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Michelle Bach-Coulibaly

Senior Lecturer • Theater Arts and Performance Studies
Brown University

Professional Appointments

- 1997-Current **Senior Lecturer - Brown University**
1982-2020 **Core Faculty - National Theater Institute**
2010-2020 **Faculty - Theatre Makers, Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center**
1987-1997 **Lecturer - Brown University**

Education

- 1982 **M.F.A.** (Dance, Teaching, and the Body Therapies) *Connecticut College*
1980 **B.F.A.** (Theater and Dance) *University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*
2016-17 **MBSR Certificate.** Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction certification

Completed Research

Spring 2019 *A GUEST HOUSE*

Newly devised movement theatre piece inspired by Rumi's poetry, researched in the Allegory of the Cave from Plato's Republic, The Bhava-Chakra or Tibetan Wheel of Becoming, and a psychological study of the chakra system in the body.

I co-wrote the text, co-designed all projections and film work, choreographed and created the overarching concept and execution. Collaboration with Omari Mizrahi, ANIKAYA Dance Theatre, and RAW Dance. Spring Festival of Dance and Commencement Dance Concert.

SILENT BIRDS

Collaborated with ANIKAYA Dance Theatre on a series of community street performances

THE MANDE FETE

I taught and trained over 50 students in four dances from Mali and directed the production with last minute staging on the Stuart stage.

Fall 2018 *THE GRACE OF PERFECT DANGER*

Original dance theatre piece incorporating two Malian ceremonial dances, songs and theatrical forms. Original poetry and text were developed through improvisational techniques. Family Weekend Concert and Mande Fete Final Concert

Spring 2018 *DNA CAFÉ:*

Original Movement theatre work researched in Butoh, Epi-genetics, Astrophysics, Buddhist philosophic concepts in the Heart Sutra, the paintings of Iwasaki Tsuneo, Rumi poetry, Katsugen, Authentic Movement, physical theatre, and Contact Improvisation. International collaborators included Zen Buddhist scholar, Dr Paula Aria, Butoh Master teacher Natsu Nakajima, and community partners The Funk Underground, RKR B-Boy Crew, and Designer Renee Suprenant, SFOD/CDC Spring of 2018

(cont.) Spring 2018 *SUNU-MANJIANI*

Khassonke and Malinke ceremonial and social dances that were performed at the SFOD, CDC and Mali Fete Spring of 2018.

SANDIA

A Malian ballet and celebratory dance of the jesere cast of northwestern Mali. Performed at the RoC'18

RHYTHM OF CHANGE FESTIVAL 2018

Beauty, Power and Grace in African and Afro-Diasporic Performance. The Rhythm of Change Festival18 (RoC) is a place where important questions about what divides us are discussed, danced and performed through the lens of Mindfulness and Self-Compassion practices. Guest artists from Mali, Senegal, Korea, The Caribbean, NYC, Los Angeles, and Boston came to Brown to share their life's work through workshops, discussions and opportunities to celebrate the notions of finding grace amidst the chaos of current political landscapes. RoC is an embodied and brave space where current and former students from diverse ethnicities and backgrounds co-create, meditate and celebrate alongside global artist-activists, educators, scholars, community youth groups, and performance artists for a weekend of art and ideas focused upon issues of power and grace. The festival welcomes all genders, ethnicities, ages, and spiritual practices.

Fall 2017 *THE DUNUNBA: SUSPENDING TOGETHER*

This original dance theatre piece explored the notions of power and grace in Contemporary Mande performance. I wrote the original text, created all choreography, and costume design. Family Weekend Concert of 2017

Spring 2017 *RHYTHM OF CHANGE FESTIVAL 2017*

Dancing Difference: Moving Across Our Divides.

The 2017 Rhythm of Change Festival partnered with FirstWorks, Rennie Harris and PureMovement, Troupe Yeredon, Dr. Daniel Banks, Rokafella, and Dr. Tricia Rose. Artists from Mali to NYC came to convene a community dialogue on the place of Hip-Hop Theatre to bring us together through shared values, dance, music and oral traditions. Topics of racism in music, cultural diplomacy and art in academia brought students and the larger community in close conversation with artist-activists from Mali, Senegal, Boston, Texas, Los Angeles and NYC to share their life stories. I raised \$29,000.00, and co-produced all aspects of the festival.

THE KOTELON, DANSA, MARAKADON

These three different Malian ballets were brought to the stage and on tour throughout the 2016-17 season. As a masquerade theatrical form, The Kotelon proposes to ensure the natural order of Bamana society through a scathing critique and satire of generational and gendered relationships. The young critique the elders, the men critique the women and the women have full reign in the center hurling insults upon the falsehoods of a patriarchal society. Dansa is a dance of beauty and power among the women of the village and danced for all life-cycle ceremonies. This version of Marakdon represents the cultural patrimony of the Maraka people of central Mali. This version is a contemporized expression of agrarian and life-cycle dances. In traditional Maraka villages this dance would accompany moral teachings and act as a communal cohesive space. RoC'16 Jump Start Performances at the Vets Auditorium in collaboration with First Works.

RIVERRUN

The creation of this new work began while on artistic retreat at the Dragon's Egg Retreat Center in Old Mystic, CT. The completed artistic product involved months of movement research and the development of a musical score that existed in the framework of seven movement theatre scenes. These scenes explored the high poetic states of Buddhist teachings surrounding Stream Entry and the notion of River as consciousness. Members of New Works contributed original poetry, live musical performances, songs, personal narratives, news-lines and histories about rivers, natural disasters, and blessings for the earth. I co-created this piece with Saulo Castillo from RKR, members of T.A.P.A., visual artist Jennifer Avery and Matthew Garza '11. SFOD and CDC of 2017

AFIBA and HER DAUGHTERS

Written by Nocosia Shakes and directed by John Emigh, I served as the movement coach and choreographer for this Commencement production at The Rite and Reason Theatre. Spring of 2017.

Invited Lectures & Presenting at National Conferencess

2019

Heart-Smile Meditation Apprenticeship

Ven. Misan Sunim. S.Korea

2018

Guest speaker at the Discover Symposium of Art and Science at RISD Museum

Speaking engagement with Professor Ian Dell'Antonio

We explored the nature of Time and Space in choreography and in the cosmo

Guest Scholar for Pushed Learning and Media.

I was responsible for assisting in all scholarly aspects of Pushed Learning's formal presentations and grant applications

2017

Wheaton College

Guest Lecturer in the Department of Ethnomusicology on the Sounds of the Wasalu

2016

National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation.

Presenter for "Bridging the Divide" fall conference in collaboration with Buddhist scholar, Eunmi Kim

Our session was entitled "Opening the Heart to Open the Mind" and looked at the nature of mind in movement, painting and writing

Here we investigated contemplative inquiry, self-compassion, community dialogue and social action. October of 2016

Produced and Co-produced Productions & Programs at Brown University

2019

Produced the annual Mande Fete

2018

Produced Family Weekend Concert

Produced the Commencement Dance Concert

Produced the Mande Fete on the Ruth Simmons Green

Produced the Rhythm of Change Festival: Beauty Power and Grace

2017

Produced Family Weekend Concert

Produced and mentored Senior Thesis Concert with Anh Vo

Co-produced Cabaret with Jessica Goldschmidt

Produced the Commencement Dance Concert

Produced the Rhythm of Change Festival

Produced the Mande Fete On the Green

2016

Rhythm of Change: Bearing Witness

Mande Fete on the Green

Commencement Dance Concert

Family Weekend Concert

Fall Dance Show

Dance Composition Concert

Mande Dance, Music and Culture Concert

To The Profession & Community

Recent investigations in Mindfulness, Creative Expression and Mental Stress are starting to show up everywhere in books, films, at conferences and in medical clinics around the world. What I have been doing for the past thirty years is now becoming accepted as a necessary aspect of a well- rounded education. While I do not take credit for this wealth of interest, I have been a pioneer in the academy for teaching these methods in theatrical and movement training for young actors and movers for over thirty-five years.

As far as Mande research goes I have documented over 35 years of footage of artisan groups from urban centers and in local villages such as Jinijela where the Che Blenke and Koteba are still performed. I continue to organize cultural exchange trips for PhD students, artists and NGOs working in social and medical programs in Mali.

As a performance artist, I continue to develop new movement theatre works engaged in Contemplation, Social Justice and Art Activism. These new works are the core of the Engaged Scholarship program.

The RoC Festival hosted a RiTaC 6x6 Community Conversation on Social Justice and Community Development in collaboration with City Arts, TAPA, The GR818RS from LA, AS220 Youth, New Urban Arts, and the New York Forum on Community Philanthropy.

As a long time Teaching Artist, I engage with community centers and OST programs on a variety of educational advancement projects on art practice and purposeful living.

Services to the University

2020-2021

Medical Leave
Summer Semester-Engaged Scholarship Certification Committee

2019-2020

First and Second Year Advisor
Engaged Scholarship Certification Committee.
Capstone Advisor
Contemplative Studies Committee as Expressive Arts Faculty

2018-2019

First and Second year academic advisor
Engaged Scholarship Coordinator for TAPS: Capstone Advisor
Contemplative Studies Committee as Expressive Arts Faculty
Faculty Advisor and Liaison for the Varsity Women's Volleyball Team

2017-2018

First and Second Year Academic Advisor
Faculty Advisor and Liaison for the Women's Varsity Volleyball Team
Seminar Leader for First Readings
Contemplative Studies Initiative Committee
Engaged Scholarship Coordinator for TAPS

2016-2017

First and Second Year Academic Advisor
Faculty Advisor and Liaison for the Women's Varsity Volleyball Team
Seminar Leader for First Readings
Contemplative Studies Initiative Committee

2015-2016

First and Second Year Academic Advisor
Seminar Leader for First Readings
Steering Committee for Engaged Scholarship
Contemplative Studies Initiative Committee

Courses Taught (Since 2015)

Summer of 2021

TAPS 0320: Dance Composition for the Camera. (Online for 7 students)
TAPS 1280k: Mindfulness and Movement: Interoceptive Expressive Arts (Online for 23 students)

Spring of 2020

TAPS 0330: Mande Dance, Music and Culture (Moved to Online format)
TAPS 1370: New Works/World Traditions

Fall of 2019

Sabbatical Leave

Spring of 2019:

TAPS 1370: New Works/World Traditions (3 + 12 community partners, alums)
TAPS 1390: Contemporary Mande Performance (49 + 3 TAs)
GISP 003: DTV Dance for the Camera (5)

Fall of 2018:

TAPS 0310: Beginning Modern Dance (17)
TAPS 0320: Dance Composition (13)
TAPS 1370: New Works/World Traditions (7+ 12 community partners, alums)

Spring of 2018:

TAPS 1370: New Works/World Traditions (4 plus 12 community partners)
TAPS 0330: Mande Dance, Music and Culture (74 plus 9 teaching assistants)

Fall of 2017:

TAPS 0310: Beginning Modern Dance (28)
TAPS 0320: Dance Composition (20)
TAPS 1370: New Works/World Traditions (7)

Spring of 2017:

TAPS 1390: Contemporary Mande Performance (70)
TAPS 1370: New Works/ World Traditions (4 registered 15 participated)

Fall of 2016:

TAPS 0310: Beginning Modern Dance (30)
TAPS 0320: Dance Composition (20)
TAPS 1370: New Works/World Traditions (7)

Spring of 2016:

TAPS 0330: Mande Dance, Music and Culture (68)
TAPS 1370: New Works/ World Traditions (6 registered 9 participated)

Fall of 2015

TAPS 0310: Beginning Modern Dance (23)
TAPS 0320: Dance Composition (18)
TAPS 1370: New Works/World Traditions (6)

Honors Thesis & Capstone Mentorship

Ahmed Ashour: Social Justice in Theatre and Performance. ESP Capstone Project. Spring of 2019

Elizabeth Basso: Teaching at T.A.P.A. ESP Capstone Project. Spring of 2018

Eren Can Ileri: Politics and Poetics of Performance: Pathways to Public Praxis. ESP Capstone Advisor. Spring of 2018

Cameron Neath: The Bengal Tiger Project. ESP Capstone Advisor

Anh Vo: 6g Degrees from the Bottom. Senior Thesis Concert Advisor and Mentor. Fall of 2017

Pia Brar: Independent Concentration advisor
Art and Activism in India. 2015-16

Research Grants

2018-2019:

Roc'18 was awarded over \$ 20K
to host the four day festival of African Performance
OVPR \$1600.00

2017-2018:

RoC'17: The Rhythm of Change Festival raised \$20K to fund the annual event
UTRA Award to conduct research on Dance and Abilities
OVPR: MBSR, and research towards new performance works for Spring of 2018

2016-2017:

CAC Grant: RHYTHM OF CHANGE FESTIVAL: Rennie Harris and Pure Movement
RoC '16: received support from over 23 different departments, and centers around the University and the world reaching as far as a South Korean Monastery.
OVPR: In support of development of a new line of study at Brown in Mindfulness-Based Self Expression

2015-2016

EEG-Cowels Foundation. \$8,000.00
To Support the Rhythm of Change Festival: Art and Cultural Diplomacy