



# What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do?

**Speaker:**  
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Head of Screen Production and Research Centre,  
School of Film & Television

## Synopsis

As a young artist I can remember my conviction. I remember wanting to dance. I did dance. But I'm not dancing now. Now I design Film programs.

In today's current climate I meet many young people who don't know what they want to do. Many seem under the impression that you choose one thing and then do that one thing for the rest of your life. The pressure to find that thing is strong!

Even though I did know back then what it was that I wanted, I was flexible enough for that 'want' to change and grow. Being a dancer was an extraordinary experience. But I also went on to do many other wonderful and enriching things.

Today we are looking at a very new and unfamiliar landscape in the arts and in the job markets. So, if you know what you want to do, is that a good thing? If you don't, is that a bad thing?

I would like to share with a young audience what not knowing might offer you. That trying something out 'just because' can be a valid approach. How not being attached to outcome is a very powerful artistic tool.

Very powerful.

Today I am Head of Screen Production and Research Centre (SPaRC), School of Film and Television, where we will be bringing a broadminded open heartedness to our production practice and we will be trying new things. If you are interested in finding out about what my journey has taught me so far and if you are interested in hearing about how we will be creating new work at the SPaRC Centre, then this forum is for you! Mostly though I am interested in hearing what you think you want to do. Mostly, I would like to talk with those who just don't know.

## Ms Elissa Rosati

Elissa graduated Salutatorian from the NYC High School for Performing Arts class of 82 in Dance (Fiorello H La Guardia). Following her career as a professional performer (Alvin Ailey 2, "A Chorus Line" etc), and dance instructor (Conservatoire Nationale de Toulouse, Taipei National University of the Arts, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA), etc), Elissa chose to turn to Film.

After acquiring her degree in Film and TV major in Directing and Editing from NYU TISCH (Hons), she settled in Hong Kong where she gained critical acclaim for her short films and productions. Elissa turned her eyes to developing her own feature film scripts ("Finding Provence", Mirabelle Pictures) and designing curriculum for Film studies. She has designed and run curricula in a broad scope of educational institutions in Hong Kong from Secondary to University, from Local to International.

In 2006 she founded the non-profit Focus On Film Hong Kong in order to create and promote video production and film appreciation as a creative tool to empower creatively underprivileged youth. Focus on Film was the recipient of generous grants from the private sector and has been subsidised by the Hong Kong Government Home Affairs Bureau.

In 2017 Elissa moved to Singapore to head the Film and Media Education Faculty at the Singapore School of the Arts.

In 2020 Elissa moved back to Hong Kong to head the Screen Production and Research Centre (SPaRC) at the School of Film and Television of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.