

Kiri Avelar

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Interdisciplinary Artist | Educator | Scholar

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Dance (2019)

Mason Gross School of the Arts

Rutgers, The State University, New Brunswick, NJ

Teachers' Certification (2010)

José Limón Dance Foundation, New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts in Dance, Honors (2006)

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Latinx Studies | Border Theory | Dance Studies | Screendance | Oral Histories | Cultural Hybridity
Chicanx Studies | Translanguaging | Chicana/Latina Feminist Epistemology | Pedagogy | Dance Histories

FELLOWSHIPS

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Teaching Fellow (2021-2022)

New York University, New York, NY

Developing Critical Pedagogies of Care in our Schools

Jerome Robbins Dance Division Research Fellow (2020)

New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center, New York, NY

Dance and Immigration

CO-FOUNDED INITIATIVES

[Latinx Dance Educators Alliance](#) A resource site for educators (Co-Founded in 2021)

[ColectivXs](#) An interdisciplinary artist collective (Co-Founded in 2018)

Academia de Ballet Emmanuel, A dance program for the Emmanuel Children's Home Orphanage, Cd.

Juárez, Chihuahua, México (Co-Founded in 2001)

TEACHING

Post-Secondary

Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

Choreographing the Transnational: Limón In-Between and Across (2022)

Division of the Arts, Guest Lecturer

East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

A Chicana/Latina Feminist Pedagogical Approach: Challenging "Best Practices" in the Dance Class (2022)

Dance Pedagogy Seminar, Guest Lecturer

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Plática & Testimonio: Challenging Best Practices in the Dance Class (2021); *Language as Label: Translanguaging, Multilingual Ecologies, and Student Accommodation in the Dance Class* (2021)
Dance Ed.M. Seminar, Guest Lecturer

Purchase College, State University of New York, New York, NY

Intersections of Interdisciplinarity: Embodying the Borderless Experience of Screendance (2021)
Art as Activism in Latin America, Guest Lecturer

Juilliard Dance Division, New York, NY

Introduction to Spanish Dance (2020)
A praxis master lecture and dance class for BFA dance majors

Moravian College, Easton, PA

Exploring Movement Principles: Latin Social Dance Forms & Modern/Contemporary (2019)
Master dance class for dance majors

Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ Part-time Lecturer (2017-2019)
Ballet 1; Modern 1; Dance Appreciation Online; Designed the curriculum for *The Dialogics of Latinx Dance Forms*, a special topics praxis course on the intersection of Latinx studies and Latinx dance forms, taught as part of Rotation Workshop

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM Part-time Lecturer (2009-2011)

Intermediate Modern (Limón style); Advanced Modern (Limón style); Intermediate Jazz; Advanced Jazz; Dance Appreciation (co-designed the curriculum); Mentored small groups of students and gave critical feedback for their choreographic work

El Paso Community College, El Paso, TX Part-time Lecturer (2009-2011)

Ballet Performance; Beginning Jazz Dance; Mentored small groups of students and gave critical feedback for their choreographic work

American College Dance Festival, Las Cruces, NM Master Dance Classes for Festival Participants (2009)

Modern Dance: Principles That Support Movement; *Musical Theatre Jazz Dance*

Professional Schools & Studios**Ballet Hispánico, New York, NY** Dance Faculty & Teaching Artist (2011-Present)

Instruct classes for beginning to advanced levels, ages two through college-aged for the School of Dance, open program and pre-professional program divisions in Classical Spanish Dance, Castanets, Spanish folk dance, Flamenco, Creative Movement, Ballet, Modern Dance, Dance History, Screendance, Dance Composition, and Dance on Camera.

Camera in Motion, Body in Action: Embodying the Borderless Experience of Screendance (2020, 2022)

Master Interactive Lecture Experience for the La Academia Pre-Professional Program students as part of the Repertory Workshop series

Spanish Dance Umbrella; Moving the Camera: Screendance (2020)

Master Lectures for the Pre-Professional Summer Intensive

Sharron Miller's Academy for the Performing Arts, Montclair, NJ Faculty (2011-2012)

Designed curriculum & instructed students ages 4-8 in Pre-Modern, Pre-Ballet, and Beginning Ballet

Barbara Driscoll's School of Ballet, El Paso, TX Faculty (2005-2011)

Instructed classes for intermediate – advanced leveled, middle school, high school, and college aged students in Ballet, Pointe, and Modern Dance

Community Organizations**Ballet Hispánico, New York, NY (2011-Present)**

Community Arts Partnership program: Instruct dance workshops and master classes for communities of diverse learners, including children, adults, seniors, and special needs populations throughout the five boroughs of New York City in Classical Spanish Dance, Castanets, Spanish folk dance, Flamenco, and Modern Dance/Contemporary

Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (2017, 2018)

Flamenco; Spanish Dance

Master Dance Classes for the Extension Division Summer Intensive

Apollo Theater, New York, NY (2016, 2017)

Olé! Flamenco Family Workshop

Performance Lecture Demonstration and Master Dance Class

Dorot Senior Center, New York, NY (2016)

Instructed social dance classes for residents.

Emmanuel Children's Home Orphanage, Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, México (2001-2009)

Academia de Ballet Emmanuel

Designed and implemented a bilingual curriculum for ages 3-17 as lead teaching artist for the orphanage's dance program in Ballet, Pointe, Creative Movement, Spanish Dance, and Dance History

Tribunal, Juvenile Detention Center, Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, México (2006-2009)

Instructed social dance classes and modern dance based classes for residents.

Asilo de Ancianos, Senior Citizen Home, Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, México (2006-2009)

Instructed social dance classes and modern dance-based classes for residents.

Public and Private Schools**Horace Mann Dance and Theater Department, Bronx, NY Teaching Artist (May 2022)**

Master dance classes in flamenco for the middle school and high school student body

PS158, New York, NY Teaching Artist in Residence (2016-2020)

14-week residencies instructing all 2nd grade classes in exploration of the cultural diversity of Mexico and Spain. Took students on an immersive journey through the various regions of the countries and discovery of dance forms, including the Paso Doble, Jarabe Tapatío, Danza Estilizada, and Mexican Polka.

PS177, Queens, NY Teaching Artist (2013-2016)

After-school residencies instructing 1st-5th grade classes in exploring the dances of Spain.

El Paso, Bernalillo, and Doña Ana County School Districts, TX/NM Teaching Artist (2009-2011)

Instructed in-school and after school dance classes for K-6th graders, focusing on dance and literacy.

SCHOLARLY & EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Ballet Hispánico, New York, NY

Pa'lante Scholars Professional Studies Program (2022)

Lead Presenter: *Choreographing the Transnational: Limón In-Between and Across*

University of California Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA

Department of Theater and Dance, Graduate Conference (2022)

Lead Presenter: *Choreographing the Transnational: Limón In-Between and Across*

New York State Dance Educators Association

Learning Gains Through Dance Education; NYSDEA Virtual Conference (2022)

Co-Presenter: *Actuating Relationships Through Convivencia to Promote Learning Gains*

Society for Dance Research, International Conference, Coventry University, UK

Inclusion & Intersectionality Symposium (2021)

Lead Presenter: *Intersections of Interdisciplinarity: Embodying the Borderless Experience of Screendance*

Hartford Performs, Hartford, CT

Professional Development Workshop Series for Dance & Theater Educators K-12 (2021)

Lead Presenter: *Language as Label: Translanguaging, Multilingual Ecologies, and Student Accommodation in the Dance and Theater Class*

Lead Presenter: *What's In a Name? Understanding Dance (Class) Identities through Personal Identities*

Co-Presenter: *Improvisation & Movement Generation through a Culturally Relevant Lens*

Dance Studies Association, International Conference, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Galvanizing Dance/Studies: Building Antiracist Praxis, Transformative Connections, and Movement(s) of Radical Care (2021)

Lead Presenter: *Descubriendo Latinx: The Hidden Text in American Modern Dance*

National Dance Education Organization, National Conference (Virtual)

Telling Our Stories: The Essentiality of Dance Education in Changing Times (2021)

Lead Presenter: *Descubriendo Latinx: The Hidden Text in American Modern Dance*

Co-Presenter: *Questioning Todo: A Latinx Inquiry of Culturally Responsive Pedagogy*

Ballet Hispánico, New York, NY

Best Practices: We Support Learning! Professional Development for Dance Teachers (2021)

Lead Presenter: *Plática as Critical Pedagogy: Challenging Narratives of Collective Dance Histories*

University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

ARTs + Change Virtual Conference (2021)

Co-Presenter: *Questioning Todo: A Latinx Inquiry of Culturally Responsive Pedagogy*

Ballet Hispánico, New York, NY

ChoreoLaB Emerging Artist Workshop (2021)

Lead Presenter: *Interdisciplinary Creative Practice; Screendance (2-part series)*

University of California Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA

Colloquia in Dance and Performance Studies, The Race, Gender, and Social Justice Series (2021)

Lead Presenter: *Descubriendo Latinx: The Hidden Texts in American Modern Dance*

New York State Dance Educators Association

Beyond Buzzwords: Tools for Dance Educators Virtual Conference (2021)

Co-Presenter: *Questioning Todo: A Latinx Inquiry of Culturally Responsive Pedagogy*

Jerome Robbins Dance Division, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, NY, NY

Dance and Immigration: A Symposium Beyond Boundaries (2021)

Lead Presenter: *Descubriendo Latinx: The Hidden Texts in American Modern Dance*

Arsht Center, Miami, FL

Dance Professional Development for Miami Dade Public School Teachers (2020)

Lead Presenter: *Diverse Learners | Diverse Teachers: Multiple Intelligences*

Ballet Hispánico, New York, NY

Best Practices: We Support Learning! Professional Development for Dance Teachers (2020)

Lead Presenter: *Diverse Learners | Diverse Teachers: Teaching Styles; Diverse Learners | Diverse Teachers: Multiple Intelligences; Student-Centered Learning & Critical Pedagogy; Assessment | Reflection*

Ballet Hispánico, New York, NY

ChoreoLaB Emerging Artist Workshop (2020)

Lead Presenter: *Spanish Dance Umbrella*

National Dance Education Organization, National Conference, Miami, FL

The Creative Process: Choreography, Choice-Making, and Communication (2019)

Lead Presenter: *The Intersections of Interdisciplinarity: Embodying the Borderless Experience*

Ballet Hispánico, New York, NY

Best Practices: We Support Learning! Professional Development for Dance Teachers (2019)

Lead Presenter: *Diverse Learners | Diverse Teachers: Teaching Styles; Diverse Learners | Diverse Teachers: Multiple Intelligences; Student-Centered Learning; Assessment | Reflection*

Gibney Dance, New York, NY

Workshop for Dance Educators of the NY Department of Education (2015)

Co-Presenter: *Partnering Through a Cultural Lens*

Face to Face Arts in Education, New York, NY

Face to Face Arts in Education Roundtable (2015)

Co-Presenter: *Exploring Latin American Culture Through Dance*

El Paso, Bernalillo, Doña Ana Country School Districts of TX/NM

Professional Development for Elementary Educators (2009-2011)

Lead Presenter: *Literacy Through Movement*

Congreso Internacional de Educación Física, Deporte y Recreación, Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua, Chihuahua, México

Recreación y Tiempo Libre: Posturas y Tendencias Mundiales (2010)

Lead Presenter: *The Breathing Body; Jazz Dance*

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

New Mexico Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Annual Conference (20

Lead Presenter: *Kids on the Move*; Co-Presenter: *Dancing Around the World*

RESIDENCIES

Host Institutions: El Paso Community College, El Paso, TX; University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX; New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM (2019)

Intersections of Interdisciplinarity: Embodying the Borderless Experience of Screendance

A week-long, interdisciplinary borderland residency immersing students in the process of narrative development, movement generation, and film techniques through a praxis of research & creative practice, culminating with a fully produced screendance created collaboratively with the collective student body.

Host Institution: Society for the Performing Arts, Houston, TX (2017, 2018, 2019)

Guest Artist - Spanish Dance, Improvisation, Ballet, and Dance Composition

The Ballet Hispánico Summer Intensive dance residency is a two-week experience that is designed to serve the needs of emerging dancers in the Houston community and supports a 360-degree approach to the development of the dancer.

CURATORIAL PRACTICE

Jerome Robbins Dance Division, Library for the Performing Arts Lincoln Center, NY, NY

[*The Mestizo as Ambassador: José Limón and the Transculturation of American Modern Dance*](#)

(October 27, 2021 – May 7th, 2022) Co-Curator

An installation that celebrates Mexican American dancer and choreographer José Limón, one of the most prolific exponents of modern dance in the 20th century. This exhibition explores how Limón's choreography grapples with humanistic themes that extend beyond borders and identity through his own mestizo cultural lens, underlining the importance of the immigrant voice in the development of the ultimate "American" art form, modern dance.

Ballet Hispánico, New York, NY

Best Practices: We Support Learning! (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022) Co-Curator

A weeklong professional development for dance teachers to immerse themselves amongst fellow educators, share best practices, and further their teaching artistry, designed for seasoned faculty, new teachers, community dance practitioners, dance education undergraduate and graduate students, dance studio owners, and K-12 teachers.

José Limón Interactive Experience (2022) Co-Curator

A week-long immersion into the cultures and histories of José Limón, American modern dance, and Spanish Dance through movement classes and interactive lectures at Ballet Hispánico, and guided field trips to the exhibition *The Mestizo as Ambassador: José Limón and the Transculturation of American Modern Dance* at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center.

Specialized Studies in Spanish Dance (2018-2021) Co-Curator

A year-long series immersing pre-professional students in various specialty studies of Classical Spanish Dance, flamenco, Escuela Bolera, and Spanish folk dance.

Repertory Workshop (2018-2021) Co-Curator

A year-long series immersing pre-professional students in various specialty studies of contemporary and modern dance, alongside professional development forums, to support a 360-degree-approach to learning.

Flamenco: Finding Voice Through Fusion (2016) Co-Curator
Panel Discussion and Live Performances with artists Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Liliana Morales, Nélica Tirado, and the Ballet Hispánico company.

Enrichment Series (2013-2016) Curator

A year-long series of educational experiences engaging students in connecting their learning outside of the classroom through in-house master classes, field trips to performances in the city, study guide materials, and experiential workshops across genres.

New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, New York, NY

The Oral History Project of the Jerome Robbins Dance Division (2019) *Interviewer*
Oral History Interview of Boricua Spanish Dance Artist, Sandra Rivera

El Barrio's Artspace PS109, East Harlem, NYC

Descubrimiento: Voice, Place, Identity (2019) Curator
Immersive Interdisciplinary Performance

PUBLICATIONS

Transcending Americanness: Limón 75th Anniversary

The José Limón Dance Foundation; Colleen Rua, Editor
Essay: *Transcending the Americanness of Modern Dance* (Forthcoming)

¡Somos Tejanas! Anthology

Editors: Norma E. Cantú and Jody A. Marín
Chapter, Co-Authored: *Tejanas unidas en identidad, sacrificio, y celebración* (Forthcoming)

The International Journal of Information, Diversity, & Inclusion

Special Issue on Documenting Transborder Latinidades: Archives, Libraries, and Digital Humanities

Editors: Mario Ramirez and Lorena Gauthereau
Article, Co-Authored: *Choreographing the Transnational: Limón In-Between and Across* (Fall 2022)

Crossing Borders: Exile, Diaspora and Race in American Dance 1915-1955

New York Public Library for the Performing Arts; Ninotchka Bennahum, Editor
Chapter: *Descubriendo Latinx: The Hidden Texts in American Modern Dance* (Summer 2022)

Critical Storytelling from the Borderlands

Editors: Julio Enríquez-Ornelas & Carmella Braniger. Brill Sense Publishers, Netherlands
Visual Art and Commentary: *Mestiza Consciousness & Ruido* (Summer 2022)

Journal of Dance Education

Editor: Karen Schupp
Article, Co-Authored: *Solidarities of the marginalized as anti-racist dance pedagogy: Reflections on collaborative advocacy from dance educators with connective marginalities* (May 2022)

News from the Jerome Robbins Foundation, Vol. 8, No. 1

New York Public Library for the Performing Arts; Gregory Victor, Editor
Article: *A Jerome Robbins Dance Division Fellowship Reflection* (June 2021)

Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine

Arts & Media
Article, Co-Authored: *Ballet Hispánico: A Cultural Legacy* (June 2021)

Desahogar, A Space to Unload

The Official Blog of ColectivXs

Blog Post: *The Rant, Rage, and RUIDO of Research* (March 2021)

Ballet Hispánico Blog

The Official Blog of Ballet Hispánico

Blog Post: *Community Building at BH: Students and Masters Unite* (2013)

AWARDS

New York City Department of Cultural Affairs & Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (2021)

Creative Engagement grant to support *Toward a Latinx Practice*, a 90-minute interdisciplinary performance experience that weaves together myriad cultural practices in diaspora, speaking to the ways in which we identify, create, and resist as Latinx artists based in the U.S.

Zemi Dance Theatre (2019)

Fiscal sponsorship to produce *Descubrimiento: Voice, Place, Identity*, an interdisciplinary, immersive performance experience that utilizes unique spaces to explore the borderless experiences between 1) community-audience and performer, 2) dance, film, and musical genres/mediums, and 3) the various cultures of the Latinx diaspora.

Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University (2017, 2018)

Scholarship for MFA in Dance

New Mexico State University, Dance Program (2003-2006)

Outstanding Dancer Award (2006)

Outstanding Performance Award (2005)

Leadership Award (2003, 2004)

Choreographic Excellence Award (2003, 2004)

Shirley Gore Staten Scholarship for Dance (2004)

Marguerite Loya Pearson Scholarship for Dance (2003)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP & SERVICE

Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (MALCS) (2022-Present)

Association for Borderlands Studies (2022-Present)

U.S. Latinx Art Forum (2021-Present)

National Dance Education Organization (2019-Present) *Research Committee Member (2021-2023)*

Dance Studies Association (2020-Present) *Working Groups: Dance History Teachers; Latin American, Latino and Caribbean Dance Studies*

Latinx Dance Educators Alliance (2020-Present) *Co-Founder; Alliance Member*

National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (2020-Present)

Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance (2020-Present)

New York State Dance Educators Association (2019-Present)

ADJUDICATIONS, PANELS, & CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

The Joyce Theater, New York, NY (2022) Moderator

Curtain Chat with the Limón Dance Company: Artistic Director Dante Puleio, Choreographer of *Only One Will Rise* Olivier Tarpaga, and company dancer Savannah Spratt

Digital Curtain Chat with the Limón Dance Company: Artistic Director Dante Puleio, and Choreographer of *Migrant Mother* Raúl Tamez

Decolonizing Tertiary Dance (Un)Conference: Time to Act (2022) Critical Conversation Speaker
Solidarities of the marginalized as anti-racist dance pedagogy: Reflections on collaborative advocacy from dance educators with connective marginalities

Liminal Positionality as Changemaker: “¡Si se puede!” Pedagogical Interventions of 7 Latinx/e/Hispanic Dancemakers

National Dance Education Organization (2021) Panelist

Embodying Latinidad: Diverse Dance Practices of Intersectional Latinx/a/o Artists in the U.S.

The Ailey School, New York, NY (2019) Adjudicator

Ailey/Fordham BFA Independent Study in Choreography

Old Spanish Days, Santa Barbara, CA (2018) Adjudicator

Spirit of Fiesta competition, solo choreographies in flamenco and Mexican folklorico dances

SCREENDANCE

Descubriendo Latinx through Testimonio (2021) Creative Director, Film Editor

Descubriendo Latinx through Testimonio serves as an interdisciplinary site engaging *testimonio* to bear witness to the experiences of nine Latinx dance artists, placing them in conversation with one another to further understand exclusionary practices of dance history pedagogy and scholarship. This screendance premiered on November 5th, 2021 as part of *Toward a Latinx Practice*, made possible in part with public funds from Creative Engagement, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and administered by LMCC. Work Sample: [Descubriendo Latinx through Testimonio](#)

Elements (2021) Film Editor

Directed by Alexis Anderson-Chaves, *Elements* is a collaboration with the dancers in the El Paso Community College (EPCC) Freshman Performance class, screendance artist Kiri Avelar, EPCC Media Productions, and with the site. The dance was filmed on the EPCC Valle Verde campus and deals with the theme of climate change and the elements of Fire, Water, Earth, and Air. This screendance premiered on April 21st, 2021. Work Sample: [Elements](#)

Una Respuesta: Martha Graham’s “El Penitente” (2021) Creative Director, Film Editor

In collaboration with artists Isabella Vergara and Sandra Rivera, this screendance explores the embodiment of ritual as seen in Martha Graham's *El Penitente*. This screendance premiered at the Jerome Robbins Dance Division Annual Research Symposium, "Dance and Immigration" at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center, New York, NY, on January 29, 2021.

Una Respuesta: José Limón’s “Tonantzintla” (2021) Creative Director, Film Editor

Bringing the photographic archive to life, this film is a creative interdisciplinary response to José Limón's *Tonantzintla*. This project was filmed remotely and developed in collaboration with performing artist Franchesca Marisol Cabrera, premiering at the Jerome Robbins Dance Division Annual Research Symposium, "Dance and Immigration" at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center, New York, NY, on January 29, 2021. Work Sample: [Tonantzintla](#)

Una Respuesta: Katherine Dunham’s “Veracruzana” (2021) Creative Director, Film Editor

A collaboration with artists Jessica Featherson and Franchesca Marisol Cabrera, this screendance explores the fusion of Katherine Dunham's *Veracruzana*. This screendance premiered at the Jerome

Robbins Dance Division Annual Research Symposium, "Dance and Immigration" at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center, New York, NY, on January 29, 2021.

***Mi baile en casa* (2020)** Creative Director, Choreographer, & Filmmaker

Mi baile en casa depicts the central place of home in our dance experiences, and how this has held an ever-growing, more familiar space for many children to express themselves throughout the pandemic. This screendance was filmed remotely throughout the early phases of COVID-19 and is reflective of the space that the 11-year-old dance student, Ruby Castillo, resided in during this time. Commissioned by Ballet Hispánico for *Noche Unidos*, a virtual fundraiser, the film premiered on June 30, 2020 and is dedicated to all of the *niñas poderosas*. Work Sample: [Mi baile en casa](#)

***Quienes somos* (2019)** Creative Director & Filmmaker

Quienes somos explores the bi-cultural identities of 6 student-artists of El Paso Community College residing in the borderlands of El Paso, TX and Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico as they enter adulthood. Commissioned by El Paso Community College, this screendance was created in collaboration with the students, and premiered on December 10, 2019 in El Paso, TX at the Transmountain Campus. Work Sample: [Quienes somos](#)

***Mestiza Consciousness* (2019)** Creative Director & Filmmaker

Mestiza Consciousness is an interactive screendance that explores the intersection of the body, food, *cultura*, rhythm, and labor, considering gestures, symbols, and sounds that speak to the in-between space. The art is inspired by the work of Chicana feminist scholar, Gloria Anzaldúa, and Mexican American dance artists Franchesca Marisol Cabrera and Michelle Manzanales. This screendance premiered at El Barrio's Artspace PS109 on April 13, 2019 as part of *Descubrimiento: Voice, Place, Identity*. Work Sample: [Mestiza Consciousness](#)

***Ruido* (2019)** Creative Director & Filmmaker

Ruido looks at the body as voice, and the concept of the body in action as *ruido*. Inspired by the life and work of Boricua Spanish Dance Artist, Sandra Rivera, and the multifaceted nature of Spanish Dance, the castanets represent the connection in diaspora to our colonial heritage, a way of recuperating our inherited cultural practices, crossing the space between our identities in America, and the "other side" of the border. This screendance premiered as part of *Descubrimiento: Voice, Place, Identity* on April 13, 2019 at El Barrio's Artspace PS109 in East Harlem, NYC. Work Sample: [Ruido](#)

***Latinidades* (2018)** Creative Director & Filmmaker

Latinidades is a dance film that promotes an understanding of the complexity of Latinx identities, weaving together elements of site-specific dance and narrative.

VISUAL ART EXHIBITIONS

In/Out – Light/Dark: Women in the Heights and Art in Our Time (2021)

Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance

Mestiza Consciousness (Still Image)

This image speaks to the intersection of the body, food, *cultura*, rhythm, and labor, considering gestures, symbols, and sounds of the in-between space, and is inspired by the work of Chicana feminist scholar, Gloria Anzaldúa, and Mexican American dance artists Franchesca Marisol Cabrera and Michelle Manzanales. Work Sample: [Mestiza Consciousness \(2019\) Still Image](#)

Dance & Immigration: A Symposium Beyond Boundaries (2021)

Jerome Robbins Dance Division, Library for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center, NY, NY

Una Respuesta: Lester Horton's "The Park" (Photo Essay)

This black and white photo essay is a creative response to Lester Horton's *The Park* (1950), his political statement on police brutality against Mexican Americans in Los Angeles, sparked by the Sleepy Lagoon murder case of 1942. The work examines the body as a site of juxtaposition of a community space of protest and resistance, with the protective anonymity, security, and comfort that *el rebozo* otherwise provides.

CHOREOGRAPHY

YOU ARE HERE

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York, NY (2021)

Choreographic collaborator, as one of 30 featured New Yorker portraits for the public sculpture, sound, and live performance installation conceived by Andrea Miller.

Rebosando

Salvatore Capezio Center, Emergency Fund for Students of Dance Gala, New York, NY (2019)

Apollo Theater, Ballet Hispánico's *Performances for Young People*, New York, NY (2019)

A stylized Spanish Dance which fuses elements of Spanish folk dance, flamenco, and escuela bolera, the work is inspired by two things: the way in which Spanish painter, Joaquín Sorolla, highlights the warmth and joy of people coming together and the music of Iberian percussive orchestra, Coetus.

España de Mis Amores

Cristian Rivera Foundation Gala, New York, NY (2019)

Ballet Hispánico's *A La Calle Block Party*, New York, NY (2019)

Frank Sinatra School of the Arts, Tony Bennett Concert Hall, Queens, NY (2019)

A lively Paso Doble with castanets set for a group of 12 Beginning-Intermediate level students.

Fandangos de Huelva

Frank Sinatra School of the Arts, Tony Bennett Concert Hall, Queens, NY (2019)

A fandangos de huelva choreographed for the concert stage with recorded music, set for a group of 14 Beginning-Intermediate level students.

Descubrimiento: Voice, Place, Identity

El Barrio's Artspace PS109, East Harlem, NY (2019)

Created as a Latinx artist collective, this interdisciplinary, immersive performance experience utilizes unique spaces to explore the borderless experiences between 1) community-audience and performer, 2) dance, film, and musical genres/mediums, and 3) the various cultures of the Latinx diaspora. The performance unfolds through film, embodied oral history performances, interactive screendance, and soundscapes.

Españ-fantasia

Episcopal High School Performing Arts Theater, Houston, TX (2018)

This lively visual and rhythmic work builds on Spanish fan technique and contemporary movement to express a Spanish fantasy space.

*Tradición***Ballet Hispánico Gala, The Plaza Hotel, New York, NY (2018)****The United Palace Theater, New York, NY (2018)**

Co-choreographed with Michelle Manzanales in collaboration with the cast, this piece is a fusion of ballet, jazz, contemporary, salsa, and flamenco vocabularies, set to the music of Gloria Estefan, originally presented in her honor for Ballet Hispánico's Annual Gala.

*Andalucía***Wortham Theater Center, Houston, TX (2018)**

Classical Spanish piece with castanets, set for a cast of 6 dancers

*Der Mond, an Opera by Carl Orff***Nicholas Music Center, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (2018)**

Assistant Choreographer with Jeff Friedman

*Juntos somos uno, Se quién soy***Loree Theater, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (2017)****The Mercado, New Brunswick, NJ (2018)**

Juntos somos uno, Se quién soy, is an expression of Latinx identities, in community, through the media of dance, music, and visual art. Created collaboratively with dance majors from Rutgers University, and community members from the Esperanza Neighborhood Project in New Brunswick, NJ, the work reflects the solidarity of being in community and the unique identities each individual brings to that place. The work weaves the dance forms and musical structures of bachata, flamenco Colombianas, rumba flamenca, palo Dominicano, Mexican Chilenas from Oaxaca, and salsa through a contemporary lens, and includes set choreography, structured improvisation, and audience participation.

*Bulerías***United Palace Theater, New York, NY (2017)****Apollo Theater, New York, NY (2016)**

Contemporary piece inspired by flamenco bulerías, set for a group of 10 Intermediate level students.

*Tangos de Málaga***National Dance Institute, New York, NY (2014)**

A flamenco duet performed live with musicians, based on original choreography of Inmaculada Ortega, presented at Jacques D'Amboise's *ArtsNest Series*, "The Feet Make the Beat".

*Sesame Street's Murray Monster & Ovejita visit Ballet Hispánico***Sesame Street, Aired Episode, a production of Sesame Workshop (2014)**

Choreographed interactive flamenco performance for camera in this episode of Sesame Street

*This Girl is on Fire***Ballet Hispánico Gala, The Plaza Hotel, New York, NY (2014)**

Co-Choreographed with Ballet Hispánico artistic staff, this piece showcases flamenco, ballet, and Afro-Caribbean dance styles, set on a cast of 20 students from the School of Dance

*Sevillanas de Triana***Ballet Hispánico Gala, The Plaza Hotel, New York, NY (2013)**

Co-choreographed with Franchesca Marisol Cabrera, this Sevillanas follows the traditional structure of the dance, with contemporary staging

Requiem

Oñate Performing Arts Center, Las Cruces, NM as part of New Mexico State University Dance Program's Fall Season (2011)

American College Dance Festival, Laredo, TX (2012)

Set on a cast of 17 dancers, this piece is a homage to American modern dance pioneer, José Limón, exploring his movement principles. It was selected for the American College Dance Festival's Gala Performance through an adjudicated process during the festival.

Sisters

Rio Grande Theatre, Las Cruces, NM as part of New Mexico State University Dance Program's Spring Season (2010)

A playful, contemporary duet highlighting the fun and annoying interactions of sisterhood.

Bound/aries

Oñate Performing Arts Center, Las Cruces, NM as part of New Mexico State University Dance Program's Fall Season (2010)

A contemporary work that speaks to the border spaces of the stage, the body, and the political implications of these boundaries, inspired by years of crossing the US-Mexico border by land.

Midnight Under the Stars

Rio Grande Theatre, Las Cruces, NM (2008)

A contemporary trio full of cannons and rondos, set to classical music, with dancers dressed in midnight blue, reflecting the sky of the Southwest in the winter months.

Para Ti Mujer

Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, NM (2006)

International Museum of Art, El Paso, TX (2007)

Chamizal National Memorial Theater, El Paso, TX (2007)

This work is dedicated to the *mujer*, a healing balm and special message for the female identity.

Intrinsic Allure

Bowie High School Theater, El Paso, TX (2007)

Chamizal National Memorial Theater, El Paso, TX (2007)

A contemporary trio with intimate, drawn-in movement vocabulary juxtaposed with striking sweeping movements.

Forever Friends

Teatro INBA, Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, México (2007)

Scottish Rite Theater, El Paso, TX (2008)

Co-Choreographed with Ann Gavit, a ballet production set for a cast of 40 dancers, based on the children's book by author Max Lucado.

A Wemmicks Tale

Teatro INBA, Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, México (2006)

Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, NM (2007)

Co-Choreographed with Ann Gavit, a ballet production set for a cast of 40 dancers, based on the children's book by author Max Lucado.

*Children of the King***Teatro INBA, Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, México (2005)****Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, NM (2006)**

Co-Choreographed with Ann Gavit, a ballet production set for a cast of 40 dancers, based on the children's book by author Max Lucado.

*The Four Seasons***Teatro INBA, Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, México (2005)**

Co-Choreographed with Lisa Vogel, a ballet production, with distinct divertissements highlighting the four seasons, set for a cast of 30 dancers.

*The Nutcracker***Teatro INBA, Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico (2004, 2005)**

A ballet production set for a cast of 70 dancers, based on the traditional story of *The Nutcracker*.

PERFORMING

American Bolero Dance Company, New York, NY Performing Artist (2011-2016)

Repertory Performed: *Alegrías, Andalucía, Capriccio Español, Carmen, Córdoba, Doña Francisquita, Fandangos de Huelva, Jaleo de las Sardinitas, Paloma de la Verbena, Paso Doble, Sevillanas con abanico, Tangos de Granada, Zorongo.*

Sol y Arena, Las Cruces, NM Performing Artist (2003-2011)

Repertory Performed: *Baile de Luis Alonso, Boda de Luis Alonso, Bulerías de Cádiz, Paso Doble, La Vida Breve, Ben Amor, Guajira, Alegrías, Fandangos de Huelva, Fuegos Fatuos, Seda y Canela, Sevillanas, Tangos, Zapateado.*

Cor Ignis Contemporary Dance Co., Cd. Juárez, México Performing Artist & Choreographer (2006-2011)

Repertory Performed: *Walk With Me, Babel, Midnight Under the Stars, Para Ti Mujer, Patchwork, Intrinsic Allure, In This Flesh, Sent, Recrudescence.*

Milwaukee Ballet, Milwaukee, WI Performing Artist (2000-2001)

Repertory Performed: *Don Quixote, La Bayadere, The Nutcracker*

ARTS ADMINISTRATION & CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Ballet Hispánico, New York, NY*Deputy School Director (2019 – Present)*

- Co-direct the school of a leading Latinx dance organization, with 700 students and 40 faculty
- Collaborate with School Director to lead oversight of School Staff in providing administrative and artistic support to maintain standards of excellence in all aspects of the School of Dance
- In tandem with School Director and with support from School Associates, collaboratively plan, coordinate, and organize School of Dance programming, class offerings, and events
- Collaborate with School Director to develop Ballet Hispánico curriculum scaffolding with embedded assessments and accompanying descriptive materials
- Support facilitation of dance curriculum at all levels of instruction through class observations, assessment, faculty development and recruitment

- Oversee processes for auditions, class placement, and student evaluation in the city of origin and throughout Ballet Hispánico communities

Associate School Director (2015-2019)

- Develop, assess, and uphold protocols, program development, policies and governance
- Lead on collaborative planning of school year class grid
- Spearhead coordination of external enrichment opportunities for students across disciplines
- Refine student and faculty evaluations
- Lead on recruitment & retention initiative
- Lead on curriculum development across programs

Spanish Dance Advisor, School of Dance (2013-2015)

- Led Spanish Dance Division in curriculum and faculty development
- Served as liaison between the Spanish Dance faculty and the School of Dance administrative team, overseeing classroom instruction, developing additional curricular activities, and raising the profile of the school

Executive Assistant to the Artistic Director (2011-2013)

- Assisted the Artistic Director in scheduling of meetings and project timelines
- Served as liaison between choreographers and staff members on behalf of the Artistic Director
- Organized all board meetings and committee meetings

Pan American Dance Institute, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM

Program Director (2009-2011)

- Created a cross-disciplinary manual for teachers, implementing dance and academic subjects
- Facilitated in-service trainings for elementary school teachers on how to apply kinesthetic methods in the academic classroom
- Managed a team of 9 instructors teaching in 14 after-school dance programs, reviewing lesson plans, and evaluating classroom work
- Curated dance programming for the community with artists from Mexico, South America, and Spain

Cor Ignis Contemporary Dance Company, Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico

Artistic Director (2006-2010)

- Responsibilities included scheduling and directing all company rehearsals, company class, commissioning choreographers to set work on the company
- Developed curriculum for the trainee and apprentice program
- Oversaw technical and artistic growth of all trainees, apprentices, and company members

Academia de Ballet Emmanuel, Hogar de Niños Emmanuel, Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, México

Founding Director (2001-2009)

- Led an after-school dance program in an orphanage of 100 children
- Interfaced with caregivers to support learning
- Designed a bilingual curriculum for ages 3-17 in ballet, pointe, creative movement, and Spanish Dance

- Implemented programming of year-round class schedules, enrichment activities, summer intensives, and large ballet productions
- Led curriculum and faculty development.

PRODUCTION DIRECTION

Toward a Latinx Practice (2021)

Virtual Interdisciplinary Performance

Descubrimiento: Voice, Place, Identity (2019)

Immersive Interdisciplinary Performance, El Barrio's Artspace PS109, New York, NY

Flamenco Tablao (2017, 2018)

Tablao performance, Ballet Hispánico, NYC

Flamenco: Finding Voice Through Fusion (2016)

Diálogos panel discussion & performance, Ballet Hispánico, New York, NY

Cor Ignis Summer Dance Intensive (2009)

End of Program Performance, Hogar de Niños Emmanuel, Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, México

Choreography Workshop (2009)

Pan American Dance Institute, Las Cruces, NM

Classical Spanish & Flamenco Workshop with Pablo Rodarte (2009)

Pan American Dance Institute, Las Cruces, NM

Red & Black Ball (2009)

Pan American Dance Institute, Las Cruces, NM

Academia de Ballet Emmanuel Summer Dance Intensive (2006, 2007, 2008)

Ministerios Emmanuel, Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, México

Para Ti Mujer (2008)

Cor Ignis Premiere National Tour, U.S.A.

Recrudescence (2006)

Court Youth Center, Las Cruces, NM

Confession Expressions (2005)

Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, NM

Forever Friends

Bowie High School, El Paso, TX (2007)

Teatro INBA, Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, México (2008)

A Wemmick Tale

Teatro INBA, Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico (2006)

Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, NM (2007)

Children of the King

Scottish Rite Theater, El Paso, TX (2005)

Teatro INBA, Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, México (2006)

The Nutcracker
Teatro INBA, Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, México (2004, 2005)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

de latinidad: Training on Racism in U.S. Latinx & Artistic Communities (2021)

Con Leche

Borderlands Scholars on Research, Identity, and Life (2021)

The University of Arizona Press

8th Biennial New Perspectives in Flamenco History and Research Symposium (2021)

National Institute of Flamenco, Albuquerque, NM

Disability Justice (2021)

Ford Foundation

A Chicana/Latina Feminist Methodology: Examining Pláticas in Educational Research (2021)

Dr. Alma Itzé Flores, California State University, Sacramento

Looking at Equitable Processes for Dance Auditions and Admissions (2021)

Improving Studio Culture for Increased Accessibility and Inclusivity (2021)

PaDEO and Drexel University

ARTs + Change Virtual Conference: Activate, Reimagine, Transform (2021)

University of Rochester Institute for the Performing Arts

DEI: Setting the Stage for Transformation: Brave Space, Trust, Psychological Safety, and Unmasking (2021)

Ballet Hispánico, New York, NY

New Ways of Knowing: Using Culturally Responsive Teaching and Anti-Racist Frameworks to Reimagine Dance Curriculum (2021)

Healing Our Students with Trauma-Informed Dance Education Strategies (2021)

Technology Tools for Dance Teachers (2020)

New York State Dance Educators Association Virtual Conference

Dance and Society: Developing Community, Empathy, and Understanding through Dance (2020)

National Dance Education Organization National Conference

Dance/USA Virtual Conference (2020)

Dance/USA

Day of Learning on Equity & Inclusion: Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Pedagogy (2020)

National Dance Institute, New York, NY

Latinx Dance Leadership Convening (2019)

Ballet Hispánico, New York, NY

The Creative Process: Choreography, Choice-Making, and Communication (2019)

National Dance Education Organization National Conference, Miami, FL

Annual Meeting & Workshops (2019)

National Association of Schools of Dance, Sarasota, FL

Dance for Students with Special Needs with Dr. Diane Duggan (2019)

Ballet Hispánico, New York, NY

Best Practices: We Support Learning! Professional Development for Dance Teachers (2019)

Ballet Hispánico, New York, NY

The Past, Present, and Future of Temporality in Flamenco (2019)

National Hispanic Cultural Center, Albuquerque, NM

Teaching & Learning Workshop: Social Justice Narratives (2019)

Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute, New York, NY

Art & The Politics of Space (2019)

King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, NYU, New York, NY

Dance for Students with Special Needs with Dr. Diane Duggan (2019)

Dance Education Laboratory, 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center, New York, NY

The Body Questions: Celebrating Flamenco's Tangled Roots (2018)

The Graduate Center, CUNY, New York, NY

Annual Meeting & Workshops (2018)

National Association of Schools of Dance, Cincinnati, OH

Dance/NYC Symposium (2016 & 2018)

Gibney Dance Center, New York, NY

Dreams and Defiance: A World Re-imagined Through Social Music and Dance (2017)

King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, NYU, New York, NY

When the People Dance: Salsa, Power, and Performance in New York City (2017)

Museum of the City of New York, New York, NY

The Life and Music of Enrique Granados: International Conference (2016)

The Graduate Center, New York, NY

Spaniards, Indians, Africans, and Gypsies: The Global Reach of the Fandango in Music, Song, and Dance (2015)

The Graduate Center, New York, NY

Face to Face Arts in Education Roundtable (2014, 2015)

Face to Face Arts in Education Roundtable, New York, NY

Congreso Internacional de Educación Física, Deporte y Recreación (2010)

Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua, México

New Mexico Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (2009)

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque