

CHEMAINE COOKE

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Profile

Producer, facilitator and socially engaged artist with 15+ years' experience developing inclusive creative programmes with under-represented communities. Originally trained as an actor before moving into dance and interdisciplinary practice, bringing a cross-artform perspective spanning performance, movement and screen. Experienced in community outreach, talent development and designing participatory projects across schools, community and cultural settings.

Professional Experience

The Party People Project — *Director* (2019–ongoing)

Learning-disabled-led free party, visual and live arts collective creating inclusive events. Rooted in DIY and countercultural scenes, the project builds community-led cultural spaces and pathways for learning-disabled artists into creative leadership.

Our Patch – Bradford City of Culture 2025 — *Assistant Producer* (2024–2025)

Co-designed artist training for city-wide cultural engagement activity with Bradford Producing Hub.

New Focus - Bradford Young Curator, Impressions Gallery — *Project Manager* (2024–2025)

Led delivery of *Make Yourself at Home*, a major Bradford 2025 exhibition combining newly commissioned photography with the community-sourced Bradford Family Album. Recruited and supported ten Young Curators and coordinated partnerships and outreach across community organisations and cultural institutions.

WOW – Women of the World Foundation — *Assistant Producer (Bradford Tour)* (Jan–Mar 2024)

Regional engagement lead for WOW Girls Festival Bus, supporting access for 6,000+ young people in schools, community and public settings.

My Leeds Summer – Leeds 2023 — *Co-Creation Producer* (Jun–Dec 2023)

Signature project, supporting 33 Community Hosts to produce local events; designed and facilitated a three-month community participation training & support exit programme.

Oastler Market Speaks — *Concept Development & Producer* (Oct 2022 – Apr 2023)

Co-created culture and heritage project celebrating the people, stories and life of Bradford's Oastler Market ahead of its final year of trading. Worked with traders, local communities and cultural partners to gather stories and deliver a participatory public programme.

Reasons To Gather — *Concept Development & Event Producer* (series)

Produced a four-part artist-led event programme at the 1 in 12 Club Anarchist Club (Bradford) bringing together activists, artists and filmmakers. Developed in collaboration with **Union Arts** and collaborated with independent film curator **Mosa Mpetha**, including screenings of work by young filmmaker collective **Toothless Films**.

Wur Bradford — *Artist & Creative Producer* (2016–2023)

Grassroots collective work including cultural heritage in Bradford Markets, consultation and community walking projects with learning disabled adults.

The Brick Box — *Associate Artist & Community Engagement Specialist* (2013–2021)

Delivered participatory and public-realm projects across festivals and civic contexts in the UK and internationally.

Selected projects include:

- *People in the Landscape* — David Hockney 80th Birthday Celebrations, Cartwright Hall, Bradford (2018)
- *Hope, Springs, Eternal* — Baltic Circle Festival, Helsinki (2016)
- *Electric Fireside* — Lumiere Festival, Durham with Artichoke (2014–2015)
- *ISAN Outdoors Ideas Summit*, Bradford (2016)

Purple Patch Arts — Programme Leader (2015–2022)

Delivered lifelong learning arts workshops for adults with learning disabilities, focusing on inclusive facilitation and progression.

Chapel Street Studios — Project Manager (2019–2020)

Managed district evaluation for the *Changing Places* programme (Bradford Council).

Midland Road Nursery & Children's Centre — Freelance Community Project Coordinator (2011–2018)

Developed creative programmes to increase parent and family engagement.

The Bradford Playhouse — Programme Development (2009–2011)

Volunteer coordination for 'Art Farmers' and cross-disciplinary programming support.

Dance City, Newcastle upon Tyne — Dance Artist, Facilitator & Youth Engagement Practitioner (2006–2010)

Delivered youth dance programmes in the North East. Designed inclusive workshops in schools and community settings and supported talent progression.

Key skills: youth engagement, workshop facilitation, community outreach, safeguarding, inclusive practice.

Benfield Secondary School, Newcastle — Dance Teacher (Maternity Cover) (2007)

Planned and delivered GCSE Dance, BTEC and Sixth Form provision across Key Stages 3–5 (ages 11–18). Maintained strong safeguarding and behaviour management practice.

The Fathom Project — Associate Artist (2006–2010)

Integrated dance company performer with outreach delivery. Commissions Sadlers Wells, London. The Place, London.

Mother Dance Company CIC — Co-director (2006–2009)

Choreographer/facilitator for ACE-funded project *The In Between Spaces*; developed education workshops in the North East.

Screen & Dance Film Experience

Works across dance film and screen projects as performer and maker, exploring how movement translates to camera and expands access to performance.

- Performer in dance film and interdisciplinary screen works with independent filmmakers
 - *Swimming Pretty* (2008) — performer in short dance film by Australian dance artist Wendy Erickson, commissioned by Northern Film and Media
 - *Self Placed* (2006–07) — Performer in Arts Council England-funded digital integrated-dance film, screened across Europe
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Education

Northumbria University — BA (Hons) Contemporary Performance, 2:1 (2004–2005)

Newcastle College — HND Dance (2002–2004)

Salford University — HND Media & Performance (1997–1999)

Professional acting and screen performance training.

Training (selected)

Safeguarding & Protecting Vulnerable Adults (2022) • Positive Behaviour Management (2019) • Level 3 Emergency First Aid (2019) • Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (2012) • Child Protection Awareness (2011)

References available on request