

Jessica Bertram

Visiting Assistant Professor
Whitman College
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Education

**MFA, Dance with Ethnic Studies Emphasis
Certificates, Arts Administration and Ethnic Studies**
University of Colorado Boulder

Aug 2021 - May 2024
Boulder, CO

**BS, Anthropology & Human Biology
BA, Dance & Movement Studies**
Emory University

Aug 2013 - May 2017
Atlanta, GA

Academic Teaching Experience

Advanced Contemporary Dance Practicum / 15 students

Visiting Assistant Professor

This advanced course will delve into the historical, cultural, and artistic dimensions of movement rooted in the African Diaspora while exploring its rich intersection with contemporary movement techniques. Students will engage deeply with rhythmic structures, dynamic movements, and storytelling elements inherent in the culture and values of African, Black American, and Contemporary traditions. Emphasis will be placed on developing relationships with the self and the community in efforts to envision and practice more just futures.

Walla Walla, WA
Present

Beginning Contemporary Dance Practicum / 17 students

Visiting Assistant Professor

This introductory course explores the rich intersection of African dance and culture with contemporary movement techniques. Students will experience movement practices rooted in values/elements of the Diaspora. This class will include a variety of movement techniques and traditions such as, West African, classical modern, floorwork, and improvisation.

Walla Walla, WA
Present

Modern Dance Lecture / 16 students

Visiting Assistant Professor

This companion lecture course offers an immersive exploration into the history and dynamic interplay between African, Black American, and contemporary dance forms. Students will investigate the evolution of these rich traditions, examining how they have influenced each other and contributed to shaping the global dance landscape.

Walla Walla, WA
Present

Intermediate/Advanced Contemporary (Technique)/ 36 students Boulder, CO
Graduate Instructor Jan - May 2024
 This course challenges intermediate and advanced students to refine their understanding and personal approach to the study of international contemporary dance. Students will deepen their sense of somatic awareness, efficient athleticism, and creative voice.

Beginning Ballet with Experience (Technique)/ 41 students Boulder, CO
Graduate Instructor Jan - May 2024
 This course relies on a demonstrated comprehension of kinesthetic and conceptual principles mastered at the beginning level. New movements from the classical ballet vocabulary are introduced with continued emphasis on alignment, rotation, and movement quality.

Dance & Popular Culture and Media (Lecture)/ 92 students Boulder, CO
Graduate Instructor Aug - Dec 2023
 This course explores and contextualizes contemporary popular culture and dance. Through methods of critical analysis students will examine the rich heritage of dance that exists in the club, on the street, on television, on the big screen and elsewhere in everyday life.

Beginning Jazz (Technique)/ 27 students Boulder, CO
Graduate Instructor Aug - Dec 2023
 This course is an introduction to jazz dance technique that will include a range of performance styles, improvisation, and African-influenced polyrhythms. Students will engage with jazz dance history, movement vocabulary and fundamental dance skills such as isolations, flexibility, core strength, across the floor and center choreography.

Dance & Popular Culture and Media (Lecture)/ 75 students Boulder, CO
Teaching Assistant Jan - May 2023

West African Dance (Technique)/ 106 students Boulder, CO
Teaching Assistant Jan - May 2023

Beginning Contemporary (Technique)/ 23 students Boulder, CO
Graduate Instructor Aug - Dec 2022
 This course is an introduction to contemporary dance forms that will include afro-modern, classical modern, floorwork, and improvisation. Students will develop their relationship with breath, increase their flexibility and core strength, and deepen their understanding of weight and mobilizing the body through space.

West African Dance (Technique)/ 103 students Boulder, CO
Teaching Assistant Aug- Dec 2022

Community Outreach Teaching Experience

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Denver, CO
Mental Health Is Wealth Artistic Facilitator May - Aug 2024
 CPRD's Mental Health is Wealth (MHIW) internship program is an eight-week experience connecting high school students with more than a dozen creative industry organizations for on-job-access within diverse career fields. Students participate in a weekly workshop designed to provide foundational knowledge of mental health, wellness, and the arts with our behavioral health professionals and arts facilitation team members.

Education & Outreach Teaching Artist Feb 2022 - Aug 2024
 Fostering youth development through the art of dance, ages 6-12. Teaching modern, hip-hop, ballet, and afro-fusion, in collaboration with parents and fellow teachers to meet students' physical and emotional needs.

Denver Center for Performing Arts Denver, CO
Broadway Jazz Teaching Artist July 2024
 Fostering youth development through the art of dance, ages 3-12. Teaching Broadway Jazz, creative movement, and contemporary dance to support DCPA's Musical Madness summer program.

Creative Dance Kids Denver, CO
Outreach Teaching Artist May 2022 - Dec 2023
 Fostering youth development through the art of dance, ages 3-12. Teaching creative movement, in collaboration with fellow teachers to meet students' physical and emotional needs.

Lakewood Cultural Arts Center Lakewood, CO
Teaching Artist Jul 2022 - Mar 2023
 Fostering youth development through the art of dance, ages 7-14. Teaching ballet and performance, in collaboration with parents and fellow teachers to meet students' physical and emotional needs.

Moving in the Spirit, Inc. Atlanta, GA
Teaching Artist Aug 2016 - May 2021
 Fostering youth development through the art of dance, ages 3-18. Teaching modern, jazz, hip-hop, ballet, improvisation and choreography, in collaboration with parents and fellow teachers to meet students' physical and emotional needs. Choreographic work has been presented at the Rialto Center for the Arts, Synchronicity Theatre, Emory Performing Arts Studio, and 2019 National Apprentice Corporation Tour.

The Move/Dance! Program Atlanta, GA
Teaching Artist Aug 2017 - May 2019
 Teach Move/Dance! program students to develop their creativity through dance, ages 10-18. Develop student communication and presentation skills in preparation for public dance performances.

Community Organizing Experience

BIPoC Improvisation Jam Boulder, CO
Organizer and Movement Facilitator Dec 2023 - May 2024
 Founded by mayfield brooks (somatic practitioner) and Makisig Akin (movement artist) to create space for BIPoC folks of the Boulder community and CU Boulder campus to jam on a monthly basis.

Standing on the Wheels of Time Boulder, CO
Rehearsal Director Feb 2023 - Apr 2024
 Original choreography by New York based movement artist André Zachery set on CU Boulder undergraduate students. Process facilitated from February to show date in April 2024.

High School Dance Day Boulder, CO
Director Jan 2024 - Apr 2024
 High schools of the Front Range will experience an intensive at CU Boulder's Dance Department to engage in workshops, mentorship, and performance. Funded by the Boulder Arts Commission Leadership Pipeline Scholarship Award.

Revel: MFA Graduate Showcase Boulder, CO
Artistic Director Aug 2022 - Oct 2023
 Annual evening of works presented by MFA candidates in Dance at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Grad Tour Boulder, CO
Assistant Director Jan 2023 - May 2023
 Movement residency facilitated by graduate students to bring arts education to the communities of Colorado's Front Range.

Awards and Honors

The Jessica Bertram Womanist Innovation & Pioneer Award (\$1,000)	May 2024
Program Support Fund (\$1,400)	Spring 2024
Graduate Research Award Demonstrating Excellence (\$500)	Spring 2024
Graduate Research in Dance (\$500)	Fall 2023
Leadership Pipeline Scholarship Award (\$8,000)	Fall 2023
Charlotte York Ireya Scholarship (\$7,200)	Fall 2023
Onye Ozuzu Award (\$1,000)	Spring 2023
Eaton Travel Research Grant (\$500)	Fall 2022
Gail Pokoik Award (\$2,500)	Fall 2022
UBW Summer Leadership Intensive Scholarship (\$1,200)	Summer 2022
Graduate Research in Dance Grant (\$1,000)	Spring 2022
Center for Humanities in the Arts Fellowship (\$27,000)	2021-2022
MFA Excellence in Research Micro Grant (\$500)	Fall 2021
Hambidge Cross-Pollination Art Lab Resident Artist	2020-2021
Idea Capital Grant Recipient (\$1,200)	Fall 2020
Dance Canvas Summer Choreographic Resident Artist	Summer 2020
Georgia Council for the Arts Grant Review Panelist	2019-2020
Arthur M. Blank Foundation's Audience Building Roundtable Member	2017-2019
Bloomberg Arts Innovation and Management Initiative Participant	2018
Emory Dance Pioneer Award	2017
Alan Rackoff Library Award	2017

Choreographic Work

TBA/ group Spring Jazz Dance Festival, Sonoma State University	Feb 2025 Sonoma, CA
TBA/ solo Studio Series, Whitman College	Jan 2025 Walla Walla, WA
TBA/ group (9) Roots and Bones, Whitman College	Sept - Dec 2024 Walla Walla, WA
Quare/Lifted/ solo FRESH, University of Colorado Boulder	Apr 2024 Boulder, CO
Things [We] Fall Apart/ group (6) American College Dance Association, Northwest Region	Jan - Mar 2024 Ogden, UT
Homegoing/ group (5)	Nov 2023

Roots and Reflections MFA Concert, University of Colorado Boulder	Boulder, CO
Freaky Friday / youth production (43) Fairview High School	Aug - Nov 2023 Boulder, CO
(rooted in) Things Fall Apart / group (10) Revel, University of Colorado Boulder	Aug - Oct 2023 Boulder, CO
The Hairy Scary / production (17) Parlando School of Musical Arts, Dairy Arts Center	July 2023 Boulder, CO
William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night / youth production (22) Parlando School of Musical Arts, Dairy Arts Center	June 2023 Boulder, CO
who bathed you? / solo American College Dance Association, Northwest Region	Dec 2022 - Apr 2023 Salt Lake City, UT
Alchemy / duet University of Colorado Boulder	Oct - Dec 2022 Boulder, CO
BBDMDT / group (8) University of Colorado Boulder	Sept - Oct 2022 Boulder, CO
Hair Like Flower Petals (excerpt) / group (4) The Epicurean Hotel	Oct 2021 Atlanta, GA
Bloody sacrifices / solo Hambidge Cross-Pollination Art Lab, Fall for Fall Dance Festival	Mar - Jun 2021 Atlanta, GA
Hair Feels Like Flower Petals / group (4) The Movement Lab & Hambidge Cross-Pollination Art Lab	Jan - Jun 2021 Atlanta, GA
Are You Ready For Us? / duet Fall for Fall Dance Festival	Jun - Sept 2020 Atlanta, GA
Our Hair Feels Like Flower Petals / duet Atlanta Contemporary Museum	Aug - Sept 2020 Atlanta, GA
Jeopardy: Black History Month Edition / youth production (118) Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School	Jan - Mar 2020 Atlanta, GA
After Love / group (8) Emory University	Aug - Dec 2019 Atlanta, GA
The Lion King / youth production (80) Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School	Jan - Apr 2019 Atlanta, GA
WINK / group (9) Dance Canvas Choreographers Initiative, Ferst Center for the Performing Arts	Nov 2018 - Mar 2019 Atlanta, GA
Fading Light (a repass) / solo The B Complex, 7Stages Theatre	Sept 2018 - Feb 2019 Atlanta, GA
Return to Innocence Lost / solo Active Space Studios	Dec 2018 Atlanta, GA

Fading Light/ solo
7Stages Theatre

Jun 2018
Atlanta, GA

She Fell but Felt No Fear / solo and group (6)
American College Dance Association, Southeast Region

Nov 2016 - Apr 2017
Auburn, AL

Administrative Experience

National Black Arts (NBAF)
Assistant Director of Youth Programs

Atlanta, GA
Aug 2019 - Aug 2021

Plan the delivery of NBAF's youth arts education program Move/Dance!. Develop a program evaluation framework to assess the strengths of the program and to identify areas for improvement. Supervise and support program staff by providing direction and feedback. Publicize the activities of Move/Dance! to the general public through NBAF website, press releases, social media, and quarterly newsletter. Maintain NBAF's growing network of partners including alumni, mentor artists, community supporters, artists and arts organizations. Direct and implement final performances in partnering schools.

Data & Communications Specialist

May 2017 - Jul 2019

Develop marketing plans and strategies for online and direct mailing communications. Manage social media, website, email distribution, and donation platforms. Create promotional materials for youth and public programs. Assistant coordinator of annual special events, Fine Art + Fashion and Gala.

Performance Experience

Sunrise Haiku/ Helanius J. Wilkins
The Current, The University of Colorado Boulder

Feb - Apr 2024
Boulder, CO

In Lieu of Flowers/ Erika Randall
The Current, The University of Colorado Boulder

Jan - Apr 2024
Boulder, CO

Ikhaya Ū/ Tyreis Hunte
American College Dance Association Northwest Region

Mar 2024
Ogden, UT

smokepoints/ Hoang Nguyen
B2/Atlas Residency, The University of Colorado Boulder

Feb 2024
Boulder, CO

Subjectify This!/ Katarina Lott
Revel, The University of Colorado Boulder

Oct 2023
Boulder, CO

Dance Canvas/ Taylor Madgett
No Vacancy Artist Residency, IMAC

May - Jun 2023
Denver, CO

APOCALYPSE PRACTICE/ Miguel Guitierrez
The Current, University of Colorado Boulder

Apr 2023
Boulder, CO

Snapshots: Inward, Outward/ Hoang Nguyen
American College Dance Association, Northwest Region

Mar 2023
Salt Lake City, UT

Everything Deserves to Breathe (excerpt)/ Anya Cloud

Mar 2023

American College Dance Association, Northwest Region	Salt Lake City, UT
Everything Deserves to Breathe/ Anya Cloud The Current, University of Colorado Boulder	Oct 2021 - Apr 2022 Boulder, CO
Techniques for Possession/ Madison Palffy The Spark	Sept 2021 - Mar 2022 Boulder, CO
Untitled: Creative Fusions / Constance Harris Denver Art Museum	Oct 2021 Denver, CO
Are We There Yet? / Porter Grubbs Hambidge Cross-Pollination Art Lab	Aug 2020 - Jun 2021 Atlanta, GA
Phoenix Circuit Tour / Chris Hall & Lindsay Via The Tabernacle, Buckhead Theatre, The Masquerade	Oct 2019 - Mar 2021 Atlanta, GA
Honoring through Offering / Helen Hale Freedom Park	Nov 2019 - Feb 2021 Atlanta, GA
SHED / Atarius Armstrong, ALA Dance Fall for Fall Dance Festival	Aug - Sept 2020 Atlanta, GA
400/ Lindsay Renae The Ferst Center for the Arts	Oct 2019 - Mar 2020 Atlanta, GA
The Time is Now / Dana Solokowski The Masquerade	Apr - Jun 2019 Atlanta, GA
Duets, Duets, Duets!/ Greg Catellier, Catellier Dance Projects Emory University	Oct 2018 - Feb 2019 Atlanta, GA
Seven Bridges / Kristel Tedesco Georgia Tech University, Cabbagetown Park	Jul 2018 - Jan 2019 Atlanta, GA
Rites of Spring/ George Staib, <i>staibdance</i> Emory University	Jan - Apr 2018 Atlanta, GA
step in/ Sarah Hillmer, ImmerseATL Agnes Scott College, Emory University, Inman Park Festival	Sept 2017 - Apr 2018 Atlanta, GA
quiet beings / Emily Cargill, Emily Cargill & Dancers Emory University	Sept 2017- Mar 2018 Atlanta, GA
X/ George Staib, <i>staibdance</i> Emory University	Jun - Aug 2017 Atlanta, GA

Press

“Rising Atlanta choreographer Jessica Bertram and her cast of four women crafted a bold work that glistened with a fiery yet delicate feminine power.” –ArtsATL, December 2021

<https://www.artsatl.org/year-in-review-outdoor-spaces-film-gave-dance-new-life-in-challenging-year/>

“Bertram’s choreography never disappoints and is always packed to the brim with dazzling symbolism.” –ITP, August 2021

<https://www.intotheproscaenium.org/post/jessica-bertram-s-new-work-relishes-in-strong-feminine-physique>

“Twelve Atlanta artists working in diverse media have won the latest grants from Idea Capital, an Atlanta independent arts-funding group.” –ArtsATL, January 2021

<https://www.artsatl.org/exclusive-idea-capital-gives-14600-to-12-risk-taking-multimedia-atlanta-artists/>

“the piece was a startling, often heartbreaking rumination on intimate human relationships” –The Emory Wheel, December 2019

<https://emorywheel.com/emory-dance-company-features-provoking-vulnerable-new-works/>

“She fully embodies her personal history in all that she creates. She has been an exemplary example for our students of a mature, accomplished artist who is fearless in all she does.” –Emory News Center, April 2017

https://news.emory.edu/stories/2017/04/er_acda_dance_conference/campus.html