

# KATE OWEN

THEATRE DESIGN SITE DESIGN INTERIOR DESIGN

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## BIOGRAPHY

**Kate Owen** has worked continuously as a Theatre Designer for over 25 years. A key figure in the third wave of UK New Writing, she has designed 150 shows, directed 4 and co-written 3. Trained by international designers at **Central/St Martins**, London in 3D Art and Design (Theatre) Hons, she assisted **Nadine Baylis** and later **Ralph Koltai** after graduating.

Although early designs were for regional Repertory Theatre, she soon discovered a new theatre emerging that reassessed the use of space in theatre buildings and the designer's role within that process. Designing *Xingu*, a huge music theatre event by **Vic Hoyland** at **Snape Maltings**, Sussex, offered a showcase and she was invited to design many comedy acts, cabarets, parties, music events and new plays at the **Albany Empire** in Deptford, London.

The Albany boasted a unique concept, with a bar inside, no specific performing area, and the brief that the design should encompass the entire space. This fashionable meeting place led to collaboration with leading artists and companies including **Laurie Booth & Co**, **The Royal Court Theatre London**, **Live Theatre Co Newcastle**, **Blood Group ICA**, and international tours, **Gay Sweatshop Theatre Co**, **The Traverse Theatre Edinburgh**, **Extemporary Dance Theatre** and **Circus UK**.

The Arts Council awarded a bursary to further an interest in lighting design which took her to Bologna, and followed this with a grant to collaborate with sound-sculptor, **Max Eastley**. Several Arts Venue interior design commissions followed.

During the 1990's she taught Theatre Design part-time and designed shows for the **Birmingham Rep**, **the West Yorkshire Playhouse**, **Nottingham Playhouse**, **the Royal Court Theatre London**, **Shared Experience**, **The Anvil Basingstoke**, **several touring companies** and **The National Theatre**.

Recently she was invited to return to the Albany (now renamed) as Interior Designer for a large refurbishment programme in connection with the **Art of Regeneration**, a **National Theatre** project. This has led to two interior design commissions for **Lewisham Council**.