

Dr. Jenny Elliott
Chief Executive Officer
Arts Care

Dr. Jenny Elliott is Chief Executive Officer of Arts Care (a Northern Ireland-based Arts in Health Charity) and Artistic Director of integrated Dance Companies in Healthcare, Orbit Dance, Black Widows Dance Company and Kompany Maine. She is an active contemporary dance practitioner and researcher. Jenny has worked across a diverse range of healthcare and education services as a contemporary dance practitioner/choreographer/researcher, locally and internationally in the field of Arts, Health and Education for twenty years.

Originally trained as a health professional/lecturer before undertaking Rudolph Laban dance training, Jenny combines her arts and health knowledge within her present role as CEO of Arts Care contributing to the development of authentic creative communities in healthcare. In 2008 Jenny completed a PhD, investigating the impact of Laban-based programmes of dance on men with enduring brain trauma and the staff who care for them within a Neuro-rehabilitation Unit in Belfast. A dance company (Kompany Maine) comprising men in residential care and the nurses who care for them emerged from the study activity.

Jenny facilitates and advises on the Pushkin Trust Creative Education Programme.

She designed and directs a unique Laban-based Staff Dance Training Programme for Healthcare professionals, accredited by the School of Nursing, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland. Jenny has worked as an Arts in Health consultant at the Centre of Excellence in Inter-professional Education at Queen's University, Belfast contributing to the development of a unique Arts in Health Medical Module and Arts Care creative placement for medical students as well an inter-professional Arts in Health Module for, social work, medical and film students.

Jenny was lead researcher on an Older People's Arts in Health Research Project (Forever Growing 2010/2012) supported by Creative Ageing Partnership, School of Governance, Queen's University, Belfast. The research study explored the impact of a comprehensive programme of dance, music, drama and visual art on a group of tenants with moderate to advanced dementia in two supported housing units in Belfast. Jenny's arts-based methodology and analysis frameworks were implemented as the research tools for the study.

She has presented and facilitated workshops widely on arts-based practice and research development in Arts in Health and most recently at Metropolia University, Finland as keynote speaker on Arts-based Cultural Management in Healthcare.

During 2012, she consulted on and facilitated the development of the first arts-led Arts in Health Strategy for the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Northern Ireland.

She is current Artistic Director of the 'Here & Now' Older People's Arts and Health Festival. Northern Ireland. She is also author of several articles on arts in health.