MIRAH KELLC MORIARTY
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## EDUCATION

- Burlington High School, VT (1996)
  - Graduated in top 2% of class.
  - Initiated a Performing Arts program in conjunction with Hannah Dennison, Founder of the intergenerational company *Working Ground*, and The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. Included guest teachers Simone Forti and Liz Lerman as well as viewings of works by world renowned companies such as Bill T. Jones, LaLaLa Human Steps, Urban Bush Women, and Trisha Brown.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

- MASTER'S OF FINE ARTS in DANCE (MFA) Hollins University, VA (2014) in conjunction with American Dance Festival (ADF) and William Forsythe/ University of the Arts & MA Code in Frankfurt, Germany
  - Thesis: *NOMAD: The Blue Road* was a series of site-specific performances along Strawberry Creek, created in response to the current movement to "daylight" or bring back creeks in urban places. The work was created in collaboration with renowned artists Dohee Lee, Debby Kajiyama, Jose Navarrete, and Pauchi Sasaki.
- BACHELORS IN ARTS (BA) Goddard College, VT (2009) Interdisciplinary Arts & Education
  - Thesis: *Body as Home: Sensing my way Back (to the roots)* was a performance installation inspired Dr. Clarissa Estes's concept of "descansos" or laying to rest, a ritual process of marking the passages of one's life.
- SCHOOL FOR NEW DANCE DEVELOPMENT (SNDO) in Amsterdam, Holland (1996-97)
- Oberlin College, OH/ Continued studies in Dance & Visual Arts (1997-98)

## DANCE COMPANIES

- DANCE MONKS (SF/Mexico City)/ Co-founding Director of internationally traveled company with Rodrigo Esteva (Mexico) (1999-present)
- Jess Curtis/GRAVITY (SF/Berlin)/ CounterPULSE, SF (2008)
- PEARSON WIDRIG DANCE THEATER (NYC)/ Company Member touring internationally (1996- 2001), Guest Artist (2001-present)

- David Dorfman Dance (NYC)/ Community Projects (1993, 1996, 1998)
- Meredith Monk (NYC)/ Performer (1997)
- Working Ground Dance-Theater (VT)/ Company Member (1993-1997)

## AWARDS & GRANTS

- Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (2016)
- Kenneth Rainin Foundation (2015)
- The Open Circle Foundation (2007, 2009, 2010 & Environmental Artist Award 2014)
- Canadian Council for the Arts/ Studio 303, Montreal (2006)
- Zellerbach Family Foundation Grant (2007 & 2015)
- East Bay Center for the Arts (2008, 2009)
- NOHSpace, SF/ Juried Artist-in-Residency Space Grant (2008)

## PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH & STUDIES

### DANCE THEORY, PEDAGOGY, HISTORY & CRITICISM

*Dance Writing & Criticism* with Dance Critic Elizabeth Zimmer (2014) • *Dance History and Theory* with Ann Cooper Albright, Oberlin College (2014 & 1997-98), Thomas DeFranz, Duke University (2013) and John Jasperse (2014) • *Dance Philosophy* with Boyan Manchev and Adrianne Heathfield, Frankfurt Germany (2014) • *Teaching Dancers with and without Disabilities*, Axis Dance Company (2008) • *Teaching Professional Dancers & Dance as a Transformative* Art *in Underserved Communities* with Sara Pearson and Patrik Widrig (1997-2000) • *Multi-generational Dance Education and Creative Process* with Liz Lerman Dance Exchange (1995 & 1998) • *Dance Education for Seniors and Children* with Kimberly Boyd, Oberlin College (1998) and Very Special Arts (1997) • *Teaching a Multi-generational Public* with Hannah Dennison, Founder of Cradle to Grave Arts (1993-1997)

### GRANT WRITING & BUSINESS FOR ARTISTS

• Grant Writer for DANCE MONKS (2000-present) • Selected Artist for *The Art of Business/ The Business of Art Course* by The East Bay Foundation for the Arts, Oakland (2009 & 2013)

### CONTEMPORARY TECHNIQUE, PARTNERING & DANCE THEATER

• Contemporary Practice with Chrysa Parkinson (of Rosas) and Tom Weinburger (of Batsheva) / Faculty at Hollins University/Forsythe, Frankfurt Germany (2014) & Jesse Zaritt (of Shen Wei), Michelle Gibson/ American Dance Festival (2013) • In-depth training in Release Technique, Dance Theater and Partnering with Rodrigo Esteva (1997-present) and as company member of Pearson/Widrig Dance Theater (NYC) (1997- 2000), David Dorfman and Lisa Race (NYC) (1993 & 1995-1997)

### IMPROVISATION, SITE-SPECIFIC DANCE & INTERDISCIPLINARY PERFORMANCE

• Jonathan Burrows, Evangelos Poulinas, Johannes Wieland/ Faculty at Hollins University/Forsythe, Frankfurt Germany (2014) • Rigorous training in Improvisation, Composition, Site-specific Dance and Interdisciplinary performance with Rodrigo Esteva as founding Director of DANCE MONKS (1999-present) and as company member of

Pearson/Widrig Dance Theater (NYC) (1995-2000), Simone Forti (VT) (1998), Nancy Stark Smith (MA) (1997), Andrew Harwood (MA)(1997), Katie Duck (Amsterdam)(1996), Pauline DeGroot (Amsterdam) (1996), Hannah Dennison (VT)(1993-97)

BODY STUDIES

• Shiatsu, Bodywork and Self-Acupressure for Dancers with Rodrigo Esteva (Mexico), Author of *Imaginacion en Movimiento* (1999-present) • Body-Mind Centering with Glena Batson (1995 & 2013) • Anatomy for Dancers with Irene Dowd (2013-2014) and Rebecca Dietzel, foremost assistant of Irene Dowd, Author of *Taking Root to Fly* (1995-96) Vincent Cacalano in Amsterdam (1996), Hannah Dennison (1993-97) • Alexander Technique with Peter Payne (1995-96) • Neuro Muscular Training with Deborah Vogel (1997) • Authentic Movement with Barbara Mahler & Yvonne Meier

YOGA & MEDITATION

• Nationally Certified Yoga Teacher (1996-2009) • Hatha Yoga with Gina Kohler (2014) • Yoga Teacher Training at Yoga Mandala (2008) • Prana Yoga, Chanting and Meditation with Saraswathi Devi at Yogalayam Prana Yoga Ashram (2005-10)

AFRICAN DANCE

• Afro-Haitian dance with Porsha Jefferson (2009), Djenane St-Juste (2010-2014) and Yanique Hume (1992-98) • Afro-Cuban with Master Teacher Baba Richard Gonzalez (1992-98 & 2012), Jose Borrosco (2008-09) and Vladimir Espinosa (2013) • West African dance with Sidiki Syllae (1998-2000) and Padma Gordan (1994-97) • Afro-Caribbean dance with Pat Hall (1993 & 2012 & 2014)

GYMNASTICS

• Member of the National U.S. Junior Olympic Gymnastics Team (1990) & All-around Champion of the East Coast (1985-1992)

COSTUME DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION (Dance, Theater & Opera)

• DANCE MONKS/ Costume Design and Construction (2000-present) • Kostum, Mexico City/ Clothing Design (2003) • Hampshire College Costume Shop (1999) • Oberlin College Opera House (1997-1998) • Beth Kellc, Designer (1990-present)

## TEACHING HISTORY

- 15 years of international experience teaching all levels of Contemporary Technique, Improvisation, Dance-Making and Performance as director of DANCE MONKS and as a company member with the world renowned Pearson/Widrig Dance Theater, NY.
- Bi-lingual (Spanish/English) through ongoing Cultural Immersion & Teaching throughout Mexico (1999-present)

UNITED STATES

- Connecticut College, CT/ Teaching and Performance residency with PWDT (2011)
- Bard College, NY/ Master Classes (2011)
- Queens College Summer Dance Festival, NYC/ Summer Dance Faculty (2011)

- BODY & SOUND, KUNST-Stoff, SF/ Curator of Interdisciplinary Arts Festival (2011)
- Midsummer Arts Festival, NY/ Summer Dance Faculty (2009 & 2010)
- Goddard College, VT/ Artist Residency (2009)
- Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, VT/ Teaching residency (2001 & 2009)
- San Francisco Summer Dance Intensive/ Faculty (2006)
- CounterPULSE Contact Dance Festival SF/ Summer Dance Faculty (2006)
- University of California at Berkeley, CA/ Teaching residency (2007)
- ODC, SF/ Dance Faculty (2007-9)
- Middlebury College Dance and Theater Department, VT/ Guest Artists (2005)
- Stanford University Research Study Department CA/ Dance Faculty (2004)
- Middlebury College Summer Language Institute VT/ Guest Artist (2004)
- University of Maryland/ Teaching and Performance residency with PWDT (2001)
- Keene State College/ Teaching and Performance residency with PWDT (2000)

MEXICO
- Bellas Artes, Mexico City/ Guest Artists (2016)
- Dance Intensive, Playa del Carmen and Cancun/ Guest Artists (2012)
- Tumákat International Dance Residency, Merida/ Guest Artists (2012)
- Foramen Ballet, Cuernavaca/ Guest Artists (2012)
- Universidad Veracruzana (University of Veracruz)/ Summer Faculty (2012)
- Espacio Abierto, Mexico City/ Guest Artists (2012)
- X Espacio, Mexico City/ Teaching Residency (2012)
- Festival Yucatán en Escénica (Yucatan International Festival of Theater Arts), Mérida (2012)
- Colegio Nacional de Danza Contemporanea (National College of Contemporary Dance) Queretero/ Summer Faculty (2012)
- Festival de Nova Vitta, Mexico City/ Guest Artists (2010)
- Universidad de las Americas Puebla (University of the Americas)/ Guest Artist (2010)
- Universidad Ibero Americana (IberoAmericana University), Mexico City/ Guest Artist Faculty (2003)
- Jardin de las Esculturas, Xalapa/ Workshop (2001)
- Universidad Veracruzana (University of Veracruz)/ Guest Artist Faculty (2000)

PERU
- Danza Tupac/ Teaching Residency, Lima, Peru (2012)

CANADA
- Studio 303 Montreal/ Teaching Residency (2004 & 2006)

## YOUTH TEACHING & PERFORMANCES (K-12)
- Dance Faculty and Guest Artist at underserved public and private schools in California, New York and Mexico, including children with and without disabilities.
- Created original, multi-media (spoken word, dance and video) performances in direct collaboration with the students.
- Established The Green Project, an environmental education through the arts program in

public schools in the state of California with support from The Open Circle Foundation.

RELATED EXAMS
- Scored 97% (Rank 1) on the written and performance examination for Dance Specialist for Elementary level teaching in the state of California. Passed California Based Education Standards Test (CBEST) for Public School Educators (2014)

CALIFORNIA
- Malcolm X Elementary School, CA/ Dance Faculty (2016)
- Oakland Unified School District, CA/ Dance Faculty (2015)
- Berkeley Arts Magnet (K-5), CA/ THE GREEN PROJECT, Co-Founder of Environmental Education through the Arts program including multi-media performance of *Wild Child & Other Tales of the Tall Trees* (2010) created in collaboration with the students.
- Highland Elementary School (K-5), CA/ THE GREEN PROJECT (2008-09) including multi-media performance of *Rain Dances* created in collaboration with the students.
- Berkeley High School, CA/ Master Class (2009)
- Studio Rasa, CA/ Dance Faculty (2007-08)

NEW YORK
- Migrant Worker Family Summer Arts Camp, NY/ Summer Dance Faculty (2012)
- Summer Dance, NY/ Dance Faculty (2007 & 2008 & 2009 & 2010)
- The Vanaver Caravan Institute (K-12), NY/ Guest Artist Faculty (2011) Performance of *EMBERS (2011)* commissioned by the youth folk dance company for Beltane Festival, NY.
- High Meadow Elementary School (K-6), NY/ Teaching Artist (2011)
- Marbletown Multi-Arts (MaMA), NY/ Teaching Artist (2011)
- Mountain Laurel Elementary School (K-8), NY/ Teaching Artist (2011)
- Woodstock Library, NY/ *Star Rider (2012)* Site-specific performance directed by Rodrigo Esteva and Mirah Moriarty with guest performers Aki Densmore (Age 7) and Sebastian Esteva (age 9) based on an original song.

MEXICO
- Colegio Madrid (Madrid Elementary School K-8) DF/ Dance Faculty (2004)
- Jornada Cultural CIE Sur DF, K-6/ Dance Faculty (2004)
- Academia Mexicana de la Danza (Mexican Academy of Dance), DF/ Performing Arts High School Dance Faculty (2003)
- Centro de Movimiento (Movement Center), Founding director focusing on movement for children with disabilities and senior citizens (2001-2002)
- La Batuta Escuela de Musica (Batuta School of Music) Cuernavaca/ Residency (2000)

## PERFORMANCE HISTORY

### DANCE MONKS, Director with Co-founder, Rodrigo Esteva

UNITED STATES
- La PeNa Cultural Center, CA/ *Tlaoli: People of the Corn* Artist-in-Residence (2016)

- Strawberry Creek, CA/ Site-specific *NOMAD: The Blue Road* (2014)
- Hollins University, VA/ Site-specific Tonalli (Pieces) (2014)
- NY State Touring Project: Woodstock Library, Stone Ridge Library and MaMA (2012)
- UNISON Arts, NY/ *Postcards of Mexico* (2011)
- Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health, MA/ *Green: A Force of Nature* (2010)
- Hawk Hill, CA/ Site-specific in *Cave* (2010)
- Goddard College, VT/ *Road to Remembrance* (2009)
- Midsummer Arts Festival, NY/ Improvisational Scores (2009 & 2010)
- OPUS 40, NY/ Site-specific duet *Signs (of our Return)* (2009)
- NOHSpace, SF/ *ORIGINS Artists-in-Residence Series* (2008)
- CounterPULSE, SF/ *Green: A Force of Nature* (2006)
- Flynn Center for the Performing Arts/ *The Other Side (of the border)* (2001)

PERU
- Teatro Municipal (Municipal Theater Inauguration) Lima, Peru *MURU* (2012 & 2013)
- FAEL Festival de Artes Escenicas Lima, Peru/ *MURU* (2012)

MEXICO
- Festival de Ida y Vuelta, DF / *En Manos de la Noche/ In the Hands of the Night,* DF (2013)
- Centro Cultural Viniculart, Tlayacapan/ *Postcards of Mexico (*2010)
- Festival de Nova Vitt (Nova Vitt Dance Festival), Mexico City (2010)
- Universidad de las Americas Puebla (University of the Americas), Mexico (2010)
- Universidad IberoAmericana (IberoAmericana University), Mexico City/ *Tierra Imaginaria/ Imagined Land* (2004)
- Escuela Madrid, Mexico City/ *Lulabai* (2003)
- Teatro de la Danza (Theater of Dance), Mexico City/ *Lulabai* (2003)
- Universidad IBeroAmericana (Ibero Americana University), Mexico City
- UNAM Sala Miguel Covarruvias Universidad Nacional, Mexico City *(*National University) *Colores* (2002)
- Casa de Cultura & La Casa de los Ancianos, Mexico, Coatepec/ *Bosque de Niebla* (2001)
- Festival Internacional de la Danza (International Dance Festival), Mexico City (2000)
- Jardin de las Esculturas (2000 & 2001)
- La Batuta School of Music (2000)

PEARSON/WIDRIG DANCE THEATER (NY), Company member
- Connecticut College, CT/ *A Curious Invasion* (2011)
- L/A Arts, ME/ *HereAfter* (2001)
- Keene State College, NH/ *HereAfter* (2000)
- Virginia Commonwealth University, VA/ *HereAfter* (2000)
- Portland Museum of Art, ME/ *A Curious Invasion* (2000)
- The Joyce Theater, NY/ *HereAfter* (2000)
- The Judson Church, NYC/ *Beginning to Begin* (2000)
- Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, DC/ *Ordinary Festivals* (2000)
- Grace Street Theater/ *HereAfter* (2000)
- Festival Internacional de Danza ContemporaNea Lima, Peru/ *Ordinary Festivals* (1999)
- Bates Dance Festival/ *A Curious Invasion* (1999)

- Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors Festival, NY/ *Ordinary Festivals* (1999)
- Danspace Project at Saint Mark's Church, NY (1999)
- The Wagon Train Project, NE/ *If Wishes Were Horses, Beggars Would Ride* (1998)

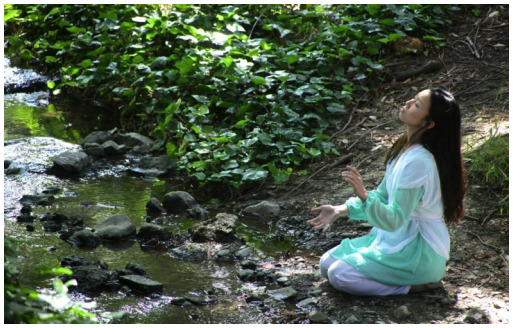
## WORKING GROUND DANCE-THEATER, Company member

Durational Performances:
*The Waterfront Project*, 10 hrs/day for 10 days on the waterfront, Performer (1999)
*The Bakery Project*, A site-specific performance and visual installation (1998)
*The Mill Project*, 10 hrs/ day for 10 days in an old mill building (1994-5)

## HISTORY OF WORKS DIRECTED & PERFORMED

Gallery: [www.vimeo.com/dancemonks](www.vimeo.com/dancemonks)

1. *TLAOLI: People of the Corn* (2016) was an interdisciplinary look at corn as essential to Mexican cultural identity: the mythic and ancestral relationship between people and plants through traditional farming, agricultural rituals and mythology. Collaborating artists, Rodrigo Esteva and Mirah Moriarty, asked essential questions regarding cultural displacement and amnesia while looking at the potential of the ritual and the arts to restore memory. Supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Kenneth Rainin Foundation and Zellerbach Family Foundation.



*2. NOMAD: The Blue Road (2014)* was a site-specific performance along Strawberry Creek in support of the international movement to daylight (bring back) creeks and reclaim public space in urban places. The piece was directed with Rodrigo Esteva in collaboration with Jose Navarrete, Debby Kajiyama, Kevin O'Connor (NAKA Dance Theater), Dohee Lee, Adria Otte, (The Puri Project), Pauchi Sasaki (Colectivo OIE) and Jennifer Curtis (ICE, NYC) with a community cast. Supported by Zellerbach Family Foundation and The Open Circle Foundation.

3. Tonalli [Soul Pieces] (2014) was a visual installation and performance (adapted from *NOMAD: The Blue Road)* performed on a bridge overlooking the river at Hollins University that explored the relationship between the body, history and place.

4. *MURU (2012)* signifies seed in Quechua, endless dream in Japanese. This multi-media performance was directed by (current Rolex Award Protégé Artist), Pauchi Sasaki (Peru), in collaboration with Mirah Moriarty and Rodrigo Esteva

(DANCE MONKS), Jennifer Curtis (of ICE NY), Dohee Lee (Korea/SF) and Zulu Tsuruyama (Japan). Commissioned for the inauguration of Teatro Municipal Lima, Peru and as part of the international FAEL Festival, Lima Peru.

5. *BODY & SOUND (2010)* A Nomadic (Multi-City) Arts Festival curated by Mirah Moriarty with live music by Pauchi Sasaki (Peru/Japan), Dohee Lee (Korea) and Laura Inserra (Italy) with T-Bird Luv (Brooklyn). KUNST-Stoff ARTS, SF.

6. *CAVE (2009)* was a site-specific performance overlooking the Bay Bridge at Hawk Hill choreographed by Mirah Moriarty with performers Rodrigo Esteva (DANCE MONKS), Melecio Estrella (of Joe Goode Performance Group), Christine Bonansea (of La Alternativa/ Kathleen Hermesdorf), Olivia Eng and guests. Directed by Laura Inserra of Samavesha and commissioned by Green Music Network.

7. *Road (to Remembrance) (2009)* was inspired by Dr. Estes process of "descansos" or laying to rest, a ritual process of marking the passages of one's life. The installation was performed inside a constructed tent made of over 1,000 pieces of paper (including the typed thesis) with projections and a live performance by Mirah Moriarty. The work examined the intimate relationship between the natural environment and (transitory) cultural identity. Soundscape by Pauchi Sasaki. Goddard College, VT.

8. *ORIGINS (2009) was a* multi-media performance directed with Rodrigo Esteva in collaboration with Tawera (Rodney) Bell (of AXIS Dance) & Olivia Eng Live music by Laura Inserra, Pauchi Sasaki and Claudia Cuentas as Artists-in-Residence at NOHSpace Theater SF. Supported by East Bay Center for the Arts and The Open Circle Foundation.

9. *Montana Que Habla/ Talking Mountain (2008)* was a music and dance collaboration performed by Laura Inserra, Pauchi Sasaki, Claudia Cuentas, Mirah Moriarty and Rodrigo Esteva. Samavesha Space Richmond, CA.

10. *Postcards of Mexico (2007)* was a multi-media performance directed with Rodrigo Esteva with photography by Sebastian Belaustegui (Author of *Guardianes del Tiempo/ The Guardians of Time*) that focused on endangered ways of village life due to the invasion of large US corporations such as WALMART. Premiered at CounterPULSE, SF.

11. *GREEN: A Force of Nature (2007)* was an interdisciplinary, environmental performance focused on bringing nature back into the cities through site-specific film and body memory. Premiered at CounterPULSE, SF.

> *THE GREEN PROJECT (2007)* Environmental Education through the Arts residencies with professional artists in public schools throughout the East Bay, CA including: *Wild Child & Other Tales of the Tall Trees* (Berkeley Arts Magnet) and *Rain Dances* (Highland Elementary School).

12. *El Otro Lado (The Other Side/of the border) (2005)* was created in collaboration with Rodrigo Esteva based on a series of artist-led interviews (in Spanish and English) with people of all walks of life living on either side of the Mexican border (US/Mexico) and their vision of "the other side." Premiered at Middlebury College Summer Language Institute, VT.

13. *La Casa de las Mariposas (2000)* was a series of dreamscapes, inspired by living in the mountains of Xalapa, Mexico, dancing in nature, along the streams, rocks and in the woods for 5-6 hours daily.

14. *Tierra Imaginaria/Imagined Land (2003 & 2004)* was a site-specific, group piece directed with Rodrigo Esteva, commissioned by Universidad IberoAmericana (IberoAmericana University), DF in and around the trees on campus. The performance included a visual installation of found objects at the university, including mountains of jacaranda (blue) flower petals.

15. *Lulabai (2002)* was directed with Rodrigo Esteva and performed by pre-professional dancers from Xolin Jolitzli School of the Arts. The work was inspired by elementary aged student drawings at Escuela Madrid of their "ideal worlds," which were projected as part of the installation for the live performance. Premiered at Universidad Nacional (The National University), Mexico City, MEXICO.

16. *Flights of Passage (1997* was a site-specific performance installation in a star observatory at the full Harvest moon, performed with live music by Ranjit Parmar. Premiered at Oberlin College (OH).

17. Crutches (1996) was a solo piece created in partnership with a stairwell while dancing on crutches that explored the body as a live architectural element. The European Dance Development Center, Amsterdam Holland.

18. *Dried Flowers in a Specific Order (1996)* Duet with Lida Winfield presented as an *On Stage Series* at Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (VT)

## PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Sara Pearson
Director of Pearson Widrig Dance Theater and Professor of Dance at University of Maryland
Telephone: 212- 433-0651 E-mail: pearsonwidrig@gmail.com

Baco Ohama, Professor of Art at Goddard College, VT
E-mail only: baco.ohama@mac.com

Debby Kajiyama, Director of NAKA Dance Theater, Oakland CA
Telephone: 650-759-8770 Email: debby.kajiyama@alumni.stanford.edu

Lindsay Iya McGowen, MFA Thesis Advisor & Interdisciplinary Artist
Telephone only: 845-853-5330

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