

GESEL MASON

Curriculum Vitae

Assistant Professor of Dance, Department of Theatre & Dance
261 UCB, University of Colorado Boulder
www.geselmason.com

EDUCATION

- 2012-2013 **University of Colorado Boulder**, Boulder, CO
- MFA in Dance
 - Primary emphasis – Choreography and Performance; Secondary Emphasis – Ethnic Studies
- 1990-1995 **University of Utah**, Salt Lake City, UT
- Bachelor of Fine Arts in Modern Dance
 - Teacher's Certification in Secondary Education: Major - Modern Dance, Minor - Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2013- present **University of Colorado Boulder**, Boulder, CO
Assistant Professor of Dance: Instructor of graduate and undergraduate classes in Dance technique, choreography, improvisation, theory and history
- 2008 - 2011 **University of Maryland**, College Park, MD
Adjunct Faculty: Fall 2008 – Spring 2009: Intermediate Modern Technique
Adjunct Faculty: Spring 2011: Intermediate Modern Dance Technique, Principles of Teaching

AWARDS / HONORS / GRANTS

- 2018 Rauschenberg Artist Residency, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, Captiva, FL
- 2017 CU Boulder GCAH Creative Research Grant for *No Boundaries* (\$3,000)
- 2017 CU Boulder Kayden Research Award for *No Boundaries* (\$3,000)
- 2017 CU Boulder Outreach Award for CU Boulder Department of Theatre & Dance, Dance Outreach (with Sowah, Wilkins, Mejia and Posnik)
- 2017 CU Boulder Program Fee Grant to bring Guest Artist Ralph Lemon (\$500)
- 2016 CU Boulder GCAH Creative Research Grant for *No Boundaries* (\$3,000)
- 2016 CU Boulder Arts & Science Fund for Excellence for *No Boundaries* (\$1,000)
- 2016 CU Boulder Program Fee Grant to bring Guest Artist Jeffrey Gunshol (\$1,300)
- 2016 NEA Arts Work with 651 ARTS for *No Boundaries* documentary (\$30,000)
- 2015 CU Boulder GCAH Creative Research Grant for *antithesis* research (\$3,000)
- 2015 CU Boulder Arts & Science Fund for Excellence for *antithesis* research (\$1,000)
- 2015 Map Fund for *antithesis* (\$23,868)
- 2015 CU Boulder President's Fund for the Humanities for [UN]W.R.A.P: *No Boundaries* symposium (\$3,000)
- 2015 CU Boulder IMPART Faculty Fellowship for [UN]W.R.A.P: *No Boundaries* symposium (\$4,000)
- 2015 CU Boulder Diversity & Excellence Grant for [UN]W.R.A.P: *No Boundaries* symposium (\$3,000)
- 2015 CU Boulder GCAH Visiting Artist Fund for Dr. Brenda Dixon Gottschild for [UN]W.R.A.P: *No Boundaries* symposium (\$1,000)

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- 2015 CU Boulder Program Fee Grant to bring Guest Artist Jaamil Kosoko for UN]W.R.A.P: *No Boundaries* symposium (\$1,750)
- 2015 Finalist for the Princeton Arts Fellowship at the Lewis Center, Princeton University
- 2015 Finalist for New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project Production Grant
- 2014 Roser Visiting Artist Grant for Millicent Johnnie residency (\$8,635)
- 2014 CU Boulder GCAH Creative Research Grant for presentation at Dance Place, Washington, D.C. (\$2,960)
- 2014 CU Boulder Arts & Science Fund for Excellence for presentation at Dance Place, Washington, D.C. (\$1,000)
- 2014 CU Boulder Program Fee Grant for Guest Artist Tim O'Donnell (\$1,500)
- 2014 CU Boulder ACE Grant for Guest Artist Tim O'Donnell (\$1,000)
- 2014 CU Boulder ACE Grant for Guest Artist Helanius Wilkins (\$1,000)
- 2014 Roser Visiting Artist Mini Grant for guest artist Tim O'Donnell (\$500)
- 2014 Roser Visiting Artist Mini Grant for guest artist Helanius Wilkins (\$1,000)
- 2013 CU Boulder Program Fee Grant to bring in Israeli guest artist/Gaga teacher Uri Shafir (\$3,100)
- 2012 Center for Humanities and the Arts (CHA) Student Fellow, University of Colorado Boulder (\$47,500)
- 2011 Rockefeller Residency Initiative, one of six choreographers selected by the Joyce Theater (NYC)
- 2011 CU Boulder Roser Visiting Artist Mini Grant to be guest artist (\$1,000)
- 2011 Pokoik Visiting Artist Grant to be guest artist at CU Boulder (\$1,000)
- 2010 CU Boulder Program Fee Grant to bring *Women, Sex and Desire* to CU (\$3,300)
- 2009 National Performance Network Creation Fund for *Women, Sex and Desire* (\$10,000)
- 2009 Washington Performing Arts Society Pola Nirenska Memorial Award for Contemporary Achievement in Dance
- 2009 University of Utah College of Fine Arts Inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award
- 2008 Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award (\$6,000)
- 2008 Prince George's Arts Council Individual Artist Award (\$3,000)
- 2007 New England Foundation for the Arts Touring Grant for *NO BOUNDARIES* (\$40,000)
- 2007 Metro DC Dance Awards for Outstanding Individual Performance and Outstanding Overall Production – Small Venue for *NO BOUNDARIES*
- 2007 John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Millennium Stage Local Dance Commissioning Project for *Whose Body Is This?: Scars and Healing*.
- 2005 Arts Council of Montgomery County Artist Fellowship in Solo Dance Performance/Choreography (\$1,000)
- 2005 Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award (\$3,000)
- 2004 NEA Heritage grant to add David Roussève and Donald McKayle for *NO BOUNDARIES* (\$5,000)
- 2004 Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award (\$1,000)
- 2003 Scholarship recipient to Jacob's Pillow Choreography for the Screen Workshop
- 2002 Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award (\$1,000)
- 2002 Dance/USA National College Choreography Initiative to set a work on the University of Memphis
- 2002 Metro DC Dance Award for Outstanding Artistic Direction for *The Story of Sally Hemings*
- 2002 National Performance Network Creation Fund for *NO BOUNDARIES* (\$10,000)
- 2001 Metro DC Dance Award for Outstanding Production in Contemporary Dance for *Grandma's Legacy*
- 2001 National Foundation of Advancement in the Arts Astral Career Grant (\$1,000)
- 2000 Selected Emerging Choreographer for Bates Summer Dance Festival
- 1998 Arts Council of Montgomery County Artist Fellowship in Solo Dance Performance/Choreography (\$1,000)

RESEARCH & CREATIVE WORK

CHOREOGRAPHY - Professionally Produced

(listed by premiere date)

Listings marked with an * were peer-reviewed.

2017 *You Don't Say...* (20 minutes, group)

COMMISSION - *Footprints* at American Dance Festival, Reynolds Industries Theater, Durham, NC*

2016 *antithesis* (60 minutes, group + self)

Premiere: *580 Gilpin*, Denver, CO

An evening-length postmodern dance work that attempts to unencumber the erotic from the pornographic. Building on Audre Lorde's *Uses of the Erotic*, the project served as an embodied exploration of sexuality and eroticism. Supported by the Map Fund, with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This piece is a significant reworking of *(anti)thesis* (2013) and was performed as a work-in-practice.

2017 Dance Place, Washington, D.C.*

2016 Wesley Chapel, Boulder, CO

2016 Museum of Contemporary Art, Presented by Feminism & Co. as a work-in-practice, Denver, CO

2016 *CENS###D* (12 minutes, group)

COMMISSION - University of Montana, Montana Theatre, Missoula, MT

2016 Gala Performance at Northwest American College Dance Festival, University of Wyoming, Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts, Laramie, WY*

2016 *Ghosts of the Erotic (10 minutes, group)*

Premiere: Armstrong Center for Dance at Colorado Ballet, Denver, CO

Group piece choreographed for Athena Project's Evening of Dance

2016 *Spirit of Enlightenment* (promotional video)

COMMISSION - Choreographer for Spirit of Enlightenment promotional video

2015 *Lec/Dem or How Do You Spell Femaphobic* (12 minutes, group)

Premiere: American College Dance Association Gala performance at University of Northern Colorado* Part TED Talk and deconstructed strip tease, a movement monologue that complicates how the female body is perceived, performed and (re)presented. 10-15 local performers are included in the performance.

2017 "Keynote Performance" for concert entitled, *Momentum: The Impact of African Diasporic Culture Upon Contemporary Dance*, Oscar G. Brockett Theatre, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX (solo for self with guests)

2016 CU Faculty Council LGBTQ+ and Ethnic and Minority Affairs' Symposium *Intersections: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Research and Teaching*, Charlotte Irely Theatre, Boulder, CO (solo for self with guests)

2016 American Dance Festival Faculty Concert, Reynolds Theatre, Durham, NC (solo for self with guests)*

2015 Dance Place, Washington, D.C.*

2015 American Dance Guild Annual Performance Festival, Ailey Citigroup Theatre, New York City, NY*

2015 *Where We Meet* (15 minutes, duet)

Premiere: Dance Place, Washington, D.C.*

Choreography: Gesel Mason and Tim O'Donnell

A duet co-choreographed and performed with New York-based dancer and choreographer Tim O'Donnell.

2014 *Improvisational Performance* (30 minutes, group + self)

Premiere: *100 Grand*, 100 Grand, New York City, NY

Performed structured improvisation with New York based dancer and choreographer Tim O'Donnell and Arizona State University Faculty Member Eileen Standley, and poet Eden McNutt.

2014 *Instability of Place* (10 minutes)

COMMISSION - Ursinus College Dance Concert Collegeville, PA

Co-created with Tim O'Donnell, commissioned by Ursinus College in Pennsylvania.

2013 *(anti)thesis* (50 minutes, group + self)

Premiere: The Bustop, Boulder, CO

An evening-length postmodern dance work set in a strip-club that attempts to unencumber the erotic from the pornographic. Building on Audre Lorde's *Uses of the Erotic*, the project served as an embodied exploration of sexuality and eroticism. Performed as the final thesis performance requirement toward my Masters of Fine Arts degree in Dance at the University of Colorado Boulder (CU).

2013 *At Buffalo, the musical* (group)

COMMISSION - Atlas Black Box Theater, Boulder, CO

Choreographer for *At Buffalo*, a new musical in development by Amma Y. Ghartey-Tagoe Kootin about the 1901 Buffalo, N.Y. World's Fair, that sheds light on a critical moment in the construction of race and American identity. Presented at University of Colorado Boulder.

2013 *From Emma, With Love* (11 minutes, group)

COMMISSION - Emma Willard School, Troy, NY

A piece created for 13 girls for the 200th Anniversary of the Emma Willard School.

2012 *Work (in progress)* (10 minutes, solo for self)

Premiere: Danspace Project, New York City, NY*

Solo performed for *Where We're Calling From*, an evening curated by Bebe Miller as part of Danspace Project's PLATFORM 2012: *Parallels*.

"Set to the unlikely mix of Jay-Z and Arvo Pärt, her piece combines spoken word, video, and a fluid new-age dance vocabulary with an autobiographical quality to it that speaks directly to her identity as a woman" (Carl Paris, *Danspace Project Writer-in-residence*).

2012 *VelocityDC Top Ten* (7 minutes, group)

COMMISSION - Sidney Harmon Hall, Washington, D.C.

Created opening number for VelocityDC Dance Festival.

2011 *Next Us* (8 minutes, group)

COMMISSION - Charlotte York Irey Theatre, Boulder, CO

A piece choreographed for seven women for University of Colorado Boulder NeXus Dance Concert

2010 *Women, Sex, and Desire: Sometimes You Feel Like a Ho, Sometimes You Don't* (70 minutes, group + self)

COMMISSION - Premiere: Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, College Park, MD

Explores how women navigate sex, desire, choice, and perception. Dance, personal stories and video imagery combine to tackle powerful personal and political issues under discussion nationwide.

2013 University of Albany, Performing Arts Center Albany, NY

2011 Joyce SoHo, New York City, NY*

2011 University of Colorado Boulder, Atlas Black Box Theater, Boulder, CO

2011 Black Arts Movement Festival, presented by ProArts Collective & Dance Umbrella, Austin Ventures Studio Theater, Austin, TX

2010 *1 Thing, 1 Thing, and Oh...1 More Thing* (5 minutes, group + self)

Premiere: *Winter Heat*, Dance Place, Washington, D.C.*

A trio performed by myself, Kayla Hamilton and Meghan Bowden.

2010 "DANCE: YES WE CAN!" Lansburgh Theatre, Washington, D.C.*

2010 *Inside and Out* (10 minutes, group)

COMMISSION - James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

A piece choreographed for eight women

2008 *Jestem / I Am* (5 minutes, group)

COMMISSION - XV Annual International Contemporary Dance Conference and Performance Festival, Bytom, Poland

A bilingual (English/Polish) work examining identity with wheelchair users, dancers and non-dancers as part of the Integrated Dance Workshops in Bytom Poland, June 29 - July 12 2008.

2008 *Body Frame* (15 minutes, group)

COMMISSION - Grupa "Hajde da...", Belgrade, Serbia

Developed a performance with Grupa "Hajde da...", a non-profit organization in Belgrade, Serbia, for with people with disabilities, contemporary dancers, and psychologists. Belgrade, Serbia.

2007 *Whose Body Is This?: Scars and Healing* (50 minutes, group + self)

COMMISSION - Premiere: Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.

A multimedia investigation into how people move forward after they've been assaulted by illness. Dance, music, poetry, and video combine to reveal the truth, humor, and journey from disease to ease. A John F. Kennedy Center Millennium Stage Local Dance Commissioning Project.

2007 *On Impact* (group)

COMMISSION - Winona State University, Winona, MN

Selected to perform at American College Dance Festival.

2005 *Giselle Must (Not) Die* (20 minutes, group + self)

Premiere: Dance Place, Washington, D.C.

In my 21st-century spoof of the classical ballet, stilettos replace pointe shoes and losing your man means getting a life, not ending it.

"It's a work that both Carl Jung and Gloria Steinem would applaud" (*Washington Post*).

2007 Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.*

2007 Creative Alliance at The Patterson, Baltimore, MD. Part of Black Expressions: Baltimore!!!

2007 Carter Barron Amphitheatre, Washington, D.C. Part of "EXPRESSIONS SHOWCASE"

2006 Baltimore Theatre Projects, Baltimore, MD. Part of Black Expressions: Dance-Maryland!!!

2006 Publick Playhouse, Cheverly, MD. Part of Black Expressions: Dance-Maryland II!!!

2006 Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Washington, D.C. Part of Capital Fringe Festival

2004 *Is this seat taken?* (5 minutes, group)

Premiere: Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, College Park, MD*

A late seating turns into a humorous interactive trio in the audience. 21st Annual Choreographers Showcase produced by the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission

2002 *A Declaration of (In)Dependence: The Story of Sally Hemings* (75 minutes, group + self)

Premiere: Dance Place, Washington, D.C.

An evening length work surrounding the life of Sally Hemings and her controversial relationship to Thomas Jefferson. It combines historical and artistic perspectives to reveal a complex story of race, politics, slavery, love, and denial.

"[W]ell-conceived and well-played multimedia theater piece...solid, rich, and emotionally resonant" (Washington Post).

2009 Culbreth Theatre, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

2003 Publick Playhouse, Cheverly, MD

2003 Ballroom of the College Union Building Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA

2002 *Ladies First* (7 minutes, solo for self)

Premiere: Different Voices, Schaeffer Theatre, Bates Dance Festival, Lewiston, ME*

2001 *Grandma's Legacy* (60 minutes, group + self)

Premiere: Dance Place, Washington, D.C.

Part documentary and part dance/theatre performance that explores the lives of two grandmothers in Louisiana and Texas during the 40's and 50's. The production takes us beyond the history of segregation to discover a rich tapestry of accomplishments and perseverance.

"Swing, hip-hop, African and modern all comfortably shared the stage...Mason has vision and savvy to tackle a diversity of works." (Washington Post).

1999 *Black Angel* (10 minutes, solo for self)

Premiere: Dance Place, Washington, D.C.

Solo inspired by the dragging death of James Byrd Jr.

2004 Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL. Performed as part of an installation in the museum.

1999 *No Less Black* (70 minutes, group + self)

Premiere: Dance Place, Washington, D.C.

Dissects stereotypes and social images of Black America through dance and theatrical interludes and explores the complexities of race, color and social responsibility within the African-American community, while finding parallels to our own. "No Less Black" also exists as a five minute dance solo accompanied by a narrator reading a poem written by Gesel Mason.

"[A] quietly powerful poem" (New York Times). *"[T]he coalescence of movement and text is simple and satisfying"* (Brooklyn Rail).

2014 SUNY Potsdam, Dunn Dance Theater, Potsdam, NY (solo, part of *No Boundaries*)

2014 University of Albany, Performing Arts Center Albany, NY (solo, part of *No Boundaries*)

2013 Emma Willard School, Troy, NY (solo)

2011 Southern Theatre, Minneapolis, MN (solo, part of *No Boundaries*)

2009 Booker T. Washington HS for the Performing and Visual Arts, presented by South Dallas Cultural Center, Dallas, TX (solo, part of *No Boundaries*)

2009 Culbreth Theatre, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA (solo, part of *No Boundaries*)

2008 ProArts Collective, Austin, TX (solo)

2008 Links Hall, Chicago, IL (solo)

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- 2008 American College Dance Festival Opening Concert, SUNY Brockport, Brockport, NY (solo)
- 2008 Towson University, Towson, MD (solo)
- 2007 *Essence of Dance*, Atlas Performing Arts Center, Washington, D.C. (solo)
- 2004 Mason/Rhynes Productions, Inc. and Historic Lincoln Theatre, Washington, D.C. (solo)
- 2005 Links Hall, Chicago, IL (solo)
- 2002 Virginia Commonwealth University, Grace Street Theater, Richmond, VA (Full program)
- 2000 Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C. (Full program)

1999 *How to Watch a Modern Dance, or What in the Hell Are They Doing on Stage?* (5 minutes, solo for self + narrator)

“Gesel Mason’s ‘How to Watch a Modern Dance Concert, or What in the Hell are They Doing on Stage?’ was even funnier than its title, and wickedly on the mark...” (*Washington Post*)

Premiere: Dance Place, Washington, D.C.

Ongoing: over 38K views on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnX76ZfN-Yw>

- 2014 SUNY Potsdam, Dunn Dance Theater, Potsdam, NY (part of *No Boundaries*)
- 2014 University of Albany Performing Arts Center Albany, NY (part of *No Boundaries*)
- 2011 Southern Theatre, Minneapolis, MN (part of *No Boundaries*)
- 2011 American College Dance Festival Opening Concert, Moscow, ID
- 2009 Booker T. Washington HS for the Performing and Visual Arts, presented by South Dallas Cultural Center, Dallas, TX (part of *No Boundaries*)
- 2009 Culbreth Theatre, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA (part of *No Boundaries*)
- 2009 VelocityDC Dance Festival Washington, D.C.*
- 2008 ProArts Collective, Austin, TX (part of *No Boundaries*)

1999 *Flava* (solo for self)

“Mason gave...a jamming solo that climaxed in a handstand with her back arched and her feet dangling above her head.” (*Dance Magazine*).

Premiere: Dance Place, Washington, D.C.

2007 Presented by Silesian Dance Theatre at Śląski Teatr Tańca in Krakow, Poland

Additional Choreography Commissions (before 2006)

- CityDance Ensemble (D.C.)
- Coppin State University (MD)
- Community College of Baltimore County at Essex (MD)
- Dallas Black Dance Theatre (TX)
- Eisenhower Dance Ensemble (MI)
- Georgetown University (D.C.)
- High School for Performing and Visual Arts (TX)
- Largo High School (MD)
- Mercyhurst College (PA)
- Oakland University (MI)
- Sandra Organ Dance Company (TX)
- University of Memphis (TN)
- University of Utah (UT)

CHOREOGRAPHY - With full-time academic employer

(listed by performance date)

2017 *I've been meaning to tell you...* (20 minutes, group)

The Current, Charlotte Irey Theatre, Boulder, CO

2015 *How to Watch a Modern Dance, or What in the Hell Are They Doing on Stage* (5 minutes, solo for self + narrator)

[UN]W.R.A.P.: *No Boundaries*, Charlotte Irey Theatre, Boulder, CO

2015 *Lec/Dem or How Do You Spell Femaphobic* (12 minutes, group)

The Current, Charlotte Irey Theatre, Boulder, CO

2015 *Beneath the Quiet* (12 minutes, group)

The Current, Charlotte Irey Theatre, Boulder, CO

A trio co-choreographed for three women for University of Colorado Boulder with Tim O'Donnell.

2014 *Lec/Dem or How Do You Spell Femaphobic* (12 minutes, group)

Work-in-progress at "Sexpressions" at the Absinthe House, Boulder, CO

2013 *(anti)thesis* (50 minutes, group + self)

Charlotte Irey Theatre, Boulder, CO

2010 *1 Thing, 1 Thing, and Oh...1 More Thing* (5 minutes, group)

Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, College Park, MD set on four women for University of Maryland

PERFORMANCE - Professionally Produced

(listed by premiere date)

Listings marked with an * were peer-reviewed.

2003 – present *NO BOUNDARIES: Dancing the Visions of Contemporary Black Choreographers* (75 minutes, solos)

An evolving repertory of historic and original solo works by several of the nation's leading contemporary African American choreographers, including Dianne McIntyre, Robert Battle, Rennie Harris, Bebe Miller, Donald McKayle, David Roussève, Andrea E. Woods Valdéz, Reggie Wilson, and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, celebrates the diversity of style and vision within Black dance. *NO BOUNDARIES* received a National Dance Project Tour Only Grant in 2008/09 from New England Foundation for the Arts, two Metro DC Dance Awards in 2007, and was supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and National Performance Network.

"Ms. Mason has put together a show that should be required viewing for students of dance history" (*New York Times*).

Solos included in the project are:

- Dianne McIntyre – “Where You Come From”
 - Premiere: Charlotte York Irey Theatre, Boulder, CO (2015)
- Rennie Harris - “You Are Why!”
 - Premiere: "The Current", Charlotte Irey Theatre, Boulder, CO (2013)
- Robert Battle – “Ella”
 - Premiere: Painted Bride Arts Center, Philadelphia, PA (2009)
- Reggie Wilson – “Seeline 'oman”

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- Premiere: Joyce SoHo, New York, NY (2007)
- Donald McKayle - “Saturday’s Child”
 - Premiere: Dance Place, Washington, D.C. (2006)
- Bebe Miller - “Rain”
 - Premiere: Dance Place, Washington, D.C. (2006)
- David Roussève - “Jumping the Broom”
 - Premiere: Dance Place, Washington, D.C. (2006)
- Andrea E. Woods Valdéz – “Belle of the Ball”
 - Premiere: Dance Place, Washington, D.C. (2004)
- Jawole Willa Jo Zollar - “Bent”
 - Premiere: Dance Place, Washington, D.C. (2004)

Performances:

- 2015 Dance Place, Washington, D.C. (Harris)*
- 2014 American Dance Guild Annual Performance Festival, Ailey Citigroup Theatre, New York City, NY (McKayle)*
- 2014 SUNY Potsdam, Dunn Dance Theater, Potsdam, NY (Harris, McKayle, Zollar)
- 2014 University of Albany Performing Arts Center, Albany, NY (Harris, McKayle, Zollar)
- 2011 Southern Theatre, Minneapolis, MN (Zollar, McKayle, Roussève)
- 2011 American College Dance Festival Opening Concert, Moscow, ID (Zollar, Roussève)
- 2009 Atlas Center for the Performing Arts presented by Dance Place, Washington, D.C. (Zollar, Wilson, Roussève)
- 2009 Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C.
- 2009 Culbreth Theatre, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA (Zollar, Roussève)
- 2009 Presented by South Dallas Cultural Center at Booker T. Washington HS for the Performing and Visual Arts, Dallas, TX (Zollar, Wilson, Roussève)
- 2009 Painted Bride Art Center, Philadelphia, PA (McKayle, Miller, Zollar)
- 2009 Presented by Contemporary Dance Theatre at Aronoff Center for the Arts, Jarson-Kaplan Theater, Cincinnati, OH (Zollar, Wilson, Roussève, McKayle)
- 2009 University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT (Zollar, Roussève)
- 2008 ProArts Collective, Austin, TX (Zollar, Wilson, Roussève)
- 2008 Links Hall, Chicago, IL (Roussève)
- 2007 Presented by Silesian Dance Theatre at Śląski Teatr Tańca in Krakow, Poland (Roussève)
- 2007 Long Island University, Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts, Brooklyn, NY (Miller, McKayle, Zollar, Woods, Roussève)
- 2007 Joyce SoHo, New York City, NY (Wilson, Roussève, McKayle, Miller)
- 2007 Winona State University, Winona, MN (Wilson, Roussève, McKayle)
- 2006 Publick Playhouse, Cheverly, MD (Roussève, Zollar, Miller)
- 2006 Salisbury University, Holloway Hall Auditorium, Salisbury, MD (Zollar)
- 2006 Dance Place, Washington, D.C. (Miller, McKayle, Zollar, Roussève, Woods)
- 2006 Davis Theatre, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV (McKayle, Zollar, Roussève)
- 2005 Links Hall, Chicago, IL (Roussève, Zollar, Miller)
- 2005 651 Arts, Brooklyn, NY (Woods, Zollar)
- 2004 Dance Place, Washington, D.C. (Woods, Zollar)
- 2004 University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT (Zollar, Roussève)

2015 *Healing Wars*

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA (two performances)

An investigation of the impact of war on medicine, as seen through an American Civil War nurse and a military surgeon in Iraq. Through dance and theater the project translates themes such as the fear of failure which, to a healer, is a matter of life and death; the way we anesthetize patients with ether,

chloroform, opium, or hope; images of battlefield spirits gathering souls as they join the Daughters of Charity at Gettysburg, each drawing strength from its African or European ancestors. I played the role of The Spirit.

Artistic Director, Liz Lerman

2017 University of Southern Florida Theatre, Tampa, FL

2014 HEARD

Denver Museum of Art, Denver, CO

Part of the City of Denver's [Biennial of the Americas](#) celebration and in connection with Cave's exhibition at the Denver Art Museum (DAM), HEARD•DAM, the performance featured local performers, life-sized horse Soundsuits, music and movement in an electrifying and inspiring performance.

Artistic Director, Nick Cave

2014 American College Dance Association Opening Concert

University of Montana, Missoula, MT

Participated with faculty in a structured improvisation for the opening concert.

PERFORMANCE - With full-time academic employer

(listed by performance date)

2015 NO BOUNDARIES: Dancing the Visions of Contemporary Black Choreographers

[UN]W.R.A.P.: *No Boundaries*, Charlotte York Irey Theatre, Boulder, CO (Zollar, Roussève, McIntyre)

2013 NO BOUNDARIES: Dancing the Visions of Contemporary Black Choreographers

The Current, Charlotte Irey Theatre, Boulder, CO (Harris)

2014 Ubuntu African Festival

Glenn Miller Ballroom, University Memorial Center, Boulder, CO

Artistic Director, Nii Armah Sowah

PRODUCER - Professionally Produced

(listed by premiere date)

2016 antithesis (60 minutes, group + self)

Premiere: *580 Gilpin*, Denver, CO

2016 Wesley Chapel, Boulder, CO

2013 (anti)thesis (50 minutes, group + self)

Premiere: *The Bustop*, Boulder, CO

1998 - 2010 Mason/Rhynes Productions (MRP Inc.)

Co-founder and Artistic Director: MRP Inc. was a non-profit arts service organization dedicated to providing and facilitating performing arts events, residencies, and workshops designed to challenge, entertain, and enlighten diverse populations. With Co-Founder and Managing Director, Cheles Rhynes, the company produced over 50 events during its 12-year existence. In addition, MRP Inc. assisted independent artists and emerging performing arts groups by creating performance opportunities and providing administrative, artistic and technical theatre support and cultivated partnerships to help artists and organizations do what they cannot do alone. As an arts facilitator, MRP Inc. designed programs in

conjunction with schools and community organizations employing the art making process to explore issues relevant to the participants and their community.

Duties included:

- Coordinate staff and artistic personnel for productions and performance events with Managing Director, Cheles Rhynes
- Provide artistic feedback and consultation for performance events and managed artists
- Design residencies, arts facilitation and outreach programs that engage community
- Oversee publicity and marketing
- Grant Writing

Productions included:

- The Expressions Series which featured dance, music, and spoken word performances. The series highlighted local and national performing artists of color, including Grammy award-winning artist Erykah Badu, spoken word civil rights activists The Last Poets, and internationally acclaimed dance company Urban Bush Women
- The Metro DC Dance Awards, administered by Dance/MetroDC in 2006, and Metro DC Dances, two events to showcase and recognize the diversity of D.C.'s finest in dance
- Co-producing Masters of West Coast Dance: Ito, Horton, and Lewitzky, a five-day event with classes, performances and workshops that illuminated the work of three seminal artists: Michio Ito, Lester Horton, and Bella Lewitzky
- Gesel Mason Performance Projects including *NO BOUNDARIES: Dancing the Visions of Contemporary Black Choreographers*
- Touring Serbia and Poland to lead performances and workshops with dancers and non-dancers of mixed abilities including wheelchair users and partially blind participants

2005 *Giselle Must (Not) Die* (20 minutes, group + self)

Premiere: Co-produced with Dance Place, Washington, D.C.

2007 Creative Alliance at The Patterson, Baltimore, MD. Part of Black Expressions: Baltimore!!!

2007 Carter Barron Amphitheatre, Washington, D.C. Part of "EXPRESSIONS SHOWCASE"

2006 Baltimore Theatre Projects, Baltimore, MD. Part of Black Expressions: Dance-Maryland!!!

2006 Publick Playhouse, Cheverly, MD. Part of Black Expressions: Dance-Maryland II!!!

2006 Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Washington, D.C. Part of Capital Fringe Festival

2002 *A Declaration of (In)Dependence: The Story of Sally Hemings* (75 minutes, group + self)

Premiere: Co-produced with Dance Place, Washington, D.C.

2001 *Grandma's Legacy* (60 minutes, group + self)

Premiere: Co-produced with Dance Place, Washington, D.C.

1999 *No Less Black* (70 minutes, group + self)

Premiere: Dance Place, Washington, D.C.

2004 Mason/Rhynes Productions, Inc. and Historic Lincoln Theatre, Washington, D.C. (solo)

PRODUCER - With full-time academic employer

(listed by premiere date)

2015 [UN]W.R.A.P.: *No Boundaries Symposium (weeklong)*

Premiere: Charlotte Ireby Theatre, Boulder, CO

A week-long symposium presenting a diversity of dance by prominent African American choreographers,

alongside conversations about the historical impact and ongoing contributions of their work to America's cultural landscape. Guest Artists & Scholars included: Dr. Amma Y. Gharthey-Tagoe Kootin, Dr. Thomas DeFrantz, Dr. Brenda Dixon Gottschild, Jaamil Olawale Kosoko, David Roussève, Dianne McIntyre, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, and Rennie Harris.

2013 *(anti)thesis* (50 minutes, group + self)
Charlotte Ireya Theatre, Boulder, CO

PUBLICATIONS

2017 "A College Degree: What is It Good for?" *Bourgeon EBook: Sixty Five Artists Write About Their Work*. Ed. Robert Bettmann. Washington, D.C.: Day Eight, 2017. Kindle Edition.

PROFESSIONAL DANCE COMPANY APPOINTMENTS

1998-present **Gesel Mason Performance Projects**: Artistic Director, Gesel Mason

- Founder, Choreographer, Performer
- Choreographed and performed in *antithesis*, *Women, Sex, and Desire: Sometimes You Feel Like a Ho, Sometimes You Don't*; *NO BOUNDARIES: Dancing the Visions of Contemporary Black Choreographers*; *Whose Body Is This?: Scars and Healing*; *Giselle Must (Not) Die*; *A Declaration of (In)Dependence: The Story of Sally Hemings*; *Grandma's Legacy*; *No Less Black*; "Lec/Dem or How Do You Spell Femophobic"; "How to Watch a Modern Dance Concert or What in the Hell Are They Doing on Stage?"; "Ladies First"; "Black Angel"; "Flava", "never saw It coming", "What If or Not" with Helanius Wilkins
- Performed commissioned solos by Rennie Harris – *You Are Why!*, Bebe Miller – *Rain*, Dianne McIntyre – *Where You Come From*, Donald McKayle – *Saturday's Child*, David Roussève – *Jumping the Broom*, Reggie Wilson – *Seeline 'oman*, Andrea E. Woods Valdéz – *Belle of the Ball*, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar – *Bent*
- Selected works have been performed at **A Dallas Dance Gathering (TX)**, **Dance Africa (D.C.)**, **Diverse Works (TX)**, **Fort Wayne Performing Arts Center (IN)**, **International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference (TX, D.C.)**, the **National Dance Education Organization (MD)**, **Walker Art Center (MN)**.

2004-2012 **Cross Performance Group**: Artistic Director, Ralph Lemon

- Company Member
- Performed works by Ralph Lemon – *4Walls*, *How Can You Stay in the House All Day and Not Go Anywhere*, *Come home Charley Patton*, the third installment of the *Geography Trilogy*

2001 **Freefall Repertory Dance Company**: Artistic Directors, Murray Louis and Marilyn Byers

- Guest Performer
- Performed works by Murray Louis - *Bach Suite*, and Marilyn Byers - *Women of the Aurora Borealis*

1996-2000 **Liz Lerman Dance Exchange**: Founding Artistic Director, Liz Lerman

- 1996 – 2000 Company Member, Project Director, Rehearsal Director, Founder and Artistic Director for Teen Exchange (formally Teen Initiative)
- 2000 – 2011 Rehearsal Director, Guest Performer, Guest Faculty

Gesel Mason - Curriculum Vitae

- Performed works by Liz Lerman – *Ferocious Beauty: Genome, Hallelujah Project, Getting to Hallelujah, Shehechianu*
- Performed works by guest choreographers: Bebe Miller - *Blessed*, Victoria Marks - *Dancing to Music*

- 1995 **Umoja African Dance Ensemble:** Artistic Director, Chuck Davis
- Company Member
 - Performed work by Chuck Davis as part of *DanceAfrica* America
- 1994 **Repertory Dance Theatre of Utah:** Artistic Director, Linda C. Smith
- Guest Performer for European Tour
 - Performed works by Doris Humphrey - *Passacaglia and Fugue* and Helen Tamiris – *Dance for Walt Whitman*
- 1993, 1992 **Ririe/Woodbury Dance Company:** Artistic Directors, Shirley Ririe and Joan Woodbury
- Guest performer
 - Performed works by Alison Chase, Jaime Hampton, Joan Woodbury

Additional performance experience with **Sam Costa, David Hochoy, Sardono Kusumo, Jacek Lumiński, Susan Marshall, Peter Pucci, and Doug Varone.**

UPCOMING AND ONGOING PROJECTS

***No Boundaries* performance and development of digital humanities archive**

Produced in partnership with Brooklyn-based presenter 651 ARTS, I will perform *No Boundaries* at the Billie Holiday Theatre in Brooklyn, NY, April 6 and 7, 2018. I will work with Denver production company Digabyte to produce a documentary and digital humanities archive in order to preserve and share the *No Boundaries* project.

Untitled Film project

Collaborating with Seattle based filmmaker Joy Andrews and Israeli choreographer and performer Uri Shafir on a dance for camera project. Currently *untitled*, in the editing process.

Rauschenberg Residency, Captiva, FL

Invited to be a 2018 Artist in Residence

INVITED ADDRESSES & PANELS

- 2016 Panelist for “Collective Strategies for Women of Color in Dance” at **International Association of Blacks in Dance**, Denver, CO, moderated by Dr. Brenda Dixon Gottschild.
- 2014 Panelist for AT BUFFALO/Performing the Archive facilitated by Dr. Amma Ghartey Tagoe-Kootin at **Black Theater Network Conference** in New York
- 2014 Guest speaker for Final Co-Curricular Event - the **Celebration of Leadership for Leadership Residential Academic Program**, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2014 Guest speaker for Opening Event for **Leadership Residential Academic Program**, University of Colorado Boulder