

Rose de Wend Fenton co- founded the London International Festival of Theatre – LIFT - with Lucy Neal in 1980 and was its Co - Director for 25 years, producing, presenting and commissioning contemporary artists from around the world, forging connections between artists and Londoners across the city, and between London and the world. During that time LIFT pioneered a number of ground breaking learning programmes involving artists, young people, educationalists and individuals from the business, public and voluntary sectors.

Following LIFT Rose worked as an international freelance producer and arts adviser (2005 – 11) on projects worldwide including with Tipping Point, an organisation connecting artists and scientists to energise the creative response to climate change; with the European Festivals Association as a founding member of the international Atelier for Young Festival Managers; and on the pan- European Festivals in Transition (FIT), an initiative by eight festivals to develop the role of international theatre festivals within the cultural landscape of an evolving Europe. Rose also was co -author of the Arts Culture and Creativity Strategy for the Olympic Park in London following the Olympic Games in 2012.

From 2011 - 2016 Rose was the Director Free Word, an arts organisation exploring the power and politics of words, hosting international residencies and cultural events to address urgent contemporary issues, bringing together writers, artists and activists to spark critical conversations about society, culture and politics.

Rose is co- author of *The Turning Word, Stories from the London International Festival of Theatre*. She is currently writing a book on lives lived as Europeans based on her personal experiences traveling, living and working across Europe over the past 55 years, a time of immense change in our continent.

Rose is also a yoga teacher and reflexologist.

Rose is on the Board of a number of arts organisations including Aerowaves - Dance Across Europe, The European House of Culture, and the live literature producer and independent publisher, Penned in the Margins.

Rose holds an Honorary Doctorate from De Montford University and an Honorary Fellowship from Dartington College of Arts. In 2005 she was awarded an OBE for services to drama.