

YUSHA-MARIE SORZANO

Address: 3804 Evans Street Apt. 5, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Mobile: (917) 685-6781

Email: yusha@yushamariesorzano.com

Website: yushamariesorzano.com | zeitgeistdancetheatre.org

ABOUT ME

A focused and self-driven creative artist, choreographer, educator, and mentor with more than 15+ years of industry experience.

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Co-artistic director of an innovative concert dance company.
- Seasoned professional with 17 years of touring experience in 8 esteemed concert dance companies.
- 5+ years of program development experience.
- Understanding of pedagogy across techniques and styles.
- Avid mentor to aspiring artists through relationships with 10+ dance organizations.
- Created 8 digital works in the last 12 months.

EDUCATION

Fordham University

Ailey/Fordham BFA in Dance | 2004

- Invited to join Ailey II in 2003
- Honored for Excellence in Dance

FELLOWSHIPS & RESIDENCIES

- **The Watermill Center** - 2021
- **Dance Lab New York** - 2020
- **Jerome Robbins Dance Research Fellowship @ New York Public Library** - 2021
- **National Young Arts Foundation** - 2019 & 2021
- **Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation's New Directions Choreography Lab** - 2018

LEADERSHIP

Zeitgeist Dance Theatre

Co-Artistic Director | 2020 - Present

Francisco Gella Dance Works

Associate Director of Program Development | 2015 - Present

Joffrey Ballet School

Artistic Director, Dallas Summer Intensive | 2019

COMPANY WORK

Camille A. Brown & Dancers | 2015 - Present

L.A. Dance Project | 2015 & 2020 (Guest Artist)

BODYTRAFFIC | 2014 - 2015

MORPHOSES | 2012 - 2013

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater | 2007 - 2010

TU DANCE | 2006 - 2013 (Guest Artist)

Complexions Contemporary Ballet | 2005 - 2007

Ailey II | 2003 - 2005

CHOREOGRAPHY

Jeannette: A New Musical (2022)

Signature Theatre

Yet Not Too Near (2021)

Ballet Idaho

Testament (2020)

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

We Are Zeitgeist (2020)

Zeitgeist Dance Theatre

War Song (2019)

The Ailey School

To All Our Ends (2018)

Santa Barbara Dance Theater

TEACHING

California Institute of the Arts

Special Faculty | 2020 - Present

Ballet+

Core Faculty | 2015 - Present

Joffrey Ballet School

Faculty | 2010 - 2018

New Century Dance Project

Core Faculty | 2016 - Present

Seattle Dance Advance

Core Faculty | 2017 - Present

The Technique Trio

Core Faculty | 2020 - Present



HIGHLIGHTED EXPERIENCE

Zeitgeist Dance Theatre

Founding Co-Artistic Director | 2020 - Present

- Launched a dance theater company despite the global pandemic, employing 8 artists to create a new collaborative work.
- Conceptualized and crafted the vision for Zeitgeist, positioning the company as a diverse and innovative environment for authentic expression that produces high-impact art reflecting the current moment.
- Conceptualized the company's first work, "We Are Zeitgeist," steering the creative process from ideation to script, facilitating and moderating challenging conversations about racial inequities and accountability. The virtual premiere was sold out, with more than 500 in attendance.
- Launched and taught trainee program that exposed 15 young artists to an expansive range of pedagogical techniques and concepts to serve their artistic development and excellence.

Francisco Gella Dance Works

Associate Director of Program Development | 2015 - Present

- 6 years of collaboration with creative and administrative team to create 4 training programs driven by a holistic approach to the art form, each developed to empower and advance aspiring young artists to excel in the field.
- Cultivated extensive relationships within the field to attract and recruit new faculty, choreographers, innovators, and public speakers to support the company's mission.
- Taught Classical Ballet, Pointe, Modern (with emphasis on Horton and Graham techniques), Contemporary, Improvisation, and Afro-based Movement.
- Moderated career and college prep panels and mentored performers and young choreographers.
- Choreographed for the programs annually.

The Watermill Center

Artist in Residence | 2021

- Envisioned and spearheaded an internship program in collaboration with The Watermill Center and California Institute of the Arts (CALArts) that identified unique talent and offered 3 exceptional students the opportunity to travel and join the creative process for my new dance theater work-in-development, "THREAT."
- Secured generous financial support from the National YoungArts Foundation to produce within a comfortable budget.
- Developed and optimized use of the budget, which facilitated a quality experience and production.
- Created a rigorous schedule, employed and mentored a professional artist as Rehearsal Director, and hired 3 other professionals — a Writer and 2 Composers.
- Developed and managed safety protocols in compliance with federal and state-to-state standards.

New York Public Library, Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Dance Research Fellow | 2020 - 2021

- Employed a professor of linguistics to help comb through 60 years of material.
- Navigated the digital archives of the library from 1960 - 2020 to identify and collate the contribution of immigrants and minorities to the performing arts.
- Culminated in a virtual Symposium showcasing the findings of 7 months of research into immigrant and minority representation in dance, which is now a resource within the public library.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's "Testament"

Choreographer | 2020

- Creative collaboration with the Associate Artistic Director and a company member of AAADT to celebrate the spirit of Alvin Ailey's "Revelations" for its 60th Anniversary.
- Successfully pivoted to learn and use new ways of working remotely in an artistic medium that otherwise demands physical contact and presence.
- Facilitated a cohesive collaboration – all remotely and within budget – with the creative team and dancers, contributing:
 - choreography, incorporating the experiences of an underserved community through collaboration with a current and a former AAADT dancer fluent in American sign language
 - concept, story, and plot
 - stage management
 - soundscape
 - costume design concepts
 - voice talent, lyrics, and audio production
 - research and sourcing of archival images
- Guided 30+ AAADT and Ailey II artists in mining practices to evoke personal memories and shared experiences, which were incorporated into the production.

Full CV available upon request

yushamariesorzano.com

zeitgeistdancetheatre.org