

Wayne M Smith

Dance Professor/Choreographer/Performer

About Me

Dance professor, choreographer, performer, and facilitator with robust experience in dance and theatre performance, education, coordination and production.



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EXPERTISE

- Dance/Choreography
- Teaching and Facilitation
- Improvisation/Creativity
- Collaboration
- Theatre and Dance Production
- Coordination/Design/Programing

OTHER SKILLS

- Mindfulness & Creative Movement
- Design Thinking Implementation
- Lighting & Sound Tech Coordinating
- Percussion Instruments



TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Memphis

2008-Present

Adjunct dance professor teaching all levels of contemporary modern dance, jazz dance, dance improvisation, dance appreciation, dance education courses, beginning ballet, and dance history. Also, choreograph for, and sometimes coordinate faculty and student dance concerts.

Playback Memphis

2010-Present

Professional ensemble member. Performer, conductor, and facilitator for performances and/or workshops making use of creative and methodical improvisational techniques to interact with audiences and participants. Playback theatre is an embodied theatre practice based in artfully bringing real stories to life through imaginative mindfulness, reflective feedback, and creative process.

Company d

2009-Present

Teaching modern dance techniques, facilitating creative movement workshops, and creating choreography for young adults and youths with special needs especially Downs Syndrome.

University of Mississippi (Ole Miss)

2009-2013

Adjunct dance professor. Taught all levels of contemporary and jazz dance techniques. Also choreographed and directed for major dance concert productions.

Spelman College

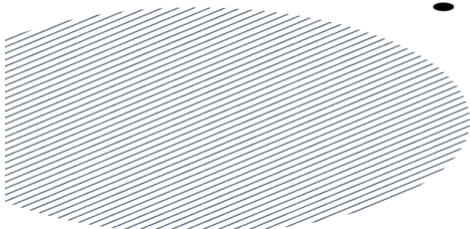
2003-2007

Visiting guest dance professor: Four-year contract. Taught all levels of contemporary modern dance, jazz dance, dance composition, creative movement classes, beginning ballet, dance history and costume design, curriculum development. Directed Spelman Dance Theatre Company including coordinating and producing all main stage concerts. Plus, choreographed for musical theatre productions.

Kent State University

2002-2003

Visiting guest professor: One-year contract. Taught all levels of contemporary modern dance, jazz dance, dance appreciation course, plus choreographed for the Kent Dance Ensemble



student company. Performed two solo works in the faculty dance showcase.

Slippery Rock University

Spring Semester 2002

Sabbatical fill in. Taught advanced dance techniques, dance composition, and served as coordinator of the senior synthesis student dance showcase. Also, taught a dance and creative movement class for Physical Education majors and university athletes.

Emory University

1997-2001

Guest Lecturer, four-year contract. Taught all levels of contemporary modern dance techniques, jazz dance, choreographed for the Emory Dance Ensemble, and coordinated costumes (some design and construction) for departmental concerts. Created and developed two new courses, the Emory Dance Touring Company, and created an honors level Dance Appreciation course. Also, coordinated technical support (lighting & sound) for departmental dance productions.

University of Memphis

1995-1997

Sabbatical fill in, two-year contract. Taught all levels of contemporary modern dance techniques, jazz dance, movement for the actor, and dance appreciation. Also taught dance composition and dance improvisation. Choreographed and performed for the main stage dance concert and coordinated student dance concert.

OTHER TEACHING AND AFFILIATIONS

- International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD), January 2024 (Memphis) – annual international dance conference/festival hosted in various cities. Taught Dance Improvisation workshop.
- Texas Dance Improvisation Festival (TDIF) – annual dance festival in various cities in Texas. Also, serve on advisory board.
- Halloran Education Center/Orpheum – Youth Development Programming (Memphis)
- Houston Metropolitan Dance (Houston, Texas)
- Vicki Doe Fitness, Annual Health & Wellness Symposium (Youngstown, Ohio)
- New Ballet Ensemble Dance Company (Memphis)
- Beacon Dance – New Dance Festival (Atlanta)
- Memphis DanceWorks – Youth Development Organization

- Moving in the Spirit Dance – Youth Development Dance Organization (Atlanta)
- Project: Motion Dance Company – Contemporary Modern Dance Collective (Memphis)

PROFESSIONAL BOARD & PANEL WORK

Texas Dance Improvisation Festival Advisory Board

2014-Present

Service on advisory board involving committee work, screening applications and proposals for instructors, performers and facilitators. Festival planning meetings.

American College Dance Association Conference-Mid Atlantic North Region

March 2022

Served as one of three adjudicators observing over 45 dance pieces from participating colleges and universities across four concerts. Gave critical response and constructive feedback along with my cohorts for each of the pieces. Collaborated with cohorts to organize and program a culminating gala concert.

Fulton County Arts Commission-Atlanta, GA

2006-2008

Served as grant panelists for dance companies and independent dance artists applying for project support from Fulton County, Georgia. Screened and reviewed numerous written grants, project proposals, and video support materials in order to decide rankings. Engaged in panel discussions about applicants to decide final rankings and awards.

Georgia Council for the Arts Dance Grants Panelist and Site Visitor; Atlanta, GA

1997-2006

Served as grant panelists and site visitor for dance organizations and independent dance artists applying for operational support and/or project support from the state of Georgia. Duties included reviewing numerous grants and project proposals, attending performances of applicants, scheduling conferences with board members of applicant organizations. Also, screened video support materials, participated in panel discussions about applicants' written grants and proposals to decide final rankings and awards.

EDUCATION

The Ohio State University - 1995

Master of Fine Arts, Dance/Choreography

University of Memphis - 1992

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre, concentration Dance, minor Mathematics.