

Sara Baird  
Anemone Dance Theater

educator  
director  
choreographer  
producer  
performer

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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](http://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

- 2017-2009**     **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 Pulvmacher, 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

- 2017 KOROMO-DAKO** - premiers at the Asheville Butoh Festival
- 2016 HANETSUKI** - premiers at the Asheville Butoh Festival
- 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).

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

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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