

MELISSA BRADING

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI
MFA in Dance

2019-August 2021

- Graduate Student Instructor (GSI): Taught a variety of classes and levels to majors, minors and non-major students. Instructor of record for six terms and given the opportunity to design classes according to students' needs and individual expertise. Successfully delivered courses in studio, over Zoom and in hybrid format.
- Academic studies: Completed courses in pedagogy, screendance, writing for dance, improvisation, physical practice, feminist and queer dance, arts entrepreneurship and electronic music production.
- Thesis performance: Successfully and safely created, rehearsed and performed thesis during a pandemic. In collaboration with students and professional performers, created an interactive, site-specific, traveling performance experience in Depot Town, Ypsilanti, MI for a limited audience.

Notable courses completed:

- Art and Ecology with Charli Brissey
- Screendance with Charli Brissey
- Writing Dance with Angela Kane
- Dancing Women Dancing Queer with Clare Croft
- Graduate Performance with Shannon Gillen

Physical practice courses completed:

- Humphrey Technique with Jillian Hopper
- Contemporary Technique with Charli Brissey
- Ballet Technique with Judy Rice and Amy West
- Tai Chi Fusion with Fangfei Miao
- Performance Improvisation with Amy Chavasse

GSI Course Descriptions

Intro to Ballet
DANCE 100

(Non-Major)

Fall 19

This course will introduce the student to the history and fundamentals of classical ballet technique. Class will focus on building strength, agility, musicality, flexibility and balance through barre and center exercises. Ballet not only produces physical benefits, but also sharpens cognitive function and improves sensorimotor performance. Insight into the rich history of ballet will be given through video and writing assignments and all will have the opportunity to perform at the end of semester showing.

Intro to Modern
DANCE 100

(Non-Major)

Winter 20, Fall 20, Winter 21

The Limón technique is based upon the movement style and philosophy of theater developed by modern dance pioneers, Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman. Limón principles will aid in finding freedom in the joints, connection to the earth, suspension in the body and texture in movement. Using the concepts of weight, breath and suspension, we will explore the movement of our unique bodies in community. Exercises will be repeated with plenty of room for discussion, allowing students to grow into the material presented. Studio practice will be complemented with short reading and writing assignments. Class will create and share work in the final showing.

Int./Adv. Contemporary (Major, Minor and Non-Major) Winter 20
DANCE 128-428
Using Humphrey/Limón principles as an underlying base, a somatic and investigative approach will be taken in contemporary dance practice. Time will be spent problem-solving for individual bodies and finding the next level of dancing while respecting the safety and wellbeing of the mind and body. By experimenting with yoga and practicing mindfulness, students will create personal tool boxes to be used across a wide range of movement, supporting students in university dance life and beyond. This class will be largely participation based and complemented with writing and reflection assignments concerning forms of contemporary dance and personal practice.

Open Level Contemporary Dance (Major, Minor and Non-Major) Spring 20
& Creative Movement
DANCE 101/405
Drawing upon Limón principles, the ballet barre will be used in finding a sense of weight and suspension. Barre work will lead to center work for full bodied movement that can be accomplished in small spaces. Utilizing ideas from barre and center, readings, writing and peer feedback, each student will craft a movement solo as a final project.

Dance Composition 3 (Major and Minor) Fall 20
DANCE 231
Sophomore-level survey of uses of rhythm, design, dynamics and motivation, leading to the creation and performance of solo and group works with emphasis on the relationship of music to choreography.

Int./Adv. Contemporary Dance Practice (Major and Non-Major) Spring 21
DANCE 101/405
The main purpose of this class is to find joy in full-bodied movement. Rooted in modern dance, each class will consist of conditioning, a thorough warm-up and exploration of movement through longer dance phrase work. This is an open level class and material will be tailored to the needs of the students. This class will be taught in a hybrid format and students may choose to be in-studio or remote.

Oklahoma City University 2000-2002
Oklahoma City, OK

- Dance Performance Major: Technique classes in jazz, ballet, tap, theater and voice
- Core classes in math, science, literature and history

University of Central Oklahoma 2002-2004
Edmond, OK

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Education

- Technique classes in jazz, ballet and modern dance.
- Courses in movement and anatomy
- Pedagogy
- Choreography

OTHER TRAINING

Countertechnique 2013-present
New York, NY, New Zealand and Montreal

- Intensives/Workshops/Classes with Anouk van Dijk, Joy Davis, Nina Wollny among others.
- One Body One Career Workshop

Limón Teacher Workshops 2013, 2016
New York, NY and Montreal

- Program including daily technique classes, an exploration of the underlying principles, phrases from repertory (contemporary and classic) and the use of rhythm and music in Limón classes.

- Completed 2 teacher workshops led by Roxane D'Orléans Juste and Alan Danielson
- Teaching Methodology with Risa Steinberg** 2015
New York, NY
- Workshop focused upon essential aspects of dance pedagogy, including building a class structure and sequence, development of goals for teachers and students, planning skills, mindful use of vocabulary and language, essential movements and how to teach them, consideration of alignment and anatomy, and insights into training the professional dancer of today.
- Optimal Performance Dance with Deborah Vogel** 2015
Oberlin, OH
- This conference was designed for the teacher who wants to hone their eye for seeing the relationships in the body and learn strategies to enhance a somatic exploration of technique.
- Other technical training** 2000-2007
Various locations
- Ballet • Clara Cravey, Robyn Pasternack, Kay Sandel and Jo Rowan
 - Modern • Alan Danielson, Randall Flinn, Tina Kambour, Jamie Jacobson, and Bill Evans
 - Jazz • Hui Cha Poos, Lyn Cramer, Liz Reiter and Cathy Patterson
 - Tap • Robert Reed, Lyn Cramer, Liz Reiter and Cathy Patterson
 - Partnering • Randall Flinn, Bill Wade and Richard Denson

TEACHING

- University of Michigan (Lecturer)** Current
Ann Arbor, MI
- School of Music Theatre & Dance
 - Composition and Sophomore Seminar
 - Sophomore Seminar Description: Students review their dance training, articulate new goals and begin to develop individual portfolios to support both artistic and career goals. This will include sessions on writing resumes/CV's, cover letters, professional applications and practical tools, including multiple guest speakers sharing their experiences and expertise within their careers.
- University of Michigan (GSI)** 2019-2021
Ann Arbor, MI
- School of Music Theatre & Dance
 - Ballet, Modern, Contemporary and Composition (see above)
- Limón Dance** 2013-2019
New York, NY
- The José Limón Dance Foundation exists to perpetuate the Limón legacy and its humanistic approach to movement and theater, and to extend the vitality of that vision into the future, through performance, creation, preservation and education.
 - Taught all levels of open contemporary Limón technique at Gibney Dance and Peridance Capezio Center. Mentored and trained by Alan Danielson.
 - Taught children through the Limon4kids program. Developed course plans which integrated Limón repertoire and creative movement.
- Avodah Dance** 2013-2017
New York, NY
- Avodah is a non-profit company that fuses dance and social action, particularly

bringing dance to incarcerated individuals.

- Developed week-long residencies for women's prisons. Within these residencies, taught technique class, dance composition and performance. This position required extreme flexibility and sensitivity.

Other Teaching

Various locations

2004-2018

- Project Dance NYC • Contemporary and Limón master classes • NY, NY
- Link School of the Arts • Modern and Jazz intensive • Detroit, MI
- Youth With A Mission • Teaching and Choreography • The Netherlands
- Ad Deum Summer Dance Intensive • Contemporary • The Woodlands, TX
- Victory School of the Arts • Modern and Jazz • Oklahoma City, OK
- Dana's School of Dance and Gymnastics • Jazz • Clear Lake, TX
- West University Dance Centre • Jazz, Ballet • Houston, TX
- Houston Academy of Dance • Tap, Jazz, Ballet • Houston, TX
- Victory School of the Arts • Jazz, Modern, Hip Hop • Oklahoma City, OK

Yoga

New York, NY and Virtual

2017-Present

- Taught open Vinyasa style classes for all levels at 14th Street Y and All Yoga in New York as well as virtual yoga classes for the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Ann Arbor, MI.

CHOREOGRAPHY

DANCE

Interior Castle: the dance

Ann Arbor, MI

2019-2021

- MFA capstone performance at the University of Michigan
- Cast of 7 dancers and 2 musicians
- Work is based on Interior Castle written by Carmelite nun, St. Teresa of Avila. exploring themes of humility, surrender, pain and pleasure through movement and sound.
- VIDEO LINK

Connected Islands

New York, NY and Edmond, OK

2018

- For 5 dancers performed at City Center Studio 5
- For 10 student dancers during residency at the University of Central Oklahoma
- Contemplating human connection and loneliness
- VIDEO LINK

Tendon

New York, Ny

2017-2018

- Duet performed at City Center Studio 5 and The James and Martha Duffy Performance Space
- Based on the wrestling of Jacob and the angel
- VIDEO LINK

Picket Fence

New York, NY and Niantic, CT

2016

- Solo performed at Bridge For Dance and York Correctional Institution
- Created in response to prison residency using over 200 white dominoes
- VIDEO LINK

Lois New York, NY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solo performed at Brookfield Place • Created specifically for the 60x60 Dance Festival • VIDEO LINK 	2015-2016
it carries me New York, NY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solo performed at The Kraine Theatre • Created specifically for the Duende Project by Theater in Asylum 	2013-2014
render you New York, NY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trio performed at Green Space and The Green Building • Meditation on identity 	2013
Just Keep Driving New York, NY and Houston, TX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quintet performed at Bridge for Dance • Later set as Septet for Ad Deum Dance Company • VIDEO LINK 	2010-2011
THEATER		
Femme Pathos Brooklyn, NY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written by Claire Moodey and directed by Lacy Post • Performed at The Brick 	2018
Daphne New York, NY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written by Alice Pencavel and directed by Paul Bedard • Performed at IRT Theater 	2017
#Coriolanus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written by William Shakespeare and directed by Paul Bedard • Performed at Under St. Marks Theater 	2013
Other Choreography Various locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Common Ground</i> • Ad Deum II • Houston, TX • <i>A Medieval Christmas</i> with Kemper Crabb • Houston, TX • <i>Youth With A Mission</i> • Almelo and Eppe, The Netherlands • <i>Resonation DVD</i> • Victory Church • Oklahoma City, OK • <i>Space, Flow, Time</i> • Episcopal High School • Houston, TX • <i>Why?, Shake the Planet, Savior</i> • Victory Church • Oklahoma City, OK • <i>Lost and Found</i> • Jenna Vance • Houston, TX • <i>Handel's Messiah</i> • Houston Met Too • Houston, TX • <i>Let There Be Light</i> • Crossings Community Church • Oklahoma City, OK • Competition pieces for Victory School of the Arts • Oklahoma City, OK • Washburn Rural High School Dancin' Blues • Topeka, KS 	2000-2007
Screendance Experiments Ann Arbor, MI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Untitled/Unbodied</i> VIDEO LINK • <i>Relax</i> VIDEO LINK • <i>Naps</i> VIDEO LINK • <i>Ave Maria</i> VIDEO LINK • <i>Geese Piece</i> VIDEO LINK 	2019-2021

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Sue Bernhard Danceworks

2015-2019

New York, NY

- *Precipice, Illuminous Nights, Dialects*
- Performances at Ailey Citigroup Theater, Henry Street Settlement, The James, Martha Duffy Performance Space and Rioult Dance Center, among others

Nejla Yatkin NY2Dance

2009-2010

Baltimore, MD, New York, NY and Washington, D.C

- *Wallstories*: Berlin Residency and Performances. Performed at Kennedy Center, Dance Place and Ailey Citigroup Theater.
- *Salome's Daughters* performed at Modell Lyric Opera House

Avodah Dance

2013-2017

New York, NY

- Workshops and performances in synagogues, churches, theaters and prisons

Sarah Council Dance Projects

2010-2014

Madisonville, KY and New York, NY

- *Deep Water* performed at Glema Mahr Center for the Arts
- *Staring at Stones* performed at Riverside Theater and Green Building
- *Shadowlands* Green Building, Love146 Event

Chris Ferris and Dancers Dancer

2007-2012

New York, NY

- *Continental Drift, Circuitous Body, Proximity of Clouds, Bird Feet on a Windy Day*
- Performances at Joyce Soho, City Center Studio 5, Roulette, among others

Hope Boykin Dance

2008-2009

New York, NY

- *Testimony, The Vote, Why am I running...*

Amanda Selwyn Dance Theatre

2007

New York, NY

- *Salut, Hearsay*
- Performances at Dance New Amsterdam and Henry Street Settlement

Ad Deum Dance Company

2004-2007

Houston, TX

- Various works by Randall Flinn, Bill Wade, Steve Rooks, Hope Boykin, Caleb Mitchell among others
- Touring and multiple performances
- Promoted to company member after 1 year

ARTS ADMINISTRATION

The Joyce Theater

2011-2019

New York, NY

Office Manager

- Primary point of contact for the organization, responsible for security of building and backstage area. Utilize 8X8 SWITCHBOARD software to direct callers, requiring thorough knowledge of The Joyce Theater's programming, education, fundraising efforts and theater schedule.
- Set-up and operation of Polycom, laptops, DVD players, projector, etc. for meetings and special events; assist in conference room and meeting guests' needs
- Postage and copier journal entries and invoice scanning and approval
- Other responsibilities include: Producing business cards, copier maintenance,

processing incoming mail, providing newsletter content, purchasing and organization of all office supplies and tracking inventory.

Dance Theater Workshop/New York Live Arts
New York, NY

2008-2011

Receptionist/Front of House/Box Office

- Primary representative and contact for organization; inform public about performances, programs and mission of DTW; customer service, answering phone and ticket sales
- Building security and studio assistant, ensuring documentation of all persons entering building and directing them to proper department; managing space rental and payment for artistic community
- Responsible for artist receptions. Point person for set-up, post-show receptions and engaging with artists and patrons, professionally communicating with VIP's and Press, securing tickets and supplying press kits.
- Train and supervise ushers to ensure smooth performances

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival
Becket, MA

2007

Store Manager

- Responsible for complete set-up, inventory, take-down of store, working with visiting companies to facilitate the selling of their merchandise, managing consignment products, facilitating book signings and management of store employees. Required a self-starter attitude and vision for the store.
- Responsible for invoicing, sales reports, product ordering and inventory
- Provided a positive customer experience, requiring awareness of trends and product placement

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

University of Michigan Funding
Ann Arbor, MI

Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant

2021

- To support Rackham graduate students who need assistance to carry out research that advances their progress toward their degree.
- Award: \$1500

CEW+ Scholar

2020

- The CEW+ Scholarship Program, which today serves women and underserved students, was established in 1970 to honor the academic performance and potential of women whose education has been interrupted
- Award: \$11,500

Department of Dance Funding

2019-2021

- Summer research and thesis support
- Award: \$6000

EXCEL Enterprise Fund

2019, 2021

- Fund offers micro grants of up to \$1,000 for students to support individual or team projects that have significant professional development and community impact.
- Award: \$1500
- Award: \$1000

Rackham Conference Travel Grant

2019

- The Rackham Conference Travel Grant is intended to provide opportunities for Rackham graduate students to become familiar with, and participate in the life of, their academic professions.
- Award: \$1300

University of Central Oklahoma Dance Scholarship Edmond, OK	2002
Oklahoma City University Dance Scholarship Oklahoma City, OK	2000
Topeka Performing Arts Center Young Artist of the Year Award Topeka, KS	1998