

Jessica C. Featherson

Email: jc.featherson@gmail.com

Website: www.jessicacamille.com

Phone: 240-603-0514

Education

- Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 2019
MFA in Dance
Thesis: *Black Female Identity: An Embodied Practice of Inquiry, Healing, and Magic Making*
- Institute for Integrative Nutrition, New York, NY 2017
Certified Health Coach
Integrative Nutrition
- Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 2011
BFA in Dance Minor in Latin American Studies
Performance, Choreography

Teaching Experience

- Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Part-Time Lecturer 2017-Present
Developed syllabus, overall course structure, movement and lecture material, and administered all grades for undergraduate dance courses in modern and urban fusion. Introduced students to the contemporary African dance technique Umfundalai in the Afro-Fusion and Rotation Workshop course for BFA dance majors. Instructed Dance Appreciation Online and as face-to-face lecture course.
- Ballet Hispanico, New York, NY
Teaching Artist 2017-2019
Taught Afro-Caribbean, Afro- Modern, Umfundalai, Stretch and Conditioning in the professional academy and summer dance intensive, ages 6-21, beginning-advanced levels.
- Public School (PS 254Q & PS97Q), Queens, NY
Teaching Artist in Residence 2018
Developed curriculum for 15-week residency in partnership with Ballet Hispanico's Community Arts Program. Instructed several 4th grade classes in exploring the diversity of Afro-Caribbean culture. Using mediums of dance, music, literature, and oral history, students explored traditional and social dances, developed critical thinking & problem solving skills through inquiry-based approaches.
- Inspirational Dance LLC, Maplewood, NJ
Teaching Artist 2015-2016
Designed curriculum and instructed Intermediate Ballet, Modern, and Jazz ages 12-18. Choreographed dances for the winter and spring recital.

Footsteps Dance Program|DC Parks & Recreation, Washington, DC

Teaching Artist

2011-2012

Designed curriculum and instructed Intermediate Ballet, Modern, and Jazz ages 12-18. Choreographed dances for the winter and spring recital.

Masterclasses and Workshops Presented

Self-Care for Dancers

2017

Afro-Fusion (203) Course, Mason Gross School of the Arts
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Created and facilitated a wellness workshop that introduced useful and practical self-care methods to assist dancers with body conditioning, injury prevention, and mental health. Workshop included critical thinking and dialogue around wellness and self-care, breathwork, meditation, and holistic somatic exercises to strengthen, condition, and restore the body.

Umfundalai Workshop

2017

Afro-Fusion (203) Course, Mason Gross School of the Arts
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Introduced the contemporary African dance technique, Umfundalai to the BFA dance majors. Students were introduced to the fundamental movement aesthetics of the technique and incorporated these movement aesthetics into a culminating performance.

Afro-Modern Masterclass

2016

Suitland High School Center for the Visual and Performing Arts
Forestville, MD

Led over 50 students in a master dance class at my alma mater that included modern and African dance aesthetics and sensibilities.

International Festival Avante Garde Young Artist Residency

2015

Merida, Mexico

Facilitated a movement workshop with the Eryc Taylor Dance Company to underserved youth ages 6-18 years old in creative movement and improvisational exercises that promoted empowerment, place, and visibility.

Residency with students of the Talkington School for Young Girls

2015

Lubbock, TX

Created and facilitated a lecture-demonstration for high school students as part of the national tour of the theatrical production, *The Clothesline Muse*. The workshop included movement and vocal exercises, critical dialogue, and a culminating performance by the cast members of the production.

Afro-Brazilian Dance Master Class

2011

Boyer College of Music and Dance, Temple University

Led a master class made possible through the Creative, Arts, Research, and Scholarship Grant (CARAS) at Temple University on the company members of Kariam & Company: Traditions as well as BFA dance majors, that was a reflection and manifestation of my studies, observations, and practice of Afro-Brazilian culture and dance in Salvador, Bahia, Brasil.

Choreography

- Keep That Same Energy* 2019
Mason Gross School of the Arts Spring DancePlus Concert
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
(six dancers, 12 min)
- Insert Self (Her)e/Afro-Goddess, Taking Her Rightful Place* 2019
MFA Thesis Project at Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University
(6 dancers, 45 min)
- Sinking Ground* 2017
Motion: New Dance Works/ MFA CoLab Showcase
Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University
(11 dancers, 14min)
- Keep from Going Under* 2017
Boyer College of Music and Dance Alumni Showcase
Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
(Duet, 13min)
- Let the Groove Get In* 2017
Suitland High School Center for the Visual and Performing Arts
Winter Dance Concert
Forestville, MD
(18 dancers, 5mins)
- In THIS Moment* 2010
And Then There Were Five...
Senior B.F.A Concert, Temple University
(6 dancers, 11 mins)

Production Direction

- Insert Self (Her)e/Afro-Goddess, Taking Her Rightful Place 2019
Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
- SQUEEZE: A Visionary Experience 2019
Artspace, Mt. Rainier, MD
- SELF-ish' : Creative Wellness Retreat 2017/2018
Congress Heights Arts and Culture Center, Washington, DC

Performance (Selected)

Fall Arts Celebration/Kariamau & Company/Grand Valley State University	2018
Celebrate! Retirement Concert for Dr. Karimau Welsh/Temple University	2018
The Clothesline Muse Tour/ Texas/Kariamau Welsh Nnenna Freelon	2017
E-Moves/Harlem Stage/Laurie Taylor/Soul Movement	2016
The Exhibit/Eryc Taylor Dance NYC Season	2015
International Festival Avante Garde/Mexico/Eryc Taylor Dance	2015
Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out Dance Festival/Laurie Taylor Soul Movement	2015
National Black Theater Festival/The Clothesline Muse	2015
Harlem Arts Festival/Marcus Garvey Park/Laurie Taylor Soul Movement	2015
Summerstage/ Brooklyn/ Laurie M. Taylor Soul Movement	2015
Red Hook Fest/Laurie M. Taylor Soul Movement	2015
The Clothesline Muse NEFA National Tour	2015
Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out Dance Festival, Laurie Taylor/Soul Movement	2014
Central Park Summerstage, Laurie M. Taylor/Soul Movement, NYC	2014
The Clothesline Muse Premiere, The Painted Bride Theater, Philadelphia, PA	2014
Philadanco's 42 nd Annual Danco' on Danco'	2011
Another Strange Fruit (Dedicated to the late Pearl Primus)-Kim Bears-Bailey	
Kariamau and Company: Traditions Performance Season- Kariamau Welsh	2011-2007
Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (PIFA), La Baker: The Black Venus-Kimmika Witherspoon-Williams, Kariamau Welsh	2011
Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (PIFA) Crystallina Kun Yang-Lin, Joellen Meglin	2011
Dr. Glory Van Scott Productions: We Be Woman, Woman of the Wash Dr. Glory Van-Scott, Symphony Space, New York, NY	2010
American Dance Guild, <i>Antebellum Blues</i> - Kariamau Welsh Dance New Amsterdam, New York, NY	2008

Amateur Night at the Apollo, <i>Swing Low</i> -New Found Xpressions The Apollo Theater, New York, NY	2005
Icon 05' Presented by The Boys and Girls Club, <i>What About Us</i> Performed & Choreographed- Jessica Featherson John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC	2005
Professional Development	
<i>Urban Bush Women: Hair & Other Stories</i> Bric House Media Lab Brooklyn, NY	2019
<i>Centerline: Decolonizing Dance</i> Gibney Dance Center, New York, NY	2018
<i>Dance/NYC Symposium</i> Gibney Dance Center, New York, NY	2018
<i>Nanigo: Dancing Our Africa</i> The Organization of Umfundalai Teachers Norfolk State University	2017
Evidence Dance Company 8 th Annual Dance Workshop Series Ronald K. Brown/Restoration Arts Brooklyn, NY	2014
Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company Summer Intensive New York Live Arts, New York, NY	2013
Camille A. Brown and Dancers Master Class Steps on Broadway Summer Workshop Series, New York, NY	2013
Evidence Dance Company Repertory Workshop Ronald K. Brown/Mark Morris Dance Center, Brooklyn, NY	2012
Bale Folclorico da Bahia Master Class Temple University, Philadelphia, PA	2011
Philadanco! Summer Dance Intensive	2008-2010
Philadanco! Instruction and Training Program	2008-2010

Awards, Grants, and Scholarships

Student Special Project Fund 2017
Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University \$1,000

Student Special Project Fund 2018
Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University \$1,000

Pan American Plaque for Graduating Seniors, Temple University 2011

Fulbright Scholar Nominee 2011

Creative, Arts, and Scholarly Research (CARAS) Grant 2011
Temple University \$3,000

Inaugural Dean's Grant for Students, Temple University \$1,000 2010

Rose Vernick Most Promising Performer Award, Temple University 2010

Diamond Ambassador Scholarship Recipient 2008
Temple University \$500

International Experience

The Joyce Theater Joyce Foundation, Havana, Cuba 2013
Traveled to Havana, Cuba with the Joyce Foundation and choreographer Ronald K. Brown to workshop with various Cuban dance companies, study, move with, and observe contemporary modern dance in Cuba.

Latin American Studies Semester Program (LASS), Merida, Mexico 2010
Traveled to Merida, Yucatán, Mexico for two weeks to study traditional and contemporary Yucatán art and culture through the immersive Latin American Studies program at Temple University.

Study Abroad Program, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil 2009
Studied and immersed in Brazilian Portuguese and Afro-Brazilian culture, music, and dance for the six week study abroad program offered through Temple University.

