

Eeva-Maria

is a performer, maker and community dance leader currently based in Bristol, UK. She grew up on the Arctic Circle, Finland, but has lived in the UK since the age of 17. She trained initially at London Academy of Movement and Dramatic Art 1989-92, and has since continued her professional development in dance and somatic movement work, gaining qualifications to teach Body and Earth and Space Dance/New Butoh work, to deliver the Touch Trust programme and the Youth Mindfulness 8 week programme.

Since the 1990's she has been performing internationally in dance theatre & film, site specific works, cross art form improvisations, cinema and TV in the UK and Finland.

She works with people of all ages and abilities, including Creative Dance with children, parent & child Movement Play, young people with disabilities, adults with learning disabilities, and the elderly in care home & day club settings, most recently as part of the Bristol based Alive Charity. E-M has lead weekly sessions for Stroke Association Wales (2020-21) and assisted Rosetta Life in projects to do with Vision Loss & Proprioception after Stroke (2021) and Heart of Care with Bristol Black Carers (2022-23).

Eeva-Maria has been funded by ACW for her own project *Shimmer /Symudliw* (2020-21) and by Groundwork Pro for project *Seeds* (2020). In Spring 2021 Eeva collaborated with poet Jonathan Edwards to create a short dance poem-film called *Paper roll - (Homage to Jack Kerouac)* for NDCW/Literature Wales commission series Plethu.

Performance projects include: Multi award-winning dance short *Matkalla (On The Journey)* - a Scotty Hardwig film co-created with Andrea Olsen and Eeva-Maria 2022, *Mujokan* with Butoh UK at Kew Gardens 2021, *Lady of the Lake* with Michael Harvey and Stacey Blythe (2021), *Pneuma* by Miranda Tufnell, Sylvia Hallett and David Ward (2013-2021), and *Close Streams* (2016-18), *North-Hidden Behind Darkness* (2012-) and *Explicit Faith* (2004) with Gaby Agis. E-M has collaborated with many others including Sally Dean & Charlotte Oestergard (*Traces of Tissues*) Jo Fong (*Witness-Portraits of Women Who Dance*), Jessica Lerner (*Just Being...*), Florence Peake & Jonathan Baldock (*Apparition of the Phantom Limbs*), Jo Shapland (*Dance For Neanderthal*), Tanja Raman/Taikabox, Tetsuro Fukuhara, Salamanda Tandem.

Eeva-Maria is featured in Photographs in two books -*The Place of Dance, Moving Between Worlds* by Olsen & McHose, and interactive websites body-earth.org website (translated in 12 languages).

Between 2002-2021 Eeva and her husband Andy Paget ran rural creative retreat p e n p y n f a r c h near Llandysul in SW Wales. She designed and co-ordinated an annual training programme Body, Movement, Environment 2003-2010 and they provided studio and accommodation to artists from all over the world till 2021. Since 2013 Eeva and Andy have been developing their work as 'this is somatic' focussing on an on-going practice of Embodying Change .

In 2024-25 E-M will tour Y Llyn with Michael Harvey Storyteller, funded by ACW, and create new collaborative work with Visual Artist Vera Boele-Keimer for exhibitions in Bristol & Stroud.

Eeva feels passionately about the importance of sensory experiences and creative opportunities for all, for learning, health and happiness. Sustainability education starts with ourselves, our own bodies.