

SUSANNAH KEITA

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ACADEMIC DEGREES AND SPECIALIZED TRAINING

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, Tucson, Arizona

Master of Fine Arts. *Theatre Arts with Dance Emphasis*, May 2003

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Bachelor of Science. *Social Sciences*, May 1995

DUNHAM TECHNIQUE CERTIFICATION. Institute for

Dunham Technique Instructor Certification, July 2012

RIO SALADO COLLEGE, Tempe, Arizona

Secondary Teaching Certification in Dance.

K-12 Endorsement, Structured English Immersion, May 2005



OVERVIEW

Susannah “Sukie” Keita is a dancer, artist, and cultural worker, centered in culturally relevant pedagogy and jazz dance studies. Sukie earned an MFA at the University Of Arizona School Of Dance and teaching certification in Dunham Technique. After leading dance programs in public schools for a decade, she developed the dance education degree at Grand Canyon University and established its pre-professional dance ensemble. As a professional dance artist in Arizona, Sukie has appeared with Orts Theatre of Dance, Thom Lewis Dance, and New Articulations. She has also worked on projects with Ojeya Cruz Banks, Leanne Schmidt, and Suzy Guarino-Hall. Sukie has served with the Arizona Dance Education Organization and currently chairs the pedagogy committee with the Institute for Dunham Technique Certification. She lives in Phoenix and teaches at Estrella Mountain Community College. She also creates, produces, and consults with SukieDance (www.sukie.dance).

WORK EXPERIENCE

TEACHING and ADMINISTRATION

2021 - present Adjunct faculty, Estrella Mountain Community College. Avondale, Arizona

2010-2020 Director of Dance, Assistant Professor. College of Fine Arts and Production, Grand Canyon University. Phoenix, Arizona

Teaching:

Taught various levels of coursework including jazz, ballet, modern, and tap dance, dance history, somatics, applied pedagogy, integrated arts, elementary and secondary methods, and world dance studies

Academic Service:

Artistic Director, Ethington Dance Ensemble, Annual Dance Concert Series and Elementary Dance Tour (2010 – 2020)

University Assessment Committee (2013 – 2020)

Faculty Professional Development Advisory Committee (2010-2012)

Peer Classroom Observer and Discussion Facilitator (2012-2013)

Administration:

Directed Bachelor of Arts Program in Dance Education, leading to certification in grades K-12 in Arizona

Collaboratively designed B.A. Dance Education and B.A. Dance degrees with Curriculum Design and Development

Collaborated in university program review process to evaluate dance program effectiveness across a 3-year cycle

Led re-accreditation efforts at programmatic level with the Higher Learning Commission and the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education

Applied for and gained program approval with the Arizona Department of Education to offer institutional recommendation for the Arizona K-12 Arts Education Certificate in Dance

Developed and continuously revised programmatic assessment plan by establishing programmatic benchmarks, aligning program standards to external accreditation boards, analyzing student assessment data, implementing improvement action plans, revising curricula and measurement tools, training adjunct instructors on assessment

Planned and led auditions for the College of Fine Arts and Production and manage dance department auditions

Collaborated with faculty, staff, and student leadership to produce and manage concert productions including the Student Spotlight Concert Series

Interviewed, selected, and mentored adjunct faculty and student workers

TEACHING and ADMINISTRATION

Hosted guest artist residencies with dance artists of national and international reputation.

Led department's participation and mentored student choreographers for the American College Dance Festival, West Region Conference (selected for the Gala Concert every year from 2013-2020)

Collaborated with marketing department to design web and print media

2005-10 Dance Teacher, Amphitheater Middle School, Tucson, Arizona

Led beginning and advanced level-courses of classical, contemporary, and vernacular dance forms. Wrote curriculum aligned with national and state arts standards. Co-produced school-wide performing arts events. Conducted collaborative action research including Career Ladder, Arizona Proposition 301, and Project Excel, a federal Title I grant program

Facilitated students' participation in local and regional festivals, concerts, and events. Sponsored student dance club and mentored student officers. Hosted local and international guest artists, who taught international dance forms including Congolese (Julian Babinga), Brazilian (Roseangela Silvestre), and Spanish (Jason Martinez)

SCHOLARSHIP

RESEARCH and TEACHING INTERESTS

Dance, Choreography, Critical Pedagogy, Dance Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, Critical Ethnography, Women's Studies, African-American Studies, Whiteness Studies, Performance Studies

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2002 Arizona Dance Education Organization.
 2002 National Dance Education Organization
 2010 National Association of Schools of Dance
 2010 Arizona Dance Coalition
 2010 Arizona Citizens for the Arts
 2010 Katherine Dunham Center for the Arts and Humanities
 2012 Institute for Dunham Technique Certification
 2014 American College Dance Association
 2018 Dance and the Child International

HONORS and AWARDS

- 2022 Artist Opportunity Grant for Choreography from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, an agency of the State of Arizona
- 2015 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award, Grand Canyon University
- 2011-17 AriZoni nominations for Choreography in Non-Contracted Theatre at Grand Canyon University's Ethington Theatre. *Pirates of Penzance*. Gilbert and Sullivan; *Oklahoma!* Rogers and Hammerstein; *West Side Story*. Robbins, Bernstein, and Sondheim.
- 2013 President's Faculty Award of Excellence, Grand Canyon University
- Excellence in Education Award, selected by Phoenix Mercury of the Women's Basketball Association

CONFERENCES and PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 Workshop. *An Ally's Perspective: Lessons Culled from Sitting In Discomfort For One Year* at Red Clay Dance Company's Winter Speaker Series.
- 2021 Podcast episode. *Culturally Relevant and Brain-Based Dance Pedagogy: A Conversation with Sukie Keita of the Institute for Dunham Technique Certification*. The DEC Podcast - Dance Education in the 21st Century. Dance Education Canada. www.cnadedu.com.
- 2021 Guest Artist Residency. Commissioned concert work and week of master classes. Glendale Community College, Verve Dance Company. Director Rebecca Rabideau. Glendale, Arizona.
- 2021 Guest Artist Residency. Week of master classes. Ballet Yuma. Director Kathleen Sinclair. Yuma, Arizona.
- 2019 Workshop. *Sharing Our Elementary Dance Tour Model* with Marlene Strang, Nicole Flinn, Justine Bach, Carissa Eubank. Annual Conference of the National Dance Education Organization. Miami, Florida
- Master Classes. *Moving in the Spirit of Katherine Dunham, Auditions 101*. Let's Dance Yuma! Festival. Yuma, AZ
- Workshop. *Dunham Jazz: #OriginalBlackGirlMagic*. Jazz Special Topic Conference, National Dance Education Organization. Newport, Rhode Island
- Presentation. *Troubling the Waters of Universalism*. Dunham Technique Conference, Institute for Dunham Technique Certification. Evansville, IN
- 2017 Panel Presentation. *Dance At The Core: Engaging Community through an Elementary School Dance Program*. Annual Conference of the National Dance Education Organization. San Antonio, Texas
- 2016 Workshops. *Dwelling in the Soma* and Dunham Technique Master class. University of Michigan's Residential College and Dance Department. Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 2015 Workshop Intensive. *Duncan and Dunham: Embodied Philosophies and Practices*. With Janaea Lyn McAlee. Annual Conference of the National Dance Education Organization. Published in Conference Proceedings.

CONFERENCES and PRESENTATIONS

- 2014 Paper Presentation. *Moving in Step with Katherine Dunham: A Model Curriculum*. Annual Conference of the National Dance Education Organization. Miami, Florida
- 2012 Paper Presentation. *Applications of the Dunham Technique in Jazz Dance*. Annual Conference of the Humanities Education and Research Association. Salt Lake City, Utah
- 2011 Paper Presentation. *A Metacognitive Approach to Dance Education*. Annual Conference of the Humanities Education and Research Association. San Francisco, California

CHOREOGRAPHY

- 2022 Seek First Production's *Black Women Walking*, a play by Karen Williams.
- 2021 Glendale Community College Spring Dance Concert. April 30. *Gossamer*.
- 2020 *Rooted*, Ethington Theatre, December 11-13. *Entire Tea*.
- 2019 *The Dance Department Goes POP!* Ethington Theatre, April 12-14. *Waiting To Be Free*.
- 2018 *The Tipping Point*, Ethington Theatre, April 13-14. *Radically Us*.
Uncovered, Ethington Theatre, December 7 – 10. *Two Truths and a Lie*.
- 2017 *Ballet to Broadway*, Ethington Theatre, April 21-22. *Cool* and *America* from *West Side Story*.
- 2017 *West Side Story*, based on a conception by Jerome Robbins. Department of Theatre, Ethington Theatre. Directed by Claude Pensis. March 24 – April 2.
The Arc Between, Ethington Theatre, December 9-10. *Race to Freedom*.
- 2016 *Giving Voice*, Ethington Theatre, April 15 – 16. *Cloud Break*. Phoenix, Arizona.
- 2015 *Pacem in Terris*, Ethington Theatre, December 11-12. *Washed, Carried*.
Oklahoma! Department of Theatre, Ethington Theatre. Directed by Michael Kary. March.
Ballet to Broadway, Ethington Theatre, April 17 – 18. *Maybe This Time*. *Kansas City*.
- 2014 *Balance/Opposition*, Ethington Theatre, December 5-6. *The Arms of the Milky Way*.
reNEWal, Ethington Theatre, April 22 – 23. *B-Sides*.
- 2013 *raDiANCE*, Ethington Theatre, December 11 – 12. *Living, Lasting*.
Twinge, Ethington Theatre, April 26 – 27. *Say You Do*.
- 2012 *Road Less Traveled*, Ethington Theatre, December 12-13. *Particulate Matters*.
@, Ethington Theatre, April 27 – 28. *Survival Is Not A Color*.
- 2011 *Legacy*, Ethington Theatre, December 15 – 16.
Roots of Paradise, Ethington Theatre, April 15 – 16.
- 2010 *Kinetic Dreams*, Ethington Theatre, December 11 – 12.

PERFORMANCE

- 2014 - 21 Tap 24/7. Directed by Suzy Guarino. Annual celebration of National Tap Dance Day, last Sunday of May. Phoenix, Arizona
- 2018 Choreography by Kevin Godfrey-Chevalier. Beta Dance Festival at Phoenix Center for the Arts.
- 2018 Collaboration with Bryn Corbett, Alicia-Lynn Nascimento Casto. "Spark!" Festival at Mesa Arts Center.
- 2016 *Breaking Ground Dance Festival*. Directed by Carley Conder.
I-Land choreographed by Susannah Keita. Tempe Center for the Arts, January 29. Tempe, Arizona
- 2015 *Artel*, Improvised, untitled solo and group performance. Curated by Carley Conder. Hotel Clarendon. May 15. Phoenix, Arizona
- 2012 *Road Less Traveled: One* choreographed by Leanne Schmidt. Ethington Theatre, December 12-13. Phoenix, Arizona
Phoenix Festival of the Arts: Aria and *The Sixth Hour* choreographed by Jenny Showalter of Treeline Dance Works. Phoenix Center for the Arts, December 9. Phoenix, Arizona
- 2011 *L'heure Bleue: Bless Us Confess Us*. Dance, spoken-word solo. C-5 Warehouse Space. Arizona Sash Factory, November 18. Tucson, Arizona
- 2011 Ethington Dance Ensemble, *Love, Drum, Talk*, choreographed by Zari Le'on. *I've Done What I Could To Pick Up the Pieces*. April 16-17. Phoenix, Arizona
- 2010 New Articulations Dance Theatre, Directed by Kimi Eisele, Katie Rutterer. *Adaptations*, Zuzi Dance Theatre, April 17-18. Tucson, Arizona
- 2008 Funhouse Movement Theater, Directed by Lee Anne Hartley. *Winter Forest, Spring's Awakening*, choreographed by Dr. John M. Wilson. Pima Community College Fine Arts Center, April 11-12. Tucson, Arizona
- 2007 Zuzi Move It! Dance Theatre. *Playful Warriors*, choreographed by Ojeya Cruz Banks. Zuzi Dance Theater, December 21-23. Tucson, Arizona
- 2005-08 Thom Lewis Dance Theatre, Directed by Thom Lewis.
Cat's Cradle, Stevie Eller Dance Theatre, March 7-8, 2008.
The Emperor's New Threads, Pima Community College Fine Arts Center, Jan. 13-14, 2008.
Suite Down Under, Stevie Eller Dance Theatre, October 29-30, 2007. Tucson, Arizona
- 2005-10 OTO Dance Theatre, Directed by Anne Bunker.
Flying, Dance, and Films III, Stevie Eller Dance Theatre, June 13-14, 2008.
25 Years and Still Flying, Stevie Eller Dance Theatre, June 18-19, 2010.
Flying, Dance, and Films II, Stevie Eller Dance Theatre, June 15-16, 2007.
IV Festival Internacional Mujeres en la Danza in Quito, Ecuador, March 8-18, 2006.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Institute for Dunham Technique Certification (IDTC)

Pedagogy co-chair. (2014-2018), Pedagogy Chair (2018 -)

IDTC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the legacy of dancer/choreographer/ anthropologist Katherine Dunham (1909-2006), which maintains a professional standard for the teaching of Dunham Technique. I contribute to the planning of our annual conference and board retreat, collaboratively design and revise our 3-year certification curriculum (writing, teaching, peer reviewing), teach pedagogy and technique courses, research grant opportunities, and serve as a voting member of our board.

Arizona Dance Education Organization (AzDEO)

Past-President, (2015-2017), President, (2013-2015). Higher Education Representative, (2011-2013, 2019-2021)

AzDEO is the state affiliate organization of the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), which sustains the mission to support and advance dance education centered in the arts. I have taught master classes and represented our members at national conferences and state-wide event, and initiated several programs since 2012, including the AzDEO Student Internships, AzDEO Dance Resource Library, the AzDEO College Connections Expo, the AzDEO Student Leadership Conference, and Dance At The Core, a K-8 dance initiative with Phoenix Elementary School District #1.

GCU Student Dance Education Organization (GCU-SDEO)

Advisor and Faculty Sponsor (2011 – 2019)

GCU-SDEO is an official student chapter of NDEO, which is focused on the mission of expanding access to dance. This ASGCU-sponsored student club has established and maintained an Honors program through National Honor Society of Dance Arts (NHSDA). Student members volunteer over 4,000 hours per year on campus, local dance studios, churches, and non-profit arts organizations throughout metropolitan Phoenix.

GCU Student Clubs including Lindy Lopes, DREAM Club, Lopes Up To The Beat

Advisor and Faculty Sponsor (2013 – 2019)

National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)

Field Testing Proctor (2017 – 2019) Dance Entry Level Teacher Assessment (DELTA). BA Dance Education students DELTA is a collaborative effort by NDEO and the State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE) to build national consensus on baseline competencies for an entry level subject knowledge certification test for dance.