

# STEFANIE L. WEBER

PO BOX 3094 Pittsfield, MA 01202 T: +14132816734 E: stefanie.lynx.weber@gmail.com W: fertileuniverse.com

**QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY:** Action-based artist who specializes in dance, movement, and performance. Multifaceted, versatile performer with specialization in rhythm tap. Worked with numerous collaborators in USA and Kenya. Experienced choreographer, director, and teacher working with range of dancers from young children to adults of different abilities and cultural backgrounds including those with limited mobility, vision impairment, and limited opportunity. Extensive experience in fund raising through a variety of sources. Certified in Gyrotonic and CFT (CranioSacral Fascial Therapy). Trained as a painting tracker in A.R.T, Artistic Realizations Technology for non-ambulatory artists. Skilled craftsperson in original sculptural costume design and construction. Member of the International Dance Council CID at UNESCO. Former appointed member by Mayor of Pittsfield, MA to Cultural Development Board.

## EXPERIENCE: ONGOING

### **Nutshell Playhouse, Lenox, MA, 2011-present**

- Performer in theater for children founded and directed by former Mummenschanz member Don Jordan.
- Performance tasks include: singing, percussion, dance, acting, commedia d'ell arte, clowning, ukulele playing.
- Assisted expanding troupe repertoire to include tap dance and ecological themes.

### **FREELANCE Movement Facilitator/Trainer/Bodyworker- Berkshire County, MA, 2018-present**

- Maintain robust private practice offering Gyrotonic, somatic, restorative, and therapeutic movement instruction and body work facilitation to clientele of varied ages and abilities out of Bella Grazia Studio in West Stockbridge, MA.
- Provide CFT (CranioSacral Fascial Therapy) and specialized movement training to private clientele and groups at Movement Matters Healing Arts in North Adams, MA.
- Works privately in homes or facilities where clients need specialized one-on-one movement and dance assistance for ailments such as Parkinson's or stroke.

### **Community Access To The Arts, Great Barrington, MA, 2004-present**

- Faculty artist leading weekly Tap study and performance group (The People's Tap Dance Theater) consisting of 5-20 dancers with disabilities.
- Co-Director for 2022 Virtual + Live Gala Performance event at Shakespeare & Co, Lenox, MA
- Choreographed 17 original tap pieces performed in 17 gala events.
- Conceived and co-directed 2 short films for The People's Tap Dance Theater for 2 virtual gala events
- Arranged dozens of showings artists' work at a variety of locations including MASS MoCA
- Featured in the documentary "Rhythm & Hues".

- Led Tap Dance and movement study groups in various rehabilitation settings and high school programs.
- Painting “tracker” in the Artistic Realizations Technology (A.R.T.) with a total of 10 artists with disabilities.

### **Creatures of Habitat/Tourmaline Z LLC, Berkshire County, MA, 2001-present**

- Founder and owner of action-based art company for performance, collaborating with multifaceted artists and communities to envision, direct and produce creative projects, and provide movement and dance education.
- Instructed Dance, Creative Movement, Contemporary Dance, Jazz & Rhythm Tap, and/or Choreography in over 25 public and private educational institutions, studios, and festivals.
- Raised over \$20,000 from individual donors, businesses and small grants.
- Created 8 original creative productions and produced numerous solo and duet public performance happenings.
- Managed over 50 performers, 10 teaching artists, 10 technicians and toured original pieces to 3 states
- Collaborated with community arts activists and organizers in over 10 towns.
- Produced a yearly outdoor movement-arts festival in Pittsfield, MA for over 200 attendees of all ages and abilities for 5 years.
- Invited to showcase original dance film projections in 2 art festivals in 2015 in Detroit, MI and Portugal.

## **EXPERIENCE: PREVIOUS**

### **Movement Arts Exchange (MAX), Great Barrington, MA 2016-2019**

- Danced as member of MAX dance company directed by Andrea Blacklow and Ellen Gorman, performing at home stage/studio and various community settings such as Jacob’s Pillow and St. James Place.
- Provided Tap and Contemporary Jazz dance instruction to adults and teens.

### **Kinesphere Movement Arts Studio, Lee, MA, 2006-2018**

- Provided private Gyrotonic, somatic and movement training to clientele of varied ages and abilities specializing in clients with very “limited mobility”.
- Seven years continued success rehabilitating stroke survivor and eight of continued improvement with client on Autism spectrum with Scoliosis.

### **Berkshire Dance Theater, Adams, MA, 2010-2013**

- Choreographed rhythm tap and contemporary/jazz dances for beginner to advanced level dancers.
- Worked with over 60 dance students ranging from ages 8 to adult.
- Introduced and implemented historical jazz tap choreography into curriculum and dance company repertoire.

### **Commonwealth Tap Collective, Boston, MA, 2008-2009**

- Member of Tap Dance collective based in Eastern Massachusetts with Tap Dancers, Educators and Choreographers; Suzanne Bouffard, Jill Braverman, and Shannon Sullivan.

- Chosen to performed original work for Jacob's Pillow in Becket, MA and for Rhythm at the Regent in Arlington, MA.

### **Core De Vie Studio, GYROTONIC® BOSTON Beacon Hill, 2008-2009**

- Provided private Gyrotonic movement training to clientele of Beacon Hill area of downtown Boston.
- Led Gyrotonic group equipment classes.

### **Silver Swimmers, Pioneer Valley, MA, 2006-2013**

- Co-director and performer in roving street-type performance ensemble.
- Led the ensemble in developing stronger relationships with arts presenters in Western Massachusetts.
- Created performance-action street installation, "Silvertone Ooze", in response to oil spill of 2010.
- Commissioned to perform by over 20 institutions including the Peabody-Essex Museum, Berkshire Museum, Clearwater Festival, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Somerville's Art Beat, The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, and The Colonial Theater.

### **LiquidBody Dance Company, Berkshires, MA & New York City, NY, 2006-2011**

- Dancer/performer in Continuum-based dance company in Manhattan+Berkshires led by Caryn Heilman in over 20 performances at Puffin Cultural Forum, NJ; Topia Arts Center, Adams, MA; University of California at Irvine; and Cathedral of Saint John The Divine in New York City.

### **Sole Force, Western Massachusetts, 2005-2008**

- Dancer, performer, choreographer in Rhythm Tap and Body Percussion duo with Rose Sinclair. 6 performances of original choreography in Manhattan and Saratoga, NY and Western Massachusetts. Collaborated with musicians Mike Fahn, valve/slide trombone and Deb Reed, frame drums.

### **Dancecapade School of Dance, Adams, MA, 2002-2012**

- Instructed over 100 students in jazz, rhythm tap and Choreography.
- Choreographed award winning competition pieces for company members, dozens of original tap choreographies for yearly performances and audition pieces for graduating dancers.

### **T.A.P! Totally Artistic Percussion, Berkshire County, MA, 1998-2003**

- Co-director, performer, choreographer, educator with tap dance-focused arts organization.
- Showcased original and historical choreography with students and group at Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out series.
- Implemented jazz and rhythm tap programs in over 20 locations including public and private school arts programs, community organizations, and dance studios.
- Dance Captain for Jazz Tap Community Residency with legendary dancers Dianne Walker and Jimmy Slyde, in partnership with Williams College, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and The City of Pittsfield.

## **PROJECTS**

### **Dancemakers Podcast, premiered December 2014**

- A creative pre-recorded audio podcast whose objectives is to assist in creating and inspiring connections, community, innovations and appreciation; and to promote artists on the frontlines of keeping dance valued, alive and growing in the lives of others dedicated to active local and global
- Pod casts feature artists, educators, students, advocates, performers, collaborators and audiences of all forms and genres of dance, performance and the movement arts.
- The first season of episodes premiered in 2014 featuring dance makers of Nairobi, Kenya. Upcoming episodes envisioned to feature dancemakers of Western Massachusetts and Detroit, MI.

### **They Dance For Rain, 2012-present**

- A dance-making project that works with 7 local arts-for-social-change organizations in urban Nairobi, Kenya where tap dance is still very new.
- Successfully funded over \$16,000 to support project.
- Worked with range of dancers—children and adults; novices to professional dancers—reaching over 200 people.
- Taught two self-groups to make hula hoops for sale and own use and provided materials.
- Equipped dancers with materials—over 70 pairs of tap shoes, 20 hula hoops and three wooden floors for tapping.
- Documented unrepresented population of slum and ghetto dancers and dwellers through photography and film in collaboration with fine arts photographer Monika Pizzichemi.
- Displayed photography of dancers in three exhibits--“Soul to Sole Festival” and Long Center for the Arts in Austin, TX; Lichtenstein Arts Center in Pittsfield, MA.; Beantown Tap Festival in Somerville, MA
- Invited to present project to Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival School, Tap Program participants and faculty, June 2014, Becket, MA

### **Tap & Blues, 2012-2020**

- With blues woman Robin O’Herin, the roots of and connections between American blues music & jazz tap dance are explored through over 35 interactive workshops, performances and other public forums in Massachusetts and New York State libraries, schools, house concerts, and performing arts venues.

### **Pittsfield City Hoopla, 2009-2013**

- Founder and artistic director of movement arts festival inspired by the craft, craze and creativity of the Hoola/ Hula Hoop through one day outdoor festival of all ages. The event was co-sponsored by the City of Pittsfield.

## **PERFORMANCE WORKS**

- MOTHERlessSHIP, (ongoing), Northampton (School for Contemporary Dance and Thought 2019) + Great Barrington (Moving Arts Exchange 2018-19)
- The Magic is in The Mechanism, 2015-2016, Pittsfield + North Adams, MA

- Auto Mobile Body Works, Somerville/Northampton/Easthampton/Pittsfield/North Adams MA, NYC and Detroit, 2011-2015
- Habitat (De)Fragmentation, 2008-2010, Pittsfield, MA + Philly Fringe, PA
- Reintroduction To The Wild, 2006, RADALDA, Storefront Artist Project, Pittsfield, MA
- Comma, 2005, La Mama Inc, NYC
- Oschun Exuvia, 2004, River Arts Festival, Pittsfield, MA
- Crush, 2004, March Hare Dance Festival, Lenox, MA, Storefront Artist Project, Pittsfield, MA
- Indicator Species, 2001-2003, NYC, Brooklyn, Berkshires
- Womb Work, 2003, with Empty Set Project Space artist Monika Pizzichemi, Pittsfield, MA
- Faces of Pittsfield, 1999-2000, with artist Monika Pizzichemi, Pittsfield, MA
- Progression, with aboutDance, 1998, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival

## **GRANTS & AWARDS**

- Capezio Ballet-Makers Dance Foundation Grant, June 2014
- World Hoops Ambassador Grant, World Hoops Fund , 2011-2013
- Massachusetts Local Cultural Councils, 1999-2016
- Assets for Artist/MIDAS Matching Grant Fund 2011-2012
- "Asset to the community" Award, State Senator Benjamin Downing, 2007
- Professional development grants, Massachusetts Cultural Council, 1999-2001
- Choreography Lab, Scholarship, Leading Communities To Dance, Jacob's Pillow School, 2002
- Jazz Traditions, Scholarship, Jacob's Pillow School, 1997