

Maurya Kerr
curriculum vitae

MOVEMENT

artistic director and choreographer

tinypistol (2011—present)

honors & awards

Creator with the Center for Ballet and the Arts at NYU Toulmin Program and National Sawdust (2021)

ODC Theater Resident Artist (2015– 2018)

Zellerbach Family Foundation grant (2014, 2018, 2020)

CASH grant (2014, 2017, 2019)

Winner of Whim W’Him’s Choreographic Shindig (2015)

University of Minnesota Cowles Land Grant Chair Visiting Artist (2014)

Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation grant (2014)

Rainin Opportunity Fund Award (2014)

CHIME artist/Choreographers in Mentorship Exchange (2012)

Winner of Hubbard Street 2 National Choreographic Competition (2011)

choreographic/performance works (selected)

BLACKSTAR (2020) — a film, presented through CounterPulse

my beloved comet (2019) — FACT/SF Summer Dance Festival

kosmos (2018) — ODC Theater

Antastatica (2018) — Aggregate Space Gallery

PoemAnthemSong (2017) — ODC’s Walking Distance Festival

song : three (2017) — Black Choreographer’s Festival

anthem : two (2017) — D.I.R.T. Festival

poem : one (2015) — Hope Mohr’s Bridge Project: Local Artists at the Intersection of Language and Choreographic Thinking

beast (2014, 2015) — ODC Theater, Black Choreographer's Festival, International Arts Festival

Wantful (2014, 2016) — ODC Theater, Dance FAR

FreakShow (2012) — West Wave Dance Festival, Dance FAR

choreographic commissions (selected)

into the wide welcome (2015) — Whim W'Him

In Defense of Regret (2015) — AXIS Dance Company, in collaboration with Alex Ketley and Bobbi Jean Smith

sad monsters (2012) — Hubbard Street 2, in residency with University of North Carolina School of the Arts

Groundling (2011) — Ballet Nouveau Colorado, in collaboration with artist Sarah Wallace Scott

Quarry Hymn (2011) — Ballet Nouveau Colorado

performance experience (selected)

Alonzo King LINES Ballet (1994–2006) — Alonzo King, director
Principal dancer

BodyCartography Project (2018) — Olive Bieringa and Otto Ramstad, directors
felt room at SFMOMA (San Francisco) and Weisman Art Museum (Minneapolis)

Friction/Function (2018) — solo performance/presence at Aggregate Space Gallery in response to multi-disciplinary artist Richard–Jonathon Nelson's exhibit *Antastatica*

Foundry (1999–2017) — Alex Ketley, director
Deep South, Monument, Within Once, Sea-Green and Blue Already Rising

other

Zellerbach Family Foundation Community Arts Panelist (2021–2024)

the tiny little get down (2017–2020) — co-founder of a quarterly dance party for all bodies designed to defiantly, subversively, and cathartically fortify otherness through embodied joy and the power of the collective

Headlands Artist-in residence juror (2019)

Dance Discourse Project 22 speaker: animal, human, posthuman (2016) — CounterPulse

CASH grant panelist (2015)

BLACKSTAR

awards 2021

London International Web & Shorts Film Festival (UK)
best dance film

Roma Short Film Festival (Rome)
best dance film

New Wave Short Film Festival (Munich)
finalist

WRITING

poetry

Chestnut Review: "The "C" of Tommy's Abecedary, Had He Lived, Not Shot Dead at Fourteen" (Winter 2021)

Winner of the Stubborn Writer's Contest

Oyster River Pages: "Saint Matthew's Hospital, December, 2018" (Fall 2020)

Inverted Syntax: "for" (Fall 2020)
Nominated for a Pushcart Prize

River Heron Review: "Venge" (Fall 2020)

InDance: "We" (Fall 2020)

Blue River Review: "Three Summers" excerpt (Summer 2020)

Head in the Hole Review: "We" & "Saint Matthew's Hospital, December, 2018" (Summer 2020)

Finalist for the Key West Literary Seminar Emerging Writer/Scotti Merrill Memorial Award (2020)

anthologized

The Future of Black: A Black Comics and Afrofuturism Anthology (forthcoming 2022): "Sonnet I, for Nubia"

critical writing

thINKingDance: "Decolonizing Dance Writing: Body Stories and the Bedrock of Dreams" (Summer 2020)

San Francisco Dance Film Festival blog: "Viewpoint on *Deluxe*" (Summer 2020)

LINES Ballet blog: "Valuing Diversity in Art" (Winter 2017)

In Dance: “SPEAK: PoemAnthemSong” (Summer 2017)

TEACHING

movement

Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program and Summer Program (2003–present)

Alonzo King LINES Ballet/Dominican BFA Program (2007–present) — adjunct faculty

92Y (2020–present) — guest artist for choreographic and improvisational workshops

Hollins University (2010–2017) — visiting guest artist for MFA and undergraduate programs

writing

Thesis advisor for Hollins University MFA candidates (2020–present)

The Writers Studio, San Francisco (2010–2011) — teacher for fiction and poetry workshops

somatics

GYROTONIC trainer (2004–present)

Certified on all specialized equipment, Level 2 Programs, and multiple therapeutic application courses, including: Psoas Principles, Explorations into the Extremes, Hip Replacement Applications, Applications for Dancers, Therapeutic Applications for the Pelvic Girdle

GYROKINESIS apprentice (2020–present)

EDUCATION

MFA in Dance, Hollins University (2016)

BA in Performing Arts, with honors, St. Mary’s College of California (2012)