

ALIA SWERSKY

Movement Artist, Performer, Educator

1032 Washington Pl. East
Seattle, WA 98112
{206} 349.4101
alias4@uw.edu

www.aliaswersky.com

EDUCATION

2020-present **University of Washington:** Master of Fine Arts in Dance (expected 2022)
1996-98 **Cornish College of the Arts:** Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance
1993-95 **Marymount Manhattan College**

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE TEACHING

2020-present **University of Washington, Seattle, WA, Predoctoral Lecturer**
Instructor of Record:
Introduction to Dance
Intermediate/Advanced Contemporary Modern
Intro and Intermediate Contemporary Improvisation
Intro to Contemporary Dance Making

2005-20 **Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle WA, Adjunct Faculty**
Creative Foundations
Advanced Improvisation
Improvisation Techniques
Compositional Practices 1
Contact Improvisation
Capstone Project Advisor

2018-19 **University of Washington, Seattle, WA, Part-Time Lecturer**
Dance Composition 1
Alternative Movement Studies, Yoga

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

DANCE COMPANIES:

2021 ***UW Chamber Dance Company*, Seattle, WA**
Works by Doug Varone & Camille A. Brown

- 2010-11 **Salt Horse**, Seattle, WA
Choreography by Corrie Befort & Beth Graczyk | *Titan Arum, Serpentinite*
- 2004 **Khambatta Dance Co.** (Phfft! Dance Theater), Seattle, WA
Choreography by Cyrus Khambatta in collaboration with the company
Complexio Oppositorum, Dali's Wig
- 1998-2005 **LeGendre Performance Group**, Seattle, WA
Choreography by Amii LeGendre in collaboration with the company
Performed and collaborated in the creation of many original works
National Tours: New York, Colorado, Washington DC, Whidbey Island,
King County Tour
International Tour: Ecuador
- 1998-2001 **The Maureen Whiting Company**, Seattle, WA
Choreography by Maureen Whiting in collaboration with the company
Wreck Tangle, And It Was, Among Caesurae
National Tour: Los Angeles, CA
- INTERDISCIPLINARY PERFORMANCE:
- 2018 **Psychic Bandwidth Seattle**, Cilla Vee Life Arts, Seattle, WA
Evening length improvisation collaboration
- 2017 **Radiosonde**, Seattle, WA
A collaborative improvisation of sound & movement with
the Tom Baker Quartet, Corrie Befort and Beth Graczyk
- 2015 **Sara Shelton Mann**, San Francisco, CA
Erasing Time: A retrospective performance marathon
- 2014 **Sara Shelton Mann Residency and Performance**, Seattle, WA
The Eye of Leo Hybrid 3/ The Teaching of a Thick Water Griffin
- 2012 **12 Hour Play**, Seattle, WA
Directed by Salt Horse. A non-stop 12-hour music & dance improvisation
- 2006 **Bare Bones Dance Concert**, Seattle, WA
An Improvisation. A collaboration with dancers & musicians Beth
Graczyk, Amii LeGendre, Angelina Baldoz, Jason Anderson, Jonatha
Seilaff

- 2006 **Gallery 1412**, Seattle, WA
Music & dance improvisation with the Burns, Sielaff, Cogburn Trio, Angelina Baldoz, Jason Anderson, Alia Swersky, and Beth Graczyk
- 2006 **12 Hour Play**, Seattle, WA & Portland, OR
A non-stop 12-hour music & dance improvisation
- 2005 ***Linescape: A Cryptodimensional Exquisite Corpse***, Seattle, WA
An improvisational solo with musical collaborator Keith Martini
- 2005 **Bare Bones Dance Concert**, Seattle, WA
An improvisational collaboration with Beth Graczyk | *Linger*
- 2004 **Karl Frost**, Seattle, WA
Axolotle, Living Room, These Artists Now: 3 Improvisations
- 2002-05 **Seattle Festival of Alternative Dance & Improvisation**, Seattle, WA
Faculty improvisation performances
- 2005 **Seattle Festival of Alternative Dance & Improvisation**, Seattle, WA
Directed by Sarah Gamblin
Scraping the Kinesthetic and Sonic Bowls of Yum Yum
- 2004 **Karen Nelson**, Northhampton, MA
Untitled, Improvised duet
- 2003 **Seattle Festival of Alternative Dance & Improvisation**, Seattle, WA
Group improvisation directed by Karen Nelson
- 2003 **Sheri Cohen**, Seattle, WA
Tuning Score
- 2002 **DC International Improvisation Festival**, Washington DC | *Divided*
- 2001 **Karen Nelson**, Seattle, WA
CoBrew, an improvisation using the Tuning Score & John Zorne's Cobra for music

DANCE PROJECTS:

- 2019 **10 Tiny Dances**, Seattle, WA
Choreography by KT Niehoff | *Ode to Depression*

- 2017 **Northwest New Works Festival**, Seattle, WA
Choreography by Wade Madsen | *People*
- 2017 **KT Niehoff**, Seattle, WA | *Before We Flew Like Birds We Flew Like Clouds*
Choreography by KT Niehoff in collaboration with Alia Swersky
- 2015 **Reset**, Seattle, WA
Choreography by Wade Madsen | *Garden*
- 2015 **10 Tiny Dances**, Seattle, WA | *Where Do I Come From?*
Choreography by Wade Madsen in collaboration with Alia Swersky
- 2009 **Northwest New Works Festival**, Seattle, WA
Choreography by Jurg Koch | *ab: from/to.*
- 2007 **Capital Hill Arts Center Residency Performance**, Seattle, WA
Directed by John and Anna Dixon | *With/In.*
- 2004 **Acorn Dance**, Seattle, WA
Directed by Aiko Kinoshita | *Destination Unknown*
- 1999 **Better Biscuit Dance**, Seattle, WA | *Belle*
- 1999 **Rebekkah Dinaburg**, Seattle, WA | *Before*
- 1999 **Ileigh Reynolds**, Seattle, WA | *Root*

ADMINISTRATION

- 2002-11 **Dance Art Group (DAG)**, Seattle, WA
Co-Artistic Director: Organizing committee and production of the Seattle Festival of Alternative Dance & Improvisation (SFDI), biannual workshops of local and national movement artists
- 2002-07 **University Prep**, Seattle, WA
Dance Program Director and Creator
Development of courses for middle school and high school. Coordinated performance events.
- 2007-10 **Yoga on Beacon/YoBE**, Seattle, WA
Studio manager, Bookkeeper
- 2000-02 **Santosh Yoga**, Seattle, WA
Studio manager, Administrative assistant

CHOREOGRAPHY AND DIRECTION

CHOREOGRAPHED WORKS:

- 2021 ***Untitled***, Seattle, WA, University of Washington
Duet with Hannah Rice in collaboration with composer Jonathan Rodriguez
- 2020 ***WHEN YOUR ARMS ACHED, I WATCHED THE MOUNTAIN HOLD ITS FRAGILE FORM***, Seattle, WA, Ericson Theater. Dance Crush Awards Solo excerpt performed by Hannah Rice
- 2019 ***WHEN YOUR ARMS ACHED, I WATCHED THE MOUNTAIN HOLD ITS FRAGILE FORM***, Seattle, WA, Base: Experimental Arts + Space
Evening length solo show
- 2019 ***This is LUSH***, Seattle, WA, Cornish College of the Arts
Solo BFA Capstone Project for Madison Moseman
- 2018 ***i am the mountain | this mountain will crumble***, Seattle, WA
12 Minutes Max, Base: Experimental Arts + Space
Solo performance
- 2018 ***this inside of that interior***, Seattle, WA, Cornish College of the Arts
Solo BFA Capstone Project for Karina Campbell
- 2014-15 ***Touch Me Here*** by Peggy Piacenza, Seattle, WA,
Washington Hall (2014) & Velocity Dance Center (2015)
Artistic Advisor/Choreographic Assistant to Peggy
- 2015 ***Begin Again***, Seattle, WA, Town Hall
Solo performance for Ampersand Live/Forterra
- 2015 ***Falling Until You Float***, Seattle, WA, Cornish College of the Arts
Solo BFA Capstone Project for Julia Sloan
- 2014 ***You Never Look Me in the Eyes, I Never Look You in the Eyes***,
Seattle, WA, Cornish College of the Arts
Solo BFA Capstone Project for Ariana Bird
- 2013 ***Walk With Me***, Seattle, WA, Cornish College of the Arts
Solo BFA Capstone Project for Lindsayanne Owen

- 2011 **Remnants**, Seattle, WA, Velocity Dance Center
Ten Tiny Dances
Solo performance
- 2010 **Embracing the Inevitable**, Seattle, WA, On the Boards
Northwest New Works Festival
A duet made in collaboration with KT Niehoff
- 2010 **Above the Horizon**, Seattle, WA, Cornish College of the Arts
Solo BFA Capstone Project for Miranda Chisholm-Sims
- 2006 **Circumscribe**, Seattle, WA, On the Boards
Northwest New Works Festival
Group work for six dancers
- 2005 **Otherwise Occupied**, Seattle, WA, Velocity Dance Center
NEXT FEST
A duet choreographed and performed by Alia Swersky & Amii LeGendre
- 2004 **little sits, long waits**, Seattle, WA, Velocity Dance Center
Under Construction Series
Solo work made on dancer, Katie McCaughan
- 2004 **Wooden but Never Rots**, Seattle, WA, Velocity Dance Center
Under Construction Series
Group work co-directed with Amii LeGendre
Work made in a 9-week workshop for twelve dancers
- 2003 **Second**, Seattle, WA, Chamber Theater
Mixer2: Solos presented by Crispin Spaeth
Solo work
- 1999 **Redirect**, Seattle, WA, Chamber Theater
Performance for tba performance & Choreofest
Solo performance
- 1999 **Maat**, Seattle, WA, On the Boards
Twelve Minutes Max
Piece made for three dancers

IMPROVISATIONAL WORKS & IMPROVISATIONAL COLLABORATIONS:

- 2018-19 **Body. Space. Time. Sound**, Seattle, WA, The Chapel Performance Space
An Evening of Improvised Sound & Movement curated by Alia Swersky &
Tom Baker
- 2004 **Tea Party**, Georgetown, WA, Jem Studio
An evening work by Left Field Dance
Co-created improvisational event
- 2004 **a wish**, Seattle, WA, Freehold Theater
Seattle Festival of Alternative Dance & Improvisation,
Bare Bones Benefit Performance
Solo improvisation
- 2003 **Home Motor**, Seattle, WA, Freehold Theater
Seattle Festival of Dance Improvisation
Improvisation performance/creation in collaboration with Amii LeGendre
- 2002 **Divided**, Washington DC
DC International Improvisation Festival
Improvisation performance/creation in collaboration with Amii LeGendre

SITE SPECIFIC & INSTALLATION WORK:

- 2019 **the tirelessness of the tide**, Seattle, WA, Seattle Art Museum
Cornish Gala
- 2018 **A Walk Towards the Sun...The Moon...and The Stars**, Seattle, WA
Yellowfish Durational Performance Festival
1:1 solo designed for one audience member at a time
- 2017 **the sad sanctuary / between the ritual and the weeping wall**
Seattle, WA, Cornish Play House Courtyard
A site-specific group work for Cornish Dance Theater
- 2017-19 **Three Untitled Works**, Seattle, WA, MadArt Studio
Gallery works in collaboration with Cornish dance students, MadArt
Studio and gallery installations:
Lure, by Dream the Combine with Clayton Binkley (2019)
We Are All Made of Light, by Maja Petric (2018)
Super Natural, by Jennifer Angus (2017)

- 2016 ***A Walk Towards the Sun...The Moon...and The Stars***, Seattle, WA
Self-produced at 10 Degrees Performance Space
1:1 solo designed for one audience member at a time
- 2013 ***Landsknecht***, Arlington, WA, Lo-Fi Arts Festival
A duet collaboration with Jessica Jobaris
Four-hour durational site-specific work
- 2014 ***South Lake Union***, Seattle, WA, South Lake Union Park
NATIONAL WATER DANCE, A simultaneous environmental performance
with 70 Institutions in 30 states, to bring attention to the fragility of our
waters. Site-specific work done on Cornish dance students.
- 2015 ***Meeting/Departure***, Seattle, WA, Velocity Dance Center
Fall Kick-Off/Big Bang | Performance & Installation
1:1 solo designed for one audience member at a time
- 2011 ***Beneath Our Own Immensity***, Seattle, WA, Highway Colonnade
A site-specific group work for Cornish Dance Theater
- 2010 ***Small Spaces***, Seattle, WA, Broadway Performance Hall
Men in Dance Festival
Site-Specific work for eight dancers

DANCE FOR FILM:

- 2021 ***Yellow House***, Seattle, WA
Director/Choreography: Alia Swersky
Cinematography: Alia Swersky & Alexander Olivieri
Editor: Alia Swersky
Screenings:
Velocity Dance Center/Birthday Bash + Fundraiser
Yellow House: a series of tiny yellow films, Leavenworth, WA
- 2021 ***Respire – Repeat***
Director/Choreography: Alia Swesky & Alexander Olivieri
Cinematography: Alia Swersky & Alexander Olivieri
Editor: Alexander Olivieri
Screenings:
Lights Dance Festival, Seattle, WA
Northwest Film Forum/Local Sightings Festival, Seattle, WA
Los Angeles Experimental Film and Music Festival, Los Angeles, CA

- 2021 **dis|appear**, Seattle, WA
 Director/Choreography: Alia Swersky
 Cinematography: Sebastien Scandiuzzi
 Editor: Greg Mares
 Composer: Jonathan Rodriguez
 Screenings:
 UW MFA Concert
 Northwest Film Forum/Local Sightings Festival
- 2021 **Beach Glass**, Vashon, WA
 Director/Choreography/Filming: Alia Swersky
 Editing: Devin Munoz
 Live online screening: for *LA BEFANA* by Malacarne/Alice Gosti
- 2019 **the sad sanctuary / between the ritual and the weeping wall**
 Seattle, WA
 Director/Choreographer: Alia Swersky
 Videography: Cameron M. Fletcher
 Composer: Austin Larkin
 Editor: Devin Muñoz
- 2013-14 **Beneath Our Own Immensity / The Film**, Seattle, WA
 Director: Alia Swersky
 Director of Photography/Editor: Sebastien Scandiuzzi
 Composer: BC Campbell
 Screenings:
Velocity's Dance Next Cinema, Seattle, WA North West Film Forum
Dance Camera West, Los Angeles, CA
1 Reel Film Festival for Bumbershoot, Seattle, WA
13th Annual Miami Short Film Festival, Miami, FL
American Dance Festival/International Screen Dance Festival
 Durham, NC
Women's International Film Festival, Los Angeles, CA
 Awards included: Best Experimental Film, Best Directing, Best
 Screenplay, Best Cinematography
- MUSICAL THEATER:
- 2005 **Edgar Allan Poe: Action Figure**, Seattle, WA, University Prep
 Choreographer for high school musical
- 2004 **Oliver**, Seattle, WA, University Prep
 Choreographer for high school musical

RESIDENCIES:

- 2019 **Vashon Island Residency**, Vashon, WA, Hannah Barn
Two week long creative residencies
- 2018 **Flight Deck Residency**, Seattle, WA, Open Flight Studio
One-month creative residency
- 2017 **Body. Space. Time. Residency**, Seattle, WA
University of WA Department of Dance
Two-week creative residency

ADDITIONAL DANCE TEACHING

COMMUNITY CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS:

- 2018 **Cornish Preparatory Dance Summer Intensive**, Seattle, WA
Contact Improvisation & Yoga
- 2018 **Velocity Dance Center**, Seattle, WA
Improvisation Movement Practices Series
6-week series in Contact Improvisation
- 2015 **Velocity Dance Center**, Seattle, WA
Improvisation Movement Practices Series
Improvisation & Creative Process
- 2014 **Velocity Dance Center**, Seattle, WA
Improvisation Movement Practices Series
Improvisation & Creative Process
- 2014 **Velocity Dance Center**, Seattle, WA
Weekly Technique Class: a synthesis of Contemporary Modern Dance
Improvisation & Partnering
- 2012 **Velocity Dance Center**, Seattle, WA
Improvisation Movement Practices Series
Improvisation & Creative Process
- 2005 **Bard College**, Hudson, New York
Guest Artist with LeGendre Performance
Contact Improvisation

- 2004 **Velocity Dance Center**, Seattle, WA
Synthesis, Nine-week workshop co-taught with Amii LeGendre
 Modern Technique & Improvisation
- 2004 **Feeling Momentum**, Seattle, WA
 Weekend workshop co-taught with Amii LeGendre & Karl Frost
 Improvisation & Creative Process in solo and ensemble
- 2004 **Lingo Dance Theater/KT Niehoff**, Seattle, WA
 Guest Teacher for one day workshop in Contact Improvisation
- 2003 **Sitka Fine Arts Camp**, Sitka and St. Petersburg, Alaska, Guest Teacher
 Co-taught workshops with Amii LeGendre
 Modern Technique classes
 Creative Movement
 Improvisation
- 2000-02 **Velocity Dance Center**, Seattle, WA.
 Weekly classes in Contact Improvisation
- 2001 **Velocity Dance Center**, Seattle, WA
Following/Falling, Weekly 6-week Series in Contact Improvisation
- 2001 **Velocity Dance Center**, Seattle, WA
Coming Into Contact, Workshop in Contact Improvisation
- 2001 **Anomaly Teen Dance Group**, Seattle, WA, Guest Teacher
 Dance Improvisation
- 2000 **Humanizarte**, Quito, Ecuador
 Guest Artist with LeGendre Performance
 Workshops in Modern Technique & Contact Improvisation
- 2000 **Ballet Ecuatoriano de Camara**, Quito, Ecuador
 Guest Artist with LeGendre Performance Group
 Workshops in Modern Technique & Contact Improvisation
- 2000-01 **Stroum Jewish Community Center**, Seattle, WA, Dance Instructor
 Creative movement, preschool
- 1999-2000 **Belltown Ballet and Conditioning Studio**, Seattle, WA.
 Weekly classes in Modern Dance Technique, self-produced

DANCE FESTIVALS:

- 2019 **Cornish Preparatory Dance Summer Intensive**, Seattle, WA
Summer Duets Intensive; co-taught with Michelle Miller
Contact Improvisation and Contemporary Partnering for professional dancers
- 2001-18 **Velocity Dance Center**, Strictly Seattle Summer Festival, Seattle, WA
Contact Improvisation & Modern Partnering
- 2002-18 **Seattle Festival of Dance and Improvisation**, Seattle, WA
Contact Improvisation/Improvisation
Tuning Scores
Site-Specific classes
Creative Process & Composition
Yoga
- 2008 **Sierra Contact Improvisation Festival**, Sierra Hot Springs, CA
Guest Teacher at weeklong festival teaching Contact Improvisation

YOGA:

- 2017-present **Seattle Yoga Arts**, Seattle, WA, Yoga Instructor
Somatic based Vinyasa Yoga
- 2016-18 **Lotus Yoga**, Seattle, WA, Yoga Instructor
Somatic based Vinyasa Yoga
- 2001-07 **Lotus Yoga**, Seattle, WA, Yoga Instructor
Somatic based Vinyasa Yoga
- 2006 **Soma Yoga**, Seattle, WA, Yoga Instructor
Somatic based Vinyasa Yoga
- 2001-06 **Santosha Yoga**, Seattle, WA, Yoga Instructor
Vinyasa Yoga, Yin Yoga, Restorative, Intro to Yoga, Kids Yoga, Meditation
- 2004 **Maya Whole Health**, Seattle, WA, Yoga Instructor
Vinyasa Yoga

K-12 TEACHING:

- 2002-07 **University Prep**, Seattle, WA
Middle school & High school dance & yoga director and instructor
Many styles of dance: modern, jazz, hip hop, partnering, musical theater,
choreography, yoga, performance
- 2001-03 **Des Moines Elementary School**, Des Moines, WA, Guest Teacher
Guest dance residencies with LeGendre Performance Group
Dance/Theater & creative movement, performance for ages K-6 grade
- 2001 **Lakeside School**, Seattle, WA, Guest Teacher
Dance, partnering, hip hop: Grade 8
- 2000/2001 **Bush School**, Seattle, WA, Guest Teacher
Dance & Creative movement: Grade 9-12

ADDITIONAL AREAS OF INQUIRY:

- 2020 **RW Alves**, Practicing Justice in Yoga Foundations, Seattle, WA,
- 2016-2020 **Nita Little**, Institute for the Somatic Study Of Communication,
Seattle, WA
Co-directing member of Nita Little's research ensemble called the
Institute for the Study of Somatic Communication. This ensemble
(including dancers, anthropologists, psychologists, cognitive scientists,
and philosophers) investigates the embodiment of attention and tactile
presence. It leverages "traditional" dance training toward research,
rather than to a performative end. The work seeks to bridge the gap
between performance and humanities disciplines.
- 2020 **Michelle C. Johnson | Skill in Action**, Seattle, WA
Yoga and Social Justice, Yoga and Action
- 2017/18 **Open-Source Forums**, Seattle, WA
Training with Stephanie Skura in Skinner Releasing and Improvisation
- 1999 **Sarah Powers and Paul Grilley**, Yoga Teacher Training
Training in Insight Yoga, Vinyasa, Yin, pranayama, philosophy, and
anatomy for yoga

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

- 2021-22 **University of Washington, Seattle, WA**
Dance Diversity Committee
- 2021 **University of Washington, Seattle, W A**
Undergraduate choreographic advising
- 2008-20 **Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA**
Dance Department service: attended faculty meetings and retreats;
served on Creative Process Curriculum Committee; developed
learning outcomes for Creative Process curriculum; advised
capstone projects; Department Chair search committee

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- 2021-2022 **Artists at the Center, Seattle, WA, Artist Grant**
Office of Arts & Culture & Seattle Center Programs & Events
For a new site-specific work at the Seattle Center in collaboration with
composers Sandesh Nagaraj and Jonathan Rodriguez of Till the Teeth and
Visual Artist Mya Kerner
- 2020-22 **University of Washington, Seattle, WA, Teaching Assistantship**
- 2020-22 **University of Washington, Seattle, WA, Full Tuition Wavier**
- 2019 **Seattle Dances, Seattle, WA**
Dance Crush Award for outstanding choreography:
*WHEN YOUR ARMS ACHED, I WATCHED THE MOUNTAIN HOLD ITS
FRAGILE FORM*
- 2013 **Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA**
Faculty Development Funding