



Lizz Santos

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## Curriculum Vitae

Introducing the multi-talented Lizz Santos, creative extraordinaire

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## Personal Information

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Citizenship: NZ, USA and UK

## Qualifications

1987 - 1990 BA (Hons)  
Trent University, Nottingham, UK

1986 - 1987 Foundation Studies (Distinction)  
Epsom Art School, Epsom, UK

School Qualifications Three A Levels and five O Levels  
St John the Baptist School, Woking, UK

## Awards

2015 Awarded best stand at show – MEETINGS 2015

2013 Awarded runner-up best stand at show – MEETINGS 2013

2012 Awarded best stand at show – MEETINGS 2012

2001 - 2003 Nominated and won awards for various NZ Music Videos

2000 Nominated for the Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards 2000  
“Best Set Design” FLIPSIDE



## Career Summary

- 2002 - Present **Managing Director & Company Owner**  
 Cut the Mustard Ltd, Wellington  
[www.cutthemustard.co.nz](http://www.cutthemustard.co.nz)
- 2001 & 2003 **Design Mentor & Tutor**  
 Young & Hungry Theatre Trust, Bats Theatre, Wellington
- 1995 - 2003 **Production Designer – TV & Commercials**
- Film Construction, Auckland
  - Amino Films, Auckland
  - Motion Pictures, Wellington
  - Fat Films Ltd, Wellington
  - Silver Screen Productions, Wellington
  - Tawera Productions, Wellington
  - Villains, New York, USA
  - Gibson Group, Wellington
  - Contrast Film Productions, Helsinki, Finland
  - Filmitalli Productions, Helsinki, Finland
  - Buenos Dias Photographers, Finland
  - EloHopea Films Ltd, Helsinki, Finland
  - Also Starring Film Production, Helsinki, Finland
  - TV4 Helsinki, Finland
- 1995 - 2003 **Theatre Designer – Sets & Costumes**
- Theatre South, New Zealand
  - NZ Actors Company, Auckland
  - The Auckland Theatre Company, Auckland
  - Blackbody Dance Company, Wellington
  - Downstage Theatre, Wellington
  - Circa Theatre, Wellington
  - Bats Theatre, Wellington
  - Pori City Opera, Finland
  - Triangulo, Madrid, Spain
  - Tampere City Theatre, Finland
  - Malmo Teatern, Sweden
  - Rakastajat Theatre, Pori, Finland
  - Gdansk Opera, Poland
  - Ahaa Touring Theatre, Finland
  - Theatre 2000, Finland



- Zodiak Dance Centre, Helsinki, Finland
- Tampere City Opera, Finland
- Nomadi Productions, Helsinki, Finland
- Aurinko Theatre, Helsinki, Finland
- Viirus Teatern, Helsinki, Finland

**1996 - 2002 Lecturer & Short Course Director**

- Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School, Wellington
- UNITEC, Auckland
- Massey University, Wellington & Auckland
- Victoria University, Wellington
- Wellington School of Performing Arts, Wellington
- Oxford University, England, UK
- The Welsh Joint Education Committee, Wales, UK
- University of Helsinki, Finland
- Rauma City Theatre, Finland
- Theatre and Live Arts School, Finland
- University of Tampere, Finland
- Lahti School of Art and Design, Finland
- Technical University of Outokumppu, Finland

**1999 Graphics Designer & MAC operator**

KKA Promotions, London, England

**1991 - 1999 Founding Member & Director of the Board**

Rakastajat Theatre, Pori, Finland

**1995 - 1998 Event Management – Annual International Event**

Pori International Jazz Festival, Finland

**1990 - 1998 Commercial Artist – Poster, Logo & Image**

- Tampere City Theatre, Finland
- Theatre 2000, Finland
- Rakastajat Theatre, Pori, Finland
- Ahaa Touring Theatre, Finland
- Tampere City Opera, Finland
- Nomadi Productions, Helsinki, Finland
- Pori City Opera, Finland
- Jyvaskyla City Theatre, Finland



1996 – 1997 **Design Manager – VIRGO**

- Tampere City Theatre, Finland
- Tampere City Council, Finland

**Design Consultant – VIRGO**

- Welsh Joint Education Committee, Cardiff, Wales
- European Employment Week 97' Conference

## Accomplishments

### Leadership

- Led, managed and created a niche business in the Event Management sector introducing top quality and unique designs to corporate functions and events. We were unique in that we redefined event management by focusing on the design components creating far more sophisticated client solution.
- As a self-employed designer I inspire people to do their best by establishing an environment that encourages individuality and creative out-of-the-box thinking. Clients and staff are motivated by me to understand and experience the power of design.

### Client Management

- I built a loyal client base as MD of Cut the Mustard. This loyalty comes from listening to their needs and being able to translate their words into images and then to communicate back to them the design.
- One of the hardest things I found was getting clients to appreciate the value of good design. In my design roles in New Zealand, I have found that trust is critical. Rapport is the first and most important step in the relationship and this is achieved through my enthusiasm and passion for design.

### Design

- I have extensive international experience in a wide range of mediums and design dimensions. For example, I have designed clothing, interiors, CD covers, stage sets, exhibitions, book jackets, invitations, film sets etc.
- Through my extensive experience I am able to understand materials and their use more extensively than others. As a result I am able to conceive lots of ways of using a basic material that is often innovative and in most cases cost-effective.



- Unlike other designers, I create ideas instantaneously. I have the unique ability to manifest idea after idea out-loud, with clients, to inspire and encourage them to develop their needs further. This creative thinking continues long after the meeting finishes!
  - My design and creativity comes from my ability to see past the physical (walls) and what is in the space (room) and visualise a different 3 dimensional world in all its detail.
- Other**
- Managing budgets is crucial for client and supplier satisfaction. I am good at manipulating materials so that quality is not compromised, whilst staying within the confines of a client's budget.
  - I excel at closing – in face-to-face situations; clients get enthusiastic about the fact I am listening to their needs and together we design a concept that is unique, meets their demands and goes beyond their expectations.

## Career Details



***Cut the Mustard* is an Event Design company specialising in unique theming and event management services based on a founding principle of design first.**

### Managing Director & Company Owner



I started *Cut the Mustard* in 2002 after seeing a gap in the market for an Event Design Company with panache! I worked on developing brand recognition as I wanted *Cut the Mustard* to be one step ahead of the competition. I achieved this through building a large loyal client base.

Client feedback continues to be extremely positive and centres on our exceptional design ideas, on-site support and quality of service.

The business has gone from strength to strength and in 2006 I increased headcount to six staff.

### Responsibilities & Achievements

As the Managing Director I am responsible for all aspects of the daily running of the business. From inspiring staff to perform at their full potential to monitoring budgets and company expenditure, to ensuring clients are receiving exceptional service and, developing and expanding the business.

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*Cut the Mustard* works closely with other organisations to ensure that clients received the best service. These alliances include; Ruth Pretty Catering, Victoria University, Duxton Hotel and Multimedia. In many cases these organisations provided referral work as well as our reputation increased around Wellington and internationally.

One of my key roles at *Cut the Mustard* is business development and understanding the market to anticipate the industry's needs in Wellington and beyond. The other key role was design – the foundation that underpinned all our work and ensured we wowed our clients so they came back for more. In fact, the design and creative ideas were why people chose to pay more and use *Cut the Mustard*.

Some our clients include: Foodstuffs, Telecom, Te Papa, BP Oil, Powerhouse People, Westpac, Dazzle Events, BNZ Investment Banking and Bell Gully to name a few.



### **Production Designer – TV & Commercials** **Theatre Designer – Sets & Costumes**

My New Zealand experience in both these fields included the branding and design support of many top companies and performers on both the television and theatre stages across both islands.



### Responsibilities & Achievements

One of the biggest challenges in both these mediums is working as one cog of a whole machine focusing and streamlining all aspects of the design into the unified final product.

An audience is highly critical and therefore my attention to detail was constantly being challenged. I particularly enjoyed this aspect of the work and the research that went hand in hand with successfully authenticating various aspects of the productions.

Branding, ethos and culturally sensitive issues sometimes influenced design decisions and these I addressed with correct solutions.

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### **Universities & Colleges Worldwide**

Lecturing and tutoring ranged from 3 hour seminars to 3 week courses.

#### Lecturer and Short Course Tutor

I was an international lecturer and tutor at Degree levels of Masters, and Bachelor but also various Technical certificate levels. My students ranged in many levels of experience and learning and therefore adaptability was a key skill during this time.

#### Responsibilities & Achievements

As the Tutor/Lecturer it was my responsibility to write the courses or lectures most appropriately suited to the student body in each case. Following a rigid curriculum was sometimes required and my challenge was to make the students excited by the information I had to deliver thus creating a productive environment.

Clear communication was always required as was the ability to tune into the energy from the students, be aware of their body language, and be able to inject humour or serious information depending on the response of the attendees.

Lecturing in front of numbers between 20 and 400 students required me to present in a relaxed and informative manner whilst communicating the point in an educational and expressive way whether in English or in a foreign language.

Follow-up de-briefs or presentations were an important aspect of the courses I gave. I created a platform for the student to present his/her ideas which included constructive feedback and follow-up work suggestions, to improve their skill levels at producing similar projects at a later date.

Some students I have taught and mentored are working as successful Theatre/Film Practitioners all over the world.




**Film & TV Employment History**
**Production Designer / Art Direction**
**Commercials** New Zealand

Film Construction / BBDO / MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITY  
*Shopping List*, Director – Noah Marshall

Motion Pictures / Clemenger BBDO / GOODYEAR TYRES  
*Tires Sale*, Director – Steven Whelan-Turnbull

Fat Limited / Hoog Ltd. / PULSATE  
*Groove Hooverers*, Director – Reuben Sutherland (Cinematic Release)

Silver Screen Productions / Saatchi & Saatchi / TELECOM  
*Bad Hair*, Director – Pete Burger

Silver Screen Productions / Goldsack Harris / NATIONAL BANK  
*Student*, Director – Pete Burger

Europe

Also Starring Prod. / Also Starring Prod. / ALSO STARRING PROD.  
*New Logo*, Director – Juuso Syyria

Also Starring Prod. / Time / POSIVA  
*Radiation Man*, Director – Vellu Valla

Also Starring Prod. / Taivas / ATRIA FOODS  
*Gotler Sausage*, Director – Vellu Valla

Contrast Films / Sec & Grey / MARKETING INSTITUTE  
*New Director*, Director – Matti Lotjonen

Buenos Dias Prod. / Grey / BARON DOG FOOD  
*Feed Me*

Elo Hopea Films / Taivas / LEONIA BANK  
*Poisoned Apple*, Director – Olli Ronka

Elo Hopea Films / Taivas / LEONIA BANK  
*The Kiss*, Director – Olli Ronka

Filmi Talli Prod. / Sec & Grey / SONERA TELECOMUNICATIONS  
*Camping Site*, Director – Mikko

Filmi Talli Prod. / Sec & Grey / SONERA TELECOMUNICATIONS  
*Wedding Party*, Director – Mikko

Filmi Talli Prod. / Taivas / RADIOLINJA  
*Bike Race*, Director – Mikko

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United States of America

Villains NY / Sec & Grey / SPRINT TELECOMUNICATIONS  
*Handshake*, Director – Leonardo Ricardo

**TV & Video** New Zealand

Gibson Group / *No.8 Wired* / New Series Production Designer  
TV3, Director – Allan Smith

Cloud 9 / *The Tribe II* / Episodes 30-34

Tawera Productions / *Maui te...*  
Maori Schools Educational Video, Director – Toby Mills

Europe

TV4 Finland / *Only One Wish* (Weekly Studio Sport Series)  
Director – Tommy Teronen

**Promo &  
Music Videos** New Zealand

Amino Films / TADPOLE / *Always be mine*  
Director – Rich Hobbs

Amino Films / DEBORAH WAI KAPOHI / *You*  
Director – Rich Hobbs

Amino Films / CLOUDBOY / *Red Rubicon*  
Director – Rich Hobbs

Film Construction / ANIKA MOA / *Youthful*  
Director – Noah Marshall

Motion Pictures / NURTURE / *Beautiful*  
Director – Steven Whelan-Turnbull

Motion Pictures / HEAD LIKE A HOLE / *Good Advice*  
Director – Steven Whelan-Turnbull

Europe

Also Starring Prod. / ETERNAL ERECTION / *Genetics*  
Director – Mikko Lehtinen

VIP Vision / Warner Bros & Readers Digest / MAIJA SALO  
*Sing along*, Director – Jukka Koivisto



## Theatre Employment History

## Set & Costume Designer

(S) – Set design, (C) – Costume design, (S&C) – Set and Costume Design

- Musicals**
- 1997 *Virgo*, Director – Heikki Paavilainen  
Tampere City Theatre (S)
  - 1997 *Pop Oz*, Director – Rauli Jokelin  
Jyvaskyla City Theatre (S&C)
  - 1996 *Wash Your Mouth Out*, Director – Jamie Ann Makinen  
Ahaa Theatre (S&C)
  - 1996 *Kaija Cuckoo and Seven Small Men*, Director – Jukka Pekka  
Rotko - Theatre 2000 (S&C)
  - 1994 *Oliver!*, Director – Heikki Vartsi  
Pori City Theatre (S&C)
- Dance**
- 2002 *Blackbody*, Choreographer – Heidi Simmons  
Propulsion Bats Theatre STAB 2002 (S&C)
  - 1999 *Spanish Fly*, Choreographer – Maria Kausi  
Rakastajat Theatre (S&C)
  - 1998 *Portent*, Choreographer – Arja Raatikainen  
Zodiak, Stoa & Nomadi (S&C)
  - 1998 *Commentator*, Choreographer – Arja Raatikainen  
Zodiak, Stoa & Nomadi (S&C)
  - 1996 *Give Me Happiness*, Choreographer – Arja Raatikainen  
Zodiak, Stoa & Nomadi (S&C)
  - 1992 *Spinning Top*, Choreographer – Marjo Kuusela  
Pori City Theatre (S&C)
- Childrens' Theatre**
- 1997 *Emperors New Clothes*, Director – Kai Tanner  
Rakastajat Theatre (S&C)
  - 1997 *Emil*, Director – Jamie Ann Makinen  
Theatre 2000 (S&C)
  - 1997 *Little Red Ridinghood*, Director – Kai Tanner  
Rakastajat Theatre (S&C)



1995 *Creature Life*, Director – Jamie Ann Makinen  
Ahaa Theatre (S&C)

1993 *The Royal Current Buns*, Director – Soila Valkama  
Rakastajat Theatre (S&C)

1994 *Holiday from Hell*, Director – Jamie Ann Makinen  
Ahaa Theatre (S&C)

1990 *Immu*, Director – Titta Antti-Poikka  
Pori City Theatre (S&C)

1990 *Old King Cole*, Director – Camron Page  
Neptune Theatre, Liverpool (S&C)

1990 *Electric Games*, Director – Deborah Close  
The Premier Theatre Co. TIE (S&C)

**Opera** 2002 *Telephone*, Director – Jamie Bull  
Adventure Southland Invercargil Theatre (S&C)

2002 *Amahl*, Director – Sarah  
Adventure Southland Invercargil Theatre (S&C)

2002 *Galileo*, Director – John Daivies  
Maidment Theatre (S&C)

2002 *Cosi Fan Tutti*, Director – Ira Siff  
Canterbury Opera (S)

2002 *Norma*, Director – Ross Colmann  
Canterbury Opera (S&C)

2000 *Jackie O*, Director – Anna Haaranen  
Tampere City Opera (S&C)

1998 *The Turn of the Screw*, Director – Anna Haaranen  
Tampere Conservatory (S&C)

1997 *The Abduction from Serail*, Director – Eric Soderblom  
Pori City Opera (S)

1996 *Carmen Negra*, Director – Jamie Ann Makinen  
Tampere City Theatre & Tampere Opera (S)

1994 *The Bartered Bride*, Director – Jussi Tapola  
Pori City Theatre (S)



- Drama** 2003 *The Drawer Boy*, Director – Gavin Richards  
Theatre South (Touring) (S)
- 2002 *The Play About the Baby*, Director – Simon Prast  
Auckland Theatre Company (S&C)
- 2001 *A Way of Life*, Director – Simon Bennett  
NZ Actor's Company (S)
- 2001 *Government Inspector*, Director – Vadim Ledogorov  
UNITEC (S&C)
- 2001 *Between*, Director – Vanessa Byrnes  
Bats Theatre (Fringe Festival -Young & Hungry) (S)
- 2000 *Flipside*, Director – Simon Bennett  
Circa Theatre (S)
- 2000 *Unforgiven Harvest*, Director – Jonathan Hendry  
Downstage Theatre (S&C)
- 2000 *Missionary Position*, Director – Renee  
Circa Theatre (S&C)
- 1998 *Three Sisters*, Director – Markus Groth  
Theatre Kamina (S&C)
- 1998 *The Cook, the Thief, his Wife and Her Lover*,  
Director – Katriina Lahti, Viirus (S&C)
- 1997 *The Priest's Family*, Director – Pekka Saaristo  
Pori City Theatre (S&C)
- 1997 *The Bear Hunter, Martti Kittunen*,  
Director – Juha Hurme, HKI Uni Theatre (S&C)
- 1998 *A is for Amsterdam*, Director – Juha Siltanen  
Rakastajat Theatre (S&C)
- 1996 *Why Doesn't Eeva Leave?*, Director – Juha Siltanen  
Rakastajat Theatre (S&C)
- 1995 *The Seagull*, Director – Jotaarkka Pennanen  
Pori City Theatre (S)
- 1995 *Good Night, Mother*, Director – Tytti Oittinen  
Pori City Theatre (S&C)



- 1995 *Funny Money*, Director – Mikko Viherjuuri  
Pori City Theatre (S&C)
- 1994 *The Marriage of Figaro*, Director – Markus Pakalen  
Pori City Theatre (C)
- 1994 *The Sacrificial Hammer*, Director – Adolfo Simon  
Rakastajat Theatre (S&C)
- 1994 *Who is Sari Nuotio?*, Director – Juha Siltanen  
Rakastajat Theatre (S&C)
- 1994 *What Now Niscavuori?*, Director – Maija-Liisa Marton  
Pori City Theatre (S)
- 1993 *Sonja's Boutique*, Director – Kari Suvalo  
Pori City Theatre (S&C)
- 1993 *Married Again*, Director – Seppo Maanittu  
Pori City Theatre (S&C)
- 1994 *Decadence*, Director – Hilikka Ollikainen  
Rakastajat Theatre (S&C)
- 1992 *Daisy*, Director – Maarit Pyokari  
Pori City Theatre (S&C)
- 1992 *I Love Him, Who the Parsnip?*, Director – Vesa Haltsonen  
Rakastajat Theatre (S&C)
- 1991 *Twins*, Director – Seppo Maaniittu  
Pori City Theatre (S&C)
- 1991 *The Lover*, Director – Hilikka Ollikainen  
Rakastajat Theatre (S&C)
- 1991 *The Family Loudness*, Director – Seppo Maaniittu  
Pori City Theatre (S&C)
- 1991 *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Director – Pirjo Koljonen  
Pori City Theatre (S&C)
- 1990 *Road*, Director – Simon Dixon  
Touch and Go Arts Co-op, Nottingham (S&C)