

# Amanda M. Benzin

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## EDUCATION

### **UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER**

**Master of Fine Arts in Dance**, May 2016

Areas of emphases: Performance and Choreography, Somatics (Alexander Technique and Body-Mind Centering®), Pedagogy, and Women and Gender Studies

Graduate Certificate in Women and Gender Studies

Certificate of Somatic Track Completion

GPA 3.985/4.0. Center for Humanities and the Arts Graduate Scholar. Arts and Sciences

Fellowship in Humanities and the Arts, 2013-2014.

### **STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO**

**Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance**, Minor in Business Administration, General Management, May 2004

GPA 3.8/4.0. *Summa Cum Laude*. Renaissance Scholar. Academic Excellence Scholarship, 2000-2004

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **COLORAD MESA UNIVERSITY**, Grand Junction, Colorado

**Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Dance**, 08/17- 08/22

**Dance Program Coordinator**, 05/19- 08/22

- Instructing all levels of dance technique in the genres of Jazz (Jazz 2A, Jazz 2B, Jazz 3A, Jazz 3B, Jazz 4A, Jazz 4B)- covering a wide arrange of techniques across this African Diasporic form with focus on the history of the roots and branches, Tap (Tap 1, Tap 2A, Tap 2B, Tap 3A, Tap 3B)- covering techniques across tap dance as well as history and present of the form, Hip Hop (Beginning Hip Hop, Hip Hop 2)- covering social party dances, basic breaking, 5 elements of hip hop culture, and house dance, and Ballroom Dance- covering diverse social dance forms of American, Afro-Cuban, Latin and European lineage
- Instructing Dance Improvisation Course (Fall 2020)- focused on individual and group practices with importance given to all dance forms and various authors' processes, Dance Pedagogy Course (Spring 2020, Spring 2022)- focused learning and teaching modalities to accommodate multiple forms and multiple learning styles and Dance Choreography Course (Spring 2019, Spring 2020)- focusing on skill building, feedback giving and receiving, creation, and presentation uses multiple authors voices)
- Instructing Choreography Practicum (Levels 200-400), which provides students with a forum for advisement and feedback on entire choreographic process, rehearsals, and production
- Instructing Dance Performance practicum (Levels 100-400), which includes organizing guest artists for and instructing weekly company classes in addition to choreographing and directing
- Instructing and mentoring Senior Dance Capstone thesis course, projects and presentations
- Instructing online Dance Appreciation course (DANC 115) that fulfills University-wide Undergraduate Fine Arts Essential Learning requirement and gives an overview of dance in America and beyond
- Instructing master classes in somatic techniques, improvisation, communication and leadership, site-specific choreography, partnering, contemporary jazz, and hip hop for departmental students
- Guest lecturing in Costume Design, Dance Pedagogy, Dance Improvisation, History and Philosophy of Dance, and The Living Arts, a survey course fulfilling a University-wide

#### Undergraduate Fine Arts Essential Learning requirement

- Instructing dance master classes for the greater community, including Western Colorado High School Performing Arts Festival, Central High School, CoDEO (Colorado Dance Education Organization), and Hurricane Harvey local relief efforts
- Presenting pre-show lectures and panel discussions to Bravo Club members, departmental donors, for dance concerts and theatre productions
- Choreographing and co-choreographing original work across many genres of dance that often include collaboration with local visual and spoken word artists for Faculty Dance Concert every semester
- Choreographing Musical Theatre and Theatre Productions, including *SpongeBob the Musical*, *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Reefer Madness*, *First Date*, *Pride & Prejudice*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*
- Directing Faculty Dance Concerts (Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Fall 2021), which includes commissioning and organizing Guest Artist teaching and choreographic residencies for each concert, including artists Michelle Bernier and Sans Souci Festival of Dance Cinema, Teena Marie Custer, Bailey Anderson, Rosely Conz, and Christine Rhode, and advertising appearances, including CMUnow podcast, radio, and local television interviews
- Collaborating, choreographing, performing, and facilitating rehearsals and technical production in community performance *River of Angels* held at Mesa Experimental Theatre and focused on celebrating community and the beauty and sustainability of local rivers
- Advising Dance Majors and Minors in academic, choreographic, production, post-graduation, and social-emotional capacities as well as advising the student dance organization, Dance Society, and student produced productions every semester
- Adjudicating student choreography for selection into faculty or student run concerts as well as for selection as a representative of our school and department at the annual regional conference American College Dance Association (ACDA)
- Serving as Dance Program Coordinator, which includes academic course scheduling every semester, costume management and ordering for dance concerts and inventory, and scheduling and maintenance of studio space
- Serving as Faculty representative for ACDA Northwest regional Conference 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2022, coordinating registration, attendance travel, lodging for 8-15 students and 2 faculty members as well as teaching and co-teaching master classes, including Workshop with Matthew Schlieff on collaborative project using bone-conduction headphones, sound and tap dance, Int/Adv Contemporary Jazz, Int/Adv Rhythm Tap, and Partnering and Improvisation, and submitting choreographic works for adjudication
- Serving as faculty advisor for honors independent studies involving research into dance education and pedagogical practices
- Serving on Departmental and University committees, including Chair of Scholarship Committee, Vice Chair of Graduate Curriculum Committee, Theatre Arts Outreach Committee, Theatre Arts Season Production Planning Committee, and Theatre Arts Curriculum Committee
- Serving on University Arts Sub-Committee and Departmental committees to establish safety and operating protocols for in-person and remote learning within dance program due to Covid-19
- Recruiting locally, in-state and out-of-state for Theatre Arts department and Dance program
- Recruiting, choreographing, and teaching at annual Colorado Dance Education Organization (CoDEO), regional division of NDEO
- Coordinating and instructing at all BFA Dance auditions and BFA Music Theatre dance

- placement calls
- Attending and implementing all University-sponsored Faculty Professional Development workshops and training workshops
- Performing a short tap solo and virtual improvisational duet as part of University's Open Studio digital sharing of faculty, staff, and student work

**ALMA COLLEGE, Alma, Michigan**

**Guest Artist Teaching and Choreographic Residency, 10/18, 5/20, 5/21**

- Instructing virtual master classes on hip hop culture elements and social hip hop party dances for Dance and Popular Culture course (5/20, 5/21)
- Instructing Jazz technique classes and Hip Hop lecture and technique classes to dance majors and non-majors
- Choreographing and staging original work *The sketch & The details*, a 10-minute piece that included vocabulary from house dance, breaking, and social hip hop party dances and featured video projection of graffiti from various artists

**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER, Boulder, Colorado**

**Graduate Part-time Instructor, 08/13- 05/16**

- Instructor of Record for semester long courses including Tap (Open Level), Beginning Jazz, Intermediate Jazz, and Intermediate-Advanced Contemporary Modern dance
- Leading recitations, assisting with lectures, and guest lecturing as Teaching Assistant for 90 student lecture course Looking at Dance, which analyzes 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century traditional and non-traditional concert dance
- Substitute teaching Alexander Technique class for Nada Diachenko
- Instructing master classes in non-major and major classes including Advanced Jazz, Afro-Modern, Low Intermediate Ballet, Dance and Popular Culture, Looking at Dance, and Major Technique
- Grading work and creating exam questions for the undergraduate course Feminist Theories with Deepti Misri in the Women and Gender Studies Department

**AMERICAN COLLEGE DANCE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, Greeley, Colorado**

**Dance Instructor at Regional Conference, 03/15**

- Instructing two sections of Contemporary Jazz Fusion leading over 100 students through energetic explorations of the intersection of vernacular jazz and contemporary modern dance with a focus on rhythm, intention, somatic awareness, and fully-embodied physicality

**BOULDER JAZZ FESTIVAL, Boulder, Colorado**

**Dance Instructor, 07/14**

- Instructing classes for both dance educators and high school to college-aged students in contemporary jazz and Jump Rhythm jazz dance at the opening weekend workshop

**JUMP RHYTHM JAZZ PROJECT, Chicago, Illinois**

**Teaching Artist, 08/05- 8/13**

- Pioneering and leading numerous teaching and choreographic residencies nationally and internationally for college, university, high school, middle school, and elementary school, and community students, including:
  - State University of New York at Buffalo, Dance Debut Inc (Cochrane, Alberta Canada) Westchester Community College (Westchester, NY), Viterbo University (Lacrosse WI)
  - Schauer Center for the Performing Arts (Hartford, WI), Old Town Temecula

Community Theater (Temecula, CA), Beverly Arts Center (Chicago, IL)

- Introducing and teaching dance educators and dance students in the Jump Rhythm Technique™, a full-bodied rhythm making technique that transforms the dancing body into a rhythm- accurate, energy-charged instrument using concept of Standing Down Straight™
- Educating students at the annual Chicago Intensive Institute, which culminates in an informal performance that demonstrates the skills developed throughout the week-long intensive

**SUNY BUFFALO ALUMNI GALA WEEKEND “BACK TO BUFFALO”, Buffalo, New York**

**Guest Teaching Artist, 10/10**

- Instructing tap master class for university students, alumni, faculty, community members, and regional dance educators

**HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY, Arcata, CA**

**Guest Teaching Artist, 12/10**

- Instructed master class for dance department students and faculty exposing them to Jump Rhythm™ Technique

## **OUTREACH**

**COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY, Grand Junction, Colorado 08/17- 08/22**

**Dance Program and Theatre Arts Department Outreach**

- Instructing dance master classes for the greater Western Slope and Front Range Colorado community, including at Western Colorado High School Performing Arts Festival, Central High School, Front Range Community College, Red Rocks Community College, and Hurricane Harvey relief efforts
- Advising and assisting Dance Society, student organization, in master classes for Girl Scouts of America troops and other on-campus and off-campus events
- Organizing and coordinating Theatre Arts Department’s participation in “Adopt-a-Family” Program
- Opening dialogue with faculty and students across Theatre Arts Department about diversity and communication and inviting expert guest speaker Ky ODay from the University’s staff to begin a department-wide discussion and forum

**THE CARILLON AT BOULDER CREEK, ASSISTED LIVING, Boulder, Colorado, 05/16-07/17**

- Instructed various dance classes as part of special programs focused on health, fitness, and overall wellness

**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER**

**Department of Theatre and Dance Outreach**

**Colorado Dance Education Organization Dance Conference (CODEO), Fort Collins, 10/14, 10/16**

- Instructed two classes at annual conference 10/14
  - “Weaving Rhythm into Dance Forms” for dance educators was an exploration of creative ways to use and teach rhythm within a diverse set of dance styles
  - “Resumes, Headshots, Portfolios” for students focused on the essentials for those auditioning for dance programs and thinking of entering the professional world
- Acted as a recruiter for the University of Colorado at Boulder’s Dance Department 10/16

**CUCDW (University of Colorado Contemporary Dance Works), 09/14- 06/16**

**Tour Director (15-16), Assistant Tour Director (14-15)**

- Plan and book week long outreach programs in Peonia, Colorado at schools, community centers, arts programs, and local theaters with students ranging from 3- adult
- Choreograph original works to be performed at in-school lecture-demonstrations and community theaters
- Organized teaching and rehearsal schedules for graduate students on tour and undergraduate intern
- Organized and coordinate all rehearsals, meetings, duties, and travel for six graduate student members and one undergraduate student intern

**Retirement Community Mini Tour, Boulder, Denver and surrounding suburbs, 08/13-05/16**

- Lecture demonstrations and performances in various genres of dance

**Building Bridges, Denver School of the Arts, 09/13**

- Solo performance and brief talk to educate students on potential careers in dance

**Student Outreach**

**One Billion Rising Flash Mob, 02/14/14**

- Organized and choreographed Flash mob dance performed on campus for students, faculty, and community members as part of the Global Campaign One Billion Rising to end violence against women and girls

**ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

**COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY, Grand Junction, Colorado**

**Dance Program Coordinator, 2019- 2022**

- Serving as Director of the Dance Program, which contains BFA Dance Majors and Dance Minors, within Theatre Arts Department
- Serving on University Arts Sub-Committee and Departmental committees to establish safety and operating protocols for in-person and remote learning due to Covid-19
- Scheduling all Dance courses each semester and all Dance Studio spaces
- Managing all curriculum, program, course, concert, and audition decisions in coordination with Theatre Arts Department Head
- Directing Faculty Dance Concerts each semester
- Coordinating Guest Artist residencies and master classes
- Managing, coordinating and executing all dance recruiting efforts for Theatre Arts Department
- Managing and ordering costume for dance concerts and costume inventory
- Advising all BFA Dance Majors and Minors

**BODY-MIND CENTERING® ASSOCIATION 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE,**

Northampton, Massachusetts

**Presenter Facilitator, 2017-2018**

- Coordinating with 50+ presenters, other facilitators, conference organizer, and board members remotely, prior to conference, and on-site, at conference, to ensure successful and smooth conference presentations and performances with all required equipment and space needs

**THE ART UNDERGROUND, Louisville, Colorado**

**Fundraising/Office Support, 07/16- 12/16**

- Coordinate with Special Events person on second annual fundraiser, Art Rising!

- Solicit donations, maintain database and website, train and organize all volunteers for Art Rising!
- Manage class registrations and payments for all art, theatre, and dance classes

**JUMP RHYTHM JAZZ PROJECT, Chicago, Illinois**

**Programming Coordinator, 5/07- 7/08**

- Manage and coordinate all details involved in full-company performances, teaching residencies, choreographic residencies and classes national and international
- Create and maintain successful relationships between the company and presenters at colleges, universities, theaters, cultural centers, community based cultural organizations around the world to build year-long performance schedule including teaching, performing, and choreographic opportunities
- Establish new connections with presenters that expanded the available market for the company and led to at least one new booking per month
- Create annual budget for performances, choreographic residencies, teaching residencies, and classes and individual budgets for each event that ensured a profit for the organization and maintained current employees

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

2021-2022 Colorado Mesa University, Faculty Professional Development Fund Grant Award  
Recipient for camera and sound equipment and continuing education in Screen Dance

2020-2021 Colorado Mesa University, Exemplary Contributions Merit Award

2020-2021 Colorado Mesa University, Exceptional Faculty Performance Evaluation Merit Award

2019-2020 Colorado Mesa University, Exceptional Faculty Performance Evaluation Merit Award

2019-2020 Colorado Mesa University, Faculty Professional Development Fund Grant Award  
Recipient for conference and choreographic presentations

2018-2019 Colorado Mesa University, Exceptional Faculty Performance Evaluation Merit Award

2018 Colorado Mesa University, Faculty Professional Development Fund Grant Award  
Recipient for conference and choreographic presentations

2017- 2018 Colorado Mesa University, Highly Proficient Faculty Performance Evaluation Merit Award

2017 Colorado Mesa University, Faculty Professional Development Fund Grant Award  
Recipient for conference and choreographic presentations

2015 University of Colorado at Boulder, Arts and Culture (ACE) Grant Award Recipient for new seating equipment for Irex Theatre to accommodate non-proscenium stage set up

2014 University of Colorado at Boulder, Arts and Culture (ACE) Grant Award Recipient for original compositions and collaboration with Jesse Mano on MFA thesis performance

2014 Article and Video about my Tap Class was featured on the main web page at University of Colorado at Boulder

2013- 2014 University of Colorado at Boulder, Center for Humanities and the Arts Graduate Scholar, The College of Arts and Humanities Arts and Sciences Fellowship

2006-2007 Emmy Award Chicago/Midwest for Outstanding Achievement for Individual Excellence on Camera for performance in the HMS Media documentary *Jump Rhythm Jazz Project: Getting There*

2000-2004 State University of New York at Buffalo Renaissance Scholar, Academic Excellence Scholarship

### **CONFERENCES/CONTINUING EDUCATION**

2022 Body-Mind Centering® Association Conference “Re-Joining the Circle: Somatic Agency and Social Justice” at Denison University, Ohio

Presenting virtual tap solo performance *Terra: Oh, the Places...* a collaboration with Matthew Schlieff with music by Jesse Manno, utilizing tap choreography and site-specific locations

2022 Symposium on Global Black Face and Global Minstrelsy, virtual  
Attendee

2022 Dance and Democracy: A Symposium for Social Movement, virtual  
Attendee

2022 The Safe Zone Project Training Workshop

2021 National Dance Education Organization’s Annual Conference and Pre-conferences “Dance 2050” and “Whiteness in Jazz Dance”, virtual  
Attendee

2021 Colorado Dance Education Organization’s 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Conference, virtual  
Presenting workshop “Dance Improvisation: Tools for Life, Art, and Across Genres” for Student Track

2020 National Dance Education Organization’s Annual Conference, virtual  
Attendee

2020 Body-Mind Centering® Association 35<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Conference at Hobart and William Smith College, Geneva, NY, cancelled due to Covid-19  
Presenting tap solo performance *Terra*, a collaboration with Matthew Schlieff with music by Jesse Manno, utilizing the emerging technology of bone-conducting audio in conjunction with tap choreography and site-specific locations

2020 Socially Conscious Body (SBC) Workshop with Dr. Martha Eddy and Carol Swanson, virtual  
Attendee

2020 Dancer Wellness and Injury Prevention, Tennessee Association of Dance, NYU Langone Health and Harkness Center for Dance Injuries  
Attendee

2019 Body-Mind Centering® Association 34<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Conference at University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California  
Presenting a 90-minute lecture workshop entitled *Vulnerability: The Weight and Ethics of Sharing, Requesting, and Requiring*  
Performing a solo across multiple genres of dance with excerpts choreographed by students and professional choreographers entitled *Connection WITHIN individuality*

2018 Colorado Dance Education Organization Dance Conference (CODEO)  
Serving as Recruiter for Colorado Mesa University  
Taught Choreographic Tools workshop for dance educators

2018 Body-Mind Centering® Association 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual North American Conference at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts  
Co-Presenting with Bailey Anderson a 90-minute workshop/performance entitled *The Weight of Sharing: Resilience, Resistance, and Ethics*

2018 Dance Studies Association Conference, University of Malta, Valletta Campus, Malta  
Co-presenting with Meredith Lyons and interactive lecture entitled *Dance Pedagogy and the Praxis of Change*

2017- 2020 American College Dance Association Regional Conference  
Presenting and co-presenting workshops and adjudicating choreography

2017 Colorado Dance Education Organization Dance Conference (CODEO)  
Serving as Recruiter for Colorado Mesa University  
Choreographing a group tap piece on diverse high school students from around Colorado as part of the culminating performance at the annual conference

2017 Body-Mind Centering® Association 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual North American Conference at Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas  
Co-Presenting with Bailey Anderson a 90-minute performance/workshop entitled *Sedimenting and Eroding: An Embodied Expression and Experience of Relationship*

2016 Colorado Dance Education Organization Dance Conference (CODEO)  
Serving as Recruiter for University of Colorado, Boulder

2016 Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities (HICAH)  
Chosen through peer-review process to present two original research papers focused on dance pedagogy, somatic practices, and choreography (“Dance, Pedagogy, and Higher Education” and “Repetition: Transformation or Reification?”) and published in online conference proceedings

2015 Colorado Dance Education Organization Dance Conference (CODEO)  
Serving as Recruiter for University of Colorado, Boulder  
Instructing two classes for regional dance educators and students, one in alternatives ways of teaching movement through rhythmic understanding and another focusing on career preparations.

## **COMMITTEES**

2019- 2022 Serving as Vice Chair of Graduate Curriculum Committee, Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction



2018-2019 Serving as member of Graduate Curriculum Committee, Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, Colorado

2018- 2022 Serving as Chair of Scholarship Committee for Theatre Arts Department, Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction

2017-2022 Serving on Outreach Committee, promoting and expanding recruiting and outreach across the Department, Department of Theatre Arts, Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction

2017-2022 Serving on Department Season Production Planning Committee determining upcoming and future performance productions, Department of Theatre Arts, Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction

2017-2022 Serving as Advisor for Dance Society, Dance Department's student club, Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction

2015-2016 Dance Graduate Student Representative at Faculty Meetings, University of Colorado, Boulder

2015-2016 Arts and Culture (ACE) Performance Enhancement Fund Grant Committee Member, University of Colorado, Boulder

## **DANCE TRAINING**

### **MAJOR INFLUENCES**

#### **Somatic Techniques**

- BMCA® Annual Conferences 06/17-06/20
- Nada Diachenko- Alexander Technique (University of Colorado, Boulder) 08/13-08/17
- Erika Berland- Body-Mind Centering® (Boulder, Colorado) 08/15-08/17
- Bonnie Bainbrudge Cohen- Body Mind Centering (BMCA Conferences)

#### **Jazz**

- Billy Siegenfeld (Jump Rhythm Jazz Project) 06/04- 09/11
- Thomas Ralabate (SUNY Buffalo) 08/00- 05/04
- Lynne Kurdziel- Formato (SUNY Buffalo) 08/00-05/04
- Frank Hatchett (Broadway Dance Center) 08/01-08/03

#### **Modern**

- Gesel Mason (University of Colorado, Boulder) 08/13-05/16
- Erika Randall (University of Colorado, Boulder) 08/13-05/16
- Helanius Wilkins (University of Colorado, Boulder) 01/15-5/15
- William Thomas (SUNY Buffalo) 08/00-05/04
- Tressa Gorman-Crehan (SUNY Buffalo) 08/00-05/04

#### **Tap**

- Billy Siegenfeld (Jump Rhythm Jazz Project) 06/04- 09/11
- Jeannie Hill (Jump Rhythm Jazz Project/ UW Stevens Point) 06/04- 06/12
- Thomas Ralabate (SUNY Buffalo) 08/02-/05/04
- MaryAlice Dietz and Beverly Fletcher (Buffalo, New York) 09/86-06/00

#### **Hip Hop/House**

- Rennie Harris (Virtual Workshops and University of Colorado, Boulder) 08/14-05/21
- Larry Southall (University of Colorado, Boulder) 08/14- 05/16

### **INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS**

**Artist Residencies at University of Colorado, Boulder, 08/13-05/16**

- Tim O'Donnell (Contact Improvisation and Modern)
- Jonathan Scott (Modern and Improvisation)
- Ananya Chatterjea (Contemporary East Indian)
- Raja Feather Kelly (Modern fusion)
- Teena Marie Custer (Hip hop, Breaking, Vogue)

### **Intensives/Festivals**

- BMCA Annual Conferences, 17-20
- Somatic Training for the Performer with Wendell Beaver and Erika Berland, Boulder, Colorado 5/16
- American College Dance Association Conference, Greeley, Colorado 03/15
- American College Dance Festival, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania 03/04
- Jazz Dance World Congress, Buffalo, New York 2003 and Chicago, Illinois 2007
- Break the Floor (Gil Stroming, Brenda Bufalino and others), New York, New York 01/02

### **Artist Residencies at SUNY Buffalo, 08/00- 05/04**

- American Ballet Theatre
- Doug Varone
- Eager Artists of South Africa (Gum boot)
- Philadanco
- Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago
- Bill T. Jones
- Jose Limon Dance Company
- Denise Vale of the Martha Graham Company
- Robert Reed (Tap)
- Roberto Villanueva (Modern)

### **MASTER CLASSES**

#### **Boulder/Denver, Colorado 04/16-12/16**

- Katie Elliot/3<sup>rd</sup> Law (Modern)
- Chester A Whitmore (American Vernacular Dance)
- Cindy Brandle/Cindy Brandle Dance Company (Modern)

#### **University of Colorado, Boulder, 08/13- 04/14**

- Rennie Harris (House)
- Teena Marie Custer (Hip hop, Breaking, Vogue)
- MOMIX (Improvisation)
- GAGA

#### **Arcata, California, 09/10**

- Sarah Reich and Melinda Sullivan (Tap)

### **CHOREOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE**

**LIFE IN MOTION FILM FEST**, Lakewood, Colorado 2022

**BMCA 35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE**, Denison University 2022

**ACDA Northwest Regional Conference Screen Dance Showing**, University of Oregon 2022  
 "Terra: Oh, the Places..."

- Screen Dance Solo tap piece of varying lengths exploring the surfaces and places where tap is not usually seen
- Iteration, facilitated by Covid-19 restrictions, of a larger collaborative project with Matthew Schlieff, *Terra*, that is inspired by utilizing bone-conduction headphones, sound design, and live, site-specific tap dance

- Collaboration with Matthew Schlieff as co-director/editor and original composition creation with Jesse Manno

**COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY**, Grand Junction, Colorado 08/17- Present

**Fall and Spring Faculty Dance Concerts**

“Finding My Joy” *Finding Joy: Spring Dance Concert 2022*

- Solo with featured ensemble work 14.5 minutes that utilizes multiple genres of dance, including contemporary/modern, theatrical jazz, hip hop, and house dance to explore toxic relationships and the exhaustive process one goes through to come to terms, carry on, and decide the way forward

“A Story of Us” *Time to Connect: Fall Dance Concert 2021*

- Mirrored duets 13.5 minutes celebrating the unique language and relationship couples develop over the course of time

“Terra: Oh, the Places...” *Shifting Focus: Spring Dance Concert 2021*

- Screen Dance Solo tap piece, originally 14 minutes, exploring the surfaces and places where tap is not usually seen
- Iteration, facilitated by Covid-19 restrictions, of a larger collaborative project with Matthew Schlieff, *Terra*, that is inspired by utilizing bone-conduction headphones, sound design, and live, site-specific tap dance
- Collaboration with Matthew Schlieff as co-director/editor and original composition creation with Jesse Manno

“Existing but not seen” *Embracing the Shadow: Fall Dance Concert 2020*

- Group piece, 12 minutes featuring multiple genres of music, including blues/R&B/roots, heavy metal, and classical
- Made in response to personal and societal experiences of voice suppression, grief, anger, numbness, cycles of oppression, and the effort to continue
- Costume hood designed in collaboration with Jill Van Brussel

“A way, too.” *Discovering Me: Fall Dance Concert 2019, ACDA Northwest Conference Spring 2020*

- Group piece, 12 minutes featuring multiple genres of dance and original art inspired by each section of the piece
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Collaboration with local mural and graffiti artist Blaine Bell. Choreography and movement inspired the creation of each piece unlike the collaboration for “The sketch & The detail” in which the Bell’s art inspired the choreography and structure
- Re-staged as a quartet for adjudication at ACDA Northwest Conference featuring projection of the original art created

“In the moment” *Discovering Me: Fall Dance Concert 2019*

- Solo Improvisation where the music was chosen by chance procedures by sound engineer as the lights came up on the performer
- Focused on demonstrating vulnerability, staying present and representing an embodiment of the music and the performer in that moment

“Coalesce” *Means: Spring Dance Concert 2019*

- Group piece, featuring multiple genres of dance focusing on the question “How do a choreographer and dancers come together to find the connection between and within the self, other, and individuality as a shared common?”

- Exploration of re-working and re-imagining movement that existed in the memory of previous solo work into a new collective memory and history

“The sketch & The details” *Ends: Fall Dance Concert* 2018

- Group piece, 10 minutes utilizing vocabulary from house dance, breaking, and social hip hop party dances and featured the original artwork of Blaine Bell
- 1<sup>st</sup> Collaboration with local mural and graffiti artist Blaine Bell, whose creation process inspired the choreography and structure of the piece. Featured a time lapse video of the original artwork created for the piece at the beginning and the artwork itself as the piece progressed
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“#metoo” Spring Dance Concert 2018, ACDA Northwest Regional Conference Gala Concert 2019

- Group tap piece set to original poetry with adult themes centered around a personal story related to the #metoo movement
- Collaboration with poetry, spoken word, and performing local artist Carrington Schaeffer
- Re-cast and staged for ACDA Northwest Regional Conference

“Between” Spring Dance Concert 2018, ACDA Northwest Regional Conference 2018

- Quartet modern piece collaboration co-choreographed with Meredith Lyons that was a re-working and re-imagining of movement from duet “Between Two”

“Go. Set. Ready” Fall Dance Concert 2017

- Group piece inspired by principles and ideas of the organ systems within Body-Mind Centering®

“Between Two” Fall Dance Concert 2017

- Duet collaboration co-choreographed and performed with Meredith Lyons

**COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY**, Grand Junction, Colorado 01/18- Present

**Music Theatre, Theatre and Music Productions**

*SpongeBob the Musical*, Director Mo LaMee 3/22

*Cabaret*, Director Jessica Jackson 2/21

*Dido and Aeneas*, Opera Directed by Graham Anduri 11/20

*Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*, Director Jeremy Franklin 09/20

*Fiddler on the Roof*, Director Mo LaMee 02/20

*Pride & Prejudice*, Director Jill Van Brussel 10/19

*First Date*. Director Ben Reigel 09/19

*Reefer Madness*, Director Jeremy Franklin 02/19

Vocal Arts Ensemble’s *Holiday Choir Concert*, “Noelle” Music Department, Director Adam Kluck 12/18

*Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Director Ben Reigel 02/18

**RIVER OF ANGELS**, Grand Junction, Colorado 08/19

“Bow”

- Solo tap dance that led into full company choreographed bow as part of a show featuring dance, film, live music, and community focused on celebrating the beauty and sustainability of local rivers

**ALMA COLLEGE**, Alma, Michigan 10/18

“The sketch & The detail”

- Group piece, 10 minute piece inspired by the process of graffiti artist creating their work from the initial sketch to filling in the details, utilizing vocabulary from house dance, breaking, and social hip hop party dances and featuring video projection of train graffiti from various artists

**CoDEO (Colorado Dance Educators Organization), Denver, Colorado, 9/17**  
 “Believer”

- Group tap piece, 4 minutes set on diverse high school students from around Colorado as part of the culminating performance at the annual CoDEO Conference

**FIELDWORK, Boulder, Colorado**  
 “Sedimenting and Eroding” 10/16

- Solo work, 7 minute piece inspired by the organ systems of Body-Mind Centering, sedimentation and erosion of rock formations, and the process of untangling the effects of a long term relationship

**ATHENA PROJECT’S EVENING OF DANCE, Armstrong Center for Dance, Denver- Black Box**

“Giving Voice to the Thing” 03/16

- Solo tap work, 8 minute piece inspired by the process of writing my thesis paper set to music by Mustafa

**MFA THESIS CONCERT, University of Colorado, Boulder- Irey Theatre**  
 Show Title *un | covering me* Piece titled “Re-membering Me” 11/15

- Work created for 5 dancers that included solo, duet, quartet, and quintet sections, 32 minute piece to music by Lykke Li and original compositions by Jesse Manno based on interrogating personal and social identity constructions
- Choreography utilized an unconventional set-up of the space, including a never-before used wall and balcony space, gesture, contemporary vocabulary, tap, and rolling chairs to take the dancers and audience members on a journey of exploration
- Close collaboration with musician Jesse Mano to create original music that supported and challenged the choreography

**OPEN SPACE (A student adjudicated performance), University of Colorado, Boulder- Irey Theatre**

“One Up, Two Down” 03/15

- Duet collaboration with aerial dance artist Sonya Smith that blended tap and aerial bungee dance that explored the sometimes comical relationship of rhythm, human connection, tap and bungee

**FRESH (A Student produced concert), University of Colorado, Boulder- Irey Theatre**  
 “Reclaiming it” 04/14

- Solo work (modern/contemporary fusion), 6 minute piece to music by Fear Factory based on re-discovering and re-claiming one’s power, anger, sensuality, and sexuality to embrace the whole self
- Restaged and performed at “Sexpressions,” a talent showcase at the University Memorial Center as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month

“Prim” 12/13

- Trio and solo work (modern/improvisation/contemporary fusion), 12 minute piece in three sections inspired by the poetry of Chelsea Manning with the music of Beethoven exploring how the roles of aggressor and victim can live in the same body
- Collaboration with poetry student on projection and sound score

**SUNY BUFFALO ALUMNI GALA “BACK TO BUFFALO”,** Buffalo, New York  
 “The Road Taken” 10/10

- Solo work (Jump Rhythm Jazz/modern fusion), 5 minute piece to music by Ingrid Michelson, inspired by the poetry of Robert Frost based on the struggle to find one’s own path in life

**DANCE INK DAY** (A fundraising concert for a local arts organization), Arcata, California  
 “The Road Taken”

- Remounting of solo work 05/12
- Addition of 4 dancer group section 05/13, 6 minute section to music by Of Monsters and Men that precedes solo and establishes the status quo path

**HUMBOLDT COUNTY ARTS FESTIVAL,** Arcata, California  
 “Cosmic Love” 07/12

- Solo work (jazz/modern fusion), 3 minute piece to music by Florence and the Machine

## PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

**FINDING JOY: SPRING DANCE CONCERT,** Grand Junction, Colorado  
**Featured Soloist** within “Finding My Joy” at Faculty Dance Concert 4/22

**DISCOVERING ME: FALL DANCE CONCERT,** Grand Junction, Colorado  
**Solo Improviser** within Faculty Dance Concert of “In the moment” a fully improvised piece where the music was decided by chance the moment the lights came up on stage 11/19

**BMCA 34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE: SELF AND OTHER,** Santa Barbara, California  
**Solo Performer** of “Connection WITHIN individuality” original tap and modern dance excerpts created by students and professional choreographers including Bailey Anderson, Olivia Crochet, Carly MaKenna, Q McElroy, Georgie Reigel, and Sonya Smith 08/19

**RIVER OF ANGELS,** Grand Junction, Colorado  
**Collaborator, Solo Tap Performer and Performer** in self choreographed solo work and work by Georgie Reigel focused on celebrating community and the beauty and sustainability of local rivers 08/19

**TINY + SHORT DANCE SERIES,** Grand Junction, Colorado  
**Solo Tap Performer** in Omnia Gallery performance featuring poetry and live dance performances 09/18

**NATIONAL WATER DANCE DAY,** Grand Junction, Colorado  
**Performer and Improviser** in site specific work at Colorado River under direction of Laura Bradley 04/18

**LEFT,** Grand Junction, Colorado  
**Improviser and Performer** in 20-minute dance improvisation and fabric installation 10/17

**FALL DANCE CONCERT,** Grand Junction, Colorado

**Performer** within Faculty Dance Concert in duet “Between Two” co- choreographed and performed with Meredith Lyons 11/17

**D.A.M ENTERTAINMENT- DANCE. ART. MEDIA.,** Boulder and Greater Denver Area, Colorado

**Collaborator, Performer, and Dance Captain** in Halloween/*Thriller* themed and Holiday/Rockette style outdoor performances 10/16-12/16

**A LIMINAL SPACE “S.O.U.P”**, Boulder, Colorado

**Collaborator, Performer, and Music Editor** in transdisciplinary collaboration between Rosely Conz and Ana Baer featuring Bailey Anderson, Benzin, and Conz in ATLAS Black Box

**THE CURRENT**, Boulder, Colorado

**Performer** in Faculty work by Erika Randall, Donna Meija, and Larry Southall in the University Theatre 04/16

**MFA THESIS CONCERT: “UN | COVERING ME”**, Boulder, Colorado

**Performer and Choreographer** for Act 1 “Re-membering me”

**Performer** in Act II “Eat me” with Choreography by Samantha Salters in Irey Theatre 11/15

**SYMPHONIC BAND & WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT**, Boulder, Colorado

**Performer and Dance Captain** in collaboration between dance department and CU Boulder Symphonic Band at Macky Auditorium 09/15

**THE CURRENT**, Boulder, Colorado

**Performer and Choreographer** in Faculty and Guest Artist work by Gesel Mason, Tim O’Donnell, and Nada Diachenko in the Irey Theater 04/15

**AMERICAN COLLEGE DANCE ASSOCIATION GALA PERFORMANCE**, Greeley Colorado

**Performer** in “Lec Dem or How Do You Spell Femaphobic?” by Gesel Mason 03/15

**MFA THESIS CONCERT: “TUNE”**, Boulder, Colorado

**Performer and Improviser** in work by Erinn Liebhard at a downtown bar/music venue 01/15

**MFA THESIS CONCERT: “THE D.A.M. SHOW”**, Boulder, Colorado

**Performer and Choreographer** of tap section within a production by Jessica Page in Irey Theatre 10/14

**SEXPRESSIONS**, Boulder, Colorado

**Performer** in talent showcase celebrating a positive expression of female sexuality as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month 04/15

**OPEN SPACE**, Boulder, Colorado

**Choreographer and Performer** in Student Adjudicated performance in the Irey Theater 03/15

**UNBUNTU AFRICAN DANCE FESTIVAL**, Boulder, Colorado

**Performer** in Ghanaian dance Agebekor choreographed by Nii Armah Sowah 04/14

**JOHN SCOTT**, Boulder, Colorado

**Performer** in advanced modern dance “[U.N.W.R.A.P]” 09/14

**JUMP RHYTHM JAZZ PROJECT**, Chicago, Illinois

**Emmy-Award-Winning Senior Company Member** 08/05- 08/12

**Performing Artist** 08/12- 08/13

- Full Company Performances and Appearances across the country and internationally
- 2006-2007 Chicago/Midwest Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement for Individual Excellence on Camera for performance in the HMS Media documentary *Jump Rhythm Jazz Project: Getting There*

**DANCE INK DAY**, Arcata, California

**Guest Performer** in concert benefiting the local non-profit dance and arts organization 05/12

**DANCE CHICAGO**, Chicago, Illinois

**Tap Performer** with choreographer Glenn Leslie 10/08-11/08

**VISSI DANCE THEATRE**, New York City, New York

**Performer** “Amazing Grace” Director/Choreographer Courtney Ffrench 01/05- 07/05

**PERIDANCE CENTER**, New York City, New York

**Performer** in Faculty concert with modern choreographer Brandon Ellis 02/05