

Maxine Montilus

E-mail: maxine.montilus@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Hunter College-Lincoln Center Scholars Program, Master's in Dance Education, May 2017

City University, London, England, United Kingdom-Master of Arts in Arts Management, May 2006

University of the Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania-Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance (with honors), May 2004

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGED

SCHOLARSHIP

Gina Gibney Institute of Community Action Training, January 2016

Innovative Cultural Advocacy Fellowship at Caribbean Cultural Center, June 2015-September 2015

Urban Bush Women B.O.L.D. Facilitation Training-Introduction to Intentional Dialogue, February 2015

Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts

Legal & Business Bootcamp for Arts Professionals, Spring 2012

Completion of Management Professional Development Program for Arts Administrators at NYC Arts-in- Education Roundtable with Credit Suisse, Spring 2011

Urban Bush Women Summer Institute Program, 2008-2009 Completion of Two 10-Day Intensives in Community Engagement in the Arts

92nd Street Y Dance Education Laboratory, May 2008 Certificate of Completion for Foundations of Dance Education and Multicultural Dance Education Courses

Lincoln Center Institute-2007 Summer Institute: Certificate of Completion for Introductory Workshop to Aesthetic Education, February 2008

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

Ocean County Vocational Technical School-Performing Arts Academy, February-March 2018

- Was a guest artist as part of the Dance Department's theme for the 2017-2018 school year, "Latin American and Caribbean Dance Artists in the 21st Century." Taught a week-long workshop, focusing on Afro-Haitian and Afro-Cuban dance. Choreographed an Afro-Caribbean dance piece titled "From Haiti to Cuba: A Celebration of Folklore" for the Dance Department's annual Spring concert in May 2018.

Collegium for African Diaspora Dance Conference at Duke University, February 2018

- Taught a workshop titled “Afro-Haitian Dance: Past, Present and Future”: Participants explored traditional folk dances from Haiti-primarily Nago and Ibo-and learned of their historical context in terms of the meaning and purpose behind the dances. Participants were also given literary resources to further explore Haitian music, dance and history on their own. The workshop operated from the perspective that teaching Afro-Haitian dance and music is relevant not just in understanding Haiti’s revolutionary history, but also in understanding how the energy and social contexts of those dances can be used to grapple with the social issues of today and create a vision for the future.

African Studies Symposium at University of North Carolina-Charlotte, April 2017

- Taught a workshop titled “Afro-Haitian Dance and Social Justice”: Participants explored traditional folkloric dances from Haiti-primarily Nago, Yanvalou and Ibo-and learned of their historical context in terms of the meaning and purpose behind the dances. Participants were also given literary resources to further explore Haitian music, dance and history on their own. The workshop operated from the perspective that teaching Afro-Haitian dance and music IS social justice since the art form (and the teaching of Haiti’s revolutionary history) is often ignored in various educational institutions.

Redefining America: A Two-Day Social Justice Conference at The New School, October 2016

- Performed “Blood On The Leaves,” a solo work about police brutality that fuses modern, Afro-Caribbean and hip hop dance

Collegium for African Diaspora Dance Conference at Duke University, February 2016

- Taught a workshop titled “How Can Dance Be Used To Explore Social Justice In The Classroom?”: Participants experienced a workshop geared towards teenagers on how to use dance to explore the issue of police brutality. Discussion of performative gestures helped jumpstart discussions and explorations of this topic through movement and writing exercises.

Rex Nettleford Arts Conference at the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts in Kingston, Jamaica, October 2011

- Performed “Ou Pa Pale Kreyol!?!”, a solo work about the issue of language for Haitian-Americans that fuses modern and Afro-Caribbean dance

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

SUNY Old Westbury, Long Island, New York

Adjunct Dance Professor, September 2018-present

- Teaching 2 sections of the Cultural Diverse Language of Dance course in the Visual Arts Department; dance forms explored in the course include Haitian Folkloric dance, Breakdancing, Rumba and West African dance

New Bridges Elementary, Brooklyn, New York

Dance Teacher, September 2016-June 2018

- Taught dance for grades K through 5

- Choreographed pieces for grades K through 5 for the annual Winter and Spring Arts Festivals
- Designed curricula for study of the five elements of dance (time, space, movement, energy and shape); hip hop dance, ballet fundamentals and jazz fundamentals for grades K through 5
- Taught an after school Latin Jazz program in June 2017 for 2nd grade students
- Taught a Cuban salsa parent-child workshop for 4th and 5th grade students in May 2017
- Taught improvisation and composition to 2nd grade students in the fall of 2016, culminating in a performance of works by the students performed to poetry by Langston Hughes during Black History Month in February 2017

Academy of Young Writers, Brooklyn New York

Middle School Dance Educator, September 2015-June 2016

- Taught dance for 6th and 7th grade classes
- Choreographed pieces for grades 6 and 7 in 6 student showcases
- Designed the following units for grades 6 and 7:
 - Introduction to Dance: incorporated improvisational ice breakers for students to begin explorations in movement
 - The Evolution of Hip Hop: a survey of hip hop dance history, from the 1970s (exploring breakdancing) to hip hop movement and social dances from the 1980s to the 2000s
 - Latin Dances of the Caribbean: a survey of Latin Dances from Cuba (Cuban salsa and rueda de casino) the Dominican Republic (bachata and merengue), and Puerto Rico (Mambo and the Cha Cha)
 - Dances For Carnival: a survey of dances performed for carnival in Brazil (Samba), Haiti (Rara) and Jamaica (Dancehall)

Opus Dance Theatre, New York, New York

Teaching Artist, November 2014-June 2015

- Taught an after school dance residency at East New York Family Academy (Hip Hop and Afro-Caribbean dance)

Haiti Cultural Exchange, Brooklyn, New York

Teaching Artist, September 2014-December 2014

- Taught an after school 10-week creative movement residency for 6th and 8th grade students at P.S. 189K

PERFORMING EXPERIENCE

Dance

Founder and Artistic Director of MV Dance Project, April 2019-present

Member of Kriyol Dance Collective, January 2019-present

Company Member of KaNu Dance Theater, March 2011-present

SpeakDance Collective-Featured Performance in the Festival of Art and Folklore at Teatro Marti in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, April 2016

Company Member of Tamara LaDonna Moving Spirits, Inc., August 2011-April 2015

Company Member of Ase Dance Theatre Collective, April 2011-October 2013

Balasole Dance Company-Featured Soloist in Company Winter Concert at Ailey Citigroup Theater, February 2012

Theatre

Featured in the role of “Analia” in “Zatrap: Haiti Trauma” produced by Jean Claude Eugene at The Landon School in Bethesda, Maryland, October 2017 and the Queens Museum Theatre in May 2018

Featured in the role of “Ana” in “La Sirene: Rutas de Azucar” produced by Lukumi Arts at JACK Art Space in Brooklyn, New York, December 2016 and HERE Arts Center in New York, New York, February 2017

CHOREOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE

Concert Dance

- “What Can’t Be Denied”: a solo work fusing modern and Afro-Haitian dance performed in the New Traditions Showcase of Dance Caribbean COLLECTIVE at Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, New York, June 2017
- “Boutiliers”: a solo work fusing modern and Afro Caribbean movement performed in the New Traditions Showcase of Dance Caribbean COLLECTIVE at Gelsey Kirkland Arts Academy in Brooklyn, New York, June 2016 and at The Imaging Justice for The Dark Divine Festival at Bushwick Starr in Brooklyn, New York, November 2015
- “She is a Poto Mitan-Tribute to Vivianne Gauthier”: a contemporary work performed by a trio at Harlem School for the Arts in New York, New York at the *Selebrasyon* Festival hosted by Haiti Cultural Exchange, May 2016
- “Blood On The Leaves”: a solo work fusing modern, Afro Caribbean and hip hop dance performed at “Moving Spirits to Enlightenment”-a dance presentation by Tamara LaDonna Moving Spirits at Smack Mellon Gallery in Brooklyn, New York, February 2015 and at Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance in May 2016
- “She Was A Poto Mitan”: a contemporary work performed by a trio at KaNu Dance Theater’s company concert “Malgre Tout” at Jamaica Performing Arts Center in Queens, New York, November 2014
- “Loss of Hope”: a contemporary work performed by a trio at Tamara LaDonna Moving Spirits’ company concert “Epic Narratives” at The Actors Fund Arts Center in Brooklyn, New York, October 2013
- “Ou Pa Pale Kreyol?!?”: a solo work fusing modern and Afro Caribbean dance performed at the inaugural Rex Nettleford Arts Conference at Edna Manley College in Kingston, Jamaica, October 2011; re-staged at Balasole Dance Company’s Winter Concert at Ailey Citigroup Theater in New York, New York, February 2012 and in the New Traditions Showcase of Dance Caribbean COLLECTIVE at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, New York, June 2015

- “Ayiti Cherie”: a solo work fusing modern and Afro Haitian dance performed in the “Being Bushified” Series hosted by Urban Bush Women at South Oxford Art Space in Brooklyn, New York, May 2011; re-staged at KaNu Dance Theater’s company concert “Shadow Of A Pearl” at Jamaica Performing Arts Center in Queens, New York, November 2011
- “Message of Giving”: a contemporary work performed by a trio in The Pearl: A Mixed Media Dance Series at The Actors Fund Arts Center in Brooklyn, New York, March 2011

Theatre

- “The Taste of It”: An Equity-approved showcase at Theater A-Shetler Studios in New York, New York. Written by Jon Adams and directed by Alex Levy, June 2014
- Served as an Afro Cuban/Haitian Folklore consultant for Camille A. Brown in her work for the Broadway musical “Once On This Island”

PUBLICATIONS

“Moving Caribbean in NYC: On Haitian Dance with Nadia Dieudonné and Julio Jean.” The Dance Enthusiast, published on October 6, 2016.

<https://www.dance-enthusiast.com/features/author/Maxine-Montilus/view/Caribbean-Haitian-Dance-Nadia-Dieudonn-Julio-Jean>

“BAM’s DanceAfrica 2015 Celebrates Brazilian Rhythms & African Roots with Bale Folclorico da Bahia.” The Dance Enthusiast, published on May 22, 2015.

<https://www.dance-enthusiast.com/features/author/Maxine-Montilus/view/dance-Africa15>

“Impressions of Ballet Hispanico at The Joyce.” The Dance Enthusiast, published on May 13, 2015.

<https://www.dance-enthusiast.com/features/author/Maxine-Montilus/view/Ballet-Hispanico-2015>

“Harlem Stage E-MOVES presents New Works Inspired by James Baldwin and Billie Holiday.” The Dance Enthusiast, published on April 10, 2015.

<https://www.dance-enthusiast.com/features/author/Maxine-Montilus/view/E-MOVES-2015>

“Impressions of Malpaso Dance Company.” The Dance Enthusiast, published on April 2, 2015.

<https://www.dance-enthusiast.com/features/author/Maxine-Montilus/view/Malpaso-dance->

“The Dance Enthusiast Asks: Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company (Fashion Edition).” The Dance Enthusiast, published on November 3, 2014.

<https://www.dance-enthusiast.com/features/author/Maxine-Montilus/view/Bill-T-Fashion-Story-Time>

“The Dance Enthusiast Hits The Streets To Find GroundWorks Dance Theater + Gibney Dance in Residency.” The Dance Enthusiast, published on October 30, 2014.

<https://www.dance-enthusiast.com/features/author/Maxine-Montilus/view/GroundWorks-Gibney-Dance>

“The Dance Enthusiast Asks The Martha Graham Dance Company.” The Dance Enthusiast, published on September 30, 2014. <https://www.dance-enthusiast.com/features/author/Maxine-Montilus/view/Graham-fashion>

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Betty’s Daughter Arts Collaborative (BDAC), New York, New York

Assistant Consultant Strategist of Arts Pedagogy, July 2018-December 2018

- Generated and administered evaluation tools and processes associated with consultancies
- Generated critical analysis in the form of evaluation and recommendation reports associated with consultancies.
- Worked as a research thought partner with BDAC’s team
- Conducted and finalized arts, culture, and humanities research and writing for BDAC’s internal projects and client/collaborator consultancies
- Finalized critical and analytic reports
- Conducted discussion circles and interviews; generated surveys
- Supported the development of organizational, equity, and engagement strategy associated with BDAC’s internal projects and external consultancies
- Generated critical analysis in the form of finalized reports associated with BDAC’s internal projects and external consultancies

PURPOSE Productions, Brooklyn, New York

Social Media Coordinator, November 2014-June 2016

- Managed posts on Twitter and Facebook for 651 Arts and independent artists

Dancewave, Brooklyn, New York

Director of Education, December 2012-February 2014

- Worked with Marketing Associate in increasing student enrollment by 15% from Summer Semester 2012 to Fall Semester 2013
- Organized national Dancing Through College & Beyond college fair, in which 160 attendees and 34 college dance departments from around the country participated to promote higher education programs in dance for high school students
- Worked closely with the Executive/Artistic Director to plan classes, semesters and educational curriculum
- Managed communications with parents and students about any and all issues, from behavior policies to tuition and payment plans
- Coordinated scholarship auditions; managed scholarship award process and Van Lier Fellowship recipients
- Secured choreographers and teaching artists for the Dancewave companies in collaboration with Executive/Artistic Director
- Scheduled all school dates and developed class schedules
- Handled booking and managed relationships with outside satellite locations for ongoing Dancewave classes
- Worked with Marketing Associate to produce content for all marketing materials
- Assisted the Executive/Artistic Director in interviewing and hiring
- Assisted the Executive/Artistic Director in strategic planning and office management
- Managed and prepared school budgets, tracked enrollment figures, set school financial and enrollment goals and initiated strategies to reach these goals

- Prepared contracts for all faculty and teaching artists and managed monthly faculty payroll
- Coordinated faculty and student schedules for all Dancewave performances
- Managed all faculty and teaching artists in addition to coordinating substitution teachers when needed; Trained and managed school administrative staff

Marquis Studios, Brooklyn, New York

Program Manager, August 2010-September 2012

- Coordinated arts integration programs for 80-100 NYC public schools-included selecting teaching artists for residencies, scheduling pre-planning meetings between teaching artists and classroom teachers, reviewing lesson plans, conducting site visits and collecting evaluation surveys from classroom teachers
- Served as a liaison between public schools and Marquis Studios teaching artists
- Assisted in coordinating Teaching Artist Training Institute: a program designed to prepare teaching artists to work with autistic students in District 75 schools
- Coordinated annual retreats and professional development sessions for Marquis Studios teaching artists and parent-child workshops
- Updated and maintained program records in company database on Salesforce

The Juilliard School, New York, New York

Program Administrator, Educational Outreach, February 2007-August 2010

- Coordinated the Gluck Community Service Fellowship Program: duties included scheduling up to 450 performances a year for 46 healthcare facilities, nursing homes, senior living centers and homeless shelters; acting as a liaison between fellows and the facilities serviced by the program; attending and evaluating performances; scheduling interviews for and maintaining the application process for all prospective fellowship participants; planning and executing all GCSF training workshops and orientation sessions; completing bi-annual report for The Gluck Foundation and managing data for fellows' payroll
- Assisted the Dance Division with all production and administrative tasks related to outreach dance programs; Handled all internal and external calls and in-person inquiries
- Assisted in supporting and facilitating all outreach programs within the Educational Outreach office

Outward Bound, Long Island City, New York

Development Associate, May 2006-February 2007

- Coordinated invitational expeditions for board members, board advisors, and other high-profile donors; Utilized Raiser's Edge Software to enter data and run reports
- Created tools and managed data to coordinate national volunteer solicitation system
- Established and maintained a rapport with Board of Directors, senior leadership team, and Development staff
- Coordinated travel arrangements and itineraries for the Vice President, Institutional Advancement and the National Director, Development • Assisted with or managed special development projects
- Maintained Vice President of Institutional Advancement's daily schedule