

LAURA ANN SMYTH

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Biography

Los Angeles-based dancer, instructor and choreographer Laura Ann Smyth began her journey as an artist at age 4 in Canada. Smyth's versatile and conscious dance background as well as her passion for the preservation of jazz dance and its role in the academy, has afforded her many opportunities. Smyth uses her wide range of dance exposure as the basis for her teaching, allowing herself along with her students to examine and experience dance through various lenses. Rhythmic in quality, joyous in spirit and precise in technique, Smyth's teaching style is unique and inclusive.

Education

PhD Dance Studies (PhD Candidate) Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas	June 2018 - present
Master of Fine Arts, Dance University of California, Irvine, Irvine, California	June 2012
After-degree Journalism Certificate Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta	April 2008
Bachelor of Arts, Sociology Major, Dance Minor University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta	June 2004

Professional Enrichment / Masterclasses / Lecture Demonstrations / Panels

Santa Monica College Masters of Dance Series, Santa Monica, CA, 2023
Taught a masterclass and provided a short talk on rooted jazz dance

Uprooted: The Journey of Jazz (Documentary Film) Masterclass / Panel Series
CDEA, California State University Fullerton, CA, 2023

Arizona State University, Tucson, AZ, 2023
Sonoma State University, CA, 2023

Taught masterclasses that represented the message of the film and sat on panels with Uprooted film producer/director / DP

Uprooted: The Journey of Jazz (Documentary Film), Los Angeles, CA, 2023
Designed Teaching Guides for High School Dance Programs based on content of the documentary film

National Dance Educators Organization Conference (NDEO), Special Topics, Newport, RI, 2019
Assembled and moderated a panel on the role of codification in jazz dance

Velocity Dance Center, Seattle, WA, 2019
Sat on the selection committee for The Bridge Project and adjudicated the Men in Dance Showcase

International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference (IABD), Washington, DC, 2016, Los Angeles, CA, 2018
Presented a lecture/demonstration with colleagues on defining jazz dance in a jazz-less era and how those of us work in this idiom make our work relatable to millennials

World Dance Alliance – Americas 2013 Conference and Festival, Vancouver, BC, 2013
Presented with colleagues on the Prime Tenets of Jazz Dance in Relationship to Current Practices

International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference (IABD), Washington, DC, 2013
Presented a panel discussion with colleagues on the state of Concert Jazz Dance in academia

National Dance Educators Organization Conference (NDEO), Los Angeles, CA, 2012
Presented with colleagues, 2 half-day sessions on Jazz dance, it's choreographic process and its relationship to the Africanist Aesthetic, Language of Dance and Laban Notation

Experience: Secondary and Post-Secondary, Dance

Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA | 2020 – present
Employed as a Full-Time Faculty, Jazz Dance. Responsibilities include:

- Teaching all levels of Jazz Dance
- Teaching Theory and Criticism
- Teaching Senior Thesis Project
- Teaching Styles and Forms (advanced composition)
- Teaching Introduction to Choreography for non-majors
- Choreographing for the faculty concerts
- Serving on the DEI-A Steering Committee
- Developing curriculum, student learning outcomes and assessment practices for all levels of jazz dance
- Developing curriculum for a new BFA / BA in dance
- Developing curriculum for First Year Seminar courses
- Serving as Artistic Director for student dance concerts

Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA | 2017 – 2020
Employed as a Core Faculty, Assistant Professor of Dance. Responsibilities included:

- Teaching all levels of Jazz Dance
- Teaching an elective on Lindy Hop
- Teaching Dance History to Dance Majors
- Teaching Dance Professional Practices
- Choreographing for the faculty concerts
- Serving on a Steering Committee convened by the College President
- Serving a two-year term as Faculty Senate Vice President
- Serving on the First Year Seminar Development Committee
- Presenting on Race and Pedagogy at Faculty Professional Development Workshops

University of Washington, Seattle, WA | 2018
Employed as a Part-Time Instructor in the Department of Dance. Responsible for the creation of syllabus, instructing, examination and grading Intermediate/Advanced Jazz Dance

California State University Channel Islands, Camarillo, CA | 2016 – 2017
Employed as a Part-Time Instructor in the Department of Dance. Responsible for the creation of syllabus, instructing, examination and grading Beginning Modern Dance

Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA | 2015 – 2017

Hired as a choreographer to stage movement for the Theatre Department's Performances

Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA | 2015 – 2017

Employed as a Part-Time Instructor in the Department of Dance. Responsible for the creation of syllabus, instructing, examination and grading Intermediate Modern Dance and Beginner Jazz Dance

Brentwood School, Los Angeles, CA | 2014 – 2015

Employed as the Upper School Dance Teacher. Responsible for creating scope and sequence, instructing and grading for three class levels and artistic directing and choreographing three shows per year

Golden West College, Huntington Beach, CA | 2014 – 2017

Employed as a Part-Time Instructor in the Department of Dance. Responsible for the creation of syllabus, instructing, examination and grading Viewing Dance both as a traditional in-class and online course as well as various levels of Jazz Dance

Long Beach City College, Long Beach, CA | 2013 – 2017

Employed as a Part-Time Instructor in the Department of Dance. Responsible for the creation of syllabus, instructing, examination and grading Jazz Dance courses, Dance History and choreographing for the Department's fall and spring performances

University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA | 2013

Employed as a Part-Time Instructor in the Department of Dance. Responsible for the creation of syllabus, instructing, examination and grading Jazz Dance III

Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA | 2012 – 2017

Employed as a Lecturer in the Department of Dance. Responsible for the creation of syllabus, instructing, examination and grading of the following classes: Introduction to Choreography, Technique Workshop and Jazz V (Juniors)

Santa Monica College, Los Angeles, CA | 2013

Employed as a guest choreographer for the Spring 2013 performance showcase for dance students

International Dance Academy Hollywood, Los Angeles, CA | 2012-2013

Employed as a Dance Instructor for various classes including but not limited to Modern dance and Dance Instruction. Responsible for developing class syllabi, examining and grading dance students registered in IDA Hollywood's Certificate Program

University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA | 2010-2012

Employed as a Teaching Associate in the dance department. Responsible for developing class syllabi for undergraduate dance students, adapting to the requirements of the different abilities in the classroom, designing and conducting final exams, grading dance students and video documenting and editing department performances

Freehouse Dance Plus, Calgary, AB | 2008-2010

Employed as a Jazz and Ballet Dance Instructor. Responsible for creating class plans, dance syllabi, and choreographing routines for 3 levels of students, ages 12-20

University of Calgary Department of Dance, Calgary, AB | 2006

Employed as a Sessional Instructor, Responsibilities included planning, teaching, and grading Dance Course 211.91 to students enrolled in University taking dance as an elective.

Dance With France Studios, Calgary, AB | 2001-2003

Employed as a Jazz and Jazz-Funk Dance Instructor as well as a customer service representative. Responsibilities included planning classes, teaching, and correcting students of all ages in addition to student class placement, answering the telephone, opening and closing the studio, daily cash outs, promotion of new programs, and booking shows in and around the city.

Experience: Fitness

Pure Barre, Marina Del Rey, CA | 2016-2017, 2020-present

Employed as Pure Barre Boutique Fitness Instructor, trained in all class formats offered

Pure Barre, Seattle, WA | 2017-2020

Employed as Pure Barre Boutique Fitness Instructor, trained in all class formats offered

Pure Barre, Beverly Hills, CA | 2012-2017

Employed as Pure Barre Boutique Fitness Instructor, trained in all class formats offered

Specialized Dance Training

Simonson Dance Teacher Training Certification Program, New York City, NY, 2015

Completed 3 weeks of intensive training in the Simonson Method, Awarded a Certificate of completion in this Training Method

Brockus Project Dance Company Summer Intensive, Los Angeles, CA, 2012

Summer Intensive focused on jazz and contemporary dance

Instructors: Deborah Brockus, Reggie Brown, Joey Decker, Rande Dorn, Regina Klenjoski, Jamie Nichols,

Makeda Thomas Roots and Wings Movement, Port of Spain, Trinidad, 2011

Summer Institute focused on learning movement from the Caribbean and African Diaspora while being immersed in the cultural richness and diversity of Trinidad. Instructors: Makeda Thomas, Ursula Payne, Rennie Harris, Dyane Harvey-Salaam, Chris Walker, Arcell Cabaug

Harbour Dance Centre, Vancouver British, Columbia, 2009

Summer Intensive focused on ballet, jazz, hip hop and contemporary dance

Instructors: Kenny Pearl, David Gouldie, Alex Pesusich, Joanne Pesusich

University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, 2005

Urban Campus Initiative Pilot Program in Dance

Full time enrollment at the U of C as a member of the Urban Dance Company /Graduate Level Program

Dance New Amsterdam (Formerly Dance Space Center), New York, NY, 2005

Trained on an International Student Visa primarily in Simonson Technique as well as contemporary, ballet, and other jazz styles.

Instructors: Maija Garcia, Diane McCarthy, Katiti King, Jana Hicks

Ballet Creole Summer Dance Intensive, Toronto, Ontario, 2004

Trained in Dunham and Horton technique. Repertoire included that from Alvin Ailey's Revelations and Ballet Creole's 2004 Season performance. Some exposure to Cuban folk dance and Capoeira.

Instructors: Patrick Parsons, Gabby Kamino, Milton Myers, Newton Morae

Boulder Jazz Dance Workshop, Boulder, CO, 2001

Summer Intensive focused in classic and contemporary jazz as well as, ballet, hip hop, modern, choreography, and the art of turns

Instructors: Jessica Hendricks, Wade Madsen, Mark Haines

Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton, Alberta, 2000

Summer Intensive focused in various modern techniques (Cunningham, Graham) and choreography

Instructors: Brian Webb, Heidi Bunting, Paul Andre Fortier

Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, Calgary, Alberta, 1999-2010

Trained in the disciplines of jazz, hip hop, tap, and African

Instructors: Michele Moss, Kimberly Cooper, Vicki Adams-Willis, Tara Wilson, Sarisa Figueroa, Joanne Baker, Kathryn Polluck, Hannah Stillwell, Jamie Freeman-Cormack

Edmonton Public Professional School of Ballet, Edmonton, Alberta, 1991-1999

Trained in Cecchetti, R.A.D., modern (Limon, Graham), jazz, choreography

Instructors: Tina Covlin-Dewart, Margaret Flynn, Janet Hagsavis, Tara Mahood, Rhonda Nychka

Choreographic Experience

2023	Dancing Wheels Company, Cleveland, OH
2023	Awe & Wonder, presented by Donna Sternberg and Dancers, Los Angeles, CA
2023	Songs for a New World, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA
2023	Spring Dance Concert, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA
2022	Cabaret, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA
2022	Rhythmically Speaking: The Cohort, Rhythmically Speaking, Minneapolis, MN
2021	An Evening of Dance, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA
2020	An Evening of Dance, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA
2020	Full Tilt Dance Festival, Velocity Dance Center, Seattle, WA
2019	Cornish Dance Theatre, Cornish Playhouse, Seattle, WA
2019	TINT Dance Festival, Erickson Theatre, Seattle, WA
2017	Cornish Dance Theatre, Cornish Playhouse, Seattle, WA
2017	Global Motion Dance Company, Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA
2017	Synapse Dance Company, Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA
2016	Fall Dance Ensemble, Long Beach City College, Long Beach, CA
2016	Global Motion Dance Company, Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA
2016	Spring Dance Ensemble, Long Beach City College, Long Beach, CA
2015	Fall Dance Ensemble, Long Beach City College, Long Beach, CA
2014	Fall Dance Ensemble, Long Beach City College, Long Beach, CA
2014	Spring Dance Ensemble, Long Beach City College, Long Beach, CA
2013	Fall Dance Ensemble, Long Beach City College, Long Beach, CA
2013	Freshman Dance Show, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA
2013	Synapse Dance Company, Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA
2012	M.F.A. Thesis Concert, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA
2012	Dance Escape, University of California, Irvine, Graduate Choreography, Irvine, CA
2011	New Slate, University of California, Irvine, Graduate Choreography, Irvine, CA
2011	Dance Escape, University of California, Irvine, Graduate Choreography, Irvine, CA
2010	Dance Explosions Festival, Dancer's Studio West, Calgary, Alberta
2008	Dance Montage, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta
2007	Calgary Cares "Pulse" AIDS Benefit, Calgary, Alberta

Performance Experience

JazzAntiqua Dance and Music Ensemble // Choreography: Pat Taylor

- 2023 Marina Del Rey Summer Concert Series in collaboration with Dwight Trible, MDR, CA
- 2023 Dance @the Holden, Mid City Los Angeles, CA
- 2023 Dance and Dialogue Annual Fundraiser, Beverly Hills, CA
- 2023 Jazz Dance Conference West, California State University Dominguez Hills, Carson, CA
- 2022 Jacob's Pillow 90th Anniversary Season, Becket, MA
- 2022 The Brand Library Dance Series, Glendale, CA
- 2021 The Movement in the Music, Dancers on Dancers, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020 Celebrating Women in Jazz Dance, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 Lecture Demonstration, East LA College, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 SoCal-Invitational, Golden West College, Huntington Beach, CA
- 2016 Breath, Rhythmically Speaking, Minneapolis, MN
- 2016 Breath, Black Choreographers Festival, Oakland, CA
- 2015 The Stories We Tell, Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica, CA
- 2014 Song in a Strange Land, Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, Mid City Los Angeles, CA
- 2014 Roots, Rhythm and Swing, Nate Holden Performing Arts Centre, CA
- 2013 Playboy Jazz Festival, Hollywood Bowl, Hollywood, CA
- 2013 Celebrate Dance, Alex Theatre, Glendale, CA
- 2013 Lecture Demonstration, Pasadena City College, Pasadena, CA
- 2013 African American Heritage Month Opening Ceremonies, Los Angeles, CA
- 2012 Seven Paintings, Ford Amphitheater, Los Angeles, CA

Donna Sternberg and Dancers // Choreography: Donna Sternberg

- 2021 Earth Body (excerpts), Djerassi, CA
- 2021 DS&D Fundraiser, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 Earth Body, Dance on Film, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020 Borders, Wende Museum, Culver City, CA
- 2017 Awe and Wonder, Inner-city Arts, Los Angeles, CA
- 2016 Outside the Vortex, Diavolo Performance Space, Los Angeles, CA
- 2016 49 Days: Women Who Count, Arena 1 Gallery, CA
- 2015 What's Next? Ivy Sub Station, Culver City, CA
- 2015 The Architecture of Space, Santa Monica, CA
- 2015 Rancho La Puerta, Tecate, Baja California, Mexico
- 2014 One Song, Many Dances, Ivy Sub Station, Culver City, CA

Brockus:RED

- 2014 Redlands Bowl Festival, Redlands Bowl, Brockus:RED Choreography: Deborah Brockus

Contracted and Independent Projects

- 2023 Romeo & Juliet, Santa Monica Playhouse, Santa Monica, CA Choreography: Rosalynde LeBlanc Loo
- 2019 Take Pause Dance Festival, Seattle, WA Choreography: Marlo Martin and Karen Baskett
- 2018 Full Tilt Dance Festival, Seattle, WA Choreography: Marlo Martin
- 2011 Etutu Project, Santa Ana, CA Choreography: Sheron Wray
- 2010 Prairie Dance Circuit "In To Sight," Regina, SK Choreography: Alison Bryan
- 2010 Alberta Dance Explosions "Leaving Poke," Calgary, AB Choreography: Catherine Hayward
- 2009 Dancer's Studio West: AIR "In To Sight," Calgary, AB Choreography: Alison Bryan
- 2009 Fluid Movement Arts Festival "Punky Girls," Calgary, AB Choreography: Neah Kalcounis
- 2009 Alberta Feats Festival "That Punky Girl I Wish I Were," Edmonton, AB Choreography: Neah Kalcounis

2009	Alberta Dance Explosions "Landed," Calgary, AB	Choreography: Alison Bryan
2008	Dancer's Studio West: AIR "Playground of Rogues," Calgary, AB	Choreography: Jaime Mitchell
2008	Ignite Festival "The Nature of Things," Calgary, AB	Choreography: Aviva Fleising
2007	Alberta Dance Explosions, "Running Out of Time," Calgary, AB	Choreography: Aviva Fleising
2007	Ignite Festival, "Running Out of Time," Calgary, AB	Choreography: Aviva Fleising
2007	"Footprints" DJD Pre-professional Student Show, Calgary, AB	Choreography: Catherine Hayward, Amber Douglas
2007	DJD School Tour, 6 week performance contract, Calgary, AB	Choreography: Decidedly Jazz Danceworks
2007	Calgary Cares "Pulse", AIDS Benefit, Calgary, AB	Choreography: Manuel Correia
2005	Dance New Amsterdam, New York, NY	Choreography: Maija Garcia
2004	"Smooth As...", Calgary, AB	Choreography: Courtney Sproule, Lisa LaTouche, Alfi Forsch
2044	Calgary Cares "Seasons," AIDS Benefit, Calgary, AB	Choreography: Michael Ward, Kaleb, Thi Vo
2004	Alberta Dance Festival, "After Shocks," Calgary, AB	Choreography: Roxana Menzies
2003	Calgary Cares "Release", AIDS Benefit, Calgary, AB	Choreography: Michael Ward
2001	"7/7," Edmonton, AB	Choreography: Tina Covlin-Dewart

University of California, Irvine

2012	Dance Visions "Copy,Right?"	Choreography: Sheron Wray
2011	Dance Visions "Expedition of Sorts"	Choreography: Melanie Rios Glaser and Lisa Naugle
2010	Hansel and Gretel, UCI Opera	Choreography: Megan Flynn

University of Calgary Urban Dance Company

2006	"Grand Land"	Choreography: Sharon Moore
2006	"Porcelain Thoughts"	Choreography: Wojtech Mochniej

University of Calgary Mainstage Productions

2003	"ZipZap"	Choreography: Kyrsten Blair
2002	"Willy Nilly Enter'acte"	Choreography: Michele Moss
2002	"Dressing Kore"	Choreography: Neah Kalcounis
2001	"Comme Ci, Comme Ca"	Choreography: Daniela Sodero
2000	"The Eleventh Hour"	Choreography: Michele Moss

University of Calgary Dance Montage

2008	"Aejopstux"	Choreography: Carla French
2007	"Should Have Known By Now"	Choreography: Carla French
2007	"21 Carat or Just Plated?"	Choreography: Annalisa Bentzen-Whittle
2003	"Women a Run Tings"	Choreography: Roxana Menzies
2003	"The Royal Harley Davidson Ballet Company"	Choreography: Marnie Cooke
2002	"Opposite's Attract"	Choreography: Julia Gutsik, Miko Ostguy
2002	"What's Up Wityo Boots?"	Choreography: Christie Preston, Deanne Walsh
2001	"Hot Salsa"	Choreography: Ahmed Fernandez-Hodelin
2001	"My Theme Song"	Choreography: Towani Duchscher
2001	"What Can I Say...It's A Classic"	Choreography: Jamie Freeman-Cormack

Commercial Credits

2020	Steezy Studios, Intro to Jazz Program	Lead Teacher
2014	Izzy Chait "I'll Be Your Baby Tonight"	Choreography: Paula Present