

Valerie Branch

Founding Artistic Director, Valerie Branch Dance Ensemble

Independent: choreographer, mentor, performing and teaching artist, lecturer

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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts, Dance-Magna Cum Laude

University of Maryland, College Park

College of Arts and Humanities

May 2008

College Park, MD

GPA: 3.9

WORK EXPERIENCE

Regional Director MD Wolf Trap

January 2020 - present

Young Audiences of MD

Baltimore, MD

- Oversee all MD Early Learning Wolf Trap programming:
 - Selecting artists for venue contracts to ensure venue goals and objective are met
 - Divvying out and tracking artist work to ensure it is distributed equitably
 - Collaborating with program coordinator or Wolf Trap contract rep to ensure program deliverables are met
- Work in partnership with Early Learning Specialist to implement programs:
 - Assist with management of program schedules for artists and venues
 - Assist with customer relations and partnerships
- Managing affiliate responsibilities and reporting to National Wolf Trap
- Present at conferences on behalf of Early Learning programming
- Support artists in creation and implementation of Professional Development workshops through mentorship, observation and feedback.
- Provide collaborative PDs and networking opportunities for roster Teaching Artists
- Oversee the training, onboarding, and continued support of all Wolf Trap Teaching Artists, including
 - Writing and developing the new artist training handbook
 - Planning and overseeing the BAP and Prek/K training weeks with National
 - Supporting TAs with implementing quality programming through observations and feedback, ensuring the fidelity of the embedded PD model and developmentally appropriate scaffolded strategies
 - Develop and lead professional development opportunities for Early Learning artists around topics such as artist sharing/peer support; curriculum content relevance; developmentally appropriate practices (in art form), etc.
- Serve as the content expert in the Wolf Trap model to support YAMD in its execution and delivery of the program.
- Provide guidance and administrative support in the logistical aspects of program

Managing Director / Company Member

May 2016 – present

Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh dance company

Silver Spring, MD

- Participate in creative process with other company members and Artistic Director
- Perform evening length works with company as contracted/as needed
- Coordinate artistic and arts-education events for venues and company members
- Serve as company member
- Organize and oversee the smooth running of company administration including but not limited to: company performance tours, rehearsal schedule, performance booking, company finances

- Director** January 2014 – present
VB Dance Ensemble **Baltimore, MD**
- Coordinate and maintain schedules of all rehearsals and performances
 - Coordinate specific information for dancers
 - Serve as choreographer, rehearsal and artistic director
 - Serve as a company member/dancer
 - Serve as a mentor to other participants
 - Perform with company as opportunities present
 - Current repertoire: *The People We Meet and The Friends we keep* (school assembly), *Creating Exploring and Dancing with Our Friends* (in school residency)
- Master Teaching Artist** September 2014 – present
Wolf Trap Early Learning Program **Vienna, VA**
- Provide Professional Development in Arts Integration with the Wolf Trap Model
- Roster Teaching Artist** August 2013 - present
Young Audiences of Maryland **Baltimore, MD**
- Teach Dance and arts integration lessons throughout the State of Maryland in classroom settings
 - Provide Professional Development in Arts Integration with the Wolf Trap Model
 - Completed training in the Teaching Artist Institute (2014)
 - MSAC Teaching Artist
 - Teaching Artist Fellow (2018-present)
 - Regional Director MD Wolf Trap (2020-present)
- Executive Director/Dancer** January 2011 – December 2013
Connecting Vibes USA **Baltimore, MD**
- Coordinate and maintain schedules of all rehearsals and performances
 - Coordinate specific information for dancers
 - Serve as rehearsal director and choreographer
 - Serve as a company member/dancer
 - Serve as a mentor to other participants
 - Perform with company as opportunities present
 - Company performance launch: Grenada's Biennial National Dance Festival (May 2011)
- Adjunct Company member** January 2011 – 2014
alight dance theater **Greenbelt, MD**
- Participate in creative process with other company members and Artistic Director
 - Perform evening length works with company as contracted/as needed
 - Performance in works: *Truth Be Told* (2012), *Speechless* (2011/2012-excerpts), *50's Front* (2012), *Hometown Heroes* (2012), *Stargazing* (2013), *Frontline* (2014)
- Dance Teaching Artist/Assistant Director Youth Company** January 2009 – June 2014
New Hope Academy **Lanham, MD**
- Teach different styles of street jazz, ballet and contemporary dance techniques to children age 6-17
 - Challenge the children to perform at a professional level
 - Choreograph dances for the children to perform throughout the year
 - Serve as a mentor to youth involved in dance classes and youth company

**Youth Programs Co-Director
Dance Place**

June 2010 – May 2013
Washington, DC

- Provide Direction and Support for Youth Programs (Junior Staff, Interns, After School Club)
- Coordinate and maintain schedules of all staff involved in different programs
- Host and Coordinate informational meetings to guide staff in a direction which is beneficial for the organization
- Mentor and guide hired staff and youth participants
- Manage all administration for program
- Hire and evaluate all staff involved in programs
- Special Events: Hosted Kompagni B during an after school program at Dance Place (2011 Cultural Arts Program Visit to Denmark)

**Artistic Director/Company Manager/Dancer
REVISION dance collaborative/Dance Place**

June 2011 – June 2012
Washington, DC

- Schedule and book performances for company
- Coordinate and maintain schedules of all rehearsals and performances
- Create evening length, school show and residency performance materials for company
- Perform with company when opportunities present
- Performance venues include: grade schools, universities, professional and children's theaters, museums, Embassy's, etcetera

**Administrative Coordinator
EDGEWORKS Dance Theater**

August 2008 – December 2011
Washington, DC

- Performance venues include: grade schools, universities, professional and children's theaters, museums, Embassy's, etcetera
- General office administration tasks such as answering phones, sending/receiving email, making copies, running errands, and data entry
- Creating and modifying documents using Microsoft Office and Excel
- Supporting the director in assigned project based work, including volunteering services to support certain events/activities such as fundraisers, performance events, etc. as an extension to the position of administrative coordinator.
- Maintains office calendar
- Coordinates and Manages volunteer services rendered to the organization for special events and performances

**Company Manager/dancer
Dance Place/Carla & Company**

June 2008 – June 2011
Washington, DC

- Schedule and book performances for company
- Coordinate and maintain schedules of all rehearsals and performances
- Perform with company as opportunities present
- Performance venues: grade schools, professional and children's theaters, museums
- Conduct all administrative duties for company

**Rehearsal Director/Administrative Coordinator/Company member
Lesole's Dance Project**

August 2007 – June 2011
Silver Spring, MD

- Schedule and book performances for company
- Coordinate and maintain schedules of all rehearsals and performances
- Perform with company as opportunities present
- Performance venues include: grade schools, colleges and universities, professional and children's theaters, museums, Embassy's, etcetera
- Conduct all administrative duties for company

- Serve as a mentor to other participants and youth audience members and participants
- Special Projects: Launch of 2009 and 2010 International Edu-dance program in South Africa (Coordinator, Fundraiser, Administrator, and Facilitator)

Choreographer

June 2006 – August 2008

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Bladensburg, MD

- Work with children ages 7-17 on basic dance
- Train the children to perform at a professional level
- Encourage and emphasize to the children an appreciation for the performing arts
- Help with creation / implementation of a musical theater production every 2 weeks of camp

Assistant Director and Teacher

September 2005 – May 2007

Coppin Institute for Intergenerational Arts

Baltimore, MD

- Help with creation / implementation of a musical theater production every 2 weeks of camp
- Administrative work (help with the implementation of the initial program, create mailing lists, collect payments, interact with parents, handle telephone calls, check on class conduct)
- Taught creative dance to children of the Baltimore community
- Explored movement possibilities with children ages 3-5
- Created movement phrases comprehensible for each age group

Awards/ Accomplishments/ Other:

National Credentialed Teaching Artist	2018
Maryland State Arts Council Roster Teaching Artist	2014 – present
DIVA residency (Danish Arts Council)	2013
Cultural Arts Program Exchange Visit Grant (Danish Arts Council)	2011

Other Performance Experiences:

Performed work by: Marissa Guerrero, Diedre Dawkins and Kwame Opare, Dianne McIntyre (restage of “How Long Brethren”), Ed Tyler, Emily Berry, Vanessa Jackson Johnson, Carla Perlo, Wayles Haynes, Angella Foster, Nejla Yarkin, Nkosinathi “Natty” Mncube, Lesole Maine, Erica Gooden, Alvin Mayes, Alice Howes, John McQueen, Laura Schandelmeier, Daniel Burkholder

ADJUNCT COMPANY MEMBER/GUEST ARTIST:

Daniel Burkholder/The Playground (Acts of Arriving, Fall 2014)
Dance Box Theater (Museum of False Memories, Fall 2013)

****References and other Information Available Upon Request****