

Jessica Thomas

469-479-6099

jessflowingstill@gmail.com

jessdanceartist.com

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

- 2022 *MFA, Choreography, Wilson College*
Concentrations: Choreography, Interdisciplinary Arts
Thesis: *Conscious Listening Through the Lens of the Dancing Body*
Thesis Advisors: Joshua Legg, MFA, Megan Mizanty, MFA, Eileen Standley, MFA
- 2008 *BFA, Dance, University of North Texas *specificity upon request*

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- In progress Skinner Releasing Technique, SRT Network
2016-2017 Massage Therapy, Cortiva Institute
2011-2012 Yoga (500 hr), Dallas Yoga Center

RELEVANT SKILLS

musician (violin, piano, voice), poetry, sound design, videography

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Dance Studies Association
- Dance & Child International
- Dance Science and Somatics Educators
- American Massage Therapy Association
- Sammons Center for the Arts (focus group member)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Artist

- 2023-present *Assistant Professor of Dance, Tenure-Track*
Stephen F. Austin State University (TX)
- teach modern technique, ballet technique, jazz technique, dance improvisation, somatic practices/dance conditioning, dance appreciation, choreography II (dance film), and independent studies
 - choreograph group work on SFA Repertory Dance Company
 - mentor students with individualized honors projects
 - help facilitate dance program auditions
- 2022-2023 *Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance*
Stephen F. Austin State University (TX)

- taught modern technique, ballet technique, jazz technique, dance improvisation, somatic practices/dance conditioning, dance appreciation, choreography II (dance film), and independent studies
- choreograph group work on SFA Repertory Dance Company
- mentor students with individualized honors projects
- serve on the SFA School of Theatre and Dance recruitment committee
- designed audition flyers for the dance program

2009-2020

Teaching Artist, Collaborative Lecturer, Creative Assistant, Performer

Contemporary Dance Fort Worth (TX)

- taught modern/postmodern techniques, dance improvisation, and yoga, interweaving concepts from somatics, experiential anatomy, integrated bodywork, Authentic Movement, and Skinner Releasing Technique
- provided participatory dance performance lectures that involved interdisciplinary explorations, intersecting dance, music, visual arts, and creative writing to the general public in museums and art galleries throughout the DFW Metroplex
- assisted artistic director with administrative tasks, including grant research, fundraising initiatives, strategic marketing, and community outreach

2016, 2019,
2020, 2021

Visiting Teaching Artist, Lecturer, Performer

University of North Texas (Denton)

- provided student-centered, somatic practice classes/lectures/workshops exploring embodied knowledge to a mixture of pre-professional dancers and varying university majors
- interweaved concepts from somatics, experiential anatomy, integrative bodywork, yoga, Qigong Shaking, and Skinner Releasing Technique

2009-2020

Teaching Artist, Collaborative Lecturer, Performer

Dance Delivered (Dallas/Fort Worth, TX)

- taught creative movement and modern dance classes
- provided participatory dance performance lectures to underserved communities to participants of all ages, abilities, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds in schools and community centers throughout the DFW Metroplex

2018-2020

Founder, Teaching Artist, Administrator

Dance & Discovery (Plano/Prosper, TX)

- provided somatically-centered creative dance in all-inclusive environments to childcare facilities and Montessori schools throughout Collin County
- designed student-centered, embodied curriculum for creative dance classes, nurturing each child's curiosity for movement and heightened body awareness
- performed all administrative tasks involving strategic marketing and outreach, bi-monthly newsletters to parents and schools, documentation of student enrollment and tuition

2019-2020

Teaching Artist, Administrative Assistant

Prosper Dance Theatre/Dance Arts (TX)

- taught pre-ballet, pre-tap, pre-professional ballet, pointe, and contemporary
- assisted in administrative duties, including strategic marketing, documenting class enrollments, and student tuition

2016-2020

Teaching Artist

White Rock Dance (Dallas/Fort Worth, TX)

- taught recreational creative movement, ballet, tap, and jazz

- 2016-2018 *Teaching Artist*
The Kids Dance Company (Dallas/Fort Worth, TX)
- taught recreational creative movement, ballet, tap, and jazz
- 2016-2018 *Teaching Artist*
Sheena's Dance Academy (Frisco, TX)
- taught recreational creative movement, pre-tap, and pre-ballet
- 2016-2018 *Teaching Artist*
Frisco Dance Force/Prosper Dance Force (TX)
- taught recreational creative movement, pre-professional theatre, ballet, pointe, contemporary, and jazz
- 2011-2013 *Yoga Teacher*
Dallas Yoga Center (TX)
- provided somatic and yin yoga classes
- 2008-2013 *Teaching Artist*
The Colony Dance Studio (TX)
- taught recreational creative movement, pre-ballet, pre-tap, somatic yoga, conditioning for dancers, adult modern/contemporary, pre-professional ballet, and pointe

Masterclasses/Residencies

- 2023 *Guest Teaching Artist (representing Stephen F. Austin State University)*
Sam Houston State University (TX)
- taught modern technique, dance improvisation, and somatic yoga classes during annual ACDA festival
- 2022 *Guest Teaching Artist*
I.M. Terrell High School for STEM and Visual Performing Arts (Fort Worth, TX)
- taught dance improvisation workshop for intermediate/advanced dance students
- 2011-2019 *Guest Collaborative Lecturer*
Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth (TX)
- provided participatory modern dance performance lectures as requested by the museum
- 2011-2018 *Guest Collaborative Lecturer*
Kimble Art Museum (Fort Worth, TX)
- provided participatory modern dance performance lectures as requested by the museum
- 2012, 2015 *Wellness Educator*
Fort Worth ISD Physical Education/Professional Development Training (TX)
- taught somatic yoga classes for annual enrichment workshop for high school physical education teachers in the FWISD metroplex
- 2014 *Guest Teaching Artist*
Texas Ballet Theatre (Fort Worth, TX)
- taught two, three-hour somatic yoga workshops for pre-professional and professional dancers
- 2014 *Guest Teaching Artist*

Arts Fifth Avenue (Fort Worth, TX)

- taught pre-professional modern dance classes during week-long dance intensive

2013 *Guest Teaching Artist, Collaborative Lecturer*
Fort Worth Community Arts Center (TX)

- taught somatic dance and provided interdisciplinary collaboration activities during three-day FWISD arts educator enrichment workshop

2012-2013 *Guest Collaborative Lecturer*
Dallas Museum of Art (TX)

- provided participatory modern dance performance lectures as requested by the museum

2011 *Guest Teaching Artist*
Dance & Child International (Denton, TX)

- taught creative movement classes during week-long dance workshop

CHOREOGRAPHY/PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Independent Choreography Premieres

2023 *Estrela é Lua Nova*, two dancers, composer: Heitor Villa-Lobos, choir conductor: Michael Murphy, vocalists: SFASU A Cappella choir
Sub(liminal) Hues, seven dancers, music textures: Michael Wall, sound design/poetry: Jessica Thomas, spoken word: Jessica Thomas and dancers, interpretive visual art: all dancers
Underdeck (Variation 1): Projection Installation, one dancer, sound design/projection: Jessica Thomas

2022 *Lean In*, one dancer, composer: Michael Wall and Jessica Thomas, poetry: David Bacon
Variation Dialogues: Interactive Projection/Media Installation, sound design and projection/media installation: Jessica Thomas
Vortex 360, one dancer, sound design/virtual reality videography: Jessica Thomas
Vortex Variations (1-3), one dancer, sound design/videography: Jessica Thomas
Workshop 360, one dancer, sound design/virtual reality videography: Jessica Thomas
Workshop Variations (1-3), one dancer, sound design/videography/projections: Jessica Thomas
Stairwell 360, one dancer, sound design/virtual reality videography: Jessica Thomas
Stairwell Variations (1-3), one dancer, sound design/videography/projections: Jessica Thomas
Underdeck 360, one dancer, sound design/virtual reality videography: Jessica Thomas
Underdeck Variations (1-3), one dancer, sound design/videography/projections: Jessica Thomas

2021 *Light Dances*, one dancer, sound design/videography: Jessica Thomas
Synergy Dances, one dancer, sound design/videography: Jessica Thomas
Illuminight, one dancer, sound design/videography: Jessica Thomas, poetry: David Bacon
Beneath the Noise (Truth Beckons Unabating), one dancer, sound design: Jessica Thomas
Moon Butter Memory, one dancer, sound design/videography/projection/poetry: Jessica Thomas
What You Want This To Be, one dancer, sound design/videography: Jessica Thomas

2020 *In Memoriam*, one dancer, sound design/videography: Jessica Thomas
Roofers' Ethnography, one dancer, sound design/videography/spoken word: Jessica Thomas
Dark Dances, one dancer, sound design/videography: Jessica Thomas

2019 *Heima (Mourning)*, one dancer, composer: Texas New Music Ensemble

Heima (Silence), one dancer, performed in silence
Chance Divided by 2 (Part 1 & 2), one dancer, composer: David Bacon
Glow, one dancer, composer: Nils Frahm
Feminine Flame, one dancer, composer: Shakti, poetry: Jessica Thomas
Dance with Chance (theatrical version), one dancer, composer: David Bacon
Traces of Motion #1, one dancer, videography: Jessica Thomas, performed in silence

2018
Trinity, one dancer, composer: Daniel Katsuk
Dying for Harmonium, one dancer, composer: John Hopkins

2015
Untitled, two dancers, composer: Zoe Keating
Untitled, eleven dancers, composer: Brian Setzer Band

2013
Beyond Breathing. The Uncreated. The Unknown., one dancer, composer: Sigur Ros
Heima Variations (ongoing), one dancer, performed in silence
Green Ivory, one dancer, composer: Craig Duncan

2012
Always Gives You Water, one dancer, composer: Sigur Ros
(U)niverse, one dancer, composer: Jonsi & Alex
Untitled, six dancers, composer: Ludwig van Beethoven

2011
U Knows, one dancer, composer: Jonsi & Alex
Untitled, five dancers, composer: Jonsi & Alex
Untitled, six dancers, composer: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

2010
seenunseen, one dancer
Untitled, five dancers, composer: E. S. Posthumus

Collaborative Company Choreography Premieres

2023
Contemporary Dance Fort Worth
Actions and Elegies for Robert Motherwell, 13 dancers, composers: John Hopkins, Doug Ferguson, William Meadows, Brittany Padilla

2019
Contemporary Dance Fort Worth
Accidental Archipelago, two dancers, performed in silence
The Annihilation of Time and Space – Version 1, six dancers, performed with four metronomes
Group Structures, six dancers, composer: James Talambas
Trio Dialogues, three dancers, composer: Texas New Music Ensemble

2018
Contemporary Dance Fort Worth
Murakami Mezza, seven dancers, composer: John Hopkins

2016
Contemporary Dance Fort Worth
ConStellaTions: Cosmos to Chaos, eight dancers, composer: John Hopkins, Allen Austin, and Bob Mansfield
Shapes Dance, five dancers, composer: John Hopkins

2015
Contemporary Dance Fort Worth
Dance Unplugged, seven dancers, composer: John Hopkins and Austin Patton
Stomping Out: Abridged History of Modern Dance, seven dancers, composer: Bee Gees

2014
Contemporary Dance Fort Worth

Sky Descending: Dancing Between Two Buildings, seven dancers, composer: John Hopkins and Brittany Padilla
Some Assembly Required, five dancers, composer: Austin Patton
Live Bates: Structured Improvisations, four dancers, performed in silence
Sculpture Dance/Garden, seven dancers, composer: Westin Portillo

- 2013 **Contemporary Dance Fort Worth**
Chagall: Beyond Color, five dancers, composer: Austin Patton
Sculpture Dance/North Park, seven dancers, composer: Austin Patton and Jon David Johnston
- 2012 **Contemporary Dance Fort Worth**
Freudian Slips and Silent Screams, seven dancers, performed in silence
Irresistible Forces, five dancers, performed in silence
- Satellite Dance Collective**
Shade, three dancers, set and projection design: Scott Martin
- 2011 **Contemporary Dance Fort Worth**
I Am uAre, five dancers, composer: Sarah Donaldson
- Satellite Dance Collective**
Phoenix, three dancers
- 2010 **Contemporary Dance Fort Worth**
The Butterfly Effect and Other Beautiful Catastrophes, seven dancers, composer: William H. Meadows
Irresistible Forces: A "Happening" in Honor of Mother Nature, seven dancers, performed in silence
A Muse Was Here: musing for the theatre, nine dancers, composer: Layne Redmond
3 B's and a C, seven dancers, composer: Johann Sebastian Bach, Johannes Brahms, Ludwig van Beethoven, George Clinton
- Muscle Memory Dance Theatre**
Untitled, nine dancers
- 2009 **Contemporary Dance Fort Worth**
A MUSE Was Here: musing on artistic inspiration in the MUSEum, nine dancers, composer: Layne Redmond
Shadow Dancing, seven dancers, composer: Justin Eves
Paper Bags and Bare Feet: art is play when the ordinary meets the imaginary, five dancers
Random Acts of Dance, eight dancers, performed in silence
Shut Up and Dance!, seven dancers, composer: Sloan Automatic
A Jazzy Christmas, seven dancers, composer: Adonis Rose, Fort Worth Jazz Orchestra, and Duke Ellington
- Muscle Memory Dance Theatre**
Untitled, seven dancers
- Satellite Dance Collective**
The Eclipse Project Part 1, two dancers
Untitled, two dancers

Performances of Choreographer/Company Premieres

- 2020 **Claudia Porcasitas**
ReImagine Self, three dancers, composer: Andrew DiRemiggio Stoltz and Michael Wall
- 2016 **Gus Solomons Jr.**
Steps 13: Thirteens/restaging, six dancers, composer: Jalalu-Kalvert Nelson

- 2015 **Kerry Kreiman**
Caravan of Screams, 3 dancers, composer: Halloween Compilation
- 2012 **Kerry Kreiman**
Organized Dances, seven dancers, composer: Brave Combo
Currents, five dancers, composer: Johann Sebastian Bach
Claudia Porcasitas
The Human Season, seven dancers, composer: Anna Phoebe
Courtney Mulcahy
Kakudo, five dancers, composer: Jon David Johnston
- 2011 **Kerry Kreiman**
Winter Night, five dancers, composer: William Meadows
Claudia Porcasitas
Madre Luna, two dancers, composer: Mecano
Sarah Newton
after dusk, before dawn, six dancers, composer: Van Eric Martin
Untitled, six dancers
- 2010 **Kerry Kreiman**
Terminus, seven dancers, composer: William Meadows
Something To Crow About: A Dance Suite, seven dancers, composer: Leeann Atherton
Colin Connor
Instincts, eleven dancers
Elizabeth Gillaspay
New Best Friend/restaging, two dancers
Kihyoung Choi
Please Stop Being Nice!, two dancers, composer: Meredith Monk and Byoung Lee
Lori Sundeen Soderbergh
As Seen on TV, one dancer
Questions (Blowin' in the Wind), one dancer, composer: Bob Dylan
Claudia Porcasitas
Chao, one dancer, composer: Meredith Monk
Backhaus Dance Company
Untitled, thirteen dancers
- 2009 **Kerry Kreiman**
Stand Next To You, two dancers, composer: Sloan Automatic
Lori Sundeen Soderbergh
Dance Painting, three dancers
- 2008 **Brenna Monroe-Cook**
Jose Limon's *Psalm*/restaging, thirteen dancers, composer: Jon Magnussen
Shelley Cushman
En I Me, fourteen dancers, composer: Jesse Coulter

INTENSIVES/WORKSHOPS PARTICIPATED IN

Bartenieff Fundamentals (PA), 2022, Kristen Chun/Alexander Technique (PA), 2021, Out on a Limb Dance Company (TX), 2013, 2015, 2017, Brazos Dance Collective (TX), 2012, 2014, Dallas Black Dance Theatre (TX), 2012, Brenna Monroe-Cook (CA), 2008, 2010, Colin Connor (CA), 2010, 2011, Risa Steinberg (CA), 2011, Bill Evans Somatic Dance (TX), 2009, 2011, 2014, Backhaus Dance Company (CA), 2009, 2010, Merce Cunningham Dance Company (NY), 2008, 2009, Alvin Ailey Dance Company (NY), 2005, 2008, 2010, Jose Limon Dance Company (NY), 2008, 2009, 2010, Dance New Amsterdam (NY), 2004, 2005, 2008, 2009, Peridance Center (NY), 2004, 2005, 2008, 2009, Carla Maxwell (NY), 2008, Andy Noble (TX), 2008

AWARDS & HONORS

Evans Somatic Dance Institute Scholarship recipient, 2015
José Limón Intensive Scholarship recipient, 2010
Backhaus Dance Intensive Scholarship recipient, 2009
Lucille Murchison Dance Scholarship recipient, 2004
Chi Tau Epsilon: Dance Honor Society, 2004-2008

REFERENCES

Joshua Legg

joshua.legg@wilson.edu
Wilson College
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & MFA Program Director
717-264-2781

Kerry Kreiman

cdfw@cdfw.org
Contemporary Dance Fort Worth
Executive/Artistic Director
817-401-1671

Lori Sundeen Soderbergh

lsundeensoderbergh@gmail.com
Over the Bridge Arts
Executive/Artistic Director
817-937-6846