Reading, Nottingham Playhouse, 2007)

– Directed by Leah Chilliery

Studio Credits

-Rob Green-Blue EP recording-No3 in iTUNES charts 2016

-Rob Green acoustic EP Recording/Joe Buda, Outlaw Label 2013

Parlour Tricks (Studio EP Recording, Outlaw Label, 2011)

– Role: Co-Producer, Vocal Arranger and Keyboardist. *Recording Artist: Rob Green*

Osun Bamise (Studio Album Recording, Upfront Productions, 2007)

– Role: Vocal Arranger. *Recording Artist: Ella Andall*

Spirit Dancer (Studio Single Recording, Upfront Productions, 2006)

– Role: Co-Producer. *Recording Artist: Ella Andall*

Sango (Studio Album Recording, Upfront Productions, 2002-04)

– Role: Vocal Arranger. *Recording Artist: Ella Andall*

They Try (Studio Single Recording, Black Fire Studio New York, 2002)

– Role: Producer, Performer, Co-writer. *Recording Artist: Christella Litras & Ella Andall*

Performer Credits:

-Caution Collective @ Seven arts 2012-2016

-The Haunting with Imtiaz Dharker and Rob Green in collaboration with Alchemy Oct 2016

-Caution Collective @ The West Yorkshire Playhouse featuring Onita Boone July 2016

-Silk: Bradford and the Sub-Continent Performance at Cartwright Hall Gallery with John Siddique and Giles Winterton, (Commissioned by Alchemy Sep 23rd 2012)

--Performed as Vocalist/ Composer

Rob Green UK Tour (Live Music Performance, UK Tour, July-Aug 2012)

– Performed as: Musical Director, Keyboardist and Backing Vocalist for Rob Green

-Channel 4 Talent Performance at Leeds University (Commissioned by Pocket Projects Aug 2012)

-Performed as Vocalist performing own Composition called 'Life'.

Christella and Friends (Live Music Performance, Nottingham Playhouse, 2012)

– Performed as: Musical Director and Lead Vocalist for Caution Collective

Recipe for Life (Live Variety Performance, West Yorkshire Playhouse, 2012)

– Performed as: Musical Director to Caution Collective, Vocalist

Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Celebration (Live Music Performance, Leeds, 2012)

– Performed as: Lead Vocalist for Caution Collective/Leeds City Choir

Procession Of The Olympic Torch, Leeds (Live Music Performance, Temple Newsam, 2012)

– Performed as: Lead Vocalist for Caution Collective/Leeds City Choir

An Evening with Kim Weston (Live Music Performance, Staveley Lake District, 2012)

– Performed as: Featured Lead Vocalist and Backing Singer

David Gest's Soul Sensation Showcase (Live Music Performance, UK Tour, 2012)

– Performed as: Backing Vocalist for Martha Reeves

Martha Reeves Europe Tour (Live Music Performance, European Tour, 2012)

– Performed as: Backing Vocalist for Martha Reeves

Martha Reeves Europe Tour (Live Music Performance, European Tour, 2011)

– Performed as: Backing Vocalist for Martha Reeves

Martha Reeves Croydon Festival (Live Music Performance, London, 2010)

– Performed as: Backing Vocalist for Martha Reeves

Breeze Got Talent (Live Variety Performance, West Yorkshire Playhouse, 2009)

– Performed as: Musical Director for Caution Collective, Vocalist

Evocation of Papa Mas (Stage play, UK Tour, 2007)

– Performed as: Keyboardist. Directed by Felix Cross

Nelson Mandela World Tour (Live Music Performance, Trinidad, 2006)

– Performed as: Backing Vocalist for Ella Andall (Opening Ceremony for Nelson Mandela)

Ella Andall Caribbean Tour (Live Music Performance, World Music and Jazz Festival Tour, St. Lucia-St. Vincent 2005-06)

– Performed as: Backing Vocalist and Keyboardist for Ella Andall

Beverley Knight UK Tour (Live Music Performance, UK Tour, 2002)

– Performed as: Backing Vocalist for Rihanna (support act)

Jamiroquai Japan Tour (Live Music Performance, Japan Tour, 2002)

– Performed as: Backing Vocalist for Rihanna (support act)

Yaa-asantewa: Warrior Queen (Stage play, West Yorkshire Playhouse, 2000-01) UK Tour 2000, Africa Tour 2001

– Performed as: Actress, Vocalist, Dancer. Directed by Gail McIntyre.

Carnival Messiah (Stage play, West Yorkshire Playhouse, 1999) restaged: WYP, 2002. Queens Hall, Trinidad 2004-2005. Harewood House 2007.

– Performed as: Lead Soloist, Chorus Singer, Dancer, Actress. Directed by Geraldine Connor

The Wailers at Leeds Reggae Concert (Live Music Performance, Leeds, 1998)

– Performed as: Backing Vocalist for Nikki Brown (support act)

Biography:

I started working and developing my career as a musician in 1997 at Bretton Hall Leeds, where I studied a BA honours in Popular Music. During my final year of study I first began to work closely with Geraldine Connor on her project Carnival Messiah. In 1999 Geraldine invited me to represent Carnival Messiah in Trinidad at the World Carnival Conference. My experience during this project inspired me to continue to work closely with the theatre and performance practitioners in developing sound and music for the stage. I had also decided to pursue my passion for live music by performing as part of 'Rihanna's' backing band whilst signed to Sony Records; performing as support act for Jamiroquai and Beverley Knight during their Japan and UK tours respectively.

Between 2000-2004 I revisited Trinidad and was invited to work on four studio projects with established World Music and recording artist Ella Andall and joined her trans-Caribbean tour performing for Nelson Mandela. My time spent in the Caribbean with Ella influenced me greatly and inspired me to take control of my own Musical project back home in England alongside my commitments as a Musical Director and Composer for many developing Performances.

I decided in early 2007 to initiate and develop my own Vocal Performance group “Caution Collective” with the aim of developing the talent of local young singers and providing them with performance opportunities to develop their abilities within the city of Leeds. The group has been thriving for over Eight years now performing at Space2’s Theatre projects at the West Yorkshire Playhouse and Showcase, winning local performance awards (Breeze Got Talent ’09: Best Group) and also gained the opportunity to perform on stage alongside Choir Master Pete Churchill at the procession of the Olympic torch through Leeds and for her majesty the Queen at her Diamond Jubilee celebration in Leeds city centre. Caution Collective also regularly perform at Seven Arts in Leeds selling out everytime they perform.

Over the past decade I have developed and delivered specialized music and songwriting workshops to young people in Leeds through registered charity Space 2. In 2008 I worked alongside Film maker and Music Producer Rad Miller to deliver Music therapy and Recording workshops with Young Men at Wetherby Prison. The program challenged me to develop new and unique teaching strategies to bring relevance to the subject matter helping the students to channel their creative energies in a positive way. As a result, some of these Young men have now expressed a career in the Music Industry.

Over the past 5 years I have been performing as a Vandella alongside Motown recording artist Martha Reeves on her recent European and UK tours, alongside Kim Weston, Peabo Bryson, Billy Paul, Candi Staton and Martha Walsh. Alongside my Motown experience I have been Musical director and co-producer for recording artist Rob Green on his studio EP and live performances. Rob Green’s latest EP-Blue, produced and Recorded at Caution Studios by myself, Jonnie Khan and Rob Green reached Number 3 in the R&B itunes Charts in May 2016.

I wish to continue my work as a Musical Director, Recording Artist and performer in Leeds and beyond whilst trying to maintain my connection with education networks and continuing to develop and facilitate musical opportunity within the city.