

# MELISSA YOUNKER

(she/her)

Performance | Choreography | Collaboration | Costume Design | Film

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## EDUCATION

2014 | **BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS** in dance, with honors

California State University, Long Beach

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE + PERFORMANCE

2024-PRESENT | **KEITH JOHNSON/DANCERS** | LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, USA

Djerassi Winter Resident Artists Program; Woodside, California

Keith Johnson, *SERIES: Margaret "Peg" Cuttino*

2023 | **ORIENTHEATRE DANCE COMPANY** | PARIS, FRANCE

FRENCH CONTEMPORARY DANCE & PHYSICAL THEATRE COMPANY UNDER THE ARTISTIC DIRECTION OF MEHDI FARAJPOUR

Mehdi Farajpour, *NO MORE BIRDS ON MY SIDE!*; PUF Festival @ Istrian National Theatre, Pula, Croatia

2023 | **BALLET OPERA DE GUERRA** | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, USA

Rebekah Guerra, *que vas-tu faire?*; Playground Dance Project @ Leona Wagner Black Box Theatre, Salt Lake City, UT

2023 | **MITSU SALMON**

*Plants Daydream of Trouble*; International Peace Gardens, Salt Lake City, UT

2022-2023 | **BROLLY ARTS** | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, USA

EVAPORATION: WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO LEAVE ENOUGH WATER FOR GREAT SALT LAKE?; PROJECT ABOUT UTAH'S GSL & WATER USE/MISUSE

Sofia Gorder, *Illusion of Abundance*

Performances: University of Utah Environmental Humanities' Great Salt Lake Symposium @ Natural History Museum, SLC, UT; Antelope Island State Park, Syracuse, UT; Rowland Hall, SLC, UT; 2006 Space Oddity, SLC, UT

TWIG Media Lab, *Illusion of Abundance*; Screendance Film

2021 | **AND ARTISTS** | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, USA

Rebecca Aneloski, *Fourteen Failures*; Leona Wagner Black Box Theatre, Salt Lake City, UT

And Artists & Blank Space, *Fourteen Failures*; Screendance Film

2014-2020 | **RIRIE-WOODBURY DANCE COMPANY** | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, USA

FULL-TIME CONTEMPORARY DANCE ARTIST: TOURING IN USA (CALIFORNIA, COLORADO, IDAHO, MONTANA, NEVADA, NEW JERSEY, NORTH CAROLINA, NEW YORK, UTAH, WYOMING), FRANCE, MONGOLIA & SOUTH KOREA

Original Roles in works by Artistic Director, Daniel Charon

*Aberrations of Light* (2020), *La Traviata* (2019) w/ The Utah Opera, *Now or Never* (2019),

*Dance for a Liminal Space* (2019), *the live creature & ethereal things* (2019) w/ Flying Bobcat Theatrical Laboratory,

*Together Alone Trilogy: Return, Enter, Shift* (2015-2018), *Exilic Dances* (2017), *Snowmelt* (2017), *Elegy* (2016),

*53 Rooms* (2015) w/ Salt Lake Electric Ensemble

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE + PERFORMANCE CONTINUED

### Original Roles in works by Guest Choreographer

Yin Yue, *In the Moment Somehow Secluded* (2020)  
Stephen Koester, *Departure* (2019)  
Raja Feather Kelly, *PANTHEON* (2017)  
Ann Carlson, *Elizabeth, the dance* (2017) an evening length  
Joanna Kotze, *Star Mark* (2016)  
Adam Barruch, *prima materia* (2016)  
Netta Yerushalmy, *NORWEGIA* (2015)  
Jonah Bokaer, *Fragments* (2014)

### Reconstructions by Guest Choreographers

Andrea Miller, *Pupil Suite* (2010 | Utah Premiere 2020)  
Doug Varone, *Strict Love* (1993 | Utah Re-Premiere 2018)  
Kate Weare, *Unstruck* (2015 | Utah Premiere 2017)  
Tzveta Kassabova, *The Opposite of Killing* (2016)  
Tzveta Kassabova & Raja Feather Kelly, *Super WE* (2016)  
Daniel Charon; *Construct* (2014)  
Daniel Charon; *Storm* (2012)

### Other Performed Repertory

Miguel Azcue, *You and the Space Between* (2014)  
Tandy Beal, *Flabbergast* (2014)  
Ann Carlson, *50 Years* (1996)  
Alison Chase & Moses Pendleton, *Physalia* (1977)  
Murray Louis, *Suite de Danse* (1956)  
Doug Varone, *States Rendered* (2014)  
Johannes Wieland, *100,000* (2013)

### Nikolais Dance Theatre: Repertory by Alwin Nikolais

RECONSTRUCTIONS BY NIKOLAIS/LOUIS FOUNDATION FOR DANCE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ALBERTO DEL SAZ

*Crucible* (1985)  
*Gallery* (1978)  
*Mechanical Organ* (1980) Roles: *Doll with a Broken Head* {solo} & *Two Not Yet Together* {duet}  
*Tensile Involvement* (1953)

Performances: Balavoine Cultural Center, Arques, France; Le Colisee, Roubaix, France; Theatre De L'arsenal, Val-de-Reuil, France; Vilar Performing Arts Center, Beaver Creek, CO; The Joyce Theatre, NY; City Center, NY

### DanceMotion USA<sup>SM</sup>: Season 7 (2018)

CULTURAL AMBASSADOR FOR CROSS-CULTURE EXCHANGE PROGRAM OF THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S BUREAU OF EDUCATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADMINISTERED BY BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC @

Performances: The Voice of Mongolia, Television Broadcast; Motion Mongolia International Dance Festival, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Asia Culture Center, Gwangju, South Korea; Deoksu Palace, Seoul, South Korea; International Modern Dance Festival, Seoul, South Korea

### 2020 | FISCHER DANCE | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, USA

Hannah Fisher, *Hold*; a large scale Screendance installation @ The Gateway, Salt Lake City, UT

### 2017 | MOLLY HELLER | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, USA

*very vary*

Performances: Shawl Anderson Dance Center, Berkeley, CA; Huntsman Cancer Institute, Salt Lake City, UT; Eccles Regent Street Black Box, Salt Lake City, UT; 12 Minutes Max, Salt Lake City, UT

### 2016 | MICHAEL CROTTY | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, USA

*Cameo*; Sugar Space Arts Warehouse, Salt Lake City, UT

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## RESEARCH + CHOREOGRAPHY

### 2019-PRESENT | HEARTLAND COLLECTIVE | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, USA

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY NON-HIERARCHICAL ARTS GROUP W/ COLLABORATIONS IN DANCE, VISUAL ARTS, COSTUME & MUSIC

#### Evening Length Original Performances

COLLABORATOR, COSTUME DESIGNER & PERFORMER

- 2023 | *MONSTER*; with visual artist Andrew Alba; Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, SLC, UT
- 2022 | *ΔIAMONΔIAMONΔ*; with visual artist Andrew Alba; 801 Salon @ Vis. Optics, SLC, UT
- 2022 | *Roaming: Performance + Dance Party*; with Rollie Studio & DJ Tec Nec; 9th & 9th, SLC, UT
- 2022 | *Convergence*; with visual artist Shalee Cooper; hosted by Modern West & curated by 801 Salon, SLC, UT
- 2021 | *Full View*; a multi-media Screendance collaboration with Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company
- 2019 | *Cosmos: Performance + Dance Party*; Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, SLC, UT
- 2019 | *Woodland Creatures: Performance + Dance Party*; The Urban Lounge, SLC, UT

#### Choreographic Commissions

COLLABORATIVE DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

- 2024 | *OUTRO: our last wish*; with University of Utah School of Dance Senior Class; Marriott Center for Dance, SLC, UT
- 2023 | *Roundabout: Performance + Dance Party*; with UVU Department of Dance; UVU Museum of Art, Orem, UT

### COLLABORATIVE & INDEPENDENT PROJECTS

CREATIVE DIRECTOR, CHOREOGRAPHER, COSTUME DESIGNER, FILM EDITOR & PERFORMER

2023-Present | Melissa Younker, *Elytra*

- Performances: Midwest RAD Fest @ Epic Center, Kalamazoo, MI; 12 Minutes Max @ Main Library, SLC, UT
- Durational Performances: 4 hour dance show "Albeit Liminal" @ Sugar Space Arts Warehouse, SLC, UT
- Film: *Dancing in Duration: a documentary about "Albeit Liminal"* by Rae Luebbert, Tori Meyer & Cayden Turnbow
- Screenings: 12 Minutes Max @ Main Library Auditorium, SLC, UT
- Screendance: *Elytra* by Melissa Younker w/ Insurgent Beat Machine (musician) & Shelby Taylor (film director)
- Screenings: UPCOMING Noori Screen Dance Festival @ Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, SLC, UT

CO-DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/SONGWRITER/CHOREOGRAPHER, FILM MAKER, COSTUME DESIGNER & PERFORMER

2022 | Elijah Hancock & Melissa Younker, *Snapshots & Souvenirs*; an evening song/dance cycle

- Performances: Flash Project @ Finch Lane Gallery, SLC, UT; 12 Minutes Max @ Main Library Auditorium, SLC, UT

PROJECT MANAGER, COLLABORATIVE CHOREOGRAPHER, COSTUME DESIGNER & PERFORMER

2022 | Haleigh Larmer, Morgan Phillips, Masio Sangster, Allison Shir & Melissa Younker, *Emerald Runway*

- Performances: 801 Salon @ Vis. Optics, SLC, UT; 12 Minutes Max @ Main Library Auditorium, SLC, UT

PRODUCER & DIRECTOR OF CHOREOGRAPHY

2021 | Pant Suit Pictures, *The Ladies Room*; a comedy/musical short film

- Screenings: Davey Fest @ Metro Music Hall, SLC, UT; Hallucinea Film Festival, France

### CHOREOGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS

- 2024 | *Flock, Fracture, Forge*; w/ collaborator Brian Gerke; UVU's Contemporary Dance Ensemble, Orem, UT
- 2023 | *While the Sun Still Burns*; w/ music composer Michael Wall; UVU's Contemporary Dance Ensemble, Orem, UT
- 2022 | *Harmonious, still*; Rowland Hall Upper-School Dance Program, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2022 | *Me, Seeing You, See Me*; Utah Valley University's Contemporary Dance Ensemble, Orem, UT
- 2021 | *Deliquesce*; an anthology dance film by And Artists & Blank Space; collaborator for Chapter 1 of 6, *Meltd*
- 2019 | *Nostalgia for the Present*; Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2019 | *Congealing Corners*; Hillcrest High School, Midvale, UT
- 2018 | *Left the Water Running*; Cyprus High School, Magna, UT
- 2017 | *le mot de six lettres*; Lone Peak High School, Highland, UT
- 2017 | *In Surfaces Upward*; Granger High School, West Valley City, UT
- 2016 | *A Story of Lime Light*; Taylorsville High School, Taylorsville, UT
- 2015 | *The Spirit of*; Park City High School, Park City, UT

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## TEACHING

### 2024-PRESENT | UNIVERSITY OF UTAH | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR FOR THE SCHOOL OF DANCE

DANC 2320 - Continued Dance Techniques II (Spring 2024)

### 2023-PRESENT | DANCE CHURCH ® | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

TEACHER FOR ALL-LEVELS MOVEMENT CLASSES OFFERING AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH TO DANCING WITH SELF CURATED PLAYLISTS

### 2020-PRESENT | UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY | OREM, UTAH

CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE ENSEMBLE & ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

DANC 446R - Contemporary Dance Ensemble (Fall 2020-Present)

DANC 144R - Modern/Contemporary Technique & Theory I (Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2024)

DANC 243R - Modern/Contemporary Technique & Theory II (Fall 2020, Spring 2022)

DANC 341R - Modern/Contemporary Technique & Theory III (Fall 2021, Fall 2023)

DANC 442R - Modern/Contemporary Technique & Theory IV (Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2024)

## WORKSHOPS & FESTIVALS

2024 | UPCOMING Spectrum Dance Workshop; Kraków, Poland - Professional Dance Classes

2023 | Dance Class for Humans @ University of Utah & Westminster University - Professional Dance Classes

2023 | American College Dance Association; Northwest Conference @ University of Utah - Contemporary Technique

2022 | Rowland Hall's Summer Dance Workshop; SLC, UT - Contemporary Technique, Improvisation & Composition

2022 | Utah Dance Festival; Bountiful, UT - Contemporary Technique

2021 | Dance West; SLC, UT - Repertory

2021 | Tanner Dance Contemporary Summer Intensive; SLC, UT - Modern Technique & Improvisation

2018 | Motion Mongolia International Dance Festival; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia - Partnering & Improvisation

2014-2018 | Ririe-Woodbury's Young Dancer & Professional Workshop; SLC, UT - Faculty for 2 workshops each year

2017 | Snowy Range Summer Dance Festival; Laramie, WY - Modern, Improvisation & Guest Choreographer

## MASTER CLASSES

2022 | Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts; SLC, UT - Contemporary Technique

2020 | Tuacahn High School for the Arts; Ivins, UT - Contemporary Technique & Improvisation

2019 | Bucknell University; Lewisburg, PA - Modern Technique & Repertory

2018 | Tumen Ekh Ensemble; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia - Contemporary Technique

2018 | Police "Suld" Ensemble; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia - Improvisation & Jazz Technique

2018 | K-Wheel Dance Project; Seoul, South Korea - Partnering & Improvisation

2018 | Texas Tech University; Lubbock, TX - Modern Technique & Repertory

2018 | Texas A & M University; College Station, TX - Modern Technique & Repertory

2017 | Sunny Hills High School; Fullerton, CA - Contemporary Technique

2016 | Brigham Young University; Rexburg, ID - Modern Technique & Repertory

2015 | University of Wyoming; Laramie, WY - Composition & Improvisation

## CREATIVE DANCE

2019 | Wilson Center at Cape Fear Community College; Wilmington, NC - Two-week residency

2018 | 4 Seasons Wellness Center; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia - Creative Dance for Seniors

2018 | Philos Dance Company; Seoul, South Korea - Creative Dance for dancers with disabilities

2018 | Hangyeorea Middle School; Anseong, South Korea - Creative Dance for North Korean Defectors

2014-2020 | Kids-In-Motion; Ririe-Woodbury - Melissa lead 12 two-week residencies in K-12 schools in SLC County

2014-2020 | POPS Professional Outreach Programs; Ririe-Woodbury - 250+ Lecture Demonstrations & 150+ Creative Dance Classes in CA, NV & UT K-12 Schools

## DANCE SCHOOLS

2018-Present | Waterford Dance Academy; Salt Lake City, UT - Faculty for Contemporary Technique & Choreographer

2022-Present | Rowland Hall; Salt Lake City, UT - Substitute Teacher for K-12 all levels movement classes

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## MOVEMENT TRAINING

### WORKSHOPS & INTENSIVES

- 2023 | Paris Summer Academy: Rob Hayden (Brussels - Ultima Vez), Miguel Pereira (Lisbon), Mehdi Farajpour (Paris - ORIENTHEATRE Dance Company), Gwen Sampé (USA + Paris), Alpo Aaltokoski (Finland) @ Micadanse, Paris, France
- 2022 | One Body One Career, Countertechnique: Anouk van Dijk, Joy Davis, Jenia Kasatkina & Tom Koch @ Gibney, NYC
- 2022 | Partnering: Laja Field & Samuel Minguillon @ Millenium Dance Complex, SLC, UT
- 2019 | Dance West: Yin Yue @ Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, SLC, UT
- 2014-2018 | Ririe-Woodbury's Professional Summer Workshop: Daniel Charon, Julian De Leon, Natalie Desch, Molly Heller, Stephen Koester, Nicole Vaughan-Diaz, Joan Woodbury @ Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, SLC, UT
- 2012 + 2013 | Countertechnique Intensives: Yi-chun Liu, Nina Wollny & Philipp Fricke @ Loyola Marymount, Los Angeles, CA
- 2013 | BODYTRAFFIC Workshops: Adam Barruch & Zoe Scofield @ Loyal Marymount, Los Angeles, CA

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## ADDITIONAL SKILLS

### COSTUMING

COSTUME MANAGER, DESIGNER, STYLIST & INTERMEDIATE SEWER

- 2014-Present | Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company; UT
- 2019-Present | Heartland Collective; UT
- 2020-Present | Utah Valley University's Contemporary Dance Ensemble; UT
- 2020-Present | Marissa Mooney (Photographer); CA & UT
- 2023 | Repertory Dance Theatre; UT
- 2020-2022 | And Artists; UT
- 2021 | Stacie Buhler (Photographer); UT

### FILM EDITING

ADOBE PREMIERE PRO

- 2023 | Melissa Younker, *Elytra*
- 2022 | Elijah Hancock & Melissa Younker, *Snapshots*; as part of *Snapshots & Souvenirs*
- 2022 | Elijah Hancock & Melissa Younker, *The Middle*; as part of *Snapshots & Souvenirs*
- 2022 | Elijah Hancock & Melissa Younker, *Again*; as part of *Snapshots & Souvenirs*
- 2021 | Yebel Gallegos w/ Florian Alberge, *on the third side*; University of Washington
- 2021 | Heartland Collective & Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, *Full View*; Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center
- 2014 | Melissa Younker, *I'll Have What She's Having*; California State University, Long Beach

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## AWARDS + SCHOLARSHIPS

### ARTIST CAREER ADVANCEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

UTAH DIVISION OF ARTS & MUSEUMS (2024 & 2022)

### DEAN'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE, ADJUNCT FACULTY

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF THE ARTS (2023)

### LANA ALPER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH (2013)

### KAREN SHANLEY PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE; COSTA MESA, CA (2012 & 2011)

### STUDENT DANCE SCHOLARSHIP

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE; COSTA MESA, CA (2012 & 2011)

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## SERVICE

### 2023-PRESENT | 801 SALON

BOARD MEMBER FOR ARTS SALON NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

### 2022 | UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

MENTOR FOR SENIOR CAPSTONE STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY

### 2014-2020 | RIRIE-WOODBURY DANCE COMPANY

COSTUME MANAGER & YOUNG DANCER WORKSHOP COORDINATOR

### 2017 | UTAH DANCE FILM FESTIVAL

ADJUDICATOR FOR PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY