

Pele Cox

Poet · Dramaturgist · Tutor

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www.pelecox.com Pele's Poetry Podcast: pelecox.com/2026/01/15/peles-poetry-podcast-2/

PROFILE

Pele is a poet, dramaturgist and poetry commentator, exploring the intersections between poetry and other artforms. Formerly Poet in Residence at *TATE*, *Royal Academy of Arts*, *John Murray*, *Keats-Shelley House*, *British School at Rome* and most recently the *American University of Rome*. She has given talks at *Walker Art Gallery*, *Bradford Literary Festival* and most recently at the *Oxford Literary Festival* with Dr Rowan Williams.

Commissioned by John Murray to make the first in a trilogy of short films about the Romantic Poets, “*Lift Me Up, I Am Dying*” commemorated the death of John Keats and starred Damian Lewis. The film was reviewed in the *FT Arts* section and streamed to 4,000 viewers on the night of his death. John Murray commissioned her second film, “*Dreamboat*”, commemorating the bicentenary of Shelley’s death; she is currently developing the third in the trilogy, about Byron.

In 2019 she was invited to compose “*Cento*” for a stone frieze at Chelsea Barracks — the longest verse inscription in the West.

During her residency at the *Royal Academy of Arts* she created six theatrical performances relating to the literary interests of the great artists shown in the main galleries. Her works have been performed at *BAFTA*, *Keats-Shelley House Rome*, *John Murray*, *British School at Rome*, *Ledbury Poetry Festival*, *Ludlow Assembly Rooms*, *Cheltenham Literature Festival*, *Todi Festival*, *American University Rome*, *Oxford Literary Festival*, *Bradford Literature Festival*, and for the British Ambassador to Italy at the *Villa Wolkonsky*.

Her work has been featured and reviewed in the *FT*, *Sunday Times Magazine*, *Sunday Times*, *RA Magazine*, *TATE*, *The Oldie*, *The London Magazine*, *The Guardian*, *Shropshire Magazine* and *Tatler*.

EXPERIENCE

- 2026** Screenings with live performance at *Keats-Shelley House, Rome*
Publication & launch of Women in Poetry Series: *Gemini Books*
Pele’s Poetry Podcast with Richard Uridge
- 2025** *The Heart by Way of the Breath to the Line*, in conversation with Dr Rowan Williams, *Oxford Literary Festival*
Van Gogh & Poetry, Pusey Chapel, *Oxford Literary Festival*
Pele’s Poetry Series, *Ludlow Assembly Rooms*
Dreamboat launch and screenings: *John Murray / Ledbury Poetry Festival*
Writing the Self, Creative Writing Tutor at ‘*Gather*’ Arts Space
Judge, Ludlow Poetry Competition
- 2024–25** Women & Poetry Series, author of four anthologies for *Gemini Books*: Elizabeth Barrett Browning; Edna St Vincent Millay; Emily Dickinson; Christina Rossetti
Frank Auerbach and the Colony Rooms, *The Courtauld*

- 2022–25** Production of *'Dreamboat'*, Venice / London
'Vincent and The Poets', *The Courtauld*
 Adjudicator, Bentley Elocution Competition Final, *Shrewsbury School*
 Private Tutor
- 2021** Writing / Production / Direction: *'Lift Me Up, I Am Dying'*, commemorating the bicentenary of Keats' death, starring Damian Lewis and Nicholas Rowe, in association with the BSR, Keats-Shelley Memorial Association and Institute of Florence
 Private Tutor
- 2020** Writer / Director: *'Rodin Reimagined'* (film in progress)
 Poetry Seminar, *Stanford University* for Art History students
- 2019** Panel Discussion & Performance: 'David Hockney and Walt Whitman' with Simon Callow and Blake Morrison, *Bradford Literature Festival*
A Night of Pushkin, private performance for the British Ambassador to Rome, *Villa Wolkonsky*
The Mistress Account, *British School Rome*
The Mistress Account, *Bosse and Baume, London*
 Design & composition of poem frieze for Chelsea Barracks, *Eric Parry Architects*
- 2018** Poet in Residence, *Keats-Shelley House, Rome*
 Established Writer in Residence programme, *British School at Rome*
- 2016–18** Poet in Residence, *John Murray, London*
 Writer / Director: *'Byron is Dead'*, with Nicholas Rowe, Jay Villiers and Desiree Ballantyne
 Writer / Director: *'The Year Without a Summer'*, Nicholas Rowe, Richard Goulding, Jay Villiers
 Writer / Director: *'Frankenstein and Me'*, Helen McCrory, Damian Lewis
 Visiting Creative Writing Tutor, *University of Westminster*
 After-dinner speaker & workshop leader, *PwC Diversity and Inclusion*
 Creative Writing Tutor, *City Academy*
- 2015** *The Mistress Account*, *Cheltenham Literature Festival & Ledbury Poetry Festival* — Specially Commended
The Mistress Account, *Todi Festival*
 After-dinner speaker & workshop leader, *PwC Diversity and Inclusion*
 Creative Writing Tutor, *City Academy*
- 2014** *Duchamp at Knight*, a tap-dancing extravaganza, *Duchamp Festival*
 Day-long workshop for executives: *Nielsen*
- 2014–15** Writer / Director: *'Unbound'*, charting the lives of Shelley, Mary Shelley and Byron, *Keats-Shelley House, Rome*
 Writer / Director: *'Lift Me Up, I Am Dying'*, an exploration of the last weeks of Keats
- 2013–14** Poet in Residence, *Royal Academy of Arts*

Writer / Director: *'Vincent and The Poets'*; *'Degas and Poetry'*; *'Hockney and Poetry'*; *'Obscuring the Word'* (literary tribute to Cy Twombly); *'Royal Academicians and Poetry'*

Writer / Director / Co-Producer: *'The Masters' Room'*, BAFTA

2008 Poet in Residence, *TATE Modern*

E D U C A T I O N

1997–98 Creative Writing MA, *University of East Anglia*

1989–92 Art History BA, *University of Nottingham*

1984–89 A-Levels: Art, Theatre Studies, English — *Frensham Heights School*

GCSEs: Biology, Maths, French, English, Art, Drama, History, Geography

1979–84 *City of London School for Girls*

S K I L L S & I N T E R E S T S

Skills Poetry & creative writing tuition · Dramaturgy · Copy editing · Public speaking · Italian (working knowledge) · Typing: 50 wpm

Interests Wild swimming · Travel · Literature · Italy & Rome