

Sydney Rebecca Casser Schiff

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EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI	Expected May 2018
MFA Department of Dance, Choreography Track	
Graduate Fellow at the Center for World Performance Studies	
Princeton University, Princeton, NJ	2006-2010
A.B. History of Science	
Certificate in the Program in Dance	
Sidwell Friends School, Washington, D.C.	2006
High School Diploma	

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, and Dance (U-M SMTD)	
Diversity and Inclusion Grant for Students	2017
Center for World Performance Studies Fellowship	2017
Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant	2017
U-M SMTD EXCEL Enterprise Award	2016
U-M SMTD Department of Dance Fellowship	2016-2018
Omi International Arts Center: Dance Omi International Dance Collective	August 2014
Drisha Institute for Jewish Education: Arts Fellow (full time study)	2012-2013
Princeton University: Francis LeMoyne Page Dance Award	2010
Princeton: Office of the Dean Senior Thesis Research Grant	2009
Princeton: Alex Adam '07 Scholarship Award	2009
Princeton: "Outstanding Work in the Program in Dance"	2007, 2009
Dance Theatre of Harlem: "Impressive Dedication and Determination"	2005
Joy of Motion Dance Center: full scholarship student	2005-2006
BalletMet Columbus: scholarships for summer study	2003, '04, '05

TRAINING

Primary Disciplines:

Concert Dance Forms: Modern, Ballet, Jazz, Improvisation, Contact Improvisation, Gaga, Yoga, Gyrotonic® (instructor)

Social Dance Forms: Brazilian Zouk, Blues, Fusion, Lindy Hop, Competitive Ballroom

Professional (2010-present)

Zvi Gotheiner company apprentice and open daily ballet class at New York City Center 2011-2016. Additional classes at: Steps, Peridance, Mark Morris Dance Center, Gibney Dance Center/Dance New Amsterdam, 100 Grand, 10 Hairy Legs open company class.

Pre-professional

Princeton University Program in Dance (Princeton, NJ)	2006-2010
Ze'eva Cohen, Rebecca Lazier, Zvi Gotheiner, Tina Fehlandt, Patricia Hoffbauer, Gabri Christa, Laurie Abramson, Mary Barton, Susan Marshall	
Joy of Motion Dance Ctr. Youth Dance Ensemble Sr. Co. (Wash., DC)	2004-2006
Helen L. Hayes, Mane Rebelo-Plaut, Helanius Wilkins, Daniel Burkholder	
Dance Theatre of Harlem Pre-Pro. Residency Prog. (Kennedy Center)	2004-2006
Arthur Mitchell, Laveen Naidu, Lowell Smith	
Academy of the Maryland Youth Ballet (Bethesda, MD)	1997-2004
Hortensia Fonseca, Michelle Lees, Harriet Moncure Fellows, Rhodie Jorgenson	
Universal Ballet of Korea <i>La Bayadere</i> (Kennedy Center)	1999
Joffrey Ballet <i>Nutcracker</i> (Kennedy Center)	1997

Intensives

Gaga Summer (Israel) and Winter (New York)	2011
Ohad Naharin, Danielle Agami, Ron Amit, Iyar Elezra, Noa Zuk	
White Mountain Summer Dance Festival (Sarah Lawrence College)	2009
Laura Glenn, Paul Dennis, James Martin, Megan Williams, Sarah Imhoff-Jones	
Mark Morris Dance Group Summer Intensive (New York)	2009
Mark Morris, Lauren Grant, Megan Williams, David Leventhal	
Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Traditions (Beckett, MA)	2008
Milton Myers, Pamela Pibrisco, Helen Pickett, Edgar Zendejas, Tim Rushton	
Alonzo King LINES Ballet (San Francisco, CA)	2006
Alonzo King, Carmen Rozestraten, Marina Hotchkiss, Debra Rose (Gyrotonic)	
BalletMet (Columbus, OH)	2003-2005
Yoko Ichino, Gerard Charles, Susan Dromisky, April Berry	

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Artistic Director

Sydney Schiff Dance Project (NY) 2010-present
www.sydneysschiffdanceproject.com

Choreography

It Won't Buy You Lunch

IWBYL questions why the performers pursue art as careers and why in NYC. Collaboration with Open Music Ensemble (OME), inventor-designer Robert Olsen, visual artist Gregg Emery, filmmaker Jaffe DeVault, and costume designer Samantha Gebb.

The Tank at Standard Toykraft (three-night run) Nov. 2015

Imagined Architecture

NYC spaces through the gaze of multimedia artists. Collaboration with OME and Olsen.

Center for Performance Research Performance Studio Open House May 2015

Inception to Exhibition 2nd Annual Dance Festival March 2015

Epilogue

7-min solo reduction of *Dry Bones* with audience participation

NACHMO Gala at The Actor's Fund Feb. 2015

Joy Of Motion Annual Benefit Feb. 2015

Ask a Vane

20 min. collaboration w/ Katie Cowdery (choreographer/dancer), OME & Olsen

xyz: chain creation at The Tank Feb. 2015

Promotional event for fashion designer Cristina Ruales

10 min. outdoor performance choreographed for 10 ballet dancers at Flatiron Building

New York Fashion Week Feb. 2015

Dry Bones: Resurrection of the Living (FP = full production, LM = live music)

Evening-length music-dance collaboration about taking ownership of inherited traditions. Original arrangement of Antonín Dvořák's "New World Symphony" and "Dem (Dry) Bones" incorporating Hebrew text from Ezekiel for string quartet and opera singer by Cheryl Krugel-Lee.

Judson Church Open Swim (FP) Jan. 2015

STUFFED at Judson Church (LM) May 2014

Green Space Blooms April 2014

Workshop/Performance (FP, LM, Cong. Ramath Orah) April 2014

Inception to Exhibition 1st Annual Dance Festival March 2014

1st Annual ITE emerging choreographer sweepstakes finalist

JOM YDE Sr. Co. guest artist residency (Wash., D.C.)	Feb. 2014	
PMT Seasonal Showcase Fall Dance Series	Nov. 2013	
Sans Limites Dance Split-Bill program (Secret Theatre)	Nov. 2013	
Crossing Boundaries series (LM, Dixon Place)	Oct. 2013	
Sobers and Godley's Fall Dance Soiree (Ailey Citigroup)	Sept. 2013	
SPARK! Performance Forum (Triskelion)	Sept. 2013	
Norte Maar's Dance at Socrates Festival	Aug. 2013	
Drisha end-of-year showcase (LM, Manhattan JCC)	June 2013	
<i>Princeton Aspire Campaign</i>	October 2012	
5 min duet collaboratively choreographed and performed with alum Silas Riener		
<i>CHALOM: A Dream Opera</i>		
Evening-length opera in Hebrew & Aramaic investigating sexuality in sacred texts by Meta Phys-Ed.		
NY Fringe Festival	August 2012	
<i>Eugene Onegin</i>		
40-min dance meditation on Pushkin's <i>Eugene Onegin</i> to Prokofiev's incidental music for a play adaptation choreographed for Schiff and 12 ballroom dancers. Guest Artist with Princeton Symphony Orchestra, PU Ballroom and Glee clubs. NYTimes reviewed, NJ Arts News coverage.		
Princeton University	Feb. 2012	
Garden scene (short ballet adaptation) for PU Ballet	Feb. 2012	
<i>The Blackbox Project</i>		
Guest Artist, Department of Composition and Musicology		
Princeton University	Sept. 2011	
Short projects		
Movement Research Open Performances	2010, 2011	
Dance New Amsterdam Work in Process	2010	
<i>60x60 Dance</i> at NYC Dance Parade	2010	
Performance		
Company Member	Sarah Berges Dance	2014 – present
Performances in NY and SF		
Company Member	Drye/Marinaro Dance Company	2014 – present
Performing and teaching tours to DC, PA, SC, NC		
<i>Pearl Diving</i> (14 th St. Y)	Eva Dean Dance	October 2014
Lecture Demonstrations	H.T. Chen & Dancers	2013 – 2014
Dancer	Parparim Ensemble	2012-2015
Israeli Dance Institute, Dir. Ruth Goodman. Israeli Folk Dance Festival, Israeli Day Parade, Citi Field, Indian-Jewish event at McGraw Hill Conf. Ctr., Korean-Jewish event in Queens		

<i>Touching Loss</i> (workshop)	Clare Cook Dance Theater	August 2013
APAP showcase (Alvin Ailey)	Emily Faulkner/Wind-Up Dances	January 2012
Para-dice 2.0 (Dixon Place)	Patricia Hoffbauer	Dec. 2011
<i>Every Body</i> , (Cent. & Ft. Gr. Parks)	LOOM Ensemble	May 2011
The Construction Co. (Cunningham)	Sally Bowden	February 2011
<i>For Lyle Brooks</i> (collab. DiMura)	Laguna Beach Tribute Festival	January 2011
<i>Apple Heel, Flying Fish</i> (SmmrStg.)	Darcy Naganuma	August 2010
<i>Devotion</i> (site specific in SOHO)	Pedro Jimenez	July 2010

Teaching

University of Michigan Graduate Student Instructor		2016-2018
Primary Instructor for non-major Introduction to Dance classes in Ballet, Jazz, Modern, and Brazilian Zouk		
University of Michigan Zouk Dance Club		January 2017-present
Zouk Fusion Workshop at Motley Hue Fusion Dance Festival (NYC)		April 2018
Thankful for Zouk (Chicago)		Nov. 2017
Zouk for Fusion Dancers, Yale Swing and Blues Club (New Haven)		October 2017
Zouk Fusion Class at Melting Pot (NYC)		August 2017
Windy City Fusion - Zouk (Chicago)		April 2017
Zouk and Blues Isolations at Motley Hue Fusion Dance Festival		April 2017
With Flouer Evelyn and Vinícius de Souza		
Intro Zouk Workshop at Bar Louie (Ann Arbor)		March 2017
Brazilian Zouk at American College Dance Association (Randolph, NJ)		March 2017
Intro Zouk Workshop at Heidelberg Bar (Ann Arbor)		Feb. 2017
Zouk Fusion Class at Melting Pot (NYC)		June 2016
Ballet for Partner Dancers (NYC)		February 2016
With Flouer Evelyn		
MAOR Performing Arts Summer Program for Girls, PA		2014, 2015
Beginner ballet, jazz, improvisation, composition, Lindy Hop, ballroom, stage combat, repertory		
ST-ARTS Program at Winthrop University (SC)		2015
Repertory, choreography, Lindy Hop		
Joy of Motion YDESC masterclasses and guest artist residency (DC)		2014-2015
JCC and rented spaces, Cedarhurst, Long Island, NY		2012-2015
Ballet, Jazz, repertory		
Certified GYROTONIC® Instructor (NY)		2009-2013
Master Trainer Billy Macagnone, Body Evolutions		

GRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

Choreography

- The Zouk Project*, Betty Pease Studio Theater April 2017
15 minute music and dance investigation of Brazilian Zouk and an improvisational score for both dancers and musicians together.
- S3*, Chip Davis Media Studio, U-M School of Music Dec. 2016
15 minute collaborative work of dance, music and technology exploring memory, meditation, light and space.
- I2 (s)tones*, Betty Pease Studio Theater Dec. 2016
10 minute dance and music collaboration for solo dancer and French Horn that explores shared narratives and tensions that arise from living in outwardly incohesive communities. The score blends an adaptation of Arnold Schönberg's "Survivor from Warsaw" and Hugh Laurie's recording of "Battle of Jericho."
- I2*, University of Michigan Museum of Art Nov. 2016
A 10 minute work driven by a series of games in which a dance and music collaboration is generated.

Performance

- Teagan Faran Violin Performance Junior Recital*, U-M School of Music March 2017
10 minute solo with live music performance
- Spencer Schaefer French Horn Performance Junior Recital*, U-M School of Mus. March 2017
Encore performance of *S3*
- Glancing Backward, Dancing Forward*, Power Center for the Performing Arts February 2017
Quarry (1976), Meredith Monk

UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

Choreography

- Context Preconstructed*
An evening length senior project investigating the relationship between Judaism, dance and the female dancing body. 10 student dancers, original score by Vince DiMura.
Hagan Dance Studio May 2010
- Spring Dance Festival (Berlind Theater) 2007-2010
- Cirque du Chantal* 2009-2010
Short solo with 8 chairs performed at SDF, AC DFA, WMSDF, JOM Spring Projects
- Two contemporary ballet works (Princeton University Ballet) 2009, 2010
A quartet and a pas de deux
- A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (PU Players) 2007

Performance

- Spring Dance Festival (Program in Dance)
- The Fugue* Twyla Tharp (Jennifer Way Rawe) 2010
- Night Blooms* Rebecca Lazier 2010
- Chairs* Zvi Gotheiner 2009

<i>One</i>	Take Ueyama	2009
<i>Canonic ¾ Studies</i>	Mark Morris (Tina Fehlandt)	2008
<i>Name by Name</i>	Susan Marshall	2008
<i>12 Women Dancing</i>	Rebecca Lazier	2007
<i>Tir Na N'Og</i>	Christopher Williams	2007
<i>Move Towards</i> (senior solo)	Lindsey Dietz Marchant	2010
Commission alongside senior thesis choreography project		
<i>The Toy Box</i>	Rebecca Lazier	2010
Senior thesis projects	Various	2007-2009
<i>Rigoletto</i> (Monterone's daughter)	Opera New Jersey (Michael Scarola)	2007
<i>Boris Godunov</i>	Rebecca Lazier	2007

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)

Administrative

Grant Writer and Copy-Editor, Rebecca Lazier (NY)	2010-present
Copy-editing, grant and press release research and writing for NY based choreographer.	
Green Key Resources LLC (NY)	2014-present
Corporate phone reception, scheduling, certified bulk mailing processing, filing, food set-up and break down.	
Studio Manager, Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana (NY)	2013-2014
Phone reception, scheduling, data entry, payment processing, social media (Facebook, Twitter), registration.	

Teaching

Youth Groups, Congregation Ramath Orah, Darchei Noam (NY)	2012-1015
Tot and Youth program planning, singing, reading, Shabbat and holiday activities, collaborate with parents.	
Math Tutor: Prep for Prep, Brainfuse Inc. (NY)	2011-2014
Elementary through Trigonometry; one on one in person and remote.	