

Erica Rae Smith

ericarae@eraesmith.com

www.eraesmith.com

EDUCATION

The University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Modern Dance, May 2004

Suitland High School, Visual And Performing Arts, Dance Major, June 1998

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Higher Education Teaching Experience

Adjunct Professor of Dance, *Bowie State University, Bowie, MD*

February 2025 – Present

- Course Taught: Foundations of Modern Dance
- Developed curriculum introducing students to fundamental movement and skills in various modern dance styles
- Provided student mentorship in technical development, choreography, and performance direction
- Designed lessons integrating body alignment, strength, efficiency of motion, musicality, and dance vocabulary
- Guided students in understanding and applying modern dance techniques to enhance artistic expression

Teaching Artist (Long-Term Substitute)

Baltimore City Public Schools - Baltimore, MD

August 2024 – Present

- Designed an *Introduction to Dance* curriculum for students in grades 6, 8, and 9-12, aligning with national dance education standards to ensure comprehensive instruction.
- Focused on the history of Social Dance, building technical proficiency, and fostering creativity through dance composition.
- Integrated artistic expression to help students tell stories, explore themes, and convey meaningful messages through movement.
- Provided constructive feedback and guidance to support students' growth and development as future performers, enthusiasts, or creatives in the performing arts.
- Collaborated with colleagues and students to coordinate student-led in class performances, and rehearsals, fostering a collaborative and supportive dance community.

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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Dance Instructor

The John Carroll School: College Preparatory Dance Program - Bel Air, MD

August 2023 – Present

- Instructed modern dance classes focusing on the Horton technique for students in grades 11-12, emphasizing technical proficiency and artistic expression.
- Choreographed original dance pieces for performances and showcases, showcasing creativity and innovation within the Horton technique.
- Successfully introduced the Umfundalai technique as a monthly class, catering to students in grades 8-12, and expanded it to weekly sessions to meet growing demand.
- Developed and implemented curriculum for both Horton and Umfundalai techniques, ensuring comprehensive instruction and progression for students.
- Provided constructive feedback and guidance to students to support their growth and development as dancers in both techniques.
- Collaborated with colleagues to coordinate performances, events, and rehearsals, fostering a collaborative and supportive dance community.
- Stayed informed about current trends and developments in dance education, integrating new ideas and techniques into curriculum and choreography to enhance the learning experience.

Teaching Artist

Don Bosco Cristo Rey - Takoma Park, MD

August 2023 – Aug 2024

- Created an Introduction to Dance curriculum for students in grades 9-12, incorporating national dance education standards.
- Emphasized technical proficiency, dance history, composition, and artistic expression in the curriculum.
- Provided constructive feedback and guidance to support students' growth and development as future performers, enthusiasts, or creatives in the performing arts.
- Collaborated with colleagues to coordinate performances, events, and rehearsals, fostering a collaborative and supportive dance community.

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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Artist/Consultant

Joe's Movement Emporium - Mt. Rainer, MD

August 2022 – August 2024

- Experienced dance instructor/consultant skilled in developing and implementing dynamic dance curriculums for grades 2-12, fostering creativity and self-expression in students.
- Expertise in coordinating performances and managing collaborative dance programs, with a strong commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion in dance education.
- Provides tailored instruction to meet the unique needs and interests of students in Prince George's County and Archdiocese of Washington, DC, public and private schools.

Founder / Artistic Director

Raedian Movement - Hyattsville, MD

July 2011 – Present

- Founder, Co-Owner and currently serves as Artistic Director of a dynamic organization dedicated to promoting and preserving dances of the African diaspora.
 - Developed comprehensive programming providing high-quality dance instruction rooted in African cultural traditions.
 - Tailored classes and workshops for teens and adults, fostering cultural enrichment and artistic expression.
 - Designed curriculum combining Umfundalai and African-American social dance with contemporary approaches.
 - Emphasized cultural authenticity and respect while nurturing creativity and self-expression.
 - Established partnerships with community organizations and schools to expand access to dance education.
 - Pursue professional development and collaborations to enhance organizational impact and reach.
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RESIDENCIES & MASTER CLASSES

Master Class Instructor, *Montgomery County Dance Showcase*
February 2025

- Led a Horton Technique master class for dance students in Grades 6-12 from schools across Montgomery County
- Provided foundational training in Horton-based movement principles, strength, flexibility, and musicality
- Engaged students in technical progressions and movement sequences to enhance alignment, coordination, and artistic expression

Roland Park Country School - Baltimore, MD
January 2025

- Resident Artist specializing in Grades K-12 Dancehall dance, music, and culture education, fostering connections to other dance genres.
- Developed a tailored curriculum covering Dancehall history, technique, choreography, and performance
- Creates inclusive learning environments, promoting cultural awareness and artistic exploration for all age groups
- Created and performed a school performance highlighting Dancehall history, its cultural connections, and community impact

RESIDENCIES & MASTER CLASSES

Ocean County Vocational and Technical School- Performing Arts Academy - Lakehurst, NJ
January 2014 and February 2023

- Resident Artist specializing in Grades 9-12 Dancehall dance, music, and culture education, fostering connections to other dance genres.
 - Developed a tailored curriculum covering the Umfundalai Technique and Dancehall history, technique, choreography, and performance.
 - Creates inclusive learning environments promoting cultural awareness and artistic exploration.
 - Collaborates with instructors and partners to showcase Dances of the African Diaspora history, diversity and vibrancy.
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PROFESSIONAL COMPANY EXPERIENCE

- Founder and Artistic Director of Raediant Movement LLC. 2011- Present
 - Company Member of Connecting Vibes USA, 2010-2013
 - VB Dance Ensemble, 2013-2014
 - Company Member of Lesole's Dance Project, 2004-2008
 - Internship and Guest Artist with Tania Issac Dance, 2003-2004
 - Company Member of New LeJa Dance Company, 2002-2003
 - Member of Mahogany Dance Theater Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Dance Team 2000-2001
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CHOREOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE

Concert Dance

- **“When Ancestors Speak”** is an ensemble piece that was created as a part of NACHMODC: 30 day Choreographer Challenge and performed at the Atlas Theater, Washington, DC, in February 2024. This piece explores the ways in which our ancestors may communicate with each other to guide the living. Ancestors shape our future, recall the past, and guide self-reflection. This piece envisions their dialogues, exploring untold exchanges and potential manifestations through a movement vocabulary composed of Black American social dance, gestures and the contemporary African dance technique Umfundalai.
- **“Deep In My Bones / Black Discourse”** is a evening length that was created during a one year Artist in Residency (2022-2023), with Joe's Movement Emporium, Mt. Rainer, MD comprised of seven work that, This evening-length performance, comprised of seven works, embodies the frustration felt by African Americans who face rejection and accusations of misappropriation from some Diasporic brothers and sisters when they engage in movements commonly seen in African and Caribbean cultures. The work highlights the connections between movements throughout the African Diaspora, showcasing Black American pedestrian movements and contemporary dance forms while infusing social and folk dances from the Caribbean, West Africa, and Southern Africa.
- **“Culturally Different/Equally Black”** is an ensemble work created for the 2022 NACHMO: 30-day Choreographer's Challenge, premiering at the Atlas Theater. This piece calls for an end to intra-racial division, emphasizing that together we are stronger.

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CHOREOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE

Concert Dance

- **“Out of Many: I Dare You To Find Your Connection”** is a world premiere presented by The John F. Kennedy Center, Local Dance Commissioning Project in 2018. This evening-length work includes modern-fusion and Caribbean dancehall, music, and social dance culture, featuring a live "selecta" (DJ). The piece celebrates the legacy and vitality of dancehall movement, inviting the community to witness the choreographer's discovery and encouraging a call-and-response format integral to the style.
 - **“Out of Many: I Dare You To Find Your Connection”** work in progress ensemble presented as apart of Dance Place – 2018 DC Dance Summit, Washington, DC,
 - **“We Luv Di Vibes”** is a quartet that was re-staged and performed at The Dance Loft on 14th during the DC Dance Summit in Washington, DC, in 2017 . This piece was also performed in at is a fusion of Jamaican Dancehall and Afrobeats, created to celebrate diasporic dances and their connections. It highlights how both the music and movements generate positive energy and vibes within the social dance community.
 - **“There’s Something About the Music”**, ensemble celebration of Dancehall and Soca performed at Washington, DC , Howard Theater, as apart of RAW Artist DC, 2017
 - **“We Lub Di Vibes”** excerpt performed as a quartet as a part of culminating evening dance showcase entitled DanceFlux at The Clarice Performing Arts Center located in College Park, MD in 2015.
 - **“Dancehall to the world”** , duet performed Goucher College Athenaeum Theater, Towson, MD, International Festival, “Around The World In One Night”, in 2014
 - **"Clarity"**, a solo piece developed as an expression of the emotions surrounding love and loss, premiered as part of the collective evening-length production *Trajectory*, presented by Connecting Vibes USA at Joe's Movement Emporium in Mt. Rainer, MD, in 2013. *Clarity* was also performed in St. George’s Grenada, 2013 as apart of Connecting Vibes USA and UK , Division of Culture, cultural exchange residency; Collaborators: John McQueen & Valerie Branch
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WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMMING

- Co-presented "There's Something About the Music" – Community Dance Event
In collaboration with, Glen Echo Park Arts and Raediant Movement, at Glen Echo Park, this community event was held on August 24, 2024, featured a vibrant dancehall workshop led by Jamaican guest instructor Special Black, followed by an energizing after-party with DJ Selecta. Supported by the Maryland State Arts Council, the event celebrated Black dance forms and cultural connection, offering inclusive programming for participants of all abilities and ages.
 - Presented and co-presented multiple single date workshops and master classes highlighting dance of the African Diaspora such as Dancehall, AfroBeats, South African, Trinidadian Folk, and Haitian Folk Dance in collaboration with guest artists from Jamaica, Trinidad, the United Kingdom, New York, and the DC Metro Area. Conducted sessions in both Philadelphia and the DC Metro locations, fostering cultural exchange and artistic development within diverse communities 2011 - 2017
 - "Dance-We-Ah-Dance" Co-presented weekend long workshop workshops and Dancehall Dance Contest that celebrated Dancehall, history, music and culture in collaboration with guest artists from Jamaica, Trinidad, New York, and the DC Metro Area.
 - "Deep In My Bones", from the two step, dutty wine, down to the tootsie roll, Black dance across the diaspora is a vessel that holds our traditions. The workshop is designed to encourage discussion, discovery, personal connections, and exploratory movement. In this series, we will explore the essence of Black dance, Afro-Modern, Caribbean, and Social dances, culminating in phrase work created by both participants and instructor. Let's journey together while exploring dances of the African Diaspora!
 - "Dance Unites" is a week-long workshop that demonstrates the unifying power of dance. Using African American Social Dance and contemporary African dance techniques, it showcases unity through diverse traditions within the African Diaspora. The goal is to highlight these forms' cultural significance and their ability to bring people together across backgrounds.
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ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Artist Partner/ Community Schools Coordinator/Contractor

Joe's Movement Emporium - Mt. Rainer, MD

December 2023 - September 2024

- Act as the primary liaison for artists, managing communications and addressing their needs to ensure success.
- Oversee logistics for artist engagements, including travel, accommodations, and technical requirements, coordinating with event staff and venues.
- Negotiate and manage artist contracts, ensuring compliance with legal and organizational policies, and maintaining accurate records.
- Research and identify grant opportunities, assist artists with applications, and provide support for basic studio rental needs.
- Collaborate on program development and curate events featuring partnered artists, while monitoring and managing budgets related to artist partnerships.

Receptionist/Administrative Support

The Washington Ballet - Washington, DC

October 2005 - July 2007

- Delivered professional and friendly customer service.
- Administered daily administrative tasks and word-processed correspondence and reports.
- Assisted Finance Director with database management of accounts payable/receivable.
- Developed techniques to enhance office operations.
- Designed marketing materials for Adult Classes and the Nutcracker Season 2005/2006.

Art Administrator Internship

Tania Isaac Dance - Philadelphia, PA

August 2004

- Coordinated meeting planning, scheduling, and travel for performing artists.
- Compose, proofread, edit, and word-process correspondences.
- Assisted with general marketing of the company via telephone, mail, and email.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AFFILIATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

- Teaching Artist of the Mid-Atlantic Member
- Artist 4 Learning Maryland – Teaching Artist Training June, 2023
- Umfundalai M'sigha Wuti Training Certification, May 2022, Community and Beginning Level Certified Instructor of Contemporary African Dance Technique, Umfundalai
- Dancehall Intensive Study, Kingston, JA, May 2019

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- Private Instructional Training with local Dancehall Professors and Ambassadors of Jamaican Dancehall, history, culture, and dance
 - Mahogany Dance Theater, Tallahassee, FL, September - May 2000 2001
 - Philadanco Summer Dance Intensive, Philadelphia, PA, June - July 1996
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MASTER INSTRUCTORS

Faye Snow, Kim Bears-Bailey, Clyde Michael Hayes, Ronen Koresh, Molly Misgalla, Milton Myers, Brian Sanders, Wayne St. David, Pat Thomas, Ruth Adrien, Andrew Pap, Cuban Pete & Barbara Craddock, Curt Haworth, Jennifer Binford, Carole Sklaroff, Eva Szabo, Jeannine Osayande, Orville & Shelly Xpressionz, and Monique Walker