CURRICULUM VITAE

Elaine Desmond

Name **Elaine Desmond**

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Profession **Writer**

**Qualifications**

2016-2017 **Certificate in Creative Writing, Mallow College of Further Education**

Five months of night classes with author, Denyse Woods

2009-2014 **PhD in Sociology,** **University College Cork and University of Hyderabad, India (2010-2011)**

2014 **Certificate in** **Screenwriting, Civic Trust House, Cork**

Ten-week course with Yvonne Keane, award-winning author of short film ‘Stolen’

2008-2009 **Master’s in Sociology (First Class), University College Cork**

2006-2008 **Certificate in Creative Writing, Writer’s Bureau, Manchester, UK**

Distance learning course with personal tutor. Course books and assignments covered several genres, including playwrighting, short story and screenplay writing

1991-1994 **Batchelor of Science in Psychology and Business (2:1), Aston University, Birmingham, UK**

**Education and Training**

* 1. **Corcadorca’s Script Development Workshops with Pat Kiernan, Triskel Arts Centre**

Provided feedback on script development discussions with playwrights, including Carmel Winters and Noelle Brown

* 1. **Fiction at the Friary with Danielle McLaughlin and Madeleine D’arcy Lane**

Contributed to discussions with invited guest writers, including Rosemary Jenkinson, Lisa McInerney, Thomas Morris and Mary O’Donnell. Regularly read my own work

* 1. **Cork Screenwriters Group and Virgin Slate Writers Group**

Regularly read my work and provided feedback to other writers

1. **‘Reading Your Work Aloud’ Master Class with Pat Kiernan**

Selected by Danielle McLaughlin and Madeleine D’arcy Lane to attend with six other writers

2019 **Read Short Story Excerpt (from *Metamorphoses)* on UCC 98.3 FM**

Invited to read an excerpt of one of my short stories on UCC radio

1. **Abbey Theatre Pop-up Playwrighting Workshop in Lime Tree Theatre**

Selected by Ruth McGowan (Abbey Theatre’s New Work Director) as one of 12 emerging playwrights to take part in master class with Billy Roche, Darren Donohue and Carmel Winters

2015 **Short Story Writing Master Classes with Billy O’Callaghan**

Took part in series of eight short story writing master classes with author, Billy O’Callaghan

**Awards, Publications and Performances**

***Plays***

2023 ***At Your Age?!***

**The Granary Theatre, Cork**

Collaborative arts theatre play written in collaboration with UCC and six older women. Described as a ‘*moving read*’ by the Abbey Theatre’s Literary and New Work Director who ‘*found the stage images and use of movement striking*.’

2008-2010 ***A Footprint of Roses***

**Kinsale Arts Festival, Mountjoy Women’s Prison, Molesworth Hall in Dublin, Amnesty International’s annual conference in Cork and venues in France, the UK and the US**

This play, based on Amnesty recordings with women from a civil movement in Zimbabwe, was featured on RTE Radio One’s *The Arts Show,* for which I was interviewed (2008). I was also invited as guest speaker to a screening in Sussex, UK (2010). The cast in Ireland included Donna Nikolaisen who starred in Fair City and James Akpotor (the stand-up comedian, Tiny James).

***Short Stories***

2021 ***Big Bertha***

Shortlisted for Colm Tóibín International Short Story Award

2020 ***Odysseus Returns***

Longlisted for Fish Short Story Prize

2019 ***Becoming Molly***

Second prize in Colm Tóibín International Short Story competition. Invited to prize announcement as public event as part of the Wexford Literary Festival

2019 ***A Murderous Awakening***

Paid content for [*www.halfandone.com*](http://www.halfandone.com), an online platformfor writers

2019 ***Amma***

Shortlisted for Fish Short Story Prize

2019 ***Learning from Hawks***

Published in *Storgy* magazine

2019 ***Ophelia Rising***

Published in climate fiction anthology, *Nothing Is As It Was,* published byRetreat West Books. Attended book launch and signing in Reading, UK

1. ***Amma***

Shortlisted for Bridport Prize (one of 96 stories out of 4,377 to be shortlisted)

2014 ***A Murderous Awakening***

Shortlisted for the K Short Story Award, Cork City Library. Invited to prize announcement at Cork City Library

2008 ***The Willow Tree***

Second prize in online Global Short Story Competition

***Poetry***

2017 ***Am I?***

Longlisted for Fish Poetry Prize

***Flash Fiction***

2018 ***Chasing Shadows***

Longlisted for competition run by Retreat West Books, UK

***Selected Magazine and Newspaper Articles***

2007 **‘Famine and feast in Zimbabwe’, *Metro Eireann***

Commentary on political situation in Zimbabwe arising from my volunteer work with Amnesty International

2007 **‘Rose lights up library’, *The Corkman***

Article on exhibition by local artist, Rose Glynn, at Mallow Library

2006 **‘Awakening the Mind, Opening the Heart’*, Yoga Therapy Ireland***

One of several pieces contributed to *Yoga Therapy Ireland*

***Letters to the Irish Times***

2006 Two letters on the meaning of multiculturalism (September 6th and 14th)

2016 Third-level staff being exploited (September 9th)

2018 Tory Islanders and the ‘Queen of Aran’ (February 21st)

***Editor: Daily News in Exile***

2007 Edited a special edition newspaper entitled *Daily News in Exile* featuring articles from several Zimbabwean journalists previously employed on the banned *Daily News* in Zimbabwe to commemorate World Press Freedom Day. This was covered in the *Irish Times* (May 3rd, 2016)

***Documentary Brochure***

2006 ***City Walls – My Own Private Tehran***

Worked with Iranian film-maker, Sonia Afsar-Shafie, on a brochure for her documentary which explored her return to her native Tehran after years in exile in Switzerland.

***Selected Academic Writing***

2022 ***Housing and Sustaining Communities on the West Cork Islands***

Co-authored report launched in Bantry by the Mayor of Cork, covered on TG4 and in *The Examiner* (double page spread). Raised in Dáil Question Time.

2021 ***Cork Cultural Companions: Innovating Through Adversity***

Co-authored report examined the contribution of the arts to addressing loneliness among older adults during the pandemic.

2014 ***Legitimation in a World at Risk***

This book was based on my PhD research in India and published by Palgrave Macmillan. Described as ‘*thought-provoking*’ and as demonstrating ‘*remarkable scholarship’*

2014 ***The Provision of Adult and Community Education in the Northside of Dublin City***

Co-authored report was commissioned by Respond! Housing Association. Launched by Father Peter McVerry in Dublin

2013 ***The Politics of Transformative Harmony***

Published in the Indian quarterly journal of the Gandhi Peace Foundation, *Gandhi Marg*

2009-2014 ***PhD Thesis***

Funded by scholarships from the Irish Research Council and WJ Leen Trust Fund, UCC