

Jessica Miller Tomlinson

Artist Statement:

I am fascinated by working with different energies and the many possibilities that emerge from collaboration. I enjoy utilizing my curiosity to explore movement development and watching the room's energy unfold as an observer. I use my background in various dance styles to create richly diverse work that pushes the boundaries of definition. I have a thought process that keeps me questioning and digging into nearly every topic that comes my way. I continue to seek out connections between seemingly different contexts. My attention and curiosity toward context don't diminish with my rigorous movement research. I'm constantly trying to discover and cultivate new movement vocabulary. One of my goals as a choreographer is to create an entirely new and different world paradigm, even for each of my pieces, while still managing to maintain - and continue to develop - my own personal, signature "style" of movement. My work is highly versatile, inquisitive, human, and collaborative. My work demands that my dancers utilize their stellar technique and bring an emotional connection to their performances. Because my work relates to the emotional side of the human experience, it becomes much more accessible to the audience. As a creator, I want to be further challenged to question my work and my creative decisions and to continue developing and refining my unique choreographic voice and style. My artistic and career goals are to keep exploring, take more risks, be present in each moment, and remain curious.

-Jessica Miller Tomlinson

Choreographer

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Dancer- Choreographer- Teacher-Rehearsal Director

EXPERIENCE

Thodos Dance Chicago- Dancer, Choreographer, Teacher, Assistant Rehearsal Director

2005-2017

Artistic Director- Melissa Thodos

South Chicago Dance Theatre-Rehearsal Director, Company Instructor

Rehearsal Director 2021-2025

Company Instructor 2021- Present

Director of Vision and Strategy- Kia S. Smith

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago-Company Instructor

2024-Present

Artistic Director- Linda Denise Fisher-Harrell

Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre- Company Instructor

2017-Present

Artistic Director- Wilfredo Rivera

The Rooted Space-Faculty

2020-Present- Contemporary Ballet Fusion

Directors- Chelsea Branch and Stefany Cotton

Pure Vibe Dance Studio-Faculty

2020-Present- Ballet, Contemporary Instructor

Directors: Julie Simon and Liz Werthman

Water Street Dance Milwaukee Festival- Faculty

2021-2025 -Contemporary Instructor

Artistic Director- Morgan Williams

The Joffrey Academy of Dance -Faculty

2017-2020-Contemporary Teacher for Studio Company/ Trainees

Academy Director- Raymond Rodriguez

AWARDS

2025- Water Street Dance

Milwaukee- Guest Choreographer

2021-2025- Water Street Dance

Milwaukee Festival Guest Artist/
Faculty

2022,2019,2015- Selected

Choreographer for Dance in the
Parks

2022- Guest Choreographer for
Moonwater Dance Project

2022, 2019, 2018, 2015-

Selected for the Harvest
Chicago Contemporary Dance
Festival

2021- Guest Choreographer

Eisenhower Dance Detroit
NewDANCEfest

2020- Selected to present work at
The Spring To Dance Festival in St
Louis

Lou Conte Dance Studio- Guest Faculty

2009-2020- Jazz and Modern Instructor
Director- Claire Bataille

2020- Guest Choreographer for
Alluvion Dance Chicago

Northern Illinois University- Adjunct Faculty

2017-2019- Jazz and Modern Technique Instructor
Director, School of Theatre and Dance- Alexander Gelman

2020- Guest Choreographer for
Hot Crowd Dance Company

Regional Dance America MidStates- Faculty

2020 - Modern Technique Instructor
Coordinator- Cynthia Crews

Alma Dance School-Faculty

2020-2024- Modern and Contemporary Teacher
Directors- Vilma Machin and Guillermo Leyva

2019- Selected to present work at
the Dance Gallery Festival, Texas

Hubbard Street Youth Dance Program- Faculty

2016-2020- Ballet, Pointe, and Contemporary
Director- Jennifer Gunter and Kathryn Humphreys

2019- Guest Choreographer,
Washington and Lee
University

Pursuit Productions -Thirty Thousand One-Dancer/Performer

2012
Directors- Ahmad Simmons and Kacie Smith

NanDanse -Dancer

2007
Artistic Director-Lauri Stallings

2018- Selected to present work at
the MidWest RADFest

EDUCATION

The Dance Place-Official School of NC Dance Theatre

1995-1999
Directors- Patricia McBride and Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux

2018- Selected to present work at
Eisenhower Dance Detroit
NewDANCEFest

UNC School of the Arts- BFA Contemporary Dance

1999-2003
Dean of Dance- Susan McKee McCullough

Lou Conte Dance Studio- Scholarship Student

2003-2005
Director- Julie Nakagawa Bottcher

2018- Guest Choreographer SHIFT
DANCE | FESTIVAL in
Albuquerque, NM

COMMISSIONED AND PRODUCED WORK

2025- "New Commission"- Water Street Dance Milwaukee

2018- Winner, College of
DuPage Choreography
Competition

2025- "Searching"- Small Group- Pure Vibe Dance

2025- "Forward Trajectory" - Duet -Pure Vibe Dance

2017-Selected to present work for "Dance For Life"

2025- "Taboo"- Solo- Pure Vibe Dance

2024- "Montage"-Moonwater Dance Project(restaging)

2017-Finalist METdance Emerging Choreographer Competition

2023- "Fleeting Moments"- Universal Ballet Competition

2023- "Intention"-YAGP / Universal Ballet Competition

2017, 2014- Selected Choreographer for Visceral Dance Chicago SOLUS Project

2023- "Front Porch History" (work in progress)-Common Ground

2016, 2017, 2018-Finalist Avant Chamber Ballet Women's Choreography Project

2023- "Compassion"- Universal Ballet Competition

2023- "Trapped"-Universal Ballet Competition

2022- "Ne"- Alluvion Dance Chicago Emergence

2016- Guest Choreographer, Columbia College of Chicago

2022- "Recurring Mosaic"- Dance in the Parks

2022- "Tierspuren"- Hot Crowd, Harvest Contemporary Dance Festival

2015- Guest Choreographer, Eisenhower Dance Detroit Great Lakes Dance Festival

2022- "Restrained Escape"- Contemporary Solo WBC

2022- "On the Edge"- Contemporary Solo WBC

2014- Guest Choreographer, Chicago Repertory Ballet Company

2022- "Montage"- Moonwater Dance Project

2021- "New Commission"- Nebraska Contemporary Dance Theatre

2021- "Fleeting Impressions"- Eisenhower Dance Detroit

2013-Winner DanceWorks Chicago's Inaugural NewMoves Choreography Competition

2021- "Nocturne" -Contemporary Solo- World Ballet Competition

2021- "Lullaby" -Contemporary Solo - World Ballet Competition

2021- “flames licked my head” “from me” – Common Conservatory

2020- “Speak to me only with your eyes”- Take Up Space Dance Festival

2020- “the world offers itself to your imagination”- UnEarth Arts Festival

2020- “Snakes” “One” “Bells”- Spring To Dance Festival, St Louis

2020- “Ne”- Alluvion Dance Chicago

2020- “Tierspuren”- Hot Crowd Dance Company

2020- “ we walk the miles ”- Hubbard Street Youth Ensemble

2019- “Recurrent Shudder”- Aerial Dance Chicago

2019- “Berseluk-Beluk” (excerpt)- The Dance Gallery Festival Texas

2019- “Flippant Chenilles”- Dancing To Dream Fundraiser

2019- “Snakes”, “One”, “Bells”-Harvest Dance Festival

2019- “Bells”- Dance in the Parks Chicago

2019- “Fleeting Embrace”- Hubbard Street Youth Ensemble

2019- “Homesick Blues”- Washington and Lee University

2018 -” Respiro”- Northern Illinois University Fall Dance

2018 - “Speak to me only with your eyes”- Harvest Dance Festival

2018 - “Berseluk-Beluk” (Excerpt)- NewDANCEfest, Michigan

2018- “Berseluk- Beluk” (Excerpt)- Midwest RAD Fest, Michigan

2018- “Atuona” - SHIFT DANCE | FESTIVAL Albuquerque, NM

2018- “Quandary”- Hubbard Street Dance Chicago Youth Ensemble

2017- “Berseluk- Beluk”- Thodos Dance Chicago, New Dances

2017- “In Tongues”- Dance For Life Chicago AIDS Benefit

2017- “Rebellious Reflection”- Visceral Dance Chicago Solus Project

2013- Work presented at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland

2012- Choreography presented at The Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival

2012- Winner of Idaho Dance Theatre’s Inaugural New Visions Choreography Competition

2010- Self-produced my first full evening-length show, JMT/JLS Choreography

2009- Grand Prize Winner of the Joyce Theater Foundation’s A.W.A.R.D. Show Grant

2007- Guest Choreographer Andy Warhol “Silver Clouds Exhibit” at the MCA Chicago

2016- "R.O.C.B."- Thodos Dance Chicago, New Dances

2016- "Homesick Blues"- Columbia College of Chicago

2015- "Nocturne"- Harvest Contemporary Dance Festival

2015- "Something to do with Five"- Thodos Dance Chicago

2008- Choreographer for Dance For Life "Our Voices Dance"

2015- "Nihavent Sirtó"- Nebraska Contemporary Dance Theatre

2015- "Possessing and Caressing Me"- Dance in the Parks Chicago

2014- "Bach Suite"- Forum Dance Theatre/ RDA MidStates Festival

2007- Guest Alumni
Choreographer UNCSA

2014- "Architecture: Splintered and Cracked"- Chicago Rep Ballet

2014- "Atuona"- Visceral Dance Chicago Solus Project

2014- "night cold ground"- Nomi Dance Company

2000- Guest Choreographer for
the Chautauqua Ballet Company

2013- "Entwined Winds"- Thodos Dance Chicago, New Dances

2013- "Freight Train Running..."- DanceWorks Chicago

2013- "Forget What You Came For?"- Edinburgh Fringe Festival

2012- "Architecture: Splintered and Cracked"- Jacob's Pillow Festival

2012- "Architecture: Splintered and Cracked"- Idaho Dance Theatre

2012- "93 83"- Thodos Dance Chicago, New Dances

2012- "Transient Intersections"- JMT/JLS Triptych: 3 Dance Voices

2011- "coalesce"- The Inconvenience Performance Group

2011- "run 1 run 2", "Synopsis: Abrasion"- JMT/JLS Dance Gallery

2011- "In Tongues"- Thodos Dance Chicago, New Dances

2010- "Big Technique"- Thodos Dance Chicago, New Dances

2010- "Forget What You Came For?"- Joyce SoHo, A.W.A.R.D. Show

2010- “Let Me In”- JMT/JLS Choreography

2009- “Architecture: Splintered and Cracked”- Thodos Dance

2008- Crimes D’Amour”- Thodos Dance Chicago

2008- “ Die Lieder Tanzen”- NC School of the Arts

2008- Dance For Life “Our Voices Dance”

2007- “ Die Lieder Tanzen”- Thodos Dance Chicago

2007- Andy Warhol “Silver Clouds Exhibit”- MCA Chicago

2006- “Forget What You Came For?”- Thodos Dance Chicago

2005- “Somebody, Not Just Anybody”- Thodos Dance Chicago

2000- “Synopsis: Abrasion Part 1”- Chautauqua Ballet Company

