

Eleanor Gibson

Costume maker, moving into textile conservation

Since 2013 I have built and handled period, contemporary and complex garments for film, stage and ballet. I know historical dress from the inside: how it is cut, boned and finished, and how silk, lace, tulle, velvet and leather behave under the needle. I want to bring that knowledge to textile conservation, preservation and restoration. I keep careful records: annotated diagrams with the measurements and design details a garment needs to be made again. At my own studio I already repair and restore heirloom and vintage garments.

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Selected work

HBO · 2023 HOUSE OF THE DRAGON, SEASON TWO Tabards for the fleet of the Free Cities Embellished by hand and machine: contrast layering, blanket stitch, machine embroidery and couching, with hand-stitched coins and shells. DESIGNED BY MADE WITH Caroline McCall Dee Sheehan Ltd	HBO · 2023 HOUSE OF THE DRAGON, SEASON TWO Two Targaryen coats Rhaenys's in blue-grey suede and Rhaenyra's in deep red leather. DESIGNED BY MADE WITH Caroline McCall Dee Sheehan Ltd	
INTERNATIONAL · 2018 TO NOW HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD The Dementors A whole new set for the performers, in the finest organza made and many metres of tiny French seams. DESIGNED BY MADE WITH Katrina Lindsay Karen Sharp Costumes	WEST END · 2022 TO 2025 MATILDA THE MUSICAL Rodolpho, the ballroom dancer Lycra from head to toe, covered in hundreds of hand-cut pink and blue discs. My favourite costume to have helped make. DESIGNED BY MADE WITH Rob Howell Karen Sharp Costumes	BRIDAL MY OWN WEDDING Broderie anglaise wedding dress I designed and made it, with a deep V filled by a sheer panel, short flutter sleeves and a floor-length A-line skirt.
BALLET · 2015 TO NOW THE ROYAL BALLET AND BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET Traditional tutus Built for structure, long wear and elaborate decoration: Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty, The Nutcracker, Don Quixote and private commissions. MADE WITH Tutu Makers Studio	NEW ADVENTURES · 2023 MATTHEW BOURNE'S EDWARD SCISSORHANDS Mrs Mayor's two-piece Worn walking a blue topiary poodle through the suburbs. The production has since been filmed for cinemas. DESIGNED BY MADE WITH Lez Brotherston Karen Sharp Costumes	UNIVERSAL PICTURES · 2023 WICKED AND WICKED: FOR GOOD Costume for both films Two stints in 2023, one from January to February and one from June to July. DESIGNED BY MADE WITH Paul Tazewell Dee Sheehan Ltd

Skills

MATERIALS

- × Silk, lace and organza
- × Tulle
- × Velvet
- × Leather
- × Lycra and stretch fabrics

REPAIR AND RESTORATION

- × Invisible repair and patching
- × Period zips, hooks and fastenings
- × Heirloom garment care and remodelling
- × Handling fragile, old textiles

CONSTRUCTION

- × Period and contemporary womenswear
- × Ladies' tailoring, and menswear tailoring technique
- × Corsetry and boned bodices
- × Traditional tutus

HAND AND MACHINE FINISHING

- × Hand sewing and finishing
- × Hand and machine embellishment and embroidery
- × Couching and blanket stitch
- × Beading and lace appliqué
- × Hand-rolled silk hems

IN THE WORKROOM

- × Working alongside costume cutters and designers
- × Assisting in fittings
- × Documentation: annotated diagrams, measurements and design notes
- × Working to production deadlines

RUNNING A STUDIO

- × Client consultations and private fittings
- × Quotes, bookings and invoicing

Education

2010 TO 2013	BA (Hons) Costume for Performance	London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London
2009 TO 2010	FdA Theatre Design for Performance	Wimbledon College of Art, University of the Arts London

Experience

2026 TO NOW	Founder and maker · Ellie's Atelier, Lewes A private, appointment-only studio for bridal and evening wear, everyday alterations and textile restoration. Bodice re-cuts, reboning, bustles and multi-layer hems, for brides, bridesmaids, mothers of the bride and black tie, and for boutiques.
2013 TO NOW	Freelance costume maker · Self-employed, for film, television, theatre, ballet and opera Workrooms include Karen Sharp Costumes and Dee Sheehan Ltd. On set as a costumer for Tulip Fever, and as crowd seamstress on Christopher Robin.
2015 TO NOW	Tutu maker · Tutu Makers Studio, for The Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet and private commissions
2017 TO 2018	Womenswear maker · Glyndebourne Opera House
2013 TO 2016	Costume maker and fittings assistant · Anna Maria Genuise, for the Royal Opera House, The Royal Ballet and theatre

Credits

2026	Young Sherlock, season two · Amazon MGM Studios, August 2026 The Mummy (untitled) ·	2019	The Nevers · HBO, June 2019 to September 2020
2025	Evita · West End, May to June 2025	2018	Harry Potter and the Cursed Child · International, 2018 to now The Great, season one · Hulu, October to November 2018 Spider-Man: Far From Home · Columbia Pictures and Marvel Studios, May to September 2018 Swan Lake · The Royal Ballet, January to March 2018
2024	Onegin · The Royal Ballet, November 2024 to January 2025 Wednesday, season two · Netflix, May to October 2024 Mean Girls · West End, April to May 2024 Hadestown · West End, 2024 to now SIX · West End, January 2024	2017	Christopher Robin · Disney, August to September 2017, as crowd seamstress Black Mirror, season four · Netflix, five episodes including USS Callister, January to February 2017
2023	Edward Scissorhands · Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, November 2023 Wicked and Wicked: For Good · Universal Pictures, January to February and June to July 2023 House of the Dragon, season two · HBO, May to June 2023 Hamilton · West End, March to April 2023 Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire · Sony Pictures, February to March 2023	2016	The Sleeping Beauty and The Nutcracker · The Royal Ballet, October to December 2016 Volkswagen Tiguan: I Believe in a Thing Called Love · Hungry Man, commercial, October 2016 American Assassin · CBS Films and Lionsgate, August to October 2016, as costume workroom assistant
2022	The Acolyte · Lucasfilm, Disney, November to December 2022 Dune: Part Two · Warner Bros., October to November 2022 Poulenc · Glyndebourne, May to July 2022 Like Water for Chocolate · The Royal Ballet, May 2022 Mary Poppins · West End, June 2022 Matilda The Musical · West End, 2022 to 2025 Samson et Dalila · Royal Opera House, March to May 2022	2015	Nissan Leaf: Joe Wilkinson Presents the Foolproof Guide to Electric Driving · TBWA, commercial, October 2015 War Machine · Netflix, September 2015 Swan Lake · Birmingham Royal Ballet, August 2015 Tutu collection · Tutu Makers Studio, April 2015 King Arthur: Legend of the Sword · Warner Bros., March to July 2015
2021	Don Quixote · Birmingham Royal Ballet, October 2021 to February 2022 Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania · Marvel Studios, Disney, May to September 2021 Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness · Marvel Studios, Disney, March to April 2021	2014	The Legend of Tarzan · Warner Bros., August 2014 Tulip Fever · Paramount Pictures, April to July 2014, as set costumer Suffragette · Film4 and BFI, March 2014
		2013	Fury · Sony Pictures Entertainment, September to December 2013

For the Royal Opera House and The Royal Ballet, with Anna Maria Genuise: L'Ormino (Shakespeare's Globe and the Royal Opera House); Andrea Chénier; Un ballo in maschera; I due Foscari; Anna Nicole; Cavalleria rusticana; Onegin; The Nutcracker; La traviata.

Theatre and dance: Beautiful: The Carole King Musical; The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Rose Theatre Kingston); Atma Dance Company; Billy Elliot the Musical; Prix de Lausanne; Hamburg Ballet School: The Sleeping Beauty; Ballet Black: Two of a Kind; Richard Alston Dance Company: Rejoice in the Lamb and Burning; Shaun the Sheep ballet.

Outside the workroom

COMMUNITY

Befriender with Age UK East Sussex since 2020, and a volunteer at the Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare.

SINGING

I sing with SingSpace, a local musical theatre choir that performs at Christmas markets and in ticketed shows.

MAKING AND GROWING

I crochet and knit, mostly as gifts, and collect and wear vintage clothes. I garden too, and took the RHS Level 2 in garden planning in 2021.

OUTDOORS

Sea swims and saunas, yoga and fitness training, and walks with Cleo and Bonnie, our wire fox terrier and Deerhound lurcher. Cleo is also the atelier's Chief Studio Hound.