

Julie A. Opiel

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Education

- 2019 MFA Performance and Choreography, Legacy Fellow, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
- 2011 BFA Dance, Ballet Emphasis, with Honors, Webster University, St. Louis, MO

Professional Experience

- 2019-Present Dancer, Company Manager, Ballet Ashani
- 2019 Grader, University of Southern California Glorja Kaufman School of Dance
- 2017-2019 Teaching Assistant, Florida State University
Instructor of Record for 7 classes, TA for 2
- 2018-2019 Graduate Assistant, Florida State University
Assistant to Professor Anjali Austin in organizing CORPS de Ballet International Conference
- 2016-2019 Graduate Assistant, Florida State University
Assistant to School of Dance Production Manager
- 2017-2019 Faculty, The Tallahassee Ballet School
Instructor of Ballet, Pointe, and Contemporary
- 2012-2016 Community Engagement Teaching Artist, Ballet Memphis, Memphis, TN
Ballet Instructor through Ballet Memphis Cares Initiative at Our Lady of Sorrows, a Jubilee Catholic School; Creative Movement Instructor to underserved populations in community center after-school care groups and summer camps throughout the Memphis area
- 2012-2015 Dancer, Ballet Memphis
Dancer appearing in contemporary and classical roles
- 2013, 2014 Dancer, Ashani Dances, Seattle, WA
Dancer appearing in featured roles, Rehearsal Director in 2014
- 2012-2013 Faculty, Ballet Memphis School
Ballet and Contemporary Instructor
- 2010-2011 Faculty, Patzius Performing Arts, St. Louis, MO
Contemporary Instructor for classically trained ballet dancers, many who compete in YAGP

Fellowships, Honors, & Awards

- 2016-2019 Legacy Fellowship, Florida State University
This award is given to a handful of MFA and PhD students university wide, and it includes a tuition waiver, a 20 hour per week departmental assistantship, and a yearly stipend.
- 2011 Departmental Honors, Webster University

2008-2011 Daniel Webster Presidential Scholarship, Webster University
This competitive award is given to incoming freshmen who graduated in the top 20th percentile of their class and includes a full tuition scholarship.

Current Membership in Professional Organizations

2019 CORPS de Ballet International

2018-2019 Dance/USA

Teaching – Florida State University

2018-2019 Intermediate Ballet for Non-Majors (DAA2203), Spring 2019, Fall 2018
Instructor of Record

2019 Studies in Dance Technology (DAN5590), Spring 2019
Teaching Assistant; Required course for MFA graduate students covering Adobe Photoshop, Final Cut Pro, Isadora and website building platforms (Squarespace and Wix)

2017-2018 Beginning Ballet for Non-Majors (DAA1200), Fall 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017
Instructor of Record

2018 Ballet I (DAA3208), Spring 2018
Instructor of Record; Required BFA dance major course;
I was selected among the graduate students to teach in the Ballet Technique rotation among full-time faculty.

2018 Ballet II (DAA3209), Spring 2018
Instructor of Record; Required BFA dance major course
I was selected among the graduate students to teach in the Ballet Technique rotation among full-time faculty.

2017 Methods and Materials in Dance Education (DAE3384), Spring 2017
Teaching Assistant; Undergraduate upper level Teaching Methods course

Workshops, Intensives, Master Classes, & Company Class

2019 Mad River Valley Performance Platform (Warren, VT)
Introduction to Ballet
I taught an introduction to ballet master class for students with little to no prior ballet experience.

2019, 2018 Florida State University (Tallahassee, FL)
Ballet Technique
I taught a Ballet Technique warm-up class to Florida State students dancing in the *Days of Dance* concert in April of 2018 and 2019.

2018 New Tampa Dance Theatre (NTDT) Summer Intensive (Tampa, FL)
Ballet Technique, Contemporary Technique, Conditioning, Pointe, Variations
I taught 3-4 classes a day during 2 weeks of NTDT's 3-week Summer Intensive.

2018, 2016 Imagine Dance Project (IDP) Summer Intensive (Cottleville, MO)
Ballet Technique, Contemporary Technique
I taught Ballet and Contemporary for IDP's week-long summer intensive in 2016 and 2018.

During both Intensives, I choreographed on IDP's youth company dancers for their competition season, including one small group dance in 2016, and a large group dance and a solo in 2018.

- 2018, 2017 The Tallahassee Ballet School Summer Workshop (Tallahassee, FL)
Ballet Technique, Contemporary Technique
I taught Ballet and Contemporary Techniques (alternating) each day during The Tallahassee Ballet School's week-long Summer Workshop in 2017 and in 2018.
- 2018 Suzanne Farrell Workshop for Young Dancers (Tallahassee, FL)
Contemporary Technique Master Class
I taught a Contemporary Technique Master Class to 30+ dancers during the Suzanne Farrell Workshop for Young Dancers at Florida State University in February of 2018.
- 2017 Florida State University Summer Intensive
Camp Counselor
I was the overnight camp counselor for FSU's 3-week summer intensive, with 30 high school students under my supervision.
- 2017 Florida State University Summer Intensive (Tallahassee, FL)
Repertory Master Class
I led 20+ high school aged students in learning Florida State University repertory from *Days of Dance Concert*.
- 2015 Project Motion (Memphis, TN)
Contemporary Technique
I taught a 4-day contemporary technique workshop for intermediate and advanced adult students for Project Motion, a modern dance company in Memphis, TN.
- 2015 New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (New Orleans, LA) s
Contemporary Technique Master Class
I taught 40+ high school dance students a master class based in the Horton Technique.
- 2014 Ashani Dances (Seattle, WA)
Company Class
I taught the company's ballet technique warm-up class 2- 3 times per week during the 2014 summer season.

Rehearsal Directing & Dramaturgy

- 2017-2018 Dramaturg
Dramaturg for Sarah Rose's MFA Thesis Research titled *90 minutes*, performed at the Urban Garden Room (New York City, NY).
- 2016-2017 Rehearsal Assistant
Assistant to Suzanne Farrell and Ilana Goldman in rehearsing the second movement of George Balanchine's *Stars and Stripes* for *An Evening of Dance* at Florida State University (Tallahassee, FL).
- 2016-2017 Dramaturg, Concert Assistant
Dramaturg and concert assistant for Amanda Sieradzki's site specific MFA Thesis Concert, *fangirl + the liner notes* performed at The Warehouse (Tallahassee, FL) for Florida State University.
- 2014 Rehearsal Director
Assistant to Iyun Harrison, founder and director of Ashani Dances, in rehearsing *Hush* and *The Leaves Have Fallen* for the company's third season (Seattle, WA).

Service

- 2016-2019 Member, Fellows Society, Florida State University
- 2017-2018 President, Graduate Dance Council, Florida State University
Fundraised and made decisions on granting funds to graduate students for professional development activities, acted as communication liaison between faculty and graduate students.
- 2017 Search Committee Graduate Representative, Florida State University
Served as student representative on School of Dance Search Committee for new professor in Studio Practice courses.
- 2017-2018 Membership Relations Chair, Community Arts Initiative, Florida State University
- 2016-2017 Member, Community Arts Initiative, Florida State University

Panels

- 2017 Post-Performance Question and Answer Panel, *An Evening of Music and Dance*, The Tallahassee Ballet
I was asked to speak with the audience about my work, *Toccatà and Nocturne*, and on my experience collaborating with composer, Daniel Smith, for the work.
- 2016 Pre-Show Discussion, *An Evening of Dance*, Florida State University
I was invited to speak on a pre-show discussion panel about my experience as Rehearsal Assistant to Suzanne Farrell and Ilana Goldman in rehearsing George Balanchine's *Stars and Stripes* with the School of Dance.
- 2013, 2014 Post-Show Question and Answer Panel, Ashani Dances (Seattle, WA)
I spoke about my experience rehearsing and performing in the company.

Publications

- 2018 Opiel, Julie. "Toccatà and Nocturne." *SIX Magazine*, April 24, 2018.
SIX Magazine is the yearly publication of the Florida State University College Leadership Council for the College of Fine Arts, and it features works across the six fine arts departments.
I discuss my collaboration with Daniel Smith and my choreographic process for *Toccatà and Nocturne*, my piece for the Tallahassee Ballet.

Choreography

- 2019 *ascetic/aesthetic*, The Mad River Valley Performance Platform, Phantom Theater: Warren, VT.
ascetic/aesthetic is a solo about disciplining the body. I use costume as prop (long strips of wood attached to the waistband) that both restrict and exaggerate movement when I shift the angles of my body. By going in and out of ballet vocabulary, the solo displays what is often hidden when the body has been disciplined to seek perfection.
Music: Clarice Jensen
- 2019 *Fourth Girl on the Left*, MFA Thesis Concert, Florida State University, Nancy Smith Fichter Dance Theatre: Tallahassee, FL.

Fourth Girl on the Left is the culminating performance of my thesis research in partial fulfillment of my MFA degree. This work is an auto-ethnographic exploration of my experience of my own body as a result of my ballet training, and involves the use of set pieces designed in collaboration with Justin Bailey (Assistant Professor, Indiana University).
Music: Frédéric Chopin, Nico Muhly, Ólafur Arnalds, Alice Sara Ott

- 2018 *Audition, Rejexx Show, 621 Gallery: Tallahassee, FL.*
Audition is a solo I choreographed exploring humor and rejection in ballet company auditions.
Music: The Pretenders
- 2018 *You Don't Own Me, Imagine Dance Project: Saint Louis, MO.*
Music: Leslie Gore
- 2018 *Etude No.2, Imagine Dance Project; Saint Louis, MO.*
Music: Philip Glass
- 2017 *Toccatà and Nocturne, An Evening of Music & Dance, The Tallahassee Ballet, Opperman Music Hall: Tallahassee, FL.*
Music: Daniel Smith (world premiere)
- 2017 *Diving Into the Wreck, Days of Dance Concert, Florida State University, Nancy Smith Fichter Dance Theatre: Tallahassee, FL.*
Music: Billie Holliday, Erik Satie, Nico
- 2017 *hints of gladness, Dance Film created for Dance and Technology Course, Florida State University: Tallahassee, FL.*
Music: Julie Opiel
- 2016 *A Presence of Departed Acts, 168 Hour Project, Racine + Southern Dance Exchange (A contemporary dance company, now named Wise Blood Dance), The Halloran Center: Memphis, TN.*
Music: Keith Kenniff
- 2015 *Goodbye, Starting With Hello, Interiorworks, Ballet Memphis, Ballet Memphis Studios: Memphis, TN.*
Music: Helen Jane Long
- 2015 *Begin, Spring Concert, Ballet Memphis Junior Company, Ballet Memphis Studios: Memphis, TN.*
Music: Yann Tiersen
- 2013 *Two Moments, Interiorworks, Ballet Memphis, Ballet Memphis Studios: Memphis, TN.*
Music: Icarus, Ólafur Arnalds
- 2013 *The Waterfall, Spring Concert, Ballet Memphis Junior Company, Ballet Memphis Studios: Memphis, TN.*
Music: Max Richter, Philip Glass
- 2012 *Choosing Ourselves, Each Other, and This Life, Interiorworks, Ballet Memphis, Ballet Memphis Studios: Memphis, TN.*
Music: Bon Iver
- 2011 *Bound: Separation, Witness (BFA Thesis Capstone), Webster University, Stage Three: Saint Louis, MO.*

Music: Dustin O'Halloran, The Lyric Quartet

- 2011 *Un jour, vous avais enfin su*. Witness (BFA Thesis Capstone), Webster University, Stage Three: Saint Louis, MO.
Music: Yann Tiersen, Icarus; Live spoken text from Mary Oliver's "The Journey"

Performance

- 2019 Soloist/Choreographer, *ascetic/aesthetic*. Phantom Theater: Warren, VT.
- 2019 Performer/Choreographer, *live(s)*. Directed by Sarah Rose. Phantom Theater: Warren, VT.
- 2019 Ensemble, *Minevent*. Choreographed by Merce Cunningham, Staged by Silas Riener. Nancy Smith Fichter Dance Theatre: Florida State University
Minevent was an uninterrupted sequence of excerpts drawn from works by Cunningham, set on us by Silas Riener as part of the Cunningham Centennial.
- 2019 Soloist/Choreographer, *Fourth Girl on the Left*. Nancy Smith Fichter Dance Theatre: Florida State University, School of Dance.
- 2018 Performer/Choreographer, *90 minutes*. Directed by Sarah Rose.
Urban Garden Room: New York City, NY.
90 minutes is a durational improvisational work, conceived by Sarah Rose, exploring movement habit inside of an ensemble. It is an extension of *12 minutes*, a version I also performed and acted as dramaturg.
- 2018 Performer/Choreographer, *12 minutes*. Directed by Sarah Rose. 621 Gallery: Tallahassee, FL.
12 minutes is a durational improvisational work exploring movement habit inside of an ensemble. This performance explored the boundaries of the proscenium inside a gallery space.
- 2018 Soloist/Choreographer, *Audition*. 621 Gallery: Tallahassee, FL.
- 2017 Ensemble, *Katallasso*. Choreographed by Anjali Austin.
Nancy Smith Fichter Dance Theatre: Florida State University; School of Dance.
- 2017 Ensemble, *All at Once*. Choreographed by Ilana Goldman.
Nancy Smith Fichter Dance Theatre: Florida State University; School of Dance.
- 2017 Ensemble, *Lachesis*. Choreographed by Anna Patsfall.
Nancy Smith Fichter Dance Theatre: Florida State University; School of Dance.
- 2015 Corps de Ballet, *Swan Lake*, Original Choreography by Marius Petipa, Staged by Karen Brown and Tamara Hoffman, Artistic Direction by Dorothy Gunther Pugh. The Orpheum Theatre: Memphis, TN; Ballet Memphis.
- 2014 Guest Artist (Sugar Plum Fairy), *The Nutcracker*. Choreography by Dmitri Roudnev. The Buckman Performing Arts Center: Memphis, TN; Roudnev Youth Ballet.
Dmitri Roudnev invited me to perform as a guest artist for his youth ballet company.

- 2014 Ensemble, *Hush*. Choreography by Iyun Harrison, Artistic Direction by Iyun Harrison. Broadway Performance Hall: Seattle, WA; Ashani Dances. Ashani Dances is a project based company, formerly located in Seattle, WA (now in Baltimore, MD). I rehearsed and performed with Ashani Dances during my summer lay-offs from Ballet Memphis.
- 2014 Corps de Ballet, *The Wizard of Oz*. Choreography by Steven McMahon, Artistic Direction by Dorothy Gunther Pugh. Regional Tour; Ballet Memphis. Tour venues included The Touhill Performing Arts Center in Saint Louis and Yardley Hall in Kansas City, KS.
- 2012, 2013 Demi-Soloist (Maid, Mirliton, Flowers), and Corps de Ballet, *The Nutcracker*. Choreography by Karl Condon, Janet Parke, and Joseph Jeffries, Artistic Direction by Dorothy Gunther Pugh. Orpheum Theatre: Memphis, TN; Ballet Memphis.
- 2012, 2013 Ensemble, *Flock Together*. Choreography by Steven McMahon, Artistic Direction by Dorothy Gunther Pugh. Community Outreach Performance Series, Memphis, TN; Ballet Memphis.
I performed this work as a part of the company's outreach performance series, which were free performances in several venues throughout the greater Memphis area, including the Kroc Center.
- 2013 Principal, *After Snow*. Choreography by Iyun Harrison, Artistic Direction by Iyun Harrison. Erickson Theatre: Seattle, WA; Ashani Dances.
- 2013 Corps de Ballet, *Wizard of Oz*. Choreography by Steven McMahon, Artistic Direction by Dorothy Gunther Pugh. Orpheum Theatre: Memphis, TN; Ballet Memphis.
- 2013 Ensemble, *On The Town*. Choreography by Rafael Ferreras, Artistic Direction by Dorothy Gunther Pugh. Cannon Center for the Performing Arts: Memphis, TN; Ballet Memphis.
- 2013 Ensemble, *Running Ahead of Fate*, Choreography by Dylan G Bowley, Artistic Direction by Dorothy Gunther Pugh. Community Outreach Performance Series, Memphis, TN; Ballet Memphis.
I performed this work as part of the company's outreach performance series, which included a flash mob at the Cooper Young Festival, in Memphis, TN.
- 2013 Ensemble, *Commercial*, Choreography by Bryn Gilbert, Artistic Direction by Dorothy Gunther Pugh. Orpheum Theatre: Memphis, TN; Ballet Memphis.
- 2012 Ensemble, *Three, Then Four*, Choreography by Janet Parke. Ballet Memphis Studios: Memphis, TN; Ballet Memphis.
- 2012 Corps de Ballet, *Cinderella*. Choreography by Steven McMahon, Artistic Direction by Dorothy Gunther Pugh. Orpheum Theatre: Memphis, TN; Ballet Memphis.
- 2012 Ensemble, *Heirlooms*. Choreography by Julie Niekrasz, Artistic Direction by Dorothy Gunther Pugh. Community Outreach Performance Series, Memphis, TN; Ballet Memphis.

- 2012 Ensemble, *Pork Songs*. Choreography by Trey McIntyre, Staged by Karl Condon, Artistic Direction by Dorothy Gunther Pugh. Community Outreach Performance Series, Memphis, TN; Ballet Memphis.
- 2011 Principal, *Dark Elegies*. Choreography by Antony Tudor, Staged by Kirk Peterson and Sally Bliss. Loretto-Hilton Center for the Performing Arts: Webster University; Saint Louis, MO.
- 2011 Principal, *Two Movements for Webster*. Choreography by Michael Uthoff. Loretto-Hilton Center for the Performing Arts: Webster University; Saint Louis, MO.
- 2010 Ensemble, *Escapades*. Choreography by Alvin Ailey, Staged by Iyun Harrison. Loretto-Hilton Center for the Performing Arts: Webster University; Saint Louis, MO.
- 2010 Ensemble, *Octet: Lodus*. Choreography by Iyun Harrison. Loretto-Hilton Center for the Performing Arts: Webster University; Saint Louis, MO.
- 2009 Ensemble, *Beneath the Upper Room*. Choreography by Iyun Harrison. Loretto-Hilton Center for the Performing Arts: Webster University; Saint Louis, MO.

Residencies & Workshops

- 2019 Choreographer/Performer, *ascetic/aesthetic* and *live(s)*. The Mad River Valley Performance Platform, Phantom Theater; Warren, VT.
I choreographed and performed a solo, *ascetic/aesthetic*, and I performed with Sarah Rose and her collaborators in *live(s)* for the inaugural Mad River Valley Performance Platform in Warren, VT.
- 2016 Dancer, *Elizabeth, the dance*. Choreography by Ann Carlson. Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography (MANCC), Florida State University; Tallahassee, FL.
Link: <https://vimeo.com/248172476>
I participated in a one-week residency with MANCC Living Legacy Artist Ann Carlson in developing movement material for her work *Elizabeth, the dance*, which later premiered on the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company.
- 2014 Dancer/Participant, Post:Workshop, Artistic Direction by Robert Dekkers, San Francisco, CA.

Administrative Experience

- 2016-2019 Production Assistant, School of Dance, Florida State University: Tallahassee, FL.
I was assistant to the School of Dance Production Manager. I collated School of Dance paperwork regarding dancer schedules and liability waivers, updated the student database on FileMaker Pro, assisted in creating the master rehearsal schedule, helped organize and work the registration table at school auditions, assisted in general facilities and building management in dance studio, classroom, office, and theatre spaces.

2018-2019

Assistant to Interim Department Chair, School of Dance, Florida State University: Tallahassee, FL.

Professor Anjali Austin, the Interim Department Chair, is the current President of CORPS de Ballet International. I assisted with her President-Elect duties for the annual CORPS Conference in Florence, Italy, and helped organize the conference for her first year as President in Tallahassee, FL. This work included creating the Conference and Pre-Conference Seminar postcards in Adobe Photoshop, coordinating group hotel rates for attendees, drafting the conference schedule, researching mobile apps to use during the Conference, coordinating with the Treasurer on purchases, running the audio, lights and projector in the theater during member presentations, and acting as the main point of contact for Professor Austin before, during, and after the conference.

2014

Patron Services Representative, Orpheum Theatre: Memphis, TN.

I worked in the Box Office at the most renowned venue in Memphis, working in ticket sales for the 2,400 seat theatre and providing show information for inquiring patrons in person and over the phone.

2012-2013

Receptionist, Ballet Memphis School: Memphis, TN.

I worked at the front desk, acting as point person for parent questions regarding school classes and the professional company's performances, and handled tuition payments and ticket sales.