



RODRIGO ESTEVA RAMIREZ

Co-Founding Director of DANCE MONKS (SF) & Ook'ot International Dance Festival (MX)

30+ years of international experience in the field

E-mail: dancemonks@dancemonks.com | <http://www.dancemonks.com>

MASTERS IN FINE ARTS (MFA IN DANCE)

UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS, PHILADELPHIA/PARIS | GRADUATION JUNE 2023

Awarded Competitive Dance Fellowship and Life Experience Scholarship

DANCE COMPANIES

CO-FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF DANCE MONKS

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA/MÉXICO CITY | 1999-PRESENT

Taught and performed throughout the United States and Mexico as well as in Peru and Canada in festivals, universities and programs including at UC Berkeley, Middlebury College (VT), Bard College (NY), ODC (SF), among many others. Directed large-scale performances including with renowned artists Pauchi Sasaki (Rolex Award-winning with mentor Philip Glass), Dohee Lee (SF/Korea), Jose Navarrete (SF/Mexico)/Debby Kajiyama (SF/Japan), Jennifer Curtis (NY/Carnegie Hall artist). Created award-winning, environmental and socially engaged projects.

COMPANY MEMBER, PEARSON WIDRIG DANCE THEATER

WORLD-RENOWNED COMPANY; NEW YORK CITY | 1994-2001

Taught and performed throughout the United States in major festivals, universities, theaters and programs including at: The Joyce Theater (NYC), PS122 (NYC), Jacob's Pillow (MA), The Kennedy Center (DC), Bates Dance Festival (ME), Judson Church (NY), among many others. Collaborated on performance projects for the stage and community projects.

COMPANY MEMBER, AXIS DANCE

PHYSICALLY INTEGRATED COMPANY; OAKLAND | 2007-08

Performed on National Tour with this world-renowned company of dancers with and without disabilities including at Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography (FL), University of Iowa Gallagher Bluedorn Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts (AZ), San Francisco Festival for the Arts (SF), among many others

**INVITED GUEST ARTIST, EN DOS PARTES/ GERARDO DELGADO,
AWARD-WINNING MEXICAN CHOREOGRAPHER; MEXICO CITY | 1992-93**

Performed at the Palacio Bellas Artes as Finalists at Premio Nacional de Danza INBA/UAM and Universidad Nacional de México (National University of México) at Sala Miguel Covarrubias (Mexico City)

AWARDS

SELECTED JUDGE FOR THE SECRETARY OF CULTURE OF MEXICO

Selected judge as part of a curatorial jury for National Secretary of Culture of Mexico (2021)

BERKELEY CIVIC ARTS GRANT

*Awarded for *Fire in the Mountain* (2018-19) & *Breathe Here* (2021)*

THEATER BAY AREA ARTIST GRANT

Award for Bay Area artists (2020)

DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION GRANT

*Prestigious National Grant awarded for *Tlaoli: People of the Corn* (2016)*

KENNETH RAININ FOUNDATION GRANT

*Awarded for *Tlaoli: People of the Corn* (2016)*

ZELLERBACH FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANT

*Awarded for *Postcards of Mexico* (2007) and *Tlaoli: People of the Corn* (2016)*

THE OPEN CIRCLE FOUNDATION GRANT

*Awarded for *The Green Project: Environmental Education through the Arts* (2013, 2010, 2009, 2007)*

SELECTED JUDGE FOR NATIONAL DANCE COMPETITION

Selected judge for National Competition of Contemporary Dance (Xalapa, MX 2012)

EAST BAY FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS GRANT

*Awarded for *The Green Project: Environmental Education through the Arts* (2009, 2008)*

NOH SPACE

*Artist Residency Grant awarded for *ORIGINS* (2008)*

FONCA (Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes) (1993 & 1998)

Recipient of National Endowment for the Arts grant (MX)

PREMIO NACIONAL DE DANZA INBA/UAM

Finalist at National Dance Competition at Palacio Bellas Artes, México City (1992)

EDUCATION, FORMAL TRAINING & STUDIES

Sara Pearson and Patrik Widrig, (NYC) (1992-2000) *Extensive studies in Improvisation, Contemporary Technique, Choreography and Site-Specific performance as member of their company*

Trisha Brown School of Dance (NYC) (1998-1999) *Intensive studies as part of their Contemporary training program with funding from FONCA/National Endowment for the Arts in México*

Merce Cunningham School (NYC) (1994-1995) *Daily classes with Merce Cunningham's company as part of their Contemporary training program with funding from FONCA/ National Endowment for the Arts in Mexico*

Nikolais and Louis Dance Lab (NYC)(1993-1994) *Daily classes with Murray Lois and company as part of their Contemporary Dance and Technical training program with classes in Lighting Design*

Ralph Lemon (NYC), KJ Holmes (NYC), David Zambrano (Venezuela/EU), Nancy Topf (NYC) *Studies in Improvisation and Contemporary Dance (Mexico City and NYC)*

Kathleen Hermedorff (SF) Studies in Contemporary Dance at Bates Dance Festival (ME)

Universidad Nacional Autonoma de México/ National University of México (MX) (1985-1987) *Training in Modern Technique with the renowned Mexican experimental artist Raul Parroao.*

Dagmar School of Ballet (México City) (1985-1989) *Daily ballet training with Dagmar Kortum, Soloist of Hamburg Ballet of Germany*

Rocio Sagaón & Dhjael Vinaver (México) (1991-1992) *Training in Contemporary dance and traditional dances from India with these renowned Mexican choreographers*

Federico Castro (México) (1986-1990) *Training in Contemporary Technique*

SOMATIC STUDIES, ACUPRESSURE & BODY STUDIES

SHIATSU THERAPIST (2005-PRESENT); CALIFORNIA STATE CERTIFIED
Graduate from Acupressure Institute Certification 500-hr Program (Berkeley, CA) Studied Chinese Medicine, Zen Shiatsu, Applied Anatomy, Advanced Acupressure, Advanced Shiatsu, Thai Massage, Tui Na, Acupressure for Emotional Balancing, The Spirit of the Points, Intuitive Acupressure, Energy Balancing, Cranial Sacral Therapy, Ashiatsu, Acupressure for Pregnant Women, Acu-Yoga Certification

ACU-YOGA, CERTIFIED TEACHER (2011-PRESENT)
Studied directly with the Founder of Acu-Yoga, Michael Gach, Self-Acupressure, Meditation and Yoga (Berkeley, CA)

INTENSIVE STUDIES WITH DAVID PALMER (2005-2007)
Inventor of the modern-day massage chair Intensive 500+ hr training (San Francisco, CA)

MCKINNON BODY THERAPY CENTER (2009) *Swedish Massage (Oakland)*

BODY-MIND CENTERING, IDEOKINESIS AND KINESIOLOGY (1993-1998) *In-depth studies of the works of Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen, Irene Dowd, Barbara Mahler. (NYC)*

UNIVERSITY TEACHING HISTORY

WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY (MN) (2021)

Guest Lecturer on Site-specific Performance and Movement Ecology

STANFORD UNIVERSITY (CA) (2016)

Guest Artist Residency at Empathy Lab, an interdisciplinary collaboration between Krista DeNio (Artist) and Lochlann Jain (Stanford University Professor of Anthropology)

EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE (TX) (2013)

Guest Faculty at El Paso Community College Dance Department teaching Release Technique, Improvisation and Composition (Taught in Spanish and English)

UNIVERSIDAD VERACRUZANA (UNIVERSITY OF VERACRUZ, MX) (2000 & 2012)

Guest Faculty at Universidad Veracruzana Dance Department teaching Contemporary Technique and Improvisation/Composition (Taught in Spanish)

QUEENS COLLEGE SUMMER DANCE (NYC) (2011)

Summer Dance Faculty at Queens College teaching Contemporary Technique and Improvisation while in residence with Pearson/Widrig Dance Theater (NY)

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE (CT) (2011)

Master Class of Contemporary Technique as part of Site-Specific Performance residency of A Curious Invasion with Pearson Widrig Dance Theater (NY)

BARD COLLEGE (NY) (2011)

Master Class of Improvisation and Site-Specific Performance at Bard College Dance Department

UNIVERSITY OF THE AMERICAS (UNIVERSIDAD DE LAS AMERICAS PUEBLA, MX) (2010)

Guest Faculty at UDLAP Dance Theater Department teaching Contemporary Technique, Improvisation and Somatics

GODDARD COLLEGE (VT) (2009)

Guest Artist residency teaching Movement Matters: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Education through the Arts

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY (CA) (2007)

Guest Faculty at UC Berkeley Dance and Theater Department teaching Contemporary Technique and lecture on Site-Specific Dance as Environmental Education

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE (VT) (2005)

Summer Residency at Summer Language Institute and Dance Department teaching Contemporary Technique and Improvisation

UNIVERSIDAD IBEROAMERICANA (UNIVERSITY IBEROAMERICANA, MEXICO CITY)
(2003-04)

Guest Faculty at Universidad IberoAmericana Theater Department teaching Movement for Actors

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND (MD) (2001)

Guest Faculty at University of Maryland's Dance Department teaching Contemporary Technique and Improvisation

KEENE STATE COLLEGE (NH) (2000)

Guest Artist Residency with Pearson/Widrig Dance Theater (NY) teaching Contemporary Technique and Improvisation

TEACHING RESIDENCIES AT FESTIVALS & PROGRAMS

OO'KOT INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL (YUCATAN, MEXICO) (2020-2021)

Co-founding Director and Curator with Mirah Moriarty | Invited Guest Faculty: Dr. Yanique Hume (Jamaica), Mijail Rojas (Cuba), Erika Suarez (Mexico) (Taught in Spanish)

ESSENCE OF EMBODIMENT FESTIVAL (NJ) (2021)

Guest Artist teaching Movement Meditation: Self-Acupressure for Emotional Balancing

TUMÁKA'T (MERIDA, MEXICO) (2012 & 2019)

Guest Faculty at this renowned school teaching Contemporary Technique, Improvisation and Composition for Professional Dancers (Taught in Spanish)

DANZA TUPAC (LIMA, PERU) (2012)

Guest Faculty teaching Contemporary Technique, Improvisation and Composition for Professional Dancers (Taught in Spanish)

ESPACIO ABIERTO & X ESPACIO (MEXICO CITY) (2012)

Workshop teaching Contemporary Technique, Improvisation and Composition (Taught in Spanish)

ENCUENTRO NACIONAL DE DANZA CONTEMPORANEA (QUERETERO, MX) (2012)

Summer Dance Faculty teaching Contemporary Technique, Improvisation and Composition (Taught in Spanish)

FORAMEN BALLET (CUERNAVACA, MX) (2012) Summer Dance Faculty teaching Contemporary Technique, Improvisation and Composition (Taught in Spanish)

FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL YUCATÁN ESCÉNICA (MÉRIDA, MX) (2012)

Summer Dance Faculty teaching Contemporary Technique, Improvisation and Composition (Taught in Spanish)

KRIPALU CENTER FOR YOGA & HEALTH (MA) (2010) *Workshop on Movement Meditations: Listening to the Land*

BODY & SOUND FESTIVAL (SAN FRANCISCO) (2010)

Body and Sound workshop with Rodrigo Esteva, Mirah Moriarty and musician Laura Inserra (Italy) Co-curated encounters between Dohee Lee and Pauchi Sasaki, Djenane Saint-Juste and Mambo Florencia at KUNST STOFF

MIDSUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL (NY) (2009-10)

Summer Dance Faculty teaching Contemporary Technique, Improvisation and Composition

SUMMER DANCE (NY) (2007-10)

Summer Dance Faculty teaching Contemporary Technique, Site-Specific Performance, Improvisation and Composition

FESTIVAL DE NOVA VITTA (MÉXICO CITY) (2010)

Summer Dance Faculty teaching Contemporary Technique, Improvisation and Composition (Taught in Spanish)

ODC (SAN FRANCISCO) (2007-09)

Dance Faculty teaching Contemporary Technique, Improvisation

SAN FRANCISCO SUMMER DANCE INTENSIVE (2006)

Summer Dance Faculty teaching Contemporary Technique

COUNTERPULSE DANCE FESTIVAL (SF) (2006)

Dance Faculty teaching Partnering the Moment: Improvisation

TEACHING RESIDENCIES AT SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The Vanaver Caravan Institute *Year-long Teaching Position (NY) (2011)*

High Meadow School *Teaching Residency, (NY) (2011)*

MaMA *Teaching Residency (NY) (2011)*

Mountain Laurel School, *Teaching Residency (NY) (2011)*

Berkeley Arts Magnet *THE GREEN PROJECT, Co-Founder of Environmental Education, through the Arts Multi-cultural program (CA) (2010)*

Highland Elementary School *THE GREEN PROJECT (2008-09)*

Berkeley High School *Contemporary Performance Teaching Residency (CA) (2009)*

Colegio Madrid (*Madrid College*) *Guest Faculty (México City) (2004)*

Academia Mexicana de la Danza (*The Mexican Academy of Dance*) *Contemporary Dance Faculty, (México City) (2003)*

Centro de Movimiento (*Movement Center*) *Co-Founding Director, movement classes for children with disabilities and senior citizens (Coatepec, Mexico) (2001-2002)*

Centro de Investigaciones Coreográficas (CICO) *Contemporary Dance Faculty (México City) (2002-2003)*

La Batuta Escuela de Musica (*Batuta School of Music*) *Teaching Residency (Cuernavaca, MX) (2000)*

CIE Sur Arts High School *Dance Faculty (México City) (1990-91 & 1992-3)*

MOVEMENT RESEARCH & CHOREOGRAPHY, DIRECTED BY RODRIGO ESTEVA AND MIRAH MORIARTY/ DANCE MONKS (1999-PRESENT)

BREATHE HERE/ RESPIRE AQUI (2021)

Community responsive, site-specific installations including a film projected onto public buildings of accessible movement sequences designed to support public mental health during times of turbulent change

FIRE IN THE MOUNTAIN (2020)

Film premiered at Festival of Latin American Contemporary Choreographers (FLACC) (San Francisco) that focused on the intimate and ancient relationship between people and place

THE TREE AND ME (2019)

Trio commissioned by Bulb Fest (CA) Addressed the question- when listening to the stories that are held in the land, what wishes to be spoken and what wants to remain in silence?

THE WALL BETWEEN US (2017)

Duet with Rodrigo Esteva (MX) commissioned by D.I.R.T Festival (San Francisco) / A collection of real stories of families separated by the US-Mexico border

TLAOLI: PEOPLE OF THE CORN (2016)

Performance Residency with Rodrigo Esteva (MX) at La Peña Cultural Center (CA) / Examined corn as essential to Mexican cultural identity, the mythical relationship between people and plants, traditional sacred farming and agricultural rituals

NOMAD: THE BLUE ROAD (2014)

A site-specific ritual performance with 15 dancers and 5 collaborating artists that followed the (now mostly) underground Strawberry Creek in Berkeley in support of the international movement to "daylight" rivers in urban places

MURU (2012 & 2013)

Commissioned by FAEL Festival de Artes Escenicas (Lima, Peru) MURU means endless dream in Japan and seed in Quechua. Directed by award-winning Rolex artist Pauchi Sasaki with DANCE MONKS, Kinya Zulu Tsuruyama (Japan), Dohee Lee (Korea/SF) and Jennifer Curtis (NY)

STAR RIDER (2012)

Site-specific performance installation commissioned by Woodstock Public Library (NY) directed in collaboration with our son, Sebastian Esteva (at age 9) from a child's perspective

CALL OF LIFE: FACING THE MASS EXTINCTION (2010)

Choreographers and performers for award-winning environmental film directed by Director Monte Thompson which received The Accolade Film Humanitarian Award, among others

ORIGINS (2009)

Performance Installation at NOH Space (SF) inspired by old world mythology from the dancers' ancestral origins (Maori, Mexican, Chinese, Slavic) in collaboration with disabled dancer Rodney Bell (formerly of AXIS Dance), Rodrigo Esteva, and Olivia Eng with live music by Laura Inserra, Pauchi Sasaki and Claudia Cuentas

POSTCARDS OF MEXICO (2007)

A performance installation premiered at CounterPULSE (SF) in collaboration with Sebastian Belaustegui, author of Guardianes del Tiempo / The Guardians of Time, focused on endangered ways of life in Mexico due to the influx of large US corporations

EL OTRO LADO/ THE OTHER SIDE (OF THE BORDER) (2003 & 2004)

A duet with Rodrigo Esteva (MX) performed at Middlebury College (VT) from a series of interviews (in Spanish and English) with people living on either side of the US/Mexican border and their vision of "the other side"

TIERRA IMAGINARIA/ IMAGINED LAND (2003)

A site-specific performance choreographed for 5 dancers throughout the campus of IberoAmericana University (Mexico City) with large-scale visual installations made from collected Native flowers

LULABAI (2003)

A group installation performance for 7 dancers with projections of children's drawings from students of Escuela Madrid (Mexico City)

COLORES (2002)

A group choreography for students at Ollin Yoliztli performed at the National University of Mexico (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico)

THE BUTTERFLY HOUSE (2001)

A long distance duet between Mirah (performed live in the US) and Rodrigo (projected in video from Mexico) created in response to our experiences at the US/Mexico border, performed at Inside/Outside Festival at Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (VT). A live version of *The Butterfly House* was performed while Artists-in-Residence at Casa de Cultural Coatepec (Mexico) and Teatro de la Danza (Mexico City)

SELECTED PERFORMANCE HISTORY

PEARSON/WIDRIG DANCE THEATER (NY) Company member

Connecticut College (CT) *A Curious Invasion* (2011)
L/A Arts (ME) *HereAfter* (2001)
Keene State College (NH) *HereAfter* (2000)
Virginia Commonwealth University (VA) *HereAfter* (2000)
Portland Museum of Art (ME) *A Curious Invasion* (2000)
The Joyce Theater (NYC) *HereAfter* (2000)
The Judson Church (NYC) *Beginning to Begin* (2000)
Kennedy Center Millennium Stage (DC) *Ordinary Festivals* (2000)
Grace Street Theater *HereAfter* (VA)(2000)
Festival Internacional de Danza Contemporánea (Lima, Peru) *Ordinary Festivals* (1999)
Bates Dance Festival *A Curious Invasion* (ME) (1999, 1997, 1995)
Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors Festival (NYC) *Ordinary Festivals* (1999)
Danspace Project at Saint Mark's Church (NYC) (1999)
NYU Tisch School for the Performing Arts (NYC) *Ordinary Festivals* (1999)
Central Park Summer Stage (NYC) *Ordinary Festivals* (1997)
Central Park (NYC) *A Curious Invasion* (1996)
PS 122 (NYC) *Ordinary Festivals* (1993 & 1995)
Maine Arts Festival (ME) *Ordinary Festivals* (1995)
Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival (MA) *A Curious Invasion* (1994)
Dance Theater Workshop (DTW) (NYC) *Do You Remember?* (1993)

AXIS DANCE COMPANY (Oakland) Company Member (2007-08)

University of Iowa (IA)
Gallegher Bluedorn Center for the Performing Arts (IA)
College of Staten Island (NY)
CSU Chico Presents (CA)
Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts & Friends of the Center Youth Program (CA)
San Francisco International Arts Festival (CA)
Alys Stephens Center for the Performing Arts (AL)
North Fourth Art Center, *Out of the Ordinary Festival* (NM)
Jewish Community Center (SF)
Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts (AZ)
Palmdale Playhouse, Harvest Moon Festival (CA)
Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography (FL)

Jess Curtis/GRAVITY (San Francisco/Berlin) Guest Artist

CounterPULSE (SF) (2006)

Apostalia Papadamaki (Greece/NY) Invited Dancer (1993-1996) Merce Cunningham Studio (NY) (1993)

Susan Sterling (Argentina) Invited Dancer
Dance Theater Workshop (NYC) (1996)

Nikolais and Lois Dance Lab (NYC) *Ollin* (1993)
The International Center (NYC) *TransAtlantic Embrace* (1996)
La Boulanger SOHO (NYC) (1996)
Teatro de la Danza (México City) *Sembrando una Garza en la Arena* (1992)

En Dos Partes/ Gerard Delgado (Award-winning Mexican choreographer)
Invited Dancer

Finalist at Premio Nacional de Danza INBA UAM Palacio Bellas Artes (México City) (1992)
Universidad Nacional de México (National University of México) Sala Miguel Covarrubias, (México City) (1992)

Rocio Sagaón & Dhjael Vinaver (México)
Teatro del Estado (Xalapa, MX) (1992)

RELATED SCHOLARSHIP, RESEARCH, PUBLISHED ARTICLES

CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS: *Site-Specific Performance, Animism, Indigenous Art and Perspectives, Movement Monastery: Improvisation as a Daily Practice, Pre-Hispanic History of Mexico, Traditional Agricultural of Mexico, Ancient Culture in Contemporary Performance, Food Security, Traditional Chinese Medicine*

BI-LINGUAL EDUCATOR *Fluent in both Spanish (Native language) and English with extensive, in-depth international travel throughout Mexico, the United States, Canada and Peru (1997- present)*

PUBLICATIONS & PAPERS

“Imaginación en Movimiento” (1996) Research on Movement and Ideokinesis with support from FONCA (Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes), the National Endowment for the Arts of Mexico

“Tlaoli: Gente de Maiz,” In-Dance Magazine (2016)

Translated into Spanish *“Inside Motion: An Ideokinetic Basis for Movement Education,”* by John Rolland (1994)

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Sara Pearson and Patrik Widrig, *Director of Pearson/Widrig Dance Theater Company*
pearsonwidrig@gmail.com

Dr. Rainy Demerson, *Professor of Dance at University of West Indies at Cave Hill*
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