

Veronica L. DeWitt

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Education

University of Oregon, 2003-2007. B.A. in Dance, minor in Business Administration. College Education: Studied with Jenifer Craig, Steven Chatfield, Rita Honka, Walter Kennedy, and Susan Zadoff. Undergraduate classes included modern and ballet technique, kinesiology/somatics, dance history, composition, and music fundamentals (taught by Christian Cherry). Worked with guest Artists such as Gabe Mason, Mary Oslund, and Linda K. Johnson.

Klein Technique workshops in Ashland, OR at Dancing People Company's 310 Studio with Barbara Mahler (NYC)

SUMAC (Systems for Understanding Movement And Choreography) workshop with Susan Marshall & Company in NYC, 2010.

Performance Experience

Vitamin D (2015-current)

Co-directed with Jana Meszaros, this collaborative modeled dance company has created work and performed around Oregon (Eugene, Ashland, Curry County, Breitenbush Hot Springs) as well as Austin, Tx. Giving communities their daily dose of dance through classes, workshops, lecture/demonstrations, and informal to formal performances is the goal of this budding company.

Dancing People Company (2007-2015)

As a member of DPC, dancers perform approximately 30 times a year, ranging from site specific events to fully produced theatre performances. In addition to performing, the company is involved with educational outreach around the Rogue Valley through a residency program where the company goes into area high schools for two weeks to reach classes, set work on students, and perform. The director, Robin Stiehm, pushes her dancers to be technically skilled, have a depth of somatic knowledge, and find authenticity of expression.

Curtain Climbers Aerial Dance Company (2010-current)

Working on a variety of equipment but specializing in single point trapeze and fabric, I choreographed solos for first two years with the company and performed on average once to twice a month. In the last three years, I took on more responsibilities as a choreographer creating group pieces. Most notable are the performances I choreographed

for 2013/2014 Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Green Show series where the theme and choreography of group works and solos paralleled the plot and characters of a show running that season (*Midsummers Night's Dream, As you Like It*).

DanceAbility / Joint Forces Dance Company (2015-current)

Under the direction of Alito Alessi, Joint Forces takes the work of DanceAbility into choreography for stages all over the world. I think best described as, "the art of being together", DanceAbility aims to create inclusion through dance by using movement improvisation scores accessible for every 'body' to speak a common language. I connected with Alito at the 34th annual Breitenbush Contact Improvisation Jam, and have since completed the teacher training certification in Austin, TX as well as performed with the company at several venues in Eugene including the Hult Center and Oregon Country Fair.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival Greenshow (summers 2008-2015)

Outdoor venue in the center of OSF campus, I regularly performed dance with Dancing People Company and aerial with Curtain Climbers Aerial Dance Company two times a year for audiences of 300+ people.

Open Look International Dance Festival (2012)

Dancing People Company presented three dances at this international dance festival held annually in St. Petersburg, Russia: "Grassfire", "Obstacles to Perfection", and "Threshold". I performed in all three; one role was a 7 minute solo.

Nutshell Mask and Theatre (2009-current)

Carnival of the Animals (2008): Performed duo act with Jamie Peck using handcrafted large masks and movement. I was featured in role of "Elephant", an extremely large mask harnessed onto a backpack and weighs about 50 lbs. When available, the show is accompanied by a symphony performing music of Camille St. Sean. Collaborations include The Rogue Valley Symphony and The Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic Symphony (2010).

University of Oregon Repertory Dance Company (2007)

Spring Repertory Tour (Eugene, Astoria, Cottage Grove, Medford, Bend, 2007). Company visited schools in each community and performed following each residency. Diane Markham was commissioned and set *Love Song Variations* on the company for the '07 touring season.

University of Oregon Faculty Dance Concert (2004-2007)

Annual dance concert featuring choreography by dance department faculty. Performed in works by Jenifer Craig (2004), Walter Kennedy (2005/2006), and Steven Chatfield (2007).

Choreographic Experience

Curtain Climbers Aerial Dance Company (2010-current)

See performance experience above.

Winter solstice performance “Call Back the Sun” (2009-2014)

Each year I choreograph at least two works on the students of DPC’s dance school. I have made pieces for a variety of levels and skills including kids, adults, seniors, trapeze and silks.

Senior Project (2007):

Solo choreography project ending with performance featuring live recitation of Pablo Neruda’s *Oda al Aire* as sound score. Choreography investigated emotional context created through the dynamics of movement.

Teaching Experience

I have been teaching a variety of levels and classes professionally since 2007. These levels vary from 5 year olds to adult beginners. Classes include:

Beginning/Intermediate Modern or Contemporary technique

Hip Hop I/II

Funky Jazz

Aerial Trapeze

Aerial Silks

Improvisation

Composition

Concepts in my teaching come from the search for alignment, connectivity, dynamic range/quality, and health.

Certified DanceAbility Teacher, Austin TX 2015

Awards

Outstanding dance major (Spring 2007)

Awarded by Brad Foley, Dean of School of Music and Dance, in recognition of exceptional work and dedication.

Glenn P. Davis Scholarship for emerging aerial choreographers (Summer 2015)

\$1,000 to attend two weeks of aerial workshops, network with other aerialists from around the world, and see cutting edge performances as well as have dialog about presentations. One scholarship awarded per year.

Other Artistic Skills

- >Contact Improvisation
- >Site-specific works including parades, parks, a sculpture garden, courtyards, and other moments of dance created in the moment with the environment.
- >"Go-Go" dancing for various private and public events, i.e Ambiance
- >Musician (2006-current), Solo acoustic songwriting and performance.
- >Lost Maven (music project), Bass, guitar, vocals, songwriting.
- Organik Time Machine (electronic music project): vocals, bass guitar, synth bass

References

Previous

Employer: Robin Stiehm, Dancing People Company
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