

**Merli V. Guerra, MFA**  
Curriculum Vitae

Mason Gross School of the Arts  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
85 George Street  
New Brunswick NJ 08901

808 Eagles Chase Drive  
Lawrenceville NJ 08648  
978.394.3003  
merli.v.guerra@rutgers.edu

**EDUCATION**

- MFA            Dance, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, May 2021
- Guerra, Merli V. “Palimpsest of Self: Revealing Past and Present Identities Through Choreographic and Extended Reality Tools.” MFA Thesis. Primary Advisor Jeffrey Friedman; First Reader Pam Tanowitz. Dance Department, Rutgers University, 2021.
- BA             Dance and Studio Art (Graphic Design and Film), Mount Holyoke College  
                  Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude, May 2009

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2010–Present        Co-Founder, Artistic Director, and Choreographer,  
                          Luminarium Dance Company – Boston MA / Princeton NJ
- 2021–Present        Part-Time Lecturer, Rider University – Lawrenceville NJ
- 2019–Present        Part-Time Lecturer, Rutgers University – New Brunswick NJ
- 2017–Present        Dance Critic, Dance International Magazine – Vancouver, Canada
- 2016–Present        Journalist / Dance Critic, Fjord Review – Toronto, Canada
- 2015–Present        Senior Contributor, The Arts Fuse – Boston MA
- 2012–Present        Founder, Director, PLACE Project – Northeast USA

**AWARDS & HONORS**

- 2022                Award Recipient, \$7,000 Individual Artist Fellowship Award in Film  
                          New Jersey State Council on the Arts & Mid Atlantic Arts  
                          These Fellowships are competitive awards to New Jersey artists in 12 rotating disciplines granted solely on independent peer panel assessment of work samples.

The anonymous process is focused on artistic quality, and awards may be used to help artists produce new work and advance their careers.

- 2022 Award Nominee – Nawada International Film Festival, Nawada, India  
“Best Female Director” and “Best Cinematography” Awards Nominee for *Ao pó voltaremos*
- 2022 Award Recipient – International Halicarnassus Film Festival, Bodrum, Turkey  
“Best Creative (Short Film)” Award for *Ao pó voltaremos*
- 2022 Award Recipient – Košice International Film Festival, Košice, Slovakia  
“Best Experimental” Film Award for *The One I Keep*
- 2022 Award Recipient – 8 & Halfilm Awards, Rome, Italy  
“Best Screendance Indie Narrative Short” Film Award for *For you, to mentor me*
- 2022 Award Nominee – Cannes Shorts Film Festival, Cannes, France  
“Best Experimental” Film Award Nominee for *The One I Keep*
- 2022 Award Nominee – Budapest Film Festival, Budapest, Hungary  
“Best Cinematography” Film Award Nominee for *For you, to mentor me*
- 2021 Award Recipient – Teknochat Festivals’ VIP Fest: Best of 2020  
Barcelona, Spain, and Resistencia, Argentina  
*For you, to mentor me* wins “Best Art Narrative of 2020” Film Award  
*The One I Keep* wins “Best Experimental of 2020” Film Award
- 2020 Award Recipient – Soundance Film Festival  
Barcelona, Spain, and Resistencia, Argentina  
“Best Choreography” and “Best Narrative Dance” Film Awards for *For you, to mentor me*
- 2020 Award Recipient – Europa Film Festival  
Barcelona, Spain, and Resistencia, Argentina  
“Best Experimental” Film Award for *The One I Keep*
- 2019 Award Recipient, Mary Lyon Award  
Mount Holyoke College Alumnae Association  
Given to young alumnae (15 years or less since graduation) who “demonstrate exceptional promise and sustained achievement in their life, profession, and community, and whose work embodies the humane values which Mary Lyon exemplified in her life and inspired in others.” Awarded by the Alumnae External Achievement Awards Committee.
- 2019 Award Finalist – Festival Cinematica: Immagine in Movimento, Ancona, Italy  
*Synchronic* one of 14 award finalists at international screendance festival

- 2018      Featured Artist – *WomenCinemakers*, Berlin, Germany  
*The One I Keep* is featured in a special edition of periodical *WomenCinemakers* highlighting artistic films by noteworthy female artists hailing from Tokyo, Amsterdam, and Athens, among others.
- 2016      Choreographer, TEDxCambridge – Boston Opera House, Boston MA  
 Commissioned by TEDxCambridge to choreograph the opening act for its Spring 2016 TEDx Talks—the largest TED event in history, worldwide (2,600 viewers).
- 2016      Panelist / Choreographer – Local Cultural Council 2016 Statewide Assembly  
 Massachusetts State House  
 By invitation of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, panelist advocate for funding of the arts, alongside distinguished colleagues Ben Taylor (musician), Scarlet Keys (Associate Professor, Berklee College of Music), and keynote speaker Sally Taylor (musician and *Consenses* founder). Also invited to present choreographic excerpt from Guerra’s *Phoenixial Cycle*.
- 2015      Award Recipient, Gold Star Award – Massachusetts Cultural Council  
 Innovated and championed *Night at the Tower* (Arlington MA), largest Cultural Community Outreach Project to date. One of three projects out of 5,000+ candidates to receive the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s Gold Star Award.
- 2013      “Unsung Hero” – *Improper Bostonian Magazine*  
 Praised as an “unsung hero” in the Boston arts scene in the Spring 2013 issue of *Improper Bostonian* magazine.

## GRANT AWARDS

- 2022      Grant Recipient, Live Arts Boston – Boston MA  
 Granted \$15,000 to further expand *Constellation Stories* with an additional performance in Greater Boston in 2023.
- 2022      Grant Recipient, Springfield Cultural Council – Springfield MA  
 Funding to produce *Constellation Stories*, celebrating Seymour Planetarium’s 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Springfield Science Museum, featuring stories from African, Taíno (Puerto Rican), Asian, and European mythologies.
- 2012–22      Grant Recipient, Boston Cultural Council – Boston MA  
 10-time grant recipient for organizational support and the creation of new Boston-specific programming, with a focus on projects with underserved communities.
- 2017      Grant Recipient, Brockton Cultural Council – Brockton MA  
 Funding to create *Kinetic Craft*, a weeklong residency at the Fuller Craft Museum.
- 2016      Grant Recipient, Sudbury Cultural Council – Sudbury MA

Funding to produce *300 Years* at Longfellow’s Wayside Inn.

- 2015 Grant Recipient, Amherst Cultural Council – Amherst MA  
Funding to create the *Amherst Storybook Project*, self-published storybook, film, and performance at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art.
- 2014 Grant Recipient – The Bob Jolly Charitable Trust  
Development of new work that provides “access to, appreciation of, education about, and exposure to the work of the Greater Boston theater community.”  
Funding to produce *Night at the Tower* at the Arlington Reservoir Water Tower.
- 2014 Grant Recipient, Arlington Cultural Council – Arlington MA  
Funding to produce *Night at the Tower* at the Arlington Reservoir Water Tower.
- 2014 Grant Recipient, Somerville Arts Council – Somerville MA  
Funding to produce Luminarium’s debut *DANCE+ Series* for local youth at the Center for Arts at the Armory.
- 2013 Grant Recipient, Lowell Cultural Council – Lowell MA  
Funding to create the *Threading Motion Project* at New England Quilt Museum.
- 2012 Grant Recipient, Concord Cultural Council – Concord MA  
Funding to create the *Celebration of Preservation Project* at Louisa May Alcott’s Orchard House.
- 2012 Grant Recipient, Somerville Arts Council – Somerville MA  
Funding to develop *MYTHOS:PATHOS Project*, Center for Arts at the Armory.
- 2012 Grant Recipient, Watertown Cultural Council – Watertown MA  
Funding to develop *MYTHOS:PATHOS Project* at the Arsenal Center for the Arts.

## CHOREOGRAPHIC WORKS

Over the past 13 years, Guerra has choreographed 45 ‘made for stage’ works, 24 screen dance films, 7 performance installations, 6 AR/VR 360-degree choreographic works; and self-published one dance/art storybook. A complete list of creative works is available upon request.

## Selected Self-Produced Performances

- 2022 *Upcoming: Constellation Stories* – Seymour Planetarium, Springfield MA  
2021 *Kinetic Journal Project* – Tarangire, Ngorongoro, & Serengeti National Parks, Tanzania  
2021 *The Time Traveler’s Lens* – Princeton Battlefield State Park, Princeton NJ  
2020 *TEN4TEN Performance Series* – Virtual Curated Series  
2012–20 *24-Hour ChoreoFest*

Guerra's Luminarium Dance Company pioneers this unique festival, in which selected dance companies join Luminarium in creating new work overnight for a performance the next day. Viewers are encouraged to watch the process unfold via live stream online throughout the 24-hour period. More than 250 dancers accompanying 24 companies and choreographers have participated in this event.

- 2020 National Online Edition: CA, IL, MA, NH, NJ, NYC, PA
- 2019 Green Street Studios, Cambridge MA
- 2012–16 Dance Complex, Cambridge MA

2019 *Luminarium in Concert* – Multicultural Arts Center, Cambridge MA  
 2018 *HIVELAND* – Multicultural Arts Center, Cambridge MA  
 2017 *Kinetic Craft* – Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton MA  
 2016 *Portal: Stories from the Edge* – Boston University Dance Theater, Boston MA  
 2016 *300 Years* – Longfellow's Wayside Inn, Sudbury MA  
 2015 *Spektrel* – Multicultural Arts Center, Cambridge MA  
 2014 *The Sleeprunner* – Multicultural Arts Center, Cambridge MA  
 2014 *Night at the Tower* – Arlington Reservoir, Arlington MA

### **Selected Choreographic Commissions & Performances**

2022 *Lodestone Music Video Commission* – Jaggery, Boston MA  
 2022 SHELTER Project Screendance Commission – coLAB Arts, New Brunswick NJ  
 2021 New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival Commission – NYC, NY  
 2020 Motion: New Dance Works – Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ  
 2019 Global Water Dances – West Windsor NJ  
     Part of *Global Water Dances*, an international performance event  
 2019 ArtBeat Festival – Somerville MA  
 2018 Liberty Hall Dance Festival – Kean University, Union NJ  
 2018 Friends of Clermont Commission – Clermont Historic Site, Germantown NY  
 2017 Outlet Dance Project Commission – Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton NJ  
 2017 The Rosoff Awards Commission – The State Room, Boston MA  
 2017 Ars Nexa Tempora Commission – Boston New Music Initiative, Somerville MA  
 2014–16 Wiscasset Art Walk – Wiscasset ME  
 2016 Outside the Box Festival – Boston MA  
 2016 TEDxCambridge Commission – Boston Opera House, Boston MA  
 2015 Southern Vermont Dance Festival – Latchis Theatre, Brattleboro VT  
 2013 Time Lapse Dance, Opener – Fine Arts Center, UMass Amherst, Amherst MA

### **Selected Works as Guest Choreographer**

2023 *Upcoming*: Guest Choreographer, Rider Dances – Rider University, Lawrenceville NJ  
 2022 Guest Choreographer, *Constellation Stories*, live performance with motion capture Isadora projection for “Here we R” – Rider University, Lawrenceville NJ

- 2021 Guest Choreographer, *Kaleidoscope*, 360-degree VR screendance film for “Negotiating Balance” – Rider University, Lawrenceville NJ
- 2020 Guest Choreographer, *River Stories*, Odissi piece for “Moving in Our Community” – Rider University, Lawrenceville NJ
- 2019 Guest Choreographer, *8.7 million minus one*, combining Odissi, modern, and poetry for “Dance & Sustainability Project” – Rider University, Lawrenceville NJ
- 2015 Guest Choreographer, *With You*, modern piece for “Momentum” Emerson College, Boston MA

### Selected Film Festivals & Screenings

- 2022 *Ao pó voltaremos*, Golden Short Film Festival – Avezzano, Italy
- 2022 *Ao pó voltaremos*, Nawada International Film Festival – Nawada, India  
“Best Female Director” and “Best Cinematography” Awards Nominee
- 2022 *Ao pó voltaremos*, International Halicarnassus Film Festival – Bodrum, Turkey  
“Best Creative (Short Film)” Award
- 2022 *Ao pó voltaremos*, Florence Film Awards – Florence, Italy  
“Honorable Mention: Cinematography”
- 2022 *Ao pó voltaremos* and *Dentro de Paredes*, Organização Buinho public screening  
Messejana, Portugal
- 2022 *The One I Keep*, Košice International Film Festival – Košice, Slovakia  
“Best Experimental” Film Award
- 2022 *The One I Keep*, Braga International Video Dance Festival – Braga, Portugal
- 2022 *The One I Keep*, Prague International Film Awards – Prague, Czech Republic  
“Honorable Mention”
- 2022 *The One I Keep* and *For you, to mentor me*, Luleå International Film Festival  
Luleå, Sweden; Semi-finalists
- 2022 *For you, to mentor me*, Sweet Democracy Film Awards – Rome, Italy
- 2022 *The One I Keep*, Constructed Sight Dance Film Festival – Pittsburgh PA  
“Panelists’ Pick Showcase”
- 2022 *The One I Keep*, Clapperboard Golden Festival – São Paulo, Brazil
- 2022 *For you, to mentor me*, 8 & Halfilm Awards – Rome, Italy  
“Best Screendance Indie Narrative Short” Film Award
- 2022 *The One I Keep* and *For you, to mentor me*, Art Film Awards – Skopje, Macedonia  
“Honorable Mention” for both films
- 2022 *The One I Keep*, Cannes Shorts Film Festival – Cannes, France  
“Best Experimental” Film Award Nominee
- 2022 *For you, to mentor me*, València Indie Film Festival – València, Spain
- 2022 *For you, to mentor me*, Budapest Film Festival – Budapest, Hungary  
“Best Cinematography” Film Award Nominee
- 2021 *The One I Keep* and *What seems so is transition*, 7ArtsCafe Women in Dance  
Film Festival – Yokohama, Japan

- 2021 *For you, to mentor me*, Visualis Film Festival – St. Petersburg, Russia  
Semi-finalist
- 2021 *like mercury in the palm of my hand* in *Chasing Light*, Gallery 263 – Cambridge MA
- 2021 *In Revolution*, Show Up & Dance – Verona NJ
- 2021 *Dance with Violoncello and Electronics*, Global Water Dances – International event
- 2021 *Passage*, Crown Wood International Film Festival – Kolkata, India
- 2021 *The One I Keep*, Circe Dance Film Exhibition – Tbilisi, Georgia
- 2021 *For you, to mentor me* and *The One I Keep*, Teknochat Festivals’ VIP Fest: Best of 2020 – Barcelona, Spain, and Resistencia, Argentina  
“Best Art Narrative of 2020” Film Award (*For you, to mentor me*)  
“Best Experimental of 2020” Film Award (*The One I Keep*)
- 2021 *For you, to mentor me*, Sensus Film Festival – St. Petersburg, Russia  
Semi-finalist
- 2020 *The One I Keep*, 28th Quinzena de Dança de Almada International Dance Festival  
Almada, Portugal
- 2020 *For you, to mentor me*, SounDance Film Festival  
Barcelona, Spain, and Resistencia, Argentina  
“Best Choreography” and “Best Narrative Dance” Film Awards
- 2020 *The One I Keep*, Europa Film Festival  
Barcelona, Spain, and Resistencia, Argentina  
“Best Experimental” Film Award
- 2020 *For you, to mentor me*, Prisma Independent Film Awards – Rome, Italy
- 2019 *For you, to mentor me*, Imajitari International Dance Film Festival Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2019 *What seems so is transition* and *The One I Keep*, Women in Dance Leadership  
Conference – Philadelphia PA
- 2019 *Synchronic*, Festival Cinematica: Immagine in Movimento – Ancona, Italy  
One of 14 award finalists
- 2018 *The One I Keep*, ViDEOSKiN Contemporary Dance Video Works – Yukon, Canada
- 2018 *The One I Keep*, Cefalù Film Festival – Palermo, Italy
- 2018 *The One I Keep*, First Take Shorts Series and Q&A – Doylestown PA
- 2015 *Amherst Storybook Project (The Film)*, Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art  
Amherst MA
- 2015 *The One I Keep*, Glovebox Film Festival, Brattleboro Theatre – Cambridge MA
- 2013 *Threading Motion Project: Quilt Vignettes* in *Milestones: Textiles of Transition*  
San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles – San Jose CA
- 2013 *Threading Motion Project: Quilt Vignettes* in *Silk!*, New England Quilt Museum  
Lowell MA

## PERFORMANCE

2010–Present Luminarium Dance Company  
Co-Founder, Artistic Director, Choreographer, Performer – USA  
Performer in 17 major productions and over 100 national engagements

2007–Present Nataraj Dancers, under Guru Ranjanaa Devi

Company Member – USA & Japan

Performed with the company on its Japan Tour, Summer 2009:

シルクロードの古典舞踊 (*Classic Dances Along the Silk Road*)

American performances include:

*Songs of the River*

*The Ramayana*

*Offerings*

*Mudra: The Gesture Speaks*

*Diwali Festival of Lights*

2019–20 Rutgers University Dance Department, Mason Gross School of the Arts  
MFA in Dance Student – USA

Performed in new works by guest artists:

Pavel Zuštiak (Director, Palissimo Company), *Jette*, 2019

Jody Sperling (Director, Time Lapse Dance), *Shimmer*, 2020

2011–14 Deborah Abel Dance Company  
Lead Company Member – USA & India

Work Performed: *Calling to You*

National Engagements:

- Tsai Center, Boston MA, March 2012 and January 2014

International Engagements:

- Tour of India, by invitation of Indian government, December 2012.

Performances at the following prestigious venues:

- Deep Smriti Auditorium, Jaipur
- Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi
- Rukmini Arangam Theater at Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai

## PUBLIC ARTS PROGRAMS

### Director / Producer

2022 *Upcoming: Constellation Stories*, Seymour Planetarium – Springfield MA  
2021 *The Time Traveler’s Lens*, Princeton Battlefield State Park – Princeton NJ  
2020 *I/DD Self-Advocacy Project*, Rutgers University & coLAB Arts – New Brunswick NJ  
2019 *Global Water Dances*, Mercer County Park – West Windsor NJ  
2018 *Luminarium in Concert*, Clermont Historic Site – Germantown NY  
2017 *Kinetic Craft*, Fuller Craft Museum – Brockton MA  
2016 *300 Years*, Longfellow’s Wayside Inn – Sudbury MA  
2015 *Amherst Storybook Project*, self-published storybook, film, and performance  
Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art – Amherst MA  
2015 *DANCE+Bugs*, Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art – Amherst MA  
2015 *DANCE+Technology at Especially for Me*, The Discovery Museums – Acton MA  
2014 *Night at the Tower*, Arlington Reservoir Water Tower – Arlington MA  
2014 *DANCE+ Series*, Center for Arts at the Armory – Somerville MA  
2013 *Threading Motion Project*, New England Quilt Museum – Lowell MA  
2012 *Celebration of Preservation*, Louisa May Alcott’s Orchard House – Concord MA



Learn more about these uniquely individualized programs at [placeproject.org](http://placeproject.org) and [luminariumdance.org/programs](http://luminariumdance.org/programs).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Selected Print Publications as Author

- 2020 “Interview: Choreographer Pam Tanowitz,” *Fjord Review* #3, December 2020.
- 2018 “Invisible Threads: Alonzo King LINES Ballet collaborates with Zakir Hussain for ‘Sutra,’” *Fjord Review* #1, December 2018.
- 2018 “Boston Ballet: Jorma Elo / Fifth Symphony of Jean Sibelius, Wayne McGregor / Obsidian Tear,” *Dance International Magazine*, Spring 2018.

### Selected Online Publications as Author

- 2022 “It’s Only Rock and Roll,” *Fjord Review*, March 17, 2022. <https://fjordreview.com/boston-ballet-dreamstate>
- 2021 “Palimpsest of Self: Revealing Past and Present Identities Through Choreographic and Extended Reality Tools.” MFA Thesis. Primary Advisor Jeffrey Friedman; First Reader Pam Tanowitz. Dance Department, Rutgers University, 2021.
- 2021 “Resilience: Pennsylvania Ballet’s second virtual program,” *Fjord Review* May 5, 2021. <https://fjordreview.com/pennsylvania-ballet-resilience>
- 2019 “Rhapsody: Boston Ballet performs rarely-seen work by Leonid Yakobson,” *Fjord Review*, May 31, 2019. <https://fjordreview.com/boston-ballet-rhapsody-leonid-yakobson>
- 2019 “Dance Feature: Boston Dance Alliance Celebrates Tony Williams and Duggan Hill,” *The Arts Fuse*, March 19, 2019. <http://artsfuse.org/182234/dance-feature-boston-dance-alliance-celebrates-tony-williams-and-duggan-hill>
- 2019 “When Angels Fall: Man versus machine in Raphaëlle Boitel's newest work,” *Fjord Review*, February 17, 2019. <https://fjordreview.com/when-angels-fall-raphaelle-boitel>
- 2018 “Women of the Hour: Boston Dance Theater's home city debut,” *Fjord Review*, November 29, 2018. <https://fjordreview.com/boston-dance-theater-debut>
- 2018 “City of Others: Dance and social change with Sankofa Danzafro,” *Fjord Review*, October 26, 2018. <https://fjordreview.com/sankofa-danzafro-city-of-others/>

- 2018 “The Wild Divine: Deborah Abel's inspired choreography,” *Fjord Review*, February 27, 2018. <https://fjordreview.com/the-wild-divine-deborah-abel-dance-company>

## SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

### Print

- 2021 FEATURE: “Choreographer Captures the Past in Unique Interdisciplinary Work,” Anne Levin, *Town Topics*, April 28, 2021. Additionally accessible online at <http://www.towntopics.com/wordpress/2021/04/28/choreographer-captures-the-past-in-unique-interdisciplinary-work>
- 2020 NEWS: Guerra recognized as a “gifted filmmaker” and lauded for receiving the “Best Experimental” award for her screendance *The One I Keep* at Europa Film Festival in Barcelona, Spain. Karen Campbell, *The Boston Globe*, April 9, 2020.
- 2018 REVIEW: “Dance company dives into group dynamics with compelling ‘Hiveland,’” Karen Campbell, *The Boston Globe*, September 24, 2018. Additionally accessible online at <https://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/theater/dance/2018/09/24/dance-company-dives-into-group-dynamics-with-compelling-hiveland/ZULCZxsm7ht7WbspNSTP9L/story.html>
- 2015 REVIEW: “Shadows and light in Luminarium Dance's ‘Spektrel,’” Jeffrey Gantz, *The Boston Globe*, October 29, 2015.

### Radio and Television

- 2022 TV INTERVIEW: “Merli V. Guerra, Luminarium Dance Company,” with Jacob Garcia, GBH News, April 21, 2022. <https://www.instagram.com/p/CclfOxKloJC>
- 2020 PODCAST: “An Interview with Merli V. Guerra,” with host Deanna Costa, The Short Fuse, season 3 / episode 9, December 23, 2020.
- 2016 TV INTERVIEW: “300 Years: Music & Dance Celebrating the Wayside Inn Tricentennial,” with Mike Morrissey, Sudbury TV, episode August 8, 2016.
- 2016 TV INTERVIEW: “Wayside Inn celebrates 300 years through dance,” with reporter Zoe Joulis, WMCT-TV, Marlborough, MA, aired August 1, 2016.
- 2015 TV INTERVIEW: “It's All About Arts,” with host Glenn Williams, Boston Neighborhood Network, episode August 17, 2015.
- 2014 TV SPECIAL: “The Luminarium Dance Company,” Cyn & Gareth Williams, Arlington Public News, September 26, 2014.

## Online Publications

- 2021 FEATURE: “New Films Focus on History of Colonnade at Princeton Battlefield,” Sarah Salvadore, *Princeton Patch*, April 26, 2021. <https://patch.com/new-jersey/princeton/new-films-focus-history-colonnade-princeton-battlefield>
- 2021 FEATURE: “‘The Time Traveler’s Lens’ An Extended Reality Immersive Performance Available at Princeton Battlefield State Park,” editor Dennis Symons, *Mid Jersey News*, April 23, 2021. <https://midjersey.news/2021/04/23/the-time-travelers-lens-an-extended-reality-immersive-performance-available-at-princeton-battlefield-state-park>
- 2021 PREVIEW: “Time Traveler’s Lens ‘extended reality’ performance illuminates history of Colonnade at Princeton Battlefield State Park,” Krystal Knapp, *Planet Princeton*, April 19, 2021. <https://planetprinceton.com/2021/04/19/time-travelers-lens-extended-reality-performance-illuminates-history-of-colonnade-at-princeton-battlefield-state-park>
- 2019 REVIEW: “Luminarium Dance Company Lives Up to Their Name,” Sara Komatsu, *The Harvard Crimson*, December 27, 2019. <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2019/12/27/luminarium-in-concert-article>
- 2018 PREVIEW: “A Creative Buzz: Luminarium’s HIVELAND,” Olivia J. Kiers, *Art New England Magazine*, September 13, 2018. <http://artnewengland.com/blogs/a-creative-buzz-luminariums-hiveland>
- 2016 REVIEW: “Luminarium Dance Company Inspires Transcendence in Face of Uncertainty,” Hannah Bresnahan, *Everything She Wrote*, November 13, 2016. [luminariumdance.org/single-post/2016/11/13/REVIEW-Everything-She-Wrote](http://luminariumdance.org/single-post/2016/11/13/REVIEW-Everything-She-Wrote)
- 2015 REVIEW: “‘Spektrel’ Spectacular,” Gillian Daniels, *New England Theatre Geek*, Nov. 4, 2015. <http://www.netheatregeek.com/2015/11/04/spektrel-spectacular>
- 2015 INTERVIEW: “WomenCinemakers meets Merli V. Guerra,” Francis L. Quettier and Dora S. Tennant, *WomenCinemakers*, Special Edition, Vol. 16, May 29, 2015. <https://issuu.com/women-cinemakers/docs/vol.16/38>
- 2014 INTERVIEW: “Merli V. Guerra on the Movement and Light of Luminarium Dance,” Dan Blask, Massachusetts Cultural Council's ArtSake "Nano-Interview," June 19, 2014. <https://artsake.massculturalcouncil.org/merli-guerra-on-the-movement-and-light-of-luminarium-dance>

## CREATIVE RESEARCH RESIDENCIES

- 2022 Artist in Residence, Organização Buinho – Messejana, Portugal (July)

2014 Choreographer in Residence, Green Street Studios – Cambridge MA (September)

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Teacher of Record**

- 2022 Introduction to Dance Science – Undergraduate course for BA majors  
Co-teacher Kim Vaccaro, Dance & Theatre Department, Rider University
- 2022 History of Movement Theory – Undergraduate course for BA majors  
Co-teacher Kim Vaccaro, Dance & Theatre Department, Rider University
- 2022 World Dance & Improvisation – Undergraduate course for BA majors  
Dance & Theatre Department, Rider University
- 2021 Choreography – Undergraduate course for BA majors  
Dance & Theatre Department, Rider University
- 2021 Choreography 2 – Undergraduate course for BFA majors  
Co-teacher Pam Tanowitz, Mason Gross Dance Department, Rutgers University
- 2020–21 Dance Appreciation Online – Undergraduate course  
Mason Gross Dance Department, Rutgers University
- 2020 Modern 1 – Undergraduate course for BA majors, minors, and non-majors  
Mason Gross Dance Department, Rutgers University
- 2019 Rotation: Classical Odissi Indian Dance – Undergraduate course for BFA majors  
Mason Gross Dance Department, Rutgers University

## **WORKSHOPS & MASTER CLASSES**

- 2022 Guest Lecture: “Approaching Screendance Through a Sensory Lens”  
Screendance Graduate Certificate Program, University of Utah, Salt Lake City UT
- 2022 LAB seminar: Performance reels, creating dance websites/portfolios, and  
founding a 501(c)3 nonprofit – Rider University, Lawrenceville NJ
- 2021 Introduction to Dance: Dance & Technology seminar – Rutgers University  
New Brunswick NJ
- 2021 Senior Seminar Workshop: Performance reels, submitting films to festivals, and  
creating dance websites/portfolios – Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley MA

- 2018–19 Master classes in classical Odissi Indian dance – Rider University, Lawrenceville NJ
- 2018 Master classes in classical Odissi Indian dance – Rutgers Preparatory School Somerset NJ
- 2014–15 Master classes in classical Odissi Indian dance – Endicott College, Beverly MA
- 2010–11 Semester-long classes in Creative Ballet, Creative Dance, and Theatre Cambridge Performance Project, Cambridge MA

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION & PRESENTATIONS

### Presenter

- 2022 *Upcoming*: “Astronomy, Technology, and Dance.” Rider Dance Day, Rider University, Lawrenceville NJ, November 11, 2022.
- 2022 “Palimpsest of Self.” University of Utah, Salt Lake City UT, April 18, 2022.
- 2022 “IMMERSIVE PLACEMAKING: Using dance and technology to enliven historic community sites.” Northeast & Mid-Atlantic Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit, April 22, 2022.
- 2022 “Dance +AR/VR/XR Technologies.” Dance New Jersey Annual Festival, February 5, 2022.
- 2021 “360 Virtual Reality + Choreography.” Rider Dance Day, Rider University, Lawrenceville NJ, November 5, 2021.
- 2021 “The Time Traveler's Lens: Using AR/VR and Choreographic Tools to Enliven Historic Ruins.” Harvard University Virtual/Augmented Reality, May 18, 2021.
- 2021 “Heritage in Motion.” Our World Heritage, International Globinar 2.0., April 10, 2021.
- 2020 “Community Engagement: Exploring Benefits from Historical, Practical, and Social Work-Based Approaches.” National Dance Education Organization Conference, October 25, 2020.

### Panelist

- 2022 *Upcoming*: Moderator and Panelist, Dance & Technology Panel Women in Dance Leadership Conference, Chicago IL
- 2022 “Panelists’ Pick” Featured Filmmaker; Panelist, Screendance

- Constructed Sight Film Festival, Pittsburgh PA
- 2019      Featured Filmmaker; Panelist, Screendance  
Women in Dance Leadership Conference, Philadelphia PA
- 2016      Panelist, Local Cultural Council 2016 Statewide Assembly  
Massachusetts State House, Boston MA
- 2014      Panelist, Breaking Barriers: (Re-Defining) Entrepreneurship Conference  
Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley MA

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- 2022      Technique Adjudicator, Commonwealth Ballet Company Audition – Acton MA
- 2019      Grant Adjudicator, Local Arts Program Panel, New Jersey State Council on the  
Arts – State of New Jersey
- 2018–19   Board Member, Dance New Jersey – State of New Jersey
- 2015–16   Co-Chair, Arlington Cultural Council – Arlington MA
- 2015      Grant Adjudicator, Dance Panel – Cambridge Arts Council, Cambridge MA
- 2014      Grant Adjudicator, Dance, Theatre & Multidisciplinary Arts Review Panel  
Somerville Arts Council, Somerville MA
- 2013–14   Board Member, Center for Arts at Armory – Somerville MA

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Universal Participation: Innovation and Learning Network – 2022 Cohort Member (2022)
- Michele Eaton’s “Blended Learning Spectrum” Workshop (2021)
- ConcussionWise Training
- CITI Training
- Bates Dance Festival Professional Training (2008)

### **TECHNICAL ABILITIES**

#### **Technical:**

Highly trained in Adobe Creative Suite and Adobe Creative Cloud (Premiere Pro, Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Dreamweaver) and video shooting and editing (including 360-degree virtual reality software). Experienced in HTML, Final Cut Pro, iMovie, Flash, Quark, Acrobat,

Excel, and Microsoft Office. Experienced in copy-editing, writing, typography, and the Chicago Manual of Style. Proficient in both Mac and PC platforms, and preparing documents for print and web. Strong photography, film, and graphic arts skills. Exceptional at multitasking, working within tight deadlines, and managing budgets.

**Additional Skills:**

Other professional work includes: dance (ballet, modern, and classical Odissi Indian dance); choreography; filmmaking; journalism; public speaking; non-profit administration and fundraising; museum administration and education; arts advocacy; and event management.

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2005–Present           Freelance Web/Graphic Designer
- 2018–19               Production Manager, Princeton University Press – Princeton NJ
- 2013–17               Art Director, Art New England Magazine – Boston MA
- 2011–13               Creative Services Associate, New Repertory Theatre – Watertown MA

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) – Baltimore MD
- Boston Dance Alliance – Boston MA
- Dance New Jersey – Morristown NJ
- Universal Participation Innovation and Learning Network – Boston MA

**LANGUAGES**

French: Proficient; English: Fluent

**REFERENCES**

**Julia M. Ritter**, PhD, MFA  
Dean, USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance  
University of Southern California  
848.932.1367  
juliamritter@gmail.com

**Kim Chandler Vaccaro**, PhD  
Associate Professor, Department of Theatre & Dance  
Westminster College of the Arts, Rider University

609.896.7706  
kcvaccaro@rider.edu

**Pam Tanowitz**  
Director, Pam Tanowitz Dance  
917.763.8930  
pamtandance@gmail.com

**Jeffrey Friedman, PhD**  
Director, MFA in Dance Program  
Mason Gross School of the Arts  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
848.932.1384  
jfdance@mgsa.rutgers.edu

**Wendy Lawson**  
Company Member, Deborah Abel Dance Company  
Guest Artist, Luminarium Dance Company  
617.513.0301  
ggkaluna@gmail.com