

MELISSA BRADING

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

2022-current

J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts, School of Theatre and Dance
Assistant Professor of Practice in Dance
Lubbock, TX

TEACHING

Courses taught

- DAN 1100 Dance Production Activities, DAN 1201 Intro to Dance Techniques (2), DAN 1203 Jazz I (2), DAN 1205 Ballet I (2)
- DAN 2100 Company Class (2), DAN 2207 Contemporary II, DAN 2303 Dance Appreciation (2), DAN 2313 Dance Histories (2)
- DAN 3207 Contemporary III (2), DAN 3209 Principles of Choreography II (3)
- DAN 4100 Repertory, DAN 4200 Senior Capstone (2), DAN 4207 Contemporary IV (4)

Certifications earned

- Certified Countertechnique Teacher
- Certified in STOTT Beginning/Intermediate Reformer

Masterclasses

- Ballet Lubbock, Lubbock, TX
- Hunter Dance Center, Houston, TX
- ACDA Conferences, Various
- Texas Dance Educators' Association, Houston, TX
- Frame Dance, Houston, TX
- Ad Deum Dance Company, Houston, TX

RESEARCH

CHOREOGRAPHY

Hypnic Jerks

2025-2026

- Cast of 5 dancers
- Part of a larger show: Rites of Spring with music by Anthony Denaro (YNOT)
- Performed in Dance Tech Spring 2025

Location of Suspension

2024-2025

- Cast of 6 dancers and 1 musician
- Dream world created with sets, experimental recorded sound and live improvised sound by Justin Houser
- Performed in Dance Tech Spring 2025

Tendon

2023-2024

- Originally choreographed in 2017 in New York
- Cast of 2 dancers
- Original sound by Loren Kiyoshi Dempster
- Performed in Dance Tech and ACDA conference

- it all starts with the wolves*** 2022-2023
- Cast of 4 dancers
 - Original sound by Justin Houser
 - Performed in Dance Tech

PERFORMANCE

- CO-OPt Research + Projects** 2024
Lubbock, TX
- Longitudes series, performer
 - Music by Justin Houser

- Frame Dance** 2024
Houston, TX
- Mise en Scène, performer

- Flatlands Dance Theatre** 2023-current
Lubbock, TX
- *Greg*, Spring 2025, performer and choreographer
 - *On a lark*, performer and choreographer

SERVICE 2022-current

- Teach leveling, audition and college day classes each school year (dance program)
- Served on thesis committee for Lauren Biediger (dance program)
- Three recruiting trips to Houston, HSPVA (dance program)
- Attended TDEA college fair twice (dance program)
- Observed college Audition in Plano, TX (dance program)
- Attended TDIF and joined planning committee (dance program)
- Served on search committee for dance faculty (school, dance program)
- Attended Lubbock High School college fair (school)
- Committee on Academic Programs committee (college)
- Served on Research and Creative Activity Award task force (college)

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

- Faculty Mentorship Academy** 2024
- 9-month program to help faculty empower each other to achieve their personal and professional goals.
 - Selected through application process
 - Award: \$1,000 upon completion of program

- Research and Creative Activity Award** 2023-2025
- To support faculty excellence in research and creative activity
 - Used to acquire certification in Countertechnique
 - Award: \$15,000

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 courses taught:

- Intro to Ballet
- Intro to Modern
- Int/Adv Contemporary
- Open Contemporary and Creative Movement

University of Central Oklahoma
Edmond, OK

2002-2004

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Education

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

Oklahoma City University
Oklahoma City, OK

2000-2002

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

Countertechnique
Various Cities

2013-present

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

- Three One Body One Career Workshops
- Certified Countertechnique Teacher in 2023

Limón Teacher Workshops
New York, NY and Montreal

2013, 2016

- 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
New York, NY

2015

- 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
Oberlin, OH

2015

- 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
Various locations

2000-2007

- 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 (2004-2022)

University of Michigan (GSI and Lecturer)
Ann Arbor, MI

2019-2021

- School of Music Theatre & Dance
- Composition, Sophomore Seminar, Ballet, Modern, Contemporary

Limón Dance
New York, NY

2013-2019

- 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
New York, NY

2013-2017

- 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 Dance Teaching
Various locations

2004-current

- Hunter Dance Center, Countertechnique Masterclasses, Houston, TX
- American College Dance Association conferences, various cities
- MPulse High School Intensive, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 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

Pilates
Lubbock, TX

2023-present

- Open reformer class at Omni Pilates

Yoga
New York, NY and Virtual

2017-present

- 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, occasional classes in Lubbock, TX

CHOREOGRAPHY (2013-2021)

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.
- Choreographer and performer

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

Tendon
New York, NY

2017-2018

- Duet performed at City Center Studio 5 and The James and Martha Duffy Performance Space
- Reset in 2023-2024 and performed at ACDA

- Choreographer and performer

Picket Fence

2016

New York, NY and Niantic, CT

- Solo performed at Bridge for Dance and York Correctional Institution
- Created in response to prison residency using over 200 white dominoes
- Choreographer and performer

Lois

2015-2016

New York, NY

- Solo performed at Brookfield Place
- Created specifically for the 60x60 Dance Festival
- Choreographer and performer

it carries me

2013-2014

New York, NY

- Solo performed at The Kraine Theatre
- Created specifically for the Duende Project by Theater in Asylum
- Choreographer and performer

render you

2013

New York, NY

- Trio performed at Green Space and The Green Building
- Meditation on identity
- Choreographer and performer

Just Keep Driving

2010-2011

New York, NY and Houston, TX

- Quintet performed at Bridge for Dance
- Later set as Septet for Ad Deum Dance Company

THEATER

Femme Pathos

2018

Brooklyn, NY

- Written by Claire Moodey and directed by Lacy Post
- Performed at The Brick

Daphne

2017

New York, NY

- Written by Alice Pencavel and directed by Paul Bedard
- Performed at IRT Theater

#Coriolanus

2013

New York, NY

- Written by William Shakespeare and directed by Paul Bedard
- Performed at Under St. Marks Theater

PERFORMANCE (2004-2019)

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

Works choreographed

2013-2019

Various *see choreography section

- *Interior Castle: the dance, Tendon, Picket Fence, Lois, it carries me, render you*

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

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

Chris Ferris and Dancers

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

2008-2011

New York, NY

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

2007

Becket, MA

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 (1998-2021)

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI

Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant

2021

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

CEW+ Scholar

2020

- The CEW+ Scholarship Program, was established 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