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Darlene Bennett of  
DARLENE STITCHED  
part-time  
(Picton)

Specialist Textile Manufacturer  
independent technique  
based from traditional  
theatre costume  
construction & tailoring  
outwork bulk runs  
speed machinist  
proto-type design



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8 May 2017 Full-time permanent

Tailor New Zealand Defence Force

Tailorshop Woodbourne Air Force Base, Blenheim  
contracted by Workwear Group Limited

DARLENE STITCHED WORKSHOP  
OUT WORKER, MACHINIST BULK RUN  
MANUFACTURE DRAPE SCREEN TEXTILE MAINTENANCE & REPAIR

"STILL IN OPERATION  
AS SELF-EMPLOYED"

WARDROBE, MISTRESS, ASSISTANT DRESSER, COSTUME CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATIONS  
HOD (ON TOUR), CO-ORDINATOR, MISTRESS, FOR THEATRE, TV,  
DESIGNER, FITTING

FILM: Wardrobe, Art department soft props, lighting equipment  
ADMINISTRATION: GOVERNMENT TEMP ROLES

QUALIFICATION AND VACATION COLOUR CODE

"DARLENE STITCHED" WORKSHOP AS GST CONTRACTOR 2017 - 2005

OUT WORKER, MACHINIST BULK RUN MADE TO ORDER FOR STAGE, BACK DROPS, SCREENS & DRAPES		
August 2017	September 2017	Yoga bolsters (hemp) Wellness Centre Blenheim
March 2017	March 2017	Floor canvas Armstrong Creative Ltd
February 2017	April 17	Shop stock cushions & Curtains Cotton Store
December 2016	April 2017	Down sized school uniforms NZ Uniforms Ltd
August 2016	Oct-16	Machinist - bulk run 2200 uniform bag Umsilko
July 2016	July 2016	Competition design and manufacture Project Glow Wear 1
June 2016	July 2016	Assist design range of shawl samples for a web label 3 Summer Days
June 2016	June 2016	Drape maintenance Arise Church
March 2016	March 2016	Costume, design and construct "Beards, beards, beards" Show Pony
February 2016	February 2016	Drapes alter for NZ Army band Light Hauts
December 2015	February 2016	Tent maintenance BAS Grandstands
December 2015	January 2015	Set panels from cocoa sacks Te Rakau Theatre
September 2015	October 2015	Studio drape green and white Matrix Digital
August 2015	August 2015	Back drop drape for various hanging options Mark Tantrum Photography
March 2015	April 2015	Pianist back drop stretch velvet Show Pony
October 2014	October 2014	House curtain lining maintenance St James Theatre
March 2014	April 2014	Scoreboard cover (TSB Arena) and tv truss covers Multi-media Systems Ltd
July 2013	July 2013	Lighting Screen Mark Tantrum Photography
June 2013	June 2013	NZ Army bag outwork Dwigths Outdoors Ltd
May 2013	June 2013	"Phantom of the Opera" construction set and costume Wellington Musical Theatre
March 2013	March 2013	Equipment bag Grouse Lighting
January 2013	February 2013	Recut centre of tent (light block out) manufacture Bass Grandstands Pyradec
December 2012	January 2013	Drapery Ivv Bar
October 2012	October 2012	"Big Rig" Stage truck drapes Peak Audio Productions
August 2012	August 2012	Stand bags Grouse Lighting
August 2012	August 2012	"Dog & Bone" prop and costume construction Te Rakau
July 2012	July 2012	Truss cover Grouse Lighting
May 2012	June 2012	Table covers Restaurant Associates
May 2012	May 2012	Lighting screen Mark Tantrum Photography
February 2012	April 2012	Tent maintenance Bass Grandstands Pyradec
March 2012	April 2012	Drape Multi-Media Systems Limited
August 2011	April 2012	Tent roof maintenance (in down time) BAS Grandstands
March 2012	March 2012	Drape maintenance Arise church
February 2012	March 2012	Manufacture plasma screen display surrounds Multi-Media Systems Limited
November 2011	June 2012	Machining army outwork monthly cuts Dwigths Outdoors Ltd
November 2011	November 2011	Set screen Multi-Media Systems Limited
September 2011	December 2011	Drapes for sound and decor Bar Bodega
November 2011	November 2011	Border and floor cloth Paul O'Brien
October 2011	November 2011	Stage drape Garden Club
July 2011	August 2011	Stage drape Garden Club
July 2011	July 2011	Drapes Bar Bodega
June 2011	July 2011	Lecturn bags Multi-Media Systems Limited
June 2011	June 2011	Drapes Multi-Media Systems Limited
June 2011	June 2011	Sound console cover St James Theatre
May 2011	June 2011	Rostra skirt St James Theatre
April 2011	April 2011	Drape maintenance St James Theatre
April 2011	April 2011	Cutter repair lighting equipment Portsmouth Rental Limited
March 2011	April 2011	Drape Multi-Media Systems Limited
March 2011	April 2011	Screen, leg, borders, floor canvas clothe Wanaka festival show
February 2011	February 2011	AV screens canvas/lycra Homegrown
February 2011	February 2011	Red entrance drape Multi-Media Systems Limited
December 2010	December 2010	Drape and cyc maintenance St James Theatre
December 2010	December 2010	Truss covers Grouse Lighting
November 2010	November 2010	Stand & speaker stack bag covers Oceania Wellington
October 2010	November 2010	"Big Rig" stage sound drape Peak Audio Productions
September 2010	October 2010	Truss covers and LED light bag Grouse Lighting
August 2010	September 2010	Canvas construction Miranda Harcourt Productions
May 2010	May 2010	Screen maintenance Multi-Media Systems Limited
February 2010	March 2010	Maintain drape stock Circa Theatre
November 2009	December 2009	Interior drapes and décor Fringe Bar
August 2009	September 2009	Score board covers Multi-Media Systems Limited
August 2009	September 2009	Truss skirts Grouse Lighting
July 2009	July 2009	Drapes "Dransfield House"
April 2009	July 2009	Various drape repairs Multi-Media Systems Limited
December 2008	December 2008	Truss covers Metro
October 2008	November 2008	Rehearsal space drapes Te Rakau
August 2008	September 2008	Props "Paradise Cafe" Gibson Group TV
August 2008	August 2008	Reeskin 4x4 cutters net repair Portsmouth Rentals Limited
July 2008	July 2008	Cut-away clothe Capital E
April 2008	April 2008	Drapes Audio Analysis
December 2007	December 2007	Drape maintenance New Zealand International Arts Festival
October 2007	October 2007	Tent Maintenance BAS Grandstands
July 2007	July 2007	Drape Maintenance Bats Theatre
March 2007	March 2007	Drape Maintenance St James Theatre
December 2005	January 2006	Repair textile equipment Multi-Media Systems Limited
September 2005	November 2005	Repair textile equipment Multi-Media Systems Limited
June 2005	June 2005	"Insiders Guide to Love" drapes art department Gibson Group TV
June 2005	June 2005	Repair textile equipment Multi-Media Systems Limited
May 2005	May 2005	"Maui" Silk clothe special effect, lycra waka prop Te Ao Marama Tapui Limited,
2004		Pacific flag installations New Zealand International Arts Festival
2004		"Pacific Crystal Palace" maintain tent BAS Grandstands Limited
2001		"Zenolith" drape NZ Drama School

2001	"Pacific Crystal Palace" maintain tent	BAS Grandstands Limited
2000	"Fever" prop	Jealous Theatre
<b>FILM: MANUFACTURE FOR WARDROBE, ART DEPARTMENT &amp; TEXTILE LIGHTING EQUIPMENT</b>		
March 2017	April	Flag wag bag manufacture & stock repair/ reskin as 2011
February 2017	February 2017	Director chairs
April 2011	June 2011	"Hobbit" wardrobe outwork costume
April 2011	May 2011	Space lights manufacture "Hobbit" studio
April 2011	May 2011	Cutter repair lighting equipment
April 2008	April 2008	Reskin space light
January 2008	January 2008	"Lovely Bones" Art department manufacture drape
October 2007	January 2008	"Avatar" Art department soft props manufacture
December 2007	December 2007	Space light reskinned
December 2006	December 2006	Lighting equipment maintenance
March 2006	March 2006	Equipment maintenance
July 2006	November 2006	Lighting equipment maintenance
July 2006	July 2006	"Water Horse" textile prop manufacture
May 2006	May 2006	"King Boys" wardrobe manufacture
December 2005	December 2005	Textile equipment
August 2005	October 2005	Repair textile equipment
August 2005	August 2005	"King Kong" art department manufacture
April 2005	April 2005	Repair textile equipment
1995		"Forgotten Silver" wardrobe assistant
<b>WARDROBE: MISTRESS, ASSISTANT DRESSER, COSTUME CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATIONS, FITTING</b>		
September 2015	June 2016	Machinist school uniform bulk runs, downsizes
April 2015	April 2015	"Singin' In The Rain"
September 2014	September 2014	"Sound of Music" Local crew call dresser
July 2014	August 2014	"Walt Disney on Ice" local crew call / dresser
June 2013	June 2013	"Stomp" wardrobe assistant
June 2013	June 2013	"Language of Living" wardrobe assistant
May 2013	May 2013	"Walt Disney on Ice" called local crew/ dresser
February 2013	February 2013	"Manhattan Transfer" Wardrobe assistant
May 2012	June 2012	"Riverdance" dresser
May 2012	May 2012	Costume alterations
June 2011	June 2011	"Soweto" wardrobe assistant
May 2011	June 2011	"Best of Andrew Lloyd Webber" wardrobe maintenance
May 2010	May 2010	Costume repair
May 2010	May 2010	Costume alterations
October 2010	October 2010	Lighting Tech
October 2010	October 2010	"Leonard Cohen" dresser
September 2010	September 2010	"Robin Gibb/Pointer Sisters" dresser
March 2010	March 2010	"Tom Jones" wardrobe assistant
February 2010	February 2010	"Diana Krall" wardrobe assistant
February 2010	February 2010	"Inside Out" wardrobe assistant
February 2010	February 2010	"Them Crocked Vultures" wardrobe assistant
December 2009	December 2009	"Leonard Cohen" wardrobe assistant
December 2009	December 2009	Costume repair
November 2009	November 2009	"Battalion" wardrobe co-ordinate dye and prep
October 2009	November 2009	"Mamma Mia" dresser
September 2009	September 2009	"Biography of My Skin" wardrobe alteration
September 2009	September 2009	"The Truth of Us" wardrobe design/standby
August 2009	August 2009	"Push" wardrobe assistant
June 2009	June 2009	"Stomp" wardrobe assistant
February 2009	May 2009	"Te Karakia" wardrobe assistant
December 2008	December 2008	Summer dress & tailoring
November 2008	November 2008	"Ka Mate, Ka Ora" wardrobe o-ordinate
September 2008	September 2008	Clothing alterations
August 2008	August 2008	"Rhiana and Chris Brown" dresser
July 2008	July 2008	"Hinemau" Eyelets to back drop & black costumes
May 2008	May 2008	"K D Lang" wardrobe assistant
March 2008	March 2008	ashing Pumpkins/Queens of the Stone Age" wardrobe assistant
March 2008	March 2008	"Police" wardrobe assistant
December 2007	December 2007	"Bryan Ferry" wardrobe assistant
October 2007	October 2007	"Thomas the Tank Engine" dresser
August 2007	August 2007	"Circus Oz" wardrobe assistant
April 2007	April 2007	"Fiddler On The Roof" dresser
January 2007	February 2007	"Menopause" costume alterations
April 2005	May 2005	"Blackberri" outwork machining
2004		"Rock Legends" wardrobe manager
2004		"Talking Head" dresser
2002		Tailors assistant
2002		"Spirit of the Dance" wardrobe assistant
2002		"NBR Stadium Spectacular" wardrobe assistant
2002		Wardrobe mistress
2002		"der Rosenkavalier" opera theatre wardrobe co-ordinator
2001		"On the Razzle" theatre wardrobe assistant
2001		"Telecom/Sky" wardrobe co-ordinator commercial
2001		"Mikado" dresser
2001		"Blonde Cargo" TV wardrobe assistant/standby
2000		Clothing outwork
2000	12 weeks	"Clare" TV wardrobe assistant/standby
2000		"Vagabonds" wardrobe assistant
2000		"Die Fledermaus" wardrobe mistress
2000		"Midsummer Night's Dream" wardrobe assistant
2000		"Making Love in London" wardrobe assistant
2000		"Daughter of Pharaoh" wardrobe mistress
2000		"Rubein & Stein" wardrobe assistant
2000		"Eventure" wardrobe co-ordinator
2000		"Aida" wardrobe assistant
2000		Wardrobe mistress
1999		Wardrobe assistant/standby
1999		"The Tribe" Wardrobe assistant/standby
1998		Dancewear
1998		"Market Forces II" Wardrobe assistant/co-ordinator
1998		"Shear Madness" Wardrobe Design and manufacture
1998		"Triple Bill" wardrobe assistant
1998		"Joseph and the Techni- Colour Dreamcoat" wardrobe assistant
1998		"Sleeping Beauty" wardrobe assistant
1998		"Telecom Nationwide Tour" wardrobe assistant on tour
1998		"Nutcracker" wardrobe assistant
1997		Costume hire assistant
1997		"Porgy and Bess" dresser
1997		"Eugenie Onegin" manufacture costume



1997	"Midsummer Nights Dream" dresser	Opera House
1997	"William Tell" machinist	Cloud 9 Screen Entertainment
1997	"Till We Meet Again" wardrobe assistant	Wellington Musical Theatre
1997	"Golden Days" Wardrobe Co-ordinator	Te Papa Exhibition
1997	"Carmen" dresser	Wellington City Opera
1997	Costumes	Christmas Parade Wellington
1996	"Full Marks" Tour Head of wardrobe and assistant stage manager prop hand	5 Star Productions
1996	"Secret Garden" Head of Wardrobe	Ascot Group
1996	"Ka Shue" wardrobe manufacture	Fringe Festival
1996	"Riccordi" wardrobe manufacture	New Zealand International Arts Festival
1995	"Cats" dresser	Ascot Group
1995	"Mitsubishi" wardrobe design/construction	Motion Pictures
1995	"She Stoops to Conquer" wardrobe manufacture	Downstage Theatre
1995	"Peter Grimes" wardrobe manufacture/ dresser	Wellington City Opera
1995	"Falling from Grace" wardrobe manufacture	Downstage Theatre
1995	"Good Works" wardrobe manufacture	Downstage Theatre
1995	"42nd St" dresser	Wellington Musical Theatre
1995	"La Laitere de Trianon" wardrobe manufacture	Jeremy Commons/Dorita Hannah
1994	"I Can Sing Tall" wardrobe manufacture	Downstage Theatre
1994	"Uncle Vanya" Wardrobe Assistant	Downstage Theatre
1994	"Un Valo in Maschera" dresser	Wellington City Opera
1994	Dresser	New Zealand International Arts Festival
1994	"Les Miserables" dresser	Wellington Operatic Society

**ADMINISTRATION: GOVERNMENT TEMP ROLES**

June 2015	July 2015	Data Administration	Datacom for MPI Farms-on-line
January 2014	May 2015	Validate and administer applications & data repair	Department of Internal Affairs - NZ Passports
July 2011	November 2015	Mail Sorter part-time	NZ Post Box lobby The Terrace
December 2013	December 2013	Vote collator	NZ Electoral Commission
April 2013	July 2013	Data entry	Quitline
September 2012	November 2012	Data entry	Quitline
June 2012	August 2012	Data entry incident reports	NZ Post HR Department
July 2011	November 2011	Access Card Operator	ACC
October 2011	October 2011	Dicta-phone typist	Law Commission
April 2006	July 2011	Mail sorter	NZ Post Box lobby Miramar
May 2011	May 2011	Legal typist - dictaphone	Macalister Mazengarb
November 2010	February 2011	Data entry clerk criminal records	Ministry of Justice
November 2010	November 2010	Receptionist	Stephenson & Turner Architects Engineers
September 2010	November 2010	Word-processing legal unit	Department of Conservation
June 2010	August 2010	Closing file clerk for Professional Standards	Police National HQ
April 2009	June 2010	Legal secretary	Kevin Smith Solicitor
May 2010	May 2010	Receptionist	Stephenson & Turner Architects Engineers
March 2008	June 2008	Administration clerk/receptionist	Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce
October 2007	October 2007	Scribe	NZ Food Safety Authority
August 2007	August 2007	Data entry	Visa NZ Ltd
June 2007	July 2007	Data Entry	Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce
1995		Production secretary	Ascot Group
1991	September 1992	HR clerk	New Zealand Employment Service Limited
February 1989	February 1990	Data entry clerk	ANZ Bank

*detailed Administration CV available on request*

**QUALIFICATION AND VACATION**

August 2013	September 2013	Holiday Samoa	Faofao Beach Fales Saleapaga
February 2014	April 2014	Certificate Introduction to Samoan Language	Wellington Community Centre
December 2014	December 2013	Installation	Toi Poneke Gallery
May 2013	May 2013	Getting married Samoa	Faofao Beach Fales Saleapaga
April 2013	April 2013	Vacation Samoa	Faofao Beach Fales Saleapaga
April 2007	August 2007	Secretarial Computer Applications	WellTec
June 1995	June 1995	Costume Millinery	TAFE Sydney (6weeks)
1993	1994	Diploma in Fashion Design and Technology	Wellington Polytechnic
1984	1988		Nelson Girls College Nelson

1988 1992 Bar tender Various Wellington bars & night clubs

**MACHINIST/CONTRACTOR SKILLS**

- Servicing local Wellington businesses of fashion, uniform, interior, theatre & film props and costume;
- Evolved bespoke method of construction by amalgamating costume knowledge tailored to be a reliable functional method of construction suitable to any fabric type especially making light work of oversized items;
- Liaising with client design specifications and purpose;
- Analysing technical construction process for efficiency to obtain best quality and durability;
- Producing from a sample when required;
- Estimated quote;
- Sourcing sample fabric and recommendation to design;
- Leather, canvas and eyelets;
- Time management and planning;
- Over-sized items using large quantity fabrics;
- Items manufactured stage drape, legs, borders, set canvases, lighting equipment bags;
- Bulk machining small to large runs;
- Maintaining standard of quality in construction;
- Fabrics used to working with are velvets, stretch and woven materials;
- Interiors and fashion;
- Advising on fire hazard;

**COSTUME CONSTRUCTION SKILLS**

- Manufactured costume applying traditional theatre technique;
- Tailoring menswear frockcoat, tailcoats, trousers costume;
- Lycra dance wear using twin-needle and overlocker;
- Hand finishing closures and decoration;
- Able to construct cut pieces into a sample;
- Bulk machining; Hand cut bulk layers with shears;
- Altering all types of clothing;
- Eye for design able to make design decisions of notions, decoration and colour;
- Support assistant wardrobe supervisor and designer;
- Ideas person to problem solve, prioritise organise and guide work load to deadline;
- Time awareness; Able to compromise perfectionist tendencies in timely manner;
- Quick and willing to learn new techniques, always advancing;
- Can pattern-make and understand measurement interpretation metric (not fast enough for high production levels);
- Can drape a calico or garment to fit;
- Strong hand skills;
- Some costume break down knowledge;
- Millinery knowledge;
- Has an eye for fitting flaws and is able to give a quick fix on set;
- At all times presents a high quality garment ready for fitting, stage, screen or shop;
- An affinity with machinery with good machine handling techniques;
- Experienced with extras on set organising and assisting with costume;
- Stand-by knowledge, able to break down a script and keep notes of continuity;

Remains diplomatic and calm with star quality egos;  
Maturity and gets on well with all ages, guides those less experienced with tricks of the trade, delegation and management skills;  
Conscientious team worker and encourages a positive atmosphere;

**WARDROBE BACK STAGE DRESSER CONTRACTOR TRADING AS DARLENE STITCHED**

Actions complete knowledge of backstage protocol and etiquette as learnt who to work in a dark panicked environment;  
Costume preparation, finishing maintenance and presentation;  
Unpacking allocate costumes/ clothing to character size;  
Pack-in process of laundry, ironing and steaming or costume finishing for production week;  
Hand and machining sewing repairs, alterations;  
Prioritising, systemising procedures of costume movement, thoroughly checking;  
Preset costume change and assisting actor to quick change;  
Preempts and attends to problems before talent get affected;  
Communicates in a timely manner to problem solve;

Supporting new crew to develop repetitive habits, regularly systemize costume placement of quick changes to avoid loss of costume;  
Multi-tasking, rarely idle and quick to think on feet taking action without panic reducing stress for talent on stage;  
Writing dressing plots of action including cheographing exact change process;

