

# AJ SHARP

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## EDUCATION

- California State University Long Beach**- Long Beach, CA **2021- 2023**  
Master of Fine Arts in Dance, Dean's List
- Art of Activism Learning Lab**- Virtual **2022**  
6-week training course led by Tracy Brown and Rebecca Crawford Munoz from The Center for Artistic Activism.
- Immersive Theatre and Social Justice**- Fresno, CA **2022**  
Summer Arts course at CSU Fresno led by Dr. Maria Patrice Amon
- Oakland University**- Rochester Hills, MI **2009- 2013**  
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- California State University Long Beach**- Long Beach, CA **2021- 2023**  
Courses taught: DANC 101- Introduction to Modern Dance; 4 semesters  
Additional Classes/Auditions: Taught warm-up, contemporary, and dance-making classes to majors for department concerts, department auditions, and high school dance day.
- Success Academy Charter School**- Brooklyn, NY **July 2019- June 2021**  
Full time dance teacher for elementary scholars' grades K-4<sup>th</sup>. Curated scholar performances twice a year, led staff meetings to delegate duties to supporting staff, provided whole school support with math, reading, and phonics groups. Filled in as 2<sup>nd</sup> grade supporting teacher during Spring 2020 remote instruction.
- Oakland University**- Rochester Hills, MI **January 2019**  
Guest Artist in Residence. I taught college level modern/contemporary dance technique classes and choreography classes. Set "Silent Voices" on student company which was chosen to represent the university at the American College Dance Festival Association adjudicated concert.
- Brooklyn Prospect Charter School**- Brooklyn, NY **2016- 2019**  
After school dance instructor and performance production director. I held auditions, wrote scripts, held staff meetings, delegated duties to supporting staff, choreographed for school musicals, and produced our winter and spring production performances. I also assisted with administration work and hiring of prospective after school staff. I taught jazz, hip hop, yoga, creative movement, and fitness classes for the program.

<b>HOSH Kids-</b> New York, NY After school lead dance instructor for K-5 <sup>th</sup> grade elementary students. I provided yoga instruction for students of special needs as well as after school instruction for schools in Brooklyn and Queens. I taught jazz, hip hop, and yoga which were shown in culminating performances each winter and spring.	<b>2015- 2019</b>
<b>UGOT Active Kids-</b> New York, NY Dance, yoga, and music instructor this travel-based program for daycares in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens.	<b>2015- 2019</b>
<b>Notes in Motion Dance Theatre-</b> New York, NY Lead dance instructor for PS/IS 323 and PS 18 after-school program and for their in-school residencies. I taught jazz, hip hop, creative movement, ballet, and tap to pre-k- 4 <sup>th</sup> grade students which were shown in culminating performances each winter and spring.	<b>2013- 2019</b>
<b>Wingspan Arts-</b> New York, NY After school dance instructor for pre-k- 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade students. I taught jazz, ballet, and hip hop which were shown in culminating performances each winter and spring.	<b>2016- 2017</b>
<b>Jacob Riis Settlement-</b> Queens, NY Summer enrichment dance instructor for students' grade K-12th. I taught jazz, hip hop, ballet, tap, and creative movement.	<b>Summer 2016</b>
<b>Brooklyn Dance Centers II and III-</b> Brooklyn, NY Recreational and competitive dance instructor for students 3- 18 years old. I taught jazz, pre-ballet, ballet, hip hop, modern, and competitive level technique classes.	<b>2013- 2016</b>
<b>Educational Talent Search Program at John Jay College-</b> New York, NY Summer dance instructor for middle school and high school students. I taught jazz, hip hop, and tap.	<b>Summer 2015</b>
<b>BELL-</b> Bronx, NY Summer enrichment dance instructor for K- 5th students. I taught jazz, hip hop, and tap.	<b>Summer 2014</b>
<b>Fit 4 Life NYC-</b> New York, NY Supervising lead instructor and dance instructor for the after-school program for students in grades K-5 <sup>th</sup> . I taught jazz, tap, and hip hop.	<b>2013- 2014</b>
<b>Michigan Technical Academy-</b> Detroit, MI Dance instructor for the after- school program. I taught hip hop and jazz to middle school students.	<b>2010- 2013</b>

## CHOREOGRAPHED PROJECTS AND RESEARCH

- “buckets”**- 14 performers **2023**  
 An immersive dance theater social justice work.  
 Collaborated with the music department and athletics department.  
 Performed in the Gold Mine Gym in Kinesiology at CSULB. Long Beach, CA.
- “buckets”**- 19 performers **2022**  
 Work-in-progress immersive piece created for CSULB students.  
 Performed outside on the Walter Pyramid steps. Long Beach, CA.
- “guts”**- 8 performers **2021**  
 Immersive piece created for CSULB students.  
 Performed outside and in the dance lounge. Long Beach, CA.
- “good. and you?”**- Solo for dance on film **2020**  
 Collaborated with musician, Craig Martinson, for this work.  
 Virtually premiered on Halloween 2020. Brooklyn, NY.
- “Quarantine Craig”**- 1 performer for dance on film **2020**  
 Virtually premiered in April 2020. Brooklyn, NY.
- “miscellaneous episodes of being alone, together”**- Duet excerpt **2019**  
 The Emerging Artists Theatre Spring New Series. New York, NY.
- “Changes”**- Solo **2018**  
 The Creators Collective Spring Party 2018. Brooklyn, NY.
- “miscellaneous episodes of being alone, together”**- 6 performers **2018**  
 An evening-length work that premiered in tandem with the launch of SHARP dance collective which was co-produced with The Creators Collective.  
 Berg’n. Brooklyn, NY.
- “salt for sugar”**- Solo **2017**  
 The Creators Collective and AirBnB Experience Page. Brooklyn, NY.
- “shame, shame, shame”**- Duet **2017**  
 WAXworks at Triskelion Arts. Brooklyn, NY.  
 Ready Freddy’s in collaboration with Creators Collective. Brooklyn, NY.
- “Donna”**- Solo **2016- 2017**  
 Creators Collective for the RESIST ACLU Fundraiser Event. Brooklyn, NY.  
 Site Move Series- The Physical Plant. Queens, NY.  
 Halyards Dance Event. Brooklyn, NY.  
 Artist & Fleas Market. Brooklyn, NY.
- “Deep, right field”**- Solo **2015- 2016**  
 This solo was originally created as part of Alexandra Beller’s Winter ChoreoLab in 2015.  
 Mark Morris Dance Group. Brooklyn, NY.

Triskelion Arts Summer Shake-Up 2016. Brooklyn, NY.  
White Wave Dumbo Dance Festival 2016. Brooklyn, NY.

**“Other Worlds”**- 6 performers **2015**

This group work was created as part of Doug Varone’s Choreographic Intensive- The CHIN Project in 2015. This work premiered in a concert curated by Doug Varone at the 92 Y in the Buitenwieser Hall.

**“Perfect. Well, not entirely perfect.”**- Solo **2015**

WAXworks at Triskelion Arts. Brooklyn, NY.  
Spoke the Hub’s 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Follies. Brooklyn, NY.  
Jennifer Muller/The Works: HATCH Series. New York, NY.  
Triskelion Arts Summer Shake-Up. Brooklyn, NY.

**“You can’t have your friends and eat them too.”**- 7 performers **2013**

Living Proof Productions, LLC at Oakland University. Rochester Hills, MI.

## COMMISSIONED CHOREOGRAPHY

**“Silent Voices”**- Group work for 11 performers **2019**

Oakland University. Rochester Hills, MI.  
American College Dance Festival. Akron, OH.

**“salt for sugar”**- Solo **2017**

The Creators Collective for the AMPLIFY Artists Gallery. Brooklyn, NY

## MOVEMENT/CHOREOGRAPHY TRAINING

**Gibney Dance Studio**- New York, NY **2013- 2021**

Trained with Alex Springer, Xan Burley, Donnell Oakley, Jake Bone, Cameron McKinney, Hollis Bartlett, and Alexandra Beller.

**Mark Morris Dance Group**- Brooklyn, NY **2013- 2021**

Trained with Alexandra Beller, Doug Varone, Sam Black, and Kelly Slough.

**Alexandra Beller Immediate Dances**- Brooklyn, NY **Feb.- March 2018**

Danced for a different choreographer each week to have new choreography documented by a videographer for a reel.

**Alexandra Beller Winter ChoreoLab**- Brooklyn, NY **Oct.- Dec. 2015**

8-week choreography intensive utilizing feedback from Alexandra and the other choreographers in the program. The creative process culminated in a performance at the Mark Morris Dance Group.

**Doug Varone’s Choreographic Intensive: The CHIN Project**- Brooklyn, NY **May- Aug. 2015**

Invited as one of ten choreographers to be mentored by Doug Varone for his Choreography Intensive. I worked closely with Doug Varone, his company dancers, and Purchase College students to explore the choreographic creative process developed by Doug. The program culminated with a curated performance at The 92<sup>nd</sup> Y in Buitenwieser Hall.

- American Dance Festival-** New York, NY **January 2013**  
2-week winter intensive at the Alvin Ailey Studio. Training from Monica Bill Barnes, Elisa Clark, Gerri Houlihan, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Jen Nugent, and Pamela Pietro.
- Doug Varone and Dancers Winter Workshop-** New York, NY **January 2012**  
1-week winter intensive at the Gibney Dance Studio. Training from Doug Varone, Alex Springer, Natalie Desch, Julia Burrer, Hollis Bartlett, Eddie Taketa, Erin Owen, Netta Yerushalmy, and Colin Stilwell.
- Doug Varone and Dancers Summer Workshop-** Brockport, NY **June 2011**  
3-week summer intensive at The College at Brockport. Training from Doug Varone, Alex Springer, Natalie Desch, Julia Burrer, Hollis Bartlett, Eddie Taketa, Erin Owen, Netta Yerushalmy, and Colin Stilwell.
- Great Lakes Dance Festival-** Rochester Hills, MI **July 2010**  
2-week summer intensive at Oakland University. Training from Mary Bischoff, Greg Patterson, and Ray Mercer.
- River North Dance Workshop-** Chicago, IL **July 2010**  
2-week summer intensive at Oakland University. Training from Mary Bischoff, Greg Patterson, and Ray Mercer.

## PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

- KWAHD.** Rebecca Bryant, Choreographer. **2022**  
"KWAHD". Kleefeld Art Museum, Linda Besemer exhibit. Long Beach, CA.
- Nikki and The Noise.** Nicole Assanti, Choreographer. **2019**  
"Deep Cuts". Current Showcase and St. Veronica's Church. New York, NY.
- Theo Lawrence.** Alex Hagney, Choreographer. **2019**  
Featured dancer in Theo Lawrence's "Worst in Me" music video.
- Malacarne.** Alice Gosti, Choreographer. **2018**  
"Bodies of Water". INSITU Site Specific Dance Festival. Queens, NY.
- JoAnna Shaw- The Equus Project.** Joanna Shaw, Choreographer. **2017**  
"Mandala". INSITU Site Specific Dance Festival. Queens, NY.
- Shannon Hummel/Cora Dance.** Shannon Hummel, Choreographer. **2015- 2016**  
"COMMON DANCES". Red Hook, Brooklyn.
- The Median Movement.** Alex Springer & Xan Burley, Choreographers. **2014**  
"JACK Rally" at University Settlement. New York, NY.

## UNDERGRADUATE PERFORMANCES AND WORKS

- Oakland University Winter Showcase** **2013**

Winter semester performance in OU's Repertory Dance Company.  
Performed in works by Thayer Jonutz and Lindsay-Dietz Marchant.

**Oakland University Dance Day** **2013**

At OU's Dance Day, my solo "Cut" was chosen to represent Oakland University.

**Oakland University Senior Recital** **2013**

Performed my solo "Cut" as well as selected to dance in other student works.

**American College Dance Festival Association** **2013**

Oakland University faculty chose my solo "Cut" to represent the university in the ACDFA adjudicated concert.

**Eisenhower Dance Ensemble December Dances** **2012**

Performed Laurie Eisenhower's work "Mando Beat" with OU Repertory Dance Company.

**"Landscapes"** **2012**

Collaboration concert with Oakland University's guitar majors. Choreography by Thayer Jonutz and Ali Woerner.

**Oakland University Fall Showcase** **2012**

Fall semester showcase in OU Repertory Dance Company. Performed in works by Alexandra Beller, Thayer Jonutz, and Ali Woerner.

**Oakland University Winter Showcase** **2012**

Winter semester performance in OU's Repertory Dance Company. Performed in works by Meg Paul and Thayer Jonutz.

**Eisenhower Dance Ensemble's "On the Move"** **2012**

Performed work by Meg Paul in EDE's On the Move Concert.

**Eisenhower Dance Ensemble December Dances** **2012**

Performed Laurie Eisenhower's work "Mando Beat" with OU Repertory Dance Company.

**American College Dance Festival Association** **2012**

Presented my solo work "All Too Familiar" in the informal concert and performed with OU Repertory Dance Company in Dusan Tynek's "Transparent Walls" in the adjudicated concert.

**Oakland University Choreography Course** **2010- 2012**

Created several works as a student at OU which include "How Many Strangers Have Pictures of You?", "Keep the Room Dark", "Regularly Recurrent", and a dance on film titled "Equilibrium".

**Oakland University Fall Showcase** **2011**

Fall semester showcase in OU Repertory Dance Company. Performed in works by Dusan Tynek and Laurie Eisenhower.

**"Clarinetting with the Stars"** **2011**

Chosen to perform choreography by Ali Woerner in collaboration with the OU Music Department in the concert “Clarinetting with the Stars”.

**Oakland University Winter Showcase** **2011**

Winter semester showcase in the OU Dance Theater Company. Performed in student works.

**Oakland University Fall Semester** **2010**

Fall semester performance in the OU Dance Theater Company. Performed in Works by Ali Woerner, Laurie Eisenhower, and Lisa LaMarre. Understudied for OU Repertory Dance Company piece by Daniel Gwartzman.

**Flint Institute of the Arts** **2010**

Hired as a performer for the Gala Event with choreography by Alexis DeCapua.

**Oakland University Winter Showcase** **2010**

Winter semester performance in OU Dance Theater company. Performed in student works and understudied in Eisenhower Dance Ensemble’s work “Mosaics”.

**American College Dance Festival Association** **2010**

Performer in “Behind Here Lies” by Ali Woerner in the adjudicated concert.

**Oakland University Fall Showcase** **2009**

Fall semester performance in OU Dance Theater Company. Performed in “Behind Here Lies” choreographed by Ali Woerner.

## AWARDS

CSULB Graduate Dean’s List, Sole Awardee	<b>2023</b>
CSULB Kleefeld Scholarship Endowment	<b>2022 – 2023</b>
CSULB Baker Arts Scholarship	<b>2022 – 2023</b>
CSULB Dance Department Scholarship	<b>2021 – 2022</b>
CSULB Celeste Kennedy Scholarship	<b>2021 – 2022</b>
UGOT Active Kids Most Valuable Employee	<b>2019</b>
Oakland University Maggie Allessee Choreography Matilda Award	<b>2013</b>
Oakland University Maggie Allessee Summer Dance Study Scholarship	<b>2010 – 2012</b>
Oakland University Academic Scholarship	<b>2009 – 2013</b>
Oakland University Dance Department Scholarship	<b>2009 – 2013</b>

## REFERENCES

Available Upon Request