**Rainy Demerson**

**Enidville, Ellis Land**

**Fitts Village, St. James**

[**rainydemerson@yahoo.com**](mailto:rainydemerson@yahoo.com)

**PhD Critical Dance Studies 2020 UC Riverside**

**MFA Dance 2016 Hollins University** **MA Dance Education 2012 New York University** **BA World Arts & Cultures/Dance 2002 University of California, Los Angeles**

**PUBLICATIONS**

Demerson, Rainy. “¡Viva el Juego! Play in Latin American Performance Art.” In *Play and*

*Democracy*, edited by Alice Koubová, Malcolm MacLean, Wendy Russell, & Petr Urban. London, UK: Routledge, 2021.

Demerson, Rainy. “Black Privilege in the Black Box: Mamela Nyamza’s Choreographic

Resistance.” *Critical Stages/Scènes Critiques* June 2021, no. 23 (June 16, 2021).

<https://www.critical-stages.org/23/black-privilege-in-the-black-box-mamela-nyamzas-choreographic-resistance/>.

Demerson, Rainy. “White Shadows on Contemporary African Performance.” *Performance*

*Research* 25, no. 6 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1080/13528165.2020.1909948>.

Demerson, Rainy. “Awareness Through Movement® as Critical Pedagogy in Ballet.” *Research*

*in Dance and Physical Education* 4, no. 3 (2020): 19–31.

Demerson, Rainy. “Sensing the Stage: Decolonial Readings of African Contemporary Dance.” In

*African Somaesthetics: Cultures, Feminisms, Politics*, edited by Catherine Botha, Vol. 3.

Studies in Somaesthetics. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, 2020.

Demerson, Rainy. “Teaching Dances of the African Diaspora: An Emancipatory and

Intercultural Approach.” In *Perspectives on Dance Fusion in the Caribbean and Dance*

*Sustainability*, edited by N. Torres, A. Cairo, L. Donelly, S. Crawford-Shepherd, and N. Metzger. Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019.

Demerson, Rainy. “Beginner’s Mind: Applying the Zen Practice of ‘Soshin’ to Best Practices in Dance Education.” *Journal of Dance Education* 13, no. 3 (2013): 99–102.

Demerson, Rainy. “Teaching Dances of the African Diaspora: An Emancipatory Intercultural Approach.” *Journal of Emerging Dance Scholarship* 1 (2013): 1–26.

**Editorial and Advisory Board Service**

2021 *Latin American Research Review*

2020 - present *Journal of Dance Education*, Taylor & Francis

2020 – present *Dance Articulated*, NTNU Open Access Journals

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE: HIGHER EDUCATION**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2020 - present | Lecturer The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Barbados | Dance Technique, Dance Ensemble, Dance Pedagogy, Choreography, Choreography Studio, Africana Dances 2, Improvisation, Global Dance Histories |
| 8/2019 – present 6 units | Lecturer Cal State University San Marcos San Marcos, CA | Cultures in Motion, Learning through Moving (studio/lecture hybrid courses) |
| 8/2017 – present 29 units | Lecturer Cal Poly Pomona University Pomona, CA | Cultural Performance Series: Afro Brazilian Dance (studio), World Dance and Cultures (lecture), History of Dance and Its Artistic and Cultural Influences (lecture) |
| 1/2017 - 5/2017 1/2019-5/2019 2 units | Visiting Lecturer Scripps College, Claremont, CA | Critical Perspectives on Dance: Race, Gender, and Sexuality (lec/seminar) |
| 8/2016 - 5/2017 6 units | Adjunct Instructor Crafton Hills College Yucaipa, CA | Dance History and Appreciation (lecture), Modern Dance I & II (studio) |
| 4/2016 - 3/2017 32 units | Teaching Assistant University of California Riverside Riverside, CA | Introduction to Dance (lecture), Dance in Cultures & Contexts (studio) |
| 08/2013 - 06/2015 60 units | Assistant Professor El Paso Community College  El Paso, TX | Beg, Int., Adv. Modern Dance, Jazz, Dance Performance, Dance Composition (studio), Dance Appreciation (hybrid) |
| 08/2012 - 05/2013 24 units | Adjunct Instructor Lindenwood University  St Charles, MO | Contemporary, Jazz, Brazilian Dance, Intro to Dance, Theory & Composition (studio), Dance as an Art (lecture) |

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE: FULL TIME K-12**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 03/2011 - 07/2012 | PS 231 Brooklyn, NY | Yoga for students with special needs |
| 09/2008 - 08/2011 | MS 267 Brooklyn, NY | Intercultural Dance, general and special education, choreography for student concerts |

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE: YOGA**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2013 | Urban Breath Yoga St Louis, MO | Vinyasa, Hatha, Total Beginner |
| 2012 | PS 231 Brooklyn, NY | Yoga for youth with Autism and Emotional Disturbance |
| 2006-2012 | Eastern Athletic Clubs New York, NY | ISHTA and Vinyasa |
| 2005 - 2008 | The Leadership Program New York, NY | Teen Yoga |
| 2005 - 2008 | Brooklyn Arts Council New York, NY | Yoga for Seniors |
| 2005 | Embora Embora Wellness & Movement New York, NY | ISHTA Yoga |

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE: RESIDENCIES, AFTER-SCHOOL & SUMMER**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 03/2008 - 5/2008 | Brooklyn Arts Council New York, NY | Youth Dance |
| 09/2008 - 11/2008 | Hospital Audiences New York, NY | Capoeira workshop for youth with autism |
| 01/2008 - 08/2012 | Eastern Athletic Club New York, NY | World Dance Workout & Ballet |
| 09/2008 - 6/2008 | St. Nicholas Foundation New York, NY | Youth Dance |
| 09/2005 – 07/2008 | The Leadership Program New York, NY | Youth Dance and Yoga |
| 10/2005 – 06/2005 | El Puente Leadership New York, NY | Youth Modern Dance |
| 09/2005 – 12/2005 | Phipps Community Development New York, NY | Youth Hip-Hop |
| 06/2004 - 08/2004 | Ariel Dance Productions San Jose, CA | Youth & Adult Modern Dance |
| 06/2004 – 08/2004 | Boys & Girls Club Palo Alto, CA | Creative Dance for Youth |

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

April, 2022 Decolonizing Tertiary Dance Education: Time to Act

Hosted online by University of the Arts Stockholm, Sweden and Makerere University, Uganda

*Keynote Panelist and presenter of Decolonizing Dance Curricula*

February, 2022 Collegium of African Diaspora Dance

Duke University, North Carolina and online

*World Making: African Mothers in Contemporary Dance*

November, 2021 African Studies Association Annual Meeting

Online

*Beyond Silos: The Transnational, Destabilizing Potential of Queer African Entanglements*

October, 2021 Never Stop: The Artistry of Self-Care and Creativity for Lifelong Embodied

Performance, a Feldenkrais® Awareness Summit! Feldenkrais Awareness Summit

Hosted online by Future Life Now

*Impacting the World*

October, 2021 Dance Studies Association conference: Galvanizing Dance Studies: Building Anti-Racist Praxis, Transformative Connections, and Movement(s) of Radical Care

Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey

*Re-membering: Mamela Nyamza and Queer Black South Africa*

June, 2021 Comité Colloque Lyon: Decentering Dance History

Lyon, France and Online

*Decentering the West: Decolonizing Dance Around the World*

February, 2020 Collegium of African Diaspora Dance: Fluid Black: Dance Back

Duke University, North Carolina

*Dada the Signifyin(g) Dancer* on Africana Dramaturgies Panel

February, 2020 Nankama African Dance Conference

Howard University, Washington D.C.

*Mamela Nyamza: Re-membering Queer Black South Africa*

August, 2019 Dance Studies Association Conference: Dancing in Common

Northwestern University, Illinois

*Not So Long Ago…Not So Far Away* – performance as research

July, 2019 African Theatre Association Conference: African People and Theatre Forms in a Post Post-Colonial World

Luanda, Angola

*Fall & Recovery: Performing Embodied Archives of South Africa’s Rainbow Generation*

February, 2019 World Dance Alliance of the America’s: Dancing on the Border

University of Texas El Paso

*Black Privilege in the Black Box (paper presentation), & Latin Jazz (class)*

February, 2019 Looking Back Looking Forward 25th Anniversary of the Dance Ph.D.

University of California Riverside

*Diversity and Inclusion in American Dance Education*

November, 2018 Blackness Unbound: Critical Black Studies Working Group at UCR;

University of California Riverside

*Sensing the Stage: Decolonial Readings of African Contemporary Dance*

May, 2018 3rd International Dance Conference: Decolonizing Bodies: Engaging Performance; University of West Indies, Barbados

*Fall & Recovery: Performing the Embodied Archives of South Africa’s Rainbow Generation*

February, 2018 Collegium of African Diaspora Dance: Dancing Black Joy: Global Affirmations and Defiance

Duke University, North Carolina

*Fall & Recovery: Performing Embodied Archives of South Africa’s Rainbow Generation*

November, 2017 African Studies Association: “Institutions: Creativity & Resilience in Africa”

Chicago, Illinois

*Suffering and Smiling: Representations of Anti-Colonial Africanity at Dance Umbrella*

July, 2017 Confluences 9: “Deciphering Decolonisation in Dance Pedagogy in the 21st Century” Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa

*Diversity, Inclusion, & Imagination: Decolonizing Dance Education in the United States*

April, 2017 Performing Africana Studies Symposium: “Performing Africana Art and Culture: Repression, Resistance, and Renewal”

UNC Charlotte, North Carolina

*A Blue Bra and a Boxing Ring: Nora Chipaumire Choreographs African Masculinity*

November, 2016 Congress on Research in Dance: Beyond Authenticity & Appropriation Pomona College, California

*Ethnic Décor: People of Color as Props in Music Videos*

February, 2016 Collegium of African Diaspora Dance: Afrofuturism;

Duke University, North Carolina

*Blackademics: Shaping a Future Beyond Tokenism*

November, 2014 National Dance Education Organization: Collaborations: A Mosaic of Possibilities;

Chicago, Illinois

*The Collaborative Intercultural Choreography Class*

May, 2014 The Sustainability of Dance as an Art Form: Economics, Politics, and the Philosophy of Resistance Conference

University of the West Indies, Barbados

*Presentation: Teaching Dances of the African Diaspora: Emancipatory Pedagogy as Resistance Strategy for African-American Youth. Performance: Perfect Blossom and Workshop: Dances of Brazil: Legacy as Resistance*

November, 2012 Dance Across the Board Conference

New York University, Tisch School of the Arts

*Dance Identity in Pedagogy: African-American Identity in Intercultural Dance Education*

**CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

January, 2020 Dancing Around Race: Whiteness in Dance in Higher Education;

University of Utah

November, 2016 African Studies Association Annual Meeting: Imagining Africa at the Center: Bridging Scholarship, Policy, and Representation in African Studies; Washington, DC

October, 2016 Show & Prove Hip Hop Studies Conference: The Tensions, Contradictions, and Possibilities of Hip Hop Studies; UC Riverside

November, 2013 Congress On Research in Dance: Decentering Dance Studies: Moving In New Global Orders; UC Riverside

November, 2013 National Dance Education Organization (NDEO): Focus on Education: The Art and Craft of Teaching; Miami, FL

July, 2012 New York Foundation for the Arts: Artist as Entrepreneur Boot Camp *attended on merit scholarship from New York University Steinhardt School*

**ARTS ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE**

2013-2015 Dance Program Coordinator, El Paso Community College, El Paso, TX

2009-2012 Director, Sacred Space Dance, New York, NY

2001 Administrative Intern to Louise Reichlin and Dancers, Los Angeles, CA

**ARTISTIC CONSULTING & CONTRACTING**

2020 “Research & Resistance – a Conversation with Dr. Rainy Demerson, University of Utah

2019 Samba for Sanctuary Workshop at Sol Studio El Paso, TX

2005- Present Samba Performances for various venues throughout the country

2013 Taught Latin Jazz and Samba at Danzas Sin Fronteras, Las Cruces, NM

04/24/2011 Taught Afro-Modern Dance, Yoga, and Brazilian Dance for The Movement Dance Convention at State University of New York, New Paltz, NY

06-08/2008 Choreographed original children’s musical for University Settlement New York, NY

06-07/2004 Created Dance Teaching Guide for Boys and Girls Club Palo Alto, CA

**PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

2008 New York State Certified K-12 Dance Teacher

2005 Be Yoga, Nationally Certified Yoga Instructor

2004 Bridge-Linguatec Certified Teacher of English as a Foreign Language

**SELF-PRODUCED & CHOREOGRAPHED CONCERTS**

2015 *A Thread that Ties Us All* at University Settlement, New York, NY

2012 *Unearth*, Performed with my company Sacred Space Dance, New York, NY

2010 *Alone Together: A Celebration of Independent Artists*, New York, NY

2010 *Le Pardon est le Joyeau des Braves*, St. Louis, Senegal

**PROFESSIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY & PERFORMANCE**

2022 *Fruit Bearing Trees* at Coco Dance Festival in Port of Spain, Trinidad

2017 *Manifesta Feminista* at New Shoes Festival at Highways in Santa Monica, CA

2017 *Nexus in Flux* at Midwest Regional Alternative Dance Fest in Kalamazoo, MI

2016 *Displace* with Rebeca Hernandez & Hyoin Jun at Border Dance Festival in Tijuana, MX

2016 *I Can’t Breathe* at Dance In Revolting Times, Dance Mission, San Francisco, CA

2014 *Where I’m From* for El Paso Community College, El Paso, TX

2013 *Afraid of Our Own Shadows* for El Paso Community College, El Paso, TX

2013 *Mae Menininha* for Lindenwood University, St. Charles, MO

2012 *Nomadic Roots* for Lindenwood University, St. Charles, MO

2012 *Ambulance* at NYC10 Dance Festival at Dixon Place, New York, NY

2012 *Ambulance* at CoolNY 2012 Dance Festival, New York, NY

2010 *Ugly* at DUMBO Dance Festival, New York, NY

2008 *Ugly* at Todo Mezclado Dance Festival New York, NY

2006 *Conversation Piece* at Third Ward, New York, NY

**PROFESSIONAL DANCE PERFORMANCE**

2013 Leverage Dance Theater (Formerly A-Trek) St. Louis, MO

2007 Dance Warrior Project, New York, NY

2006 Rebollar Dance Company, New York, NY

2006 Mezclado Movement Group, New York, NY

2003 Alesia Young Dance, Santa Monica, CA

2002 Spinning Yarns Dance Collective, San Francisco, CA

2001 Anjali Tata Company, Los Angeles, CA

2001 Carol McDowell Translations, Los Angeles, CA

2000 Eko Supriyanto, Los Angeles, CA

**PRIMARY MOVEMENT EDUCATION & TRAINING**

**Modern/Contemporary, 21 years**

Hollins University: John Jasperse, Shani Collins-Achille

UCLA: David Rousseve, Sharon Kinney, Maria Gillespie

Independence High School: Kellye Dodd and José Limón West

**Ballet 26, years**

UCLA: Michelle Bloom

Ballet International San Jose: Magdalene Parungao

Sterling Dance San Jose: Darlene Thorne and Gloria Mohr

**Jazz, 11 years**

Sterling Dance Theater San Jose: Rocky Fagundes

Independence High School Dance Company: Kellye Dodd

NYU Jazz Pedagogy: Patricia Cohen

**Improvisation, 6 years**

UCLA: Simone Forti, Nina Martin

**West African Dance, 3 years** UCLA: Nzinga Camara

**Brazilian Dance, 15 years**

Brasil Brasil Cultural Center: Rachel Hernandez

UCLA: Margit Edwards

Djoniba Dance & Drum New York: Michelle Bastos and Danielle Lima

Dance Mission San Francisco: Rhonda Stagnaro-Lowe

Escola de Dança Fundação Cultural do Estado da Bahia, Brasil: Rosangela Silvestre

**Capoeira, 2 years** Abadá Capoeira: San Francisco, CA and Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

**Afro-Caribbean Dance, 4 years**

Hollins University: Vladimir Espinosa

Djoniba Dance & Drum New York: Richard Gonzalez & Danys La Mora

**Yoga, 15 years**

Yoga 108: Long Beach, CA

Surya Yoga: El Paso, TX

Urban Breath Yoga: St Louis, MO

Be Yoga/Yoga Works: New York, NY

Jivamukti: New York, NY

Shiva Rea Bailey: Los Angeles, CA

Golden Bridge: Los Angeles, CA

**PROFESSIONAL RESIDENCIES**

2021 Supernatural Women Virtual Residency hosted by Cel Del Nord, Spain

**DANCE WORKSHOPS AND RESIDENCIES ATTENDED**

2014 American College Dance Festival - South Central Region Austin, TX

Taught Dances of Brazil, and Yoga for Dancers. Presented my choreography in a dance for camera piece, “New Dawn,” and live performance “Afraid of Our Own Shadows.”

2013 and 2004 Contemporary and Traditional Brazilian Dance, Salvador da Bahia, Brazil

2011 Danza Contemporánea de Cuba, Traditional & Contemporary Dance, Havana, Cuba

2009 L’ecole des Sables African Contemporary Dance Intensive, Toubab Dialaw, Senegal

2001 American College Dance Festival Winter Intensive, New York, NY

2005 Summer Intensive with Catherine Cabeen, New York, NY

1999 American Dance Festival Winter Intensive, New York, NY

1998 Summer Intensive with Sara Shelton Mann, San Francisco, CA

1998 Summer Intensive with Annie Rosenthal-Parr, San Francisco, CA

1998 Summer Intensive with Kim Epifano, San Francisco, CA

1997 & 1996 Summer Intensive with Joe Goode Performance Group, San Francisco, CA

1996 José Limón West Dance Intensive, San Jose, CA

**AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

2018 Humanities Graduate Student Research Grant, University of California Riverside

2017 Dance Research Grant, University of California Riverside

2015-2017 Gluck Fellowship, University of California Riverside

2015-2019 Eugene Cota Robles Fellowship, University of California Riverside

2014 Best Faculty Advisor, El Paso Community College

2012 NYU Graduate Student Association Star Award

2011-2009 NYU Steinhardt Centennial Scholarship

2002-1998 UCLA Miriam Kaplan Scholarship

2002-1998 UCLA Glorya Kaufman Scholarship

2001 IIE Travel/Study Grant to Indonesia

1998 Magna Cum Laude Independence High School

1998 East Side Union High School District “Go For It” College Scholarship

1998 National Achievement Scholarship Program Commendation

1998 Independence High School Dance Department Dance Club Scholarship

1998 Independence High School Outstanding Choreographer Award

1997 Bank of America Certificate in English

1997 African American Achievement Award

1997 Paul Taylor Summer Dance Intensive Scholarship

1997 Independence High School Outstanding Modern Dancer Award

1996 West Valley College Olympiad of the Arts Best Choreography Award

1996 Independence High School Outstanding Modern Dancer Award

1996 & 1995 Independence High School Women’s History Award

1996 Jose Limon West Summer Dance Workshop Scholarship

1995 Interact Club Inspirational Award

1995 Independence High School Best Modern Dance Award

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES**

Intermediate Portuguese Beginning Spanish Intermediate French

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Dance Studies Association

African Studies Association

World Dance Alliance

African Theatre Association

**REFERENCES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Anthea Kraut | Professor, Dance | University of California Riverside  900 University Ave. Riverside, CA 92521 (951)827-1012 [anthea.kraut@ucr.edu](mailto:anthea.kraut@ucr.edu) |
| Kevin Williamson | Assistant Professor, Dance | Scripps College  1030 Columbia Avenue Claremont, CA 91711 (909)621-8000  [kevin.williamson@scrippscollege.edu](mailto:kevin.williamson@scrippscollege.edu) |
| Gayle Fakete | Professor, Dance | Cal Poly Pomona University  3801 W. Temple Ave. #25 Pomona, CA 91768  (909)869-2790  [gmfekete@gmail.com](mailto:gmfekete@gmail.com) |
| Jeffrey Bullock | Director, MFA Dance & Chair of Dance Department | Hollins University Graduate Center  PO Box 9603 Roanoke, VA 24020-1603  (540)362-6575 [jbullock@hollins.edu](mailto:jbullock@hollins.edu) |
| Christina Mitchell | Assistant Professor, Dance | El Paso Community College 9050 Viscount Blvd. El Paso, TX 79925 (915)831-2857 christykmitchell@gmail.com |
| Tricia Zweier | Assistant Professor of Dance | Lindenwood University 209 S. Kingshighway St. Charles, MO 63301 (636) 949-4547 [tzweier@lindenwood.edu](mailto:tzweier@lindenwood.edu) |
| Deborah Damast | Master Teacher & Artistic Advisor | New York University 244 Greene Street suite 304A New York NY 10012 (212) 998-5865 [deborah.damast@nyu.edu](mailto:deborah.damast@nyu.edu) |