

Sara Baird
Anemone Dance Theater

educator
director
choreographer
producer
performer

www.anemonedance.org
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"luscious" - Jennifer Dunning, New York Times

"Sara Baird, choreographer of Anemone Dance Theater, is Odysseus' sea siren, mesmerizing us with her spell of pure beauty."

- June Julian, NY Arts Magazine

"[Anemone Dance Theater] presents a shared vision that allows for audience member's dreams to interact with those of the dancers."

- Nick Feitel, Gay City News

"Visually-rich" — Eva Yaa Asantewaa, Field notes

BIOGRAPHY

Sara Baird is a multimedia, Butoh inspired choreographer who pursues artistic collaborations. She is a recipient of the 2014-15 Fellowship in Choreography awarded by the North Carolina Arts Council. She has written and received grants from the Media Arts Project – Community Arts Grant, American Music Center Live Music for Dance Program, The Puffin Foundation, The Yellow Fox Foundation, The Regional Artists Program Grant and with additional space grants and residencies from Princeton University, Joyce SoHo, NC Stage, Dance New Amsterdam.

In addition to producing her own choreography, Sara performed with the Butoh Rockettes directed by Celeste Hastings, Poppo & Gogo Boys, Richard Move for the Guggenheim Museum, VH1, and the Cannes Film Festival to name a few. In 2007, Baird was chosen by master Akira Kasai to perform at the The Japan Society in NYC for his commission, Butoh America. She holds an MFA from the University of Wisconsin (2005) and a BFA from Florida State University (1993). Dancing professionally for over 20 years, Baird produced many NYC seasons and toured the U.S., South America, and Europe.

In 2009, she relocated to Asheville, NC where she serves on the Media Arts Project board of directors and the Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center planning committee to produce multimedia art events. Sara is Anemone Dance Theater's artistic director: www.anemonedance.org.

EDUCATION

MASTERS OF FINE ARTS IN DANCE, SUMMA CUM LAUDE, 2005

University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS IN DANCE, CUM LAUDE, 1993

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2016-2009 **ANEMONE DANCE THEATER**, Alexander, NC
company class - French Broad Studios

2013 **UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA**, Asheville, NC
guest teacher in Butoh, Dance Department

2013 **WARREN WILSON COLLEGE**, Asheville, NC
guest teacher composition/improvisation

2011 **UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA**, Asheville, NC
guest lecturer in performance art, New Media Department

2000-09 **DANCE NEW AMSTERDAM**, New York, NY
modern technique and yoga for professional dancers

1997-09 **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY**, Coles Recreation Center,
New York, NY - yoga and movement classes

2000-05 **THE SANDRA CAMERON DANCE CENTER**, New York, NY

2002 **FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**, Tallahassee, FL
Dance Repertory Theater, director by Lynda Davis
Artistic Residency: teaching company class + setting repertory

2000-01 **TISCH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, NYU**, New York, NY
Adjunct faculty of Movement Studies, MFA theater department

1998 **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE**
California Movement + Dance Workshop for Dance Educators.

1996-98 **LYCEUM SUMMER IN THE ARTS**, Loudoun County, Virginia
modern technique, improvisation, and composition

1996 **MONCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY**, Montclair, NJ
modern technique, improvisation, and composition

Company Experience

ANEMONE DANCE THEATER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

2002-2016: founder and artistic director

BUTOH AMERICA/AKIRA KASAI, COMPANY MEMBER

2007: Commission by The Japan Society NYC

KDNY DANCE, FOUNDING MEMBER

1997-2001: Kathleen Dyer, Artistic Director. Soloist in many NYC seasons

POPPO AND THE GOGO BOYS, COMPANY MEMBER

1997-1998: Poppo Shiraishi, Artistic Director. La Mama, NYC

NETA PULVAMACHER AND DANCERS, COMPANY MEMBER

1996-1997: Neta Pulvamacher, Artistic Director. Joyce Theater, NYC

DANCECOMPASS, COMPANY MEMBER

1994-1997 Nicholas Rodriguez, Artistic Director. Local, Regional and International touring - including Fulbright Fellowship in Bolivia

BILL T. JONES/ARNIE ZANE DANCE COMPANY, COMPANY APPRENTICE

1995 Bill T. Jones, Artistic Director NYC

Artistic Direction/Choreographic Works

- 2015** **GODAI** - collaboration with violinist Meg Mulhearn. Premiered at South Eastern Contemporary Arts Museum, supported by the North Carolina Arts Council Fellowship in Choreography
- 2014** **UWABE - ART IN THE PARK** repertory concert with guest Vanessa Skantze from Seattle. Supported by Asheville Art in the Park Arts & Community Grant
- KOORI** premier at the {Re}HAPPENING. Performers work with 100lb blocks of ice. Live music and costume collaborations
- 2013** **ANGLER** premiers at the {Re}HAPPENING, site specific quartet
- ASHEVILLE FRINGE FESTIVAL - LAZOOM**
- 2012** **SPECTRA**, *Chimera* performances with Moving Women
- ASHEVILLE BUTOH FESTIVAL**
- premier of Chimera and Excursus site specific performance in Packs Square - downtown Asheville, NC
- {Re}HAPPENING** - premier of Excursus with support of the Community Arts Grant
- 2011** **MINT MUSEUM, CHARLOTTE** - site specific performances within the bamboo installation by artist Tersunori Kawana
- Passages: Green Wall
- YUGEN** - full evening at NC Stage in Asheville, NC
- {RE}HAPPENING** - Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center
- Bitter Rice premiers w/ C. Perryman and Julie Becton Gillum
- ASHEVILLE BUTOH FESTIVAL** - Bitter Rice at BeBe Theater

- 2010 WARREN WILSON COLLEGE**
 site specific garden performance of *Daphne*
CILLA VEE LIFE ARTS - Joyful Sonic Wash
 Improvised dance with NYC and local musicians
{RE}HAPPENING - Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center
 Lacuna solo performance: bamboo installation in dining hall
ASHEVILLE FRINGE FESTIVAL Premier of *Daphne*
- 2007 FEATURED ARTIST IN AKIRA KASAI'S BUTOH AMERICA**
 Commission by the Japan Society, NYC
MIKROS COSMOS - full evening produced by Dharma Roads
 new music collaborations with C. Tignor and M. Young
- 2006 NEW ORLEANS MUSEUM OF ART**, repertory tour
 the HeART of New Orleans - grand re-opening post Hurricane
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, Dance New Amsterdam
- 2005 JOYCE SOHO**, *Tearing of the Night Sky*
 Anemone Dance Theater, Slow Six, and Lee Whittier
THE CENTER FOR REMEMBERING AND SHARING
 Lacuna, solo premier
DESIRE SUBMERGED INTO EARTH - gallery installation of Titlipur
- 2004 XO PROJECTS INC**
 Slow Six in concert with Lee Whittier & Anemone Dance Theater
ANEMONE DANCE THEATER @ THE PUFFIN ROOM
 Full-length evening concert
BODY POLITICS: RE/SHAPING OUR IDENTITIES
 Premieres of *Absolution*, *Lacuna*, and *Dans La Nuit*
ADA GALLERY Richmond, Virginia
 Full-length evening concert and gallery performance
- 2003 LISTENING IN THE SOUND KITCHEN**
 Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey
 Premiere of *Titlipur* with sensor technology
MOVING WATER THEORY
 Miyoung Song and Anemone Dance Theater
 Full Concert, Collaborative Dance and Media Performance
- 2002 URBAN ZEN**
 Premiere: X-mass, Liaisons Avec Osieux
BROOKLYN FIRE PROOF
 Gallery Performance, Magdalena and Liaisons Avec Oseaux
BUTOH SUMO COLESLAW WRESTLING
 Dining Haul: Unpacked No. 4,
 Food Inspired, Food Used, and Food Digested Art
- 94-01 INDEPENDENT CHOREOGRAPHY**
 6@8 - Soundance Theater, New York, NY, full concert
 Patchwork – NYC season, regional tour to Loudoun County, VA
 Sisyphus Descending, solo work toured regionally and to Bolivia,

Awards

- 2014-15 THE NORTH CAROLINA ARTS COUNCIL
CHOREOGRAPHY FELLOWSHIP**
to create "invisible Cities", 2015
- 2013 THE ASHEVILLE ARTS IN THE PARKS ARTS & COMMUNITY
GRANT - Asheville Area Arts Council funds**
to produce UWABE - Art in The Park
- 2011-12 MEDIA ARTS PROJECT (MAP) COMMUNITY GRANT**
to create Excursus: a kinetic site-specific performance at Lake
Eden in Black Mountain, NC for the {RE}Happening.
- 2010 REGIONAL ARTISTS PROGRAM GRANT**
North Carolina Arts Council funds
to support the production, *Yugen*, at NC Stage Company
- 2006 LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL and NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS**
Manhattan Community Arts Fund grant
YELLOW FOX FOUNDATION
Private Foundation, grant award
- 2005 PUFFIN FOUNDATION LTD.**
Private Foundation, grant award
- 2004 AMERICAN MUSIC CENTER**
Live Music for Dance Grant
- 2004 UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN**
Academic Scholarship - Chancellor's Award
- 1991-93 FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**
Academic scholarship
- 1992 AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL**
Duke University, NC - full scholarship

Press Bibliography

Motsinger, Carol, "{Re}HAPPENING Revs Up". Asheville Citizens Times - Scene Magazine, Asheville, NC. (April 5, 2013): Cover story and p20.

Inch, Rachel, "Review of *Yugen*". The Mountain Express, Asheville, NC. (July, 2, 2011).

Asantewaa, Eva, Dancers to Watch Out For Field Notes (Online - June 2, 2006).
<http://infinitebody.blogspot.com>

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Feitel, Nick, "Collective Consciousness - Mythical creatures great and small inhabit Anemone Dance Theater's world". Gay City News. Volume 4, Number 47 (November 24 - 30, 2005).

Dunning, Jennifer, "DANCE REVIEW; Designers of an Origami Boat, Setting Sail Into a Dim Light". New York Times, NY. (November 15, 2005).

Julian, June, "Remembering Beauty with Anemone Dance Theater". New York Arts Magazine, New York, NY. (5/16/2003).

Julian, June, "No Art, Yes Dance!". New York Arts Magazine, New York, NY (6/9/2004): July/August 2004 Issue.

Strini, Tom, "New York dance scene hits UWM", Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Milwaukee, WI (July 28, 2004).

Mattingly, Kate, "Festival brings a taste of the Big Apple to Florida". Florida Sun-Sentinel. Fort Lauderdale, FL. (June 19, 2005).

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