

## CRAIG BERMAN

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### PROFILE

Craig Berman was a featured performer and movement innovator for **Cirque du Soleil** and **MOMIX**. He contributed choreography to both organizations and they continue to perform his work on stages across the world. Craig's knowledge and vision of movement is further informed by his education: a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Columbia University and a Master of Arts in Modern Dance from the University of Utah. Additionally, he co-authored a book and taught at university. Craig currently works as a physical therapist and continues to freelance as a choreographer and prop designer. When he is not working in the hospital or theater, Craig can be found honing his skills as an elite rock climber.

### PRINCIPAL CHOREOGRAPHER

2010 - 2017 *Hand-to-Hand*

- **Welcome to Wonderland**, Teatro ZinZanni, 2016-2017
- **TOTEM** by Cirque du Soleil, act in rotation, 2010-2016
- **Why Trust Is Worth It**, BuzzFeed Premier February 28, 2014
- **The TODAY Show**, Televised March 22, 2013

2017 *Big Blocks*

2015 *Dream vs. Reality*, **One Night for One Drop**

2014 *Escalade*

2014 *Aerial Crane* and *Racked* (version 2), **One Night for One Drop**

2010 *Racked*

2008 *Armiarma*

### COLLABORATIVE CHOREOGRAPHER

2005 **Tarzan**, Disney's Broadway Production

- Assistant to choreographer Meryl Tankard: Aerial Lab at SUNY Purchase

1998-2004 **MOMIX**, Director and Choreographer Moses Pendleton

- Choreographic contributor to 6 productions

### ACROBATIC PROP DESIGN

2017 *Big Blocks*

2015 *Acro-Easel*, Commissioned by Dandy Punk

- 2017 **Sundance Film Festival**, Heartcorps: Riders of the Storyboard
- 2015 Artist residency at **Walt Disney Imagineering**: Bridge Project

2014 *Aerial Crane*, **One Night for One Drop**

2013 *Escalade*

- Cirque Du Soleil purchased the rights to *Escalade*. Premiered in **TOTEM**, 2015

2013 *Pogo-Horse*

2010 *Racked*, **One Night for One Drop**, 2014

2006 *Infinity Wheel*

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, 2006 Bourse Talon Hauts: Cirque du Soleil Internal Design Competition

## PERFORMANCE

- 2005 - 2010     **The BEATLES “LOVE” by Cirque du Soleil**  
Director: Dominic Champagne  
Music: The BEATLES “LOVE”, Winner of 3 Grammy Awards
  - Original Cast: Performed the characters of “Her Majesty” and “Sergeant Pepper”
  - Television performances include the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Grammy Awards, CBS
- 1998 - 2004     **MOMIX**  
Director and Choreographer: Moses Pendleton
  - Soloist, Principle Dancer, Puppeteer
- 1998 - 2003     **Pilobolus**  
Directors: Jonathan Wolken and Michael Tracy
  - Guest Performer

## PHYSICAL THERAPY

- 2004 - present    Licensed Physical Therapist  
2012 - present    **United Healthcare**, Spring Valley Hospital, NV

## EDUCATION

- 2005                **Columbia University**, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Program in Physical Therapy  
2004                Doctor of Physical Therapy (t-DPT)  
2004                Master of Science in Physical Therapy
- 1997                **University of Utah**, College of Fine Arts, Department of Modern Dance  
1997                Master of Arts in Modern Dance with an emphasis in Kinesiology  
1995                Bachelor of Arts in Biology

## TEACHING

- 2013 - present    **United Healthcare**, Spring Valley Hospital, Las Vegas, NV  
Clinical Instructor of Physical Therapy
- 2010                **University of Utah**, College of Fine Arts, Department of Modern Dance  
Guest Faculty  
1997 - 1998       Associate Instructor

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2007 - 2008       Advisory Board Member for *Dance Spirit (Magazine)*
- Berman, C. and Brown, S. (2011). *Contemporary Stretching: Principles and Best Practice Guidelines for Therapy, Athletics, and Yoga*. Copyright 2011, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2014.

## DESCRIPTION OF WORK

- 2010 - 2017 *Hand-to-Hand* aka *Symbiosis* (Choreography)  
This duet is a fusion of improbable balance, unparalleled strength, and fierce performance quality. Two performers challenge gravity and gender roles as they create a symbiotic relationship.
- **Welcome to Wonderland**, Teatro ZinZanni, 2016-2017
  - **TOTEM** by Cirque du Soleil, act in rotation, 2010-2016
  - **Why Trust Is Worth It**, BuzzFeed, February 28, 2014 (Surpassed 3 million views)
  - **The TODAY Show**, Televised March 22, 2013
- 2017 *Big Blocks* (Choreography and Prop Design)  
Enlarged building blocks turn a recreational game of stacking wood into a strategic, high energy, and suspenseful hand-balancing act. As the tower becomes taller, so do the risks.
- 2015 *Acro-Easel* (Prop Design)  
An artist's easel serves as a projection screen and playground for acrobatics.
- Commissioned by **Dandy Punk**
  - 2017 **Sundance Film Festival**, Heartcorps: Riders of the Storyboard
  - 2015 Artist residency at **Walt Disney Imagineering**, Bridge Project
- 2015 *Dream vs. Reality* (Choreography)  
In this high-octane hand-balancing solo, a man must make a pivotal decision to pursue his dreams or retreat to his current reality.
- **One Night for One Drop**
- 2014 *Aerial Crane* (Choreography and Prop Design)  
Construction workers perform aerial acrobatics while suspended by chain and industrial crane hooks. Just another day on the job becomes a high-flying whirlwind as workers daydream. The male female duet is the featured aerial act of a larger city scene.
- **One Night for One Drop**, Aerial duet in *The City*
- 2013 *Escalade* (Choreography and Prop Design)  
A man strives to ascend and advance his position. The solo performer calls upon innovative sculpture manipulation, acrobatic movement, parkour, and traditional Chinese pole in order to triumph. This lightweight, sturdy, and portable structure can travel across the stage without rigging.
- **TOTEM** by Cirque du Soleil
    - CDS purchased the rights to *Escalade*. This version premiered in 2015.
  - *Escalade* (original version- Prop Design 2013, Choreography 2014)
- 2013 *Pogo-Horse* (Prop Design)  
A theater prop made of a 2 dimensional horse mounted on a pogo stick.
- 2010 *Racked* (Choreography and Prop Design)  
A cyclist vaults, dives, and rides a bike rack as he discovers that his beloved bike has been stolen. The undulate design of the mounted metal sculpture provides a unique platform to meld the movement disciplines of acrobatics, parkour, and dance.
- **One Night for One Drop**, (*Racked*, version 2) *The City*, 2014
- 2008 *Armiarma* (Choreography)  
A contortionist moves as an insect: performing feeding, grooming, and mating rituals. This new twist on an old theme was created in collaboration with performer Elizabeth Gaumond.
- Winner of 2009 *European Circus Association Award*
  - Winner of 2009 *Base Berlin Creative Award*

2006

*Infinity Wheel* (Prop Design)

Human sized rolling sculpture used for acrobatic dance routines. Its shape resembles the stitch pattern of a baseball. Although similar in concept to a German Wheel, the spherical design of the Infinity Wheel yields unique movement vocabulary.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, 2006 Bourse Talon Hauts:
  - **Cirque du Soleil** Internal Design Competition