

TRACEY BONNER

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An artistic academic and authentic leader with 10+ years of hands-on experience in theatrical and dance direction, theatrical and concert choreography, ethnographic research/publication, and an embodied researcher with a keen approach to the development of community engagement and creative expression in performative and non-performance-based environments. An innovator in the creative process; a collaborative and creative problem solver with the ability to implement at various levels. An emotionally intelligent and empathic individual with the ability to hold space for other artists, appropriately supporting and propelling the artistic discipline forward in presentation, development, discovery, education, and embodied experiences with joy and humanity as a primary component.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY, HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, KY

BFA Dance Coordinator & Associate Professor, August 2014–present

- Acquired leadership of a conventional dance track within a theatrical focused program at a regional comprehensive university; transformed program to be self-sustaining, with expanded programming development and curriculum, attracting pre-professional dance students interested in performance and teaching; Duties as assigned including successful achievements previously not seen in this environment:
 - 434% increase in BFA Dance enrollment in six-year timespan
 - 170% increase in box office revenue produced in six-year timespan
 - Teaching load (4/4) including multiple sections of: Jazz (II-III), Choreography, Dance History, Performance Ensemble, Dance Tour Troupe (outreach), Tap (II-III), Musical Theatre Dance (I-III), Dance Auditions, Ballet I, Dance Foundations
 - Choreographer for multiple theatrical and dance projects and productions each year
 - Implementation, organization, and leadership of student placement class, BFA program auditions, dance scholarship coordination, dance portion of musical theatre BFA auditions, and dance portion of musical theatre show auditions, etc.
 1. Of note: coordinated necessary Covid cleaning protocols through our dance scholarship students
 - Promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor by formal tenure review
- Developed and sustained new programming including: two new dance concerts a year, new artistic programming, new curricular development, student dance honors society, new community dance internships, etc. *Details provided upon request*
- Grants awarded in excess of \$35,000 for various research projects, strategic investments, artistic and academic presentations. *Details provided upon request*

- Artistic project coordinator and direction of student film focused on sexual violence, consent, reporting, and advocacy on NKU campus for incoming international students
 - Project funded by a Department of Justice grant for ending violence against women
- Conceived, implemented, staffed, and facilitated **SOTA Dance Institute (SDI)**; a 3-day on-site dance training immersion and financially self-sustaining institute providing specialized and varied training including: holistic dance education, genre specialization in African Dance forms, jazz (commercial and traditional), Hip Hop, Ballet, Modern (post-modern and traditional), Pilates including eventual Pilates certification, improvisation and more.
 - Inaugural SDI produced \$9000 in self-sustaining funding for hiring of all staff, guest artists, and teachers, as well as the future of the program
- Conceived, collaborated, implemented, and assessed various programs regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion, including but not limited to faculty diversity fellowships, student engagement opportunities, DEI grants, and more as Co-Chair of college of Arts & Sciences Inclusive Excellence committee (5-year participation, 3-year leadership)
- Presented creative and academic work at national and regional conferences including National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), Women in Dance (WID), American College Dance Association (ACDA), Dance Scholars Association (DSA), etc. *Details provided upon request*
- Coordinator for residency and performance of Taylor 2 company of Paul Taylor Dance Company
- Mentored students through creative and administrative processes within academic discipline
- Director of various outreach and in-reach programs centered around dance

**Various freelance artistic appointments while fully employed at NKU. Details provided upon request*

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS, MEMPHIS, TN

Visiting Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre, August 2013–May 2014

- A collaborative appointment to teach musical theatre dance students within a developing musical theatre program at a state supported university. Duties as assigned include:
 - Choreographer for multiple theatrical and dance projects and productions
 - Assisted with incoming BFA Musical Theatre auditions and juries as prescribed
 - Represented university at American College Dance Association, south region (ACDA)
 1. Awarded Gala honors for an original work

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY, GRAND JUNCTION, CO

Assistant Professor of Dance August 2012–May 2013

- A collaborative appointment to teach jazz, tap, and musical theatre dance students within a developing musical theatre and dance program at a regional comprehensive university. Duties as assigned include:
 - Choreographer for multiple theatrical and dance projects and productions
 - Assisted with incoming BFA Musical Theatre and BFA dance auditions

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE, CA

Lecturer, Department of Dance August 2009–May 2012

Lecture, Department of Drama January 2010–May 2012

- Two appointments, to teach, assist, and/or choreograph in the department of dance and department of drama respectively. Duties as assigned include:
 - Choreographer for multiple theatrical and dance projects and productions
 - Director of American Dance Academy
 - Insight Jazz Ensemble, Rehearsal Assistant
 - Teaching Jazz III, IV, Jazz Ensemble, and movement for the actor as needed

MIRACOSTA COLLEGE, OCEANSIDE, CA

Associate Faculty, January 2009–July 2012

- Adjunct faculty appointment to teach jazz, tap, and musical theatre dance students within a California community college system. Duties as assigned include:
 - Choreographer for multiple theatrical and dance projects and productions
- Assistant to the Chair of Dance in production detail for multiple dance concerts

LAGUNA BEACH HIGH SCHOOL, LAGUNA BEACH, CA

Artistic Consultant and Resident Guest Artist, September 2007–May 2012

- Consultant and Resident Guest Artist for Laguna Beach High School, Performing Arts Division, an elite and exclusive performing arts program in southern California's most prominent area code. Duties as assigned:
 - Assistant Director and Production Assistant in casting, show selection, curriculum, hiring of teaching artists, and implementation of programming for high school drama courses
 - Master class instructor for specific disciplines, teacher as needed for dance and drama
 - Choreographer for multiple theatrical and dance projects and productions
 - Assisted with Musical Theatre show and dance concert auditions

VARIOUS THEATRICAL ORGANIZATIONS, NEW YORK, NY

Selected Performance Experience (AEA), 1997–2007

- National and International touring companies as a performer and/or dance captain
 - *A Chorus Line, Show Boat, West Side Story, The Full Monty, etc.*
- Performer in various regional productions
 - *Sweet Charity, Crazy for You, On the Town, etc.*
- Choreographer and/or Director for various regional theatrical and dance companies
 - Theatres: *Arts Center of Coastal Carolina (SC), Laguna Playhouse (CA), Pirate Playhouse (FL), Stage One (KS), Human Race Theatre (OH), Stages St Louis (MO), Kentucky Conservatory Theatre (KY), Vanguard Repertory Company (CA), etc.*
 - Shows: *West Side Story, Eubie!, Reefer Madness, Sweeney Todd, Dames and Sea, Sweet Charity, Into the Woods, Rent!, Midsummer Night's Dream, etc.*

- Assistant to the Director and/or Choreographer in regional theatrical productions
 - *West Side Story, Joseph..., Singin' in the Rain, 110 in the Shade, etc.*

E D U C A T I O N

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE, CA

Master of Fine Arts (Dance & Choreography), summa cum laude graduate

SHENANDOAH CONSERVATORY OF SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY, WINCHESTER, VA

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Musical Theatre, dance minor), cum laude (GPA: 3.52)

VARIOUS MASTERCLASSES, TRAININGS, AND EMBODIED/EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

- Embodiology© Summer Immersion, 2019
- Embodiology© Advanced Teacher Training, 2021-2022

S C H O L A R S H I P

- **Podcast Interview**—with Canada’s National Academy of Dance Education on creating self-efficacy in pre-professional dancers, 2020
- **Adjudication**—for local, regional, and national talent scholarship organizations, *ongoing*
- **Masterclass/Choreography Commission**—for various local, regional, and national dance and theatrical educational institutions, and private organizations, *ongoing*
- **Panel Participation**—for various local, national, and international presentations on dance, and dance pedagogy, dance and equity, dance pre-professional training, etc. *ongoing*
- **Dance Festival Performances**—various national festival artistic presentation including various ACDA conferences, regional festivals, and local festivals

A D D I T I O N A L S K I L L S

- Proficient in MS Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint), google drive, Final Cut Pro, Microsoft Teams, and Adobe Creative Suite
- Strong collaborative, delegation, and negotiation capabilities with appropriate accountability
- Proficient in various social media platforms, including Flipgrid, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, TikTok, and can easily expand these skills

A F F I L I C A T I O N S & M E M B E R S H I P S

- Actors Equity Association (AEA)
- National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)
- American College Dance Association (ACDA, formerly ACDFA)
- Greater Cincinnati Dance Alliance, Board of Directors (GCDA)
- Society of Directors and Choreographers (SSDC)

- Cincinnati High School of Performing Arts—Dance Advisory Council (higher ed representative)

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

- **Project Grant**—awarded by NKU’s faculty senate to support innovative pedagogical approaches to enhance student success in cultural competence through embodied study of African Dance, 2021 (\$6000)
- **Summer Fellowship**—awarded by NKU’s faculty senate for pursuit of Embodiology Teacher Training, developing innovative pedagogical approaches toward embodied knowledge and research, 2021 (\$6000)
- **Coronavirus Grant**—awarded by NKU for innovative pedagogical approaches to enhance student success in Organic Chemistry courses through study of African Dance, 2020 (\$3000)
- **Professional Development Grant(s)**—multiple awards by NKU for conference presentation, performance presentation, and embodied research, 2019, 2018, 2017 (\$1200-\$1500 each)
- **Strategic Initiative Grant**—awarded for technology upgrade in studios, 2017 (\$10,000)
- **Al Smith Fellowship**—awarded by the Kentucky Arts Council as Emerging Choreographers Grant for presented work combining Dance and Social Justice, 2017 (\$8000)
- **Guest Artist Residency**—awarded by NKU private donors to support Paul Taylor Dance Company in residency at NKU for 1 week, including teaching, performing, and artist feedback sessions, 2015 (\$12,000)
- **Ostrander Regional Theatre Award**—Theatre Memphis for original choreography, 2014
- **GALA Award**—awarded by American College Dance Association, original choreography, 2014
- **Full Graduate Tuition Grant**—University of California, Irvine, 2007-2009

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Tracey Bonner (2021): Those Dancing Feet! Musical Theater Dance as an Ethnographic Identifier, Journal of Dance Education, DOI: 10.1080/15290824.2019.1622705

REFERENCES

- **John Alberti**—Chair of English at NKU, Cinema History, and Cultural studies, mentor
 - alberti@nku.edu • 859-572-5578
- **Mercedes Ellington**—Commercial and theatrical dance professional, mentor
 - madamzajj@aol.com • 212-580-0690
- **Scott Neal**—Personal recommendation, family friend & mentor
 - scott@dsneal.com • 800-344-9098
- **Dr. S. Ama Wray**—Mentor, Dance Professional, Founder of JazzXchange
 - ama@samawray.com • 646-238-7866
- **Tim Robinson**—Director of Tour Engagement, Paul Taylor Dance Company
 - tr@ptamd.com • 212-432-5562