

LAURA ANN SMYTH

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Performance Artist

Biography

Seattle based dancer, instructor and choreographer Laura Ann Smyth began her journey as an artist at age 4 in Canada. Smyth's versatile and conscious dance background as well as her passion for the preservation of jazz dance and its role in the academy, has afforded her many opportunities. Smyth uses her wide range of dance exposure as the basis for her teaching, allowing herself along with her students to examine and experience dance through various lenses. Rhythmic in quality, joyous in spirit and precise in technique, Smyth's teaching style is unique and inclusive.

Education

PhD Dance Studies (Doctoral Student) Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas	June 2018 - present
Master of Fine Arts, Dance University of California, Irvine, Irvine, California	June 2012
After-degree Journalism Certificate Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta	April 2008
Bachelor of Arts, Sociology Major, Dance Minor University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta	June 2004

Professional Enrichment

National Dance Educators Organization Conference (NDEO), Special Topics Conference, Newport, RI
Assembled and moderated a panel on the role of codification in jazz dance

International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference (IABD) 2016, 2018
Presented a lecture/demonstration with colleagues on defining jazz dance in a jazz-less era and how those of us work in this idiom make our work relatable to millennials

World Dance Alliance – Americas 2013 Conference and Festival, Vancouver, BC, 2013
Presented with colleagues on the Prime Tenets of Jazz Dance in Relationship to Current Practices

International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference (IABD), Washington, DC, 2013
Presented a panel discussion with colleagues on the state of Concert Jazz Dance today and what educators need to do about it

National Dance Educators Organization Conference (NDEO), Los Angeles, CA, 2012
Presented with colleagues, 2 half-day sessions on Jazz dance, it's choreographic process and it's relationship to the Africanist Aesthetic, Language of Dance and Laban Notation



Experience: Secondary and Post-Secondary, Dance

Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA 2017 – present

Employed as a Core Faculty, Assistant Professor of Dance. Responsibilities include:

- Teaching all levels of Jazz Dance
- Teaching Dance History to Dance Majors
- Choreographing for the faculty concerts
- Serving on a Steering Committee convened by the College President
- Serving a two-year term as Faculty Senate Vice President
- Serving on the First Year Seminar Development Committee
- Presenting on Race and Pedagogy at Faculty Professional Development Workshops

California State University Channel Islands, Camarillo, CA 2016 – 2017

Employed as a Part-Time Instructor in the Department of Dance. Responsible for the creation of syllabus, instructing, examination and grading Beginning Modern Dance

Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA 2015 – 2017

Hired as a choreographer to stage movement for the Theatre Department's Performances

Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA 2015 – 2017

Employed as a Part-Time Instructor in the Department of Dance. Responsible for the creation of syllabus, instructing, examination and grading Intermediate Modern Dance and Beginner Jazz Dance

Brentwood School, Los Angeles, CA 2014 – 2015

Employed as the Upper School Dance Teacher. Responsible for creating scope and sequence, instructing and grading for three class levels and artistic directing and choreographing three shows per year

Golden West College, Huntington Beach, CA 2014 – 2017

Employed as a Part-Time Instructor in the Department of Dance. Responsible for the creation of syllabus, instructing, examination and grading Viewing Dance both as a traditional in-class and online course as well as various levels of Jazz Dance

Long Beach City College, Long Beach, California, 2013 – 2017

Employed as a Part-Time Instructor in the Department of Dance. Responsible for the creation of syllabus, instructing, examination and grading Jazz Dance courses, Dance History and choreographing for the Department's fall and spring performances

University of California, Irvine, Irvine, California 2013

Employed as a Part-Time Instructor in the Department of Dance. Responsible for the creation of syllabus, instructing, examination and grading Jazz Dance III

Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California, 2012 – 2017

Employed as a Lecturer in the Department of Dance. Responsible for the creation of syllabus, instructing, examination and grading of the following classes: Introduction to Choreography, Technique Workshop and Jazz V (Juniors)

Santa Monica College, Los Angeles, California, 2013

Employed as a guest choreographer for the Spring 2013 performance showcase for dance students



International Dance Academy Hollywood, Los Angeles, California, 2012-2013

Employed as a Dance Instructor for various classes including but not limited to Modern dance and Dance Instruction. Responsible for developing class syllabi, examining and grading dance students registered in IDA Hollywood's Certificate Program

University of California, Irvine, Irvine, California, 2010-2012

Employed as a Teaching Associate in the dance department. Responsible for developing class syllabi for undergraduate dance students, adapting to the requirements of the different abilities in the classroom, designing and conducting final exams, grading dance students and video documenting and editing department performances

Freehouse Dance Plus, Calgary, Alberta, 2008-2010

Employed as a Jazz and Ballet Dance Instructor. Responsible for creating class plans, dance syllabi, and choreographing routines for 3 levels of students, ages 12-20

University of Calgary Department of Dance, Calgary, Alberta, 2006

Employed as a Sessional Instructor, Responsibilities included planning, teaching, and grading Dance Course 211.91 to students enrolled in University taking dance as an elective.

Dance With France Studios, Calgary, Alberta, 2001-2003

Employed as a Jazz and Jazz-Funk Dance Instructor as well as a customer service representative. Responsibilities included planning classes, teaching and correcting students of all ages in addition to student class placement, answering the telephone, opening and closing the studio, daily cash outs, promotion of new programs, and booking shows in and around the city.

Experience: Dance Companies and Fitness

Pure Barre Washington, Seattle, WA 2017 – present

Employed as a Pure Barre Certified Fitness Instructor. Responsible for learning and teaching new choreography each quarter and maintaining a close relationship with the clients at the studio

Brockus:RED, Los Angeles, CA, 2014 – 2017

Contracted as a performance artist (dance). Performs in shows produced by Brockus:RED, other arts organizations and beyond. Artistic Director: Deborah Brockus

Donna Sternberg and Dancers, Los Angeles, CA, 2014 – 2017

Contracted as a performance artist (dance). Performs in shows produced by Donna Sternberg and Dancers, other arts organizations and beyond. Artistic Director: Donna Sternberg

Regina Klenjoski Dance Company (RKDC), Long Beach, California, 2013 – 2014

Contracted as a performance artist (dance). Performed in shows produced by RKDC, other arts organizations and beyond. Artistic Director: Regina Klenjoski

JazzAntiqua Dance & Music Ensemble, Los Angeles, California, 2012-present

Contracted as a performance artist (dance). Performs in shows produced by JazzAntiqua, other arts organizations and beyond. Artistic Director: Pat Taylor

Pure Barre Beverly Hills, Beverly Hills, California, 2012 – 2017

Employed as a Pure Barre Certified Fitness Instructor (P4 and Platform). Responsible for learning and teaching new choreography each quarter and maintaining a close relationship with the clients at the studio



Experience: Non-Profit and Customer Service

Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, 2009-2010

Employed as a Recreation Connector for RADAR, a program aimed to help homeless and disengaged youth aged 12-15 find stable housing, re-engage in school and participate in positive recreation. Responsibilities included planning recreation, arts and cultural events, driving youth to appointments and counselling youth when necessary.

Source Media Group, Calgary, Alberta, 2008-2009

Employed as a Sales Representative for 3 separate real estate focused Magazines, Condo Living, New Home Living and Resorts. Responsible for maintaining current accounts, bringing in new retail accounts, working trade shows, proofing magazines, and developing positive and sustainable relationships with all clients.

The Bay Southcentre, Calgary, Alberta, 2006-2007

Employed in the Marketing Department as a Visual Presentation Artist in the men's, ladies, and cosmetics departments. Responsibilities included setting up displays, dressing mannequins, assisting customers, and marketing merchandise.

Enviros Wilderness School Association, Calgary, Alberta, 2006

Employed as a Residential Treatment Worker for ExCEL Discovery's Open Custody Program. Responsible for picking clients up from Calgary Young Offenders Center, completing intake packages, spending one on one time with the youth, following justice procedures, and developing programming for the Treatment Centre.

The Salvation Army Addictions and Residential Center, Edmonton, Alberta, 2006

Employed as a residential support worker. Responsible for booking in residents, administering medication, supervising the residents, and dealing with heated situations in a timely and efficient manner.

Specialized Dance Training

Simonson Dance Teacher Training Certification Program, New York City, NY, 2015

Completed 3 weeks of intensive training in the Simonson Method, Awarded a Certificate of completion in this Training Method

Brockus Project Dance Company Summer Intensive, Los Angeles, California, 2012

Summer Intensive focused on jazz and contemporary dance
Instructors: Deborah Brockus, Reggie Brown, Joey Decker, Rande Dorn, Regina Klenjoski, Jamie Nichols,

Makeda Thomas Roots and Wings Movement, Port of Spain, Trinidad, 2011

Summer Institute focused on learning movement from the Caribbean and African Diaspora while being immersed in the cultural richness and diversity of Trinidad
Instructors: Makeda Thomas, Ursula Payne, Rennie Harris, Dyane Harvey-Salaam, Chris Walker, Arcell Cabaug

Harbour Dance Centre, Vancouver British, Columbia, 2009

Summer Intensive focused on ballet, jazz, hip hop and contemporary dance
Instructors: Kenny Pearl, David Gouldie, Alex Pesusich, Joanne Pesusich

University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, 2005

Urban Campus Initiative Pilot Program in Dance
Full time enrollment at the U of C as a member of the Urban Dance Company /Graduate Level Program



Dance New Amsterdam (Formerly Dance Space Center), New York, New York, 2005

Trained on an International Student Visa primarily in Simonson Technique as well as contemporary, ballet, and other jazz styles.

Instructors: Maija Garcia, Diane McCarthy, Katiti King, Jana Hicks

Ballet Creole Summer Dance Intensive, Toronto, Ontario, 2004

Trained in Dunham and Horton technique. Repertoire included that from Alvin Ailey's Revelations and Ballet Creole's 2004 Season performance. Some exposure to Cuban folk dance and Capoeira.

Instructors: Patrick Parsons, Gabby Kamino, Milton Myers, Newton Morae

Boulder Jazz Dance Workshop, Boulder, Colorado, 2001

Summer Intensive focused in classic and contemporary jazz as well as, ballet, hip hop, modern, choreography, and the art of turns

Instructors: Jessica Hendricks, Wade Madsen, Mark Haines

Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton, Alberta, 2000

Summer Intensive focused in various modern techniques (Cunningham, Graham) and choreography

Instructors: Brian Webb, Heidi Bunting, Paul Andre Fortier

Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, Calgary, Alberta, 1999-2010

Trained in the disciplines of jazz, hip hop, tap, and African

Instructors: Michele Moss, Kimberly Cooper, Vicki Adams-Willis, Tara Wilson, Sarisa Figueroa, Joanne Baker, Kathryn Polluck, Hannah Stillwell, Jamie Freeman-Cormack

Edmonton Public Professional School of Ballet, Edmonton, Alberta, 1991-1999

Trained in Cecchetti, R.A.D., modern (Limon, Graham), jazz, choreography

Instructors: Tina Covlin-Dewart, Margaret Flynn, Janet Hagisavis, Tara Mahood, Rhonda Nychka

Choreographic Experience

2019	Cornish Dance Theatre, Cornish Playhouse, Seattle, WA
2019	TINT Dance Festival, Erickson Theatre, Seattle, WA
2017	Cornish Dance Theatre, Cornish Playhouse, Seattle, WA
2017	Global Motion Dance Company, Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA
2017	Synapse Dance Company, Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA
2016	Fall Dance Ensemble, Long Beach City College, Long Beach, CA
2016	Global Motion Dance Company, Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA
2016	Spring Dance Ensemble, Long Beach City College, Long Beach, CA
2015	Fall Dance Ensemble, Long Beach City College, Long Beach, CA
2014	Fall Dance Ensemble, Long Beach City College, Long Beach, CA
2014	Spring Dance Ensemble, Long Beach City College, Long Beach, CA
2013	Fall Dance Ensemble, Long Beach City College, Long Beach, CA
2013	Freshman Dance Show, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA
2013	Synapse Dance Company, Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA
2012	M.F.A. Thesis Concert, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA
2012	Dance Escape, University of California, Irvine, Graduate Choreography, Irvine, CA
2011	New Slate, University of California, Irvine, Graduate Choreography, Irvine, CA
2011	Dance Escape, University of California, Irvine, Graduate Choreography, Irvine, CA
2010	Dance Explosions Festival, Dancer's Studio West, Calgary, Alberta
2008	Dance Montage, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta
2007	Calgary Cares "Pulse" AIDS Benefit, Calgary, Alberta



Performance Experience

Donna Sternberg and Dancers // Choreography: Donna Sternberg

- 2017 Awe and Wonder, Inner-city Arts, Los Angeles
- 2016 Outside the Vortex, Diavolo Performance Space, Los Angeles
- 2016 49 Days: Women Who Count, Arena 1 Gallery
- 2015 What's Next? Ivy Sub Station, Culver City
- 2015 The Architecture of Space, Santa Monica
- 2015 Rancho La Puerta, Tecate, Baja California, Mexico
- 2014 One Song, Many Dances, Ivy Sub Station, Culver City

JazzAntiqua Dance and Music Ensemble // Choreography: Pat Taylor

- 2017 Lecture Demonstration, East LA College, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 SoCal-Invitational, Golden West College, Huntington Beach, CA
- 2016 Breath, Rhythmically Speaking, Minneapolis, MN
- 2016 Breath, Black Choreographers Festival, Oakland, CA
- 2015 The Stories We Tell, Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica, CA
- 2014 Song in a Strange Land, Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, CA
- 2014 Roots, Rhythm and Swing, Nate Holden Performing Arts Centre, CA
- 2013 Playboy Jazz Festival, Hollywood Bowl, CA
- 2013 Celebrate Dance, Alex Theatre, CA
- 2013 Lecture Demonstration, Pasadena City College
- 2013 African-American Heritage Month Opening Ceremonies, Los Angeles, CA
- 2012 Seven Paintings, Ford Amphitheater, CA

Brockus:RED

- 2014 Redlands Bowl Festival, Redlands Bowl, Brockus:RED Choreography: Deborah Brockus

Independent Projects

- 2019 Take Pause Dance Festival, Seattle, WA Choreography: Marlo Martin and Karen Baskett
- 2018 Full Tilt Dance Festival, Seattle, WA Choreography: Marlo Martin
- 2011 Etutu Project, Santa Ana, CA Choreography: Sheron Wray
- 2010 Prairie Dance Circuit "In To Sight," Regina, SK Choreography: Alison Bryan
- 2010 Alberta Dance Explosions "Leaving Poke," Calgary, AB Choreography: Catherine Hayward
- 2009 Dancer's Studio West: AIR "In To Sight," Calgary, AB Choreography: Alison Bryan
- 2009 Fluid Movement Arts Festival "Punky Girls," Calgary, AB Choreography: Neah Kalcounis
- 2009 Alberta Feats Festival "That Punky Girl I Wish I Were," Edmonton, AB Choreography: Neah Kalcounis
- 2009 Alberta Dance Explosions "Landed," Calgary, AB Choreography: Alison Bryan
- 2008 Dancer's Studio West: AIR "Playground of Rogues," Calgary, AB Choreography: Jaime Mitchell
- 2008 Ignite Festival "The Nature of Things," Calgary, AB Choreography: Aviva Fleising
- 2007 Alberta Dance Explosions, "Running Out of Time," Calgary, AB Choreography: Aviva Fleising
- 2007 Ignite Festival, "Running Out of Time," Calgary, AB Choreography: Aviva Fleising
- 2007 "Footprints" DJD Pre-professional Student Show, Calgary, AB Choreography: Catherine Hayward, Amber Douglas
- 2007 DJD School Tour, 6 week performance contract, Calgary, AB Choreography: Decidedly Jazz Danceworks
- 2007 Calgary Cares "Pulse", AIDS Benefit, Calgary, AB Choreography: Manuel Correia
- 2005 Dance New Amsterdam, New York, NY Choreography: Maija Garcia



2004	"Smooth As...", Calgary, AB	Choreography: Courtney Sproule, Lisa LaTouche, Alfi Forsch
2044	Calgary Cares "Seasons," AIDS Benefit, Calgary, AB	Choreography: Michael Ward, Kaleb, Thi Vo
2004	Alberta Dance Festival, "After Shocks," Calgary, AB	Choreography: Roxana Menzies
2003	Calgary Cares "Release", AIDS Benefit, Calgary, AB	Choreography: Michael Ward
2001	"7/7," Edmonton, AB	Choreography: Tina Covlin-Dewart
University of California, Irvine		
2012	Dance Visions "Copy,Right?"	Choreography: Sheron Wray
2011	Dance Visions "Expedition of Sorts"	Choreography: Melanie Rios Glaser and Lisa Naugle
2010	Hansel and Gretel, UCI Opera	Choreography: Megan Flynn
University of Calgary Urban Dance Company		
2006	"Grand Land"	Choreography: Sharon Moore
2006	"Porcelain Thoughts"	Choreography: Wojtech Mochniej
University of Calgary Mainstage Productions		
2003	"ZipZap"	Choreography: Kyrsten Blair
2002	"Willy Nilly Enter'acte"	Choreography: Michele Moss
2002	"Dressing Kore"	Choreography: Neah Kalcounis
2001	"Comme Ci, Comme Ca"	Choreography: Daniela Sodero
2000	"The Eleventh Hour"	Choreography: Michele Moss
University of Calgary Dance Montage		
2008	"Aejopstux"	Choreography: Carla French
2007	"Should Have Known By Now"	Choreography: Carla French
2007	"21 Carat or Just Plated?"	Choreography: Annalisa Bentzen-Whittle
2003	"Women a Run Tings"	Choreography: Roxana Menzies
2003	"The Royal Harley Davidson Ballet Company"	Choreography: Marnie Cooke
2002	"Opposite's Attract"	Choreography: Julia Gutsik, Miko Ostguy
2002	"What's Up Wityo Boots?"	Choreography: Christie Preston, Deanne Walsh
2001	"Hot Salsa"	Choreography: Ahmed Fernandez-Hodelin
2001	"My Theme Song"	Choreography: Towani Duchscher
2001	"What Can I Say...It's A Classic"	Choreography: Jamie Freeman-Cormack
Music Videos		
2014	Izzy Chait "I'll Be Your Baby Tonight"	Choreography: Paula Present

References

Available upon request.

