Alia Simon Montijo

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**COMMITTEES**

* The National Dance Society Performing Arts Council – Adjudicator/Evaluator
* Illinois Dance Education Organization, member
* National Dance Education Organization, member

**ACADEMIC AWARDS**

* The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi: Graduate Inductee. October 2019
* American Associate of University Women: Career Development Grant Scholar. June 2018
* The Ohio State University: Arts & Sciences Certificate for Excellence in Scholarship. April 2007
* The Denman Undergraduate Research Forum: 3rd Place in Art/Architecture. April 2007

**ACADEMIC & TRAINING**

2022 Certification: Progressing Ballet Technique, Junior, Senior & Advanced Programs

Progressing Ballet Technique

2018 – 2020 Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, FL

MFA Choreography

2004 – 2007 The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Honors BFA with Distinction in Dance and Arts Administration

Minor: Women’s Studies

2018 – 2020 Jacksonville University

Examining Practice – Christina Teague-Mann

Contemporary Body Practice – Amy Miller, Ana Sànchez-Colberg, Cari Coble, Fabiano Culora & Jüri Nael

Intermedia – William Hill & Tiffany Santeiro

2008 – present Joel Hall Dancers & Center

Ballet – Betsy Herskind

Graham – Merrick Marshall

Horton – William Gill

Jazz – Joel Hall

2008 – 2010 Inaside Chicago Dance

Ballet – Anna Czajun

Jazz – Elijah Gibson, Eddy O’Campo, Richard Smith & William Gill

Modern – Lizzie McKenzie

2007 – 2008 Eisenhower Dance Detroit

Ballet – Stephanie Garrisi-Pizzo

Modern – Laurie Eisenhower, Matthew Farmer, Michael Foley & Keisha Llama-White

2004 – 2007 The Ohio State University

Cecchetti Ballet – Susan Dromisky

Modern – Abby Yager, Bebe Miller, Coco Loupe, Ming-Lung Yang & Susan Hadley

Labanotation – Victoria Uris

2005 & 2006 The American Dance Festival

Modern – David Dorfman, Gerri Houlihan, John Jasperse, Paul Matteson, Jen Nugent, David Parsons, Neta Pulvermacher

Labanotation – Ursula Payne

**RESEARCH**

PRACTICE-BASED:

The Particle Dance

Swisher Theater, Jacksonville, FL – August 2019

<https://www.aliamontijo.com/thesis-research>

Moving from the Inside Out

Phillips Fine Arts, Black Box Theater, Jacksonville, FL – August 2018

# <https://www.aliamontijo.com/current-projects>

TRADITIONAL:

Body Politics: Louis XIV and the Imperial Russian Ballet, 2019

<https://www.academia.edu/38985636/Body_Politics_Louis_XIV_and_the_Imperial_Russian_Ballet>

The Body as Political Protest of the Shooting of Laquan McDonald, 2019

<https://www.academia.edu/38986137/The_Body_as_Political_Protest_of_the_Shooting_of_LaQuan_McDonald>

Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker and the Culture of Feminism in Shaping Choreography, 2018

<https://www.academia.edu/38985555/Anne_Teresa_de_Keersmaeker_and_the_Culture_of_Feminism_in_Shaping_Choreography>

The Ballets of Maurice Béjart as Evidence of Shift from the Meta-Narrative, 2018

<https://www.academia.edu/38986006/The_Ballets_of_Maurice_Béjart_as_Evidence_of_Shift_from_the_Meta-Narrative>

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Dance Department

Guest Instructor, May 2022

Quantum Mechanics & Movement

Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL

Dance Department Guest Instructor, April 2022

Quantum Mechanics & Movement – building an improvisational score

North Central College, Naperville, IL

College of Arts & Sciences

Adjunct Faculty, January – Current

Advanced Contemporary Modern meeting 2 days per week, 2 credit hours.

Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL

College of Performing Arts

Temporary Instructor, September – December 2019

Choreography & Composition classes meeting 2 days per week, 2 credit hours.

Dance Avondale, Chicago, IL

Founder, Artistic Director, and Primary Instructor

January 2016 – June 2020

Develop and implement curriculum for beginning through intermediate Ballet, Modern and Hip-Hop and introduction to dance courses, Creative Movement, Pre-Ballet and Pre-Jazz.

Noumenon Dance Ensemble, Chicago, IL

Artistic Director and Resident Choreographer, August 2014 – June 2018

Create class plans in Cecchetti and Horton techniques for advanced and professional level dancers meeting 2 evenings per week

Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, IL

School of Fine and Performing Arts, Community Engagement

Teaching Artist, January 2015 – Present

Develop and implement curriculum for beginning level Jazz, Hip-Hop, Breaking, and Ballet classes in the elementary school setting. Additional focus on student and parent engagement, connectivity to the school day, and ownership of progress. Document student progress via student testimony, pictures, and written and spoken word.

Joel Hall Dancers & Center, Chicago, IL

Lead Teacher

January 2010 – August 2015

Youth – Advanced and Intermediate Ballet built on Cecchetti curriculum

Adult – Ballet Fundamentals, Beginning Ballet and Beginning Jazz built on Luigi and Joel Hall curriculums

Professional – Advanced Ballet built on Cecchetti curriculum

The Entertainment Project, Chicago, IL

Director of Dance

January 2009 – May 2012

Developed and implemented dance curriculum for students ages 11-18. Initiate new classes to accommodate student population increase. Supervised all musical theater productions. Head of communication for the department. Instructor for beginning through advanced ballet, jazz and musical theater. Principal choreographer for 14 musical theater productions including Beauty and the Beast, Footloose, Into the Woods, Moulin Rouge, West Side Story and others.

Oakland University, Oakland, MI

Music, Theater and Dance Department

Dance Instructor

February 2008 – April 2008

Intermediate and Advanced Ballet built on Cecchetti curriculum meeting 2 days per week, 2 credit hours.

Fundamentals of Modern built based on the influence of Duncan, Graham and Limón training, 2 credit hours.

**CHOREOGRAPHIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Alia Montijo Choreographic Reel – 12 minutes:

<https://youtu.be/v0T7JfuWV0w>

Indeterminate & Entangled

Links Hall, Chicago, IL – March 2020

<https://youtu.be/l2mf4ukVmBE>

The Particle Dance

Swisher Theater, Jacksonville, FL – August 2019

<https://youtu.be/aUQLvlbhlpI>

Painting Dance: Challenging the Ephemerality of Movement

Ca’Zanardi, Venice, Italy – April 2019

<https://youtu.be/WXN2wkhW6pU>

Moving From the Inside Out

Swisher Theater, Jacksonville, FL – August 2019

<https://youtu.be/xgFbWGP2eL0>

They Tried to Bury Us, They Didn’t Know We Were Seeds

Links Hall, Chicago, IL – April 2018

<https://youtu.be/wW70IKLs3Pg>

Impressions

Ruth Page Center for the Arts, Chicago, IL – June 2017

<https://youtu.be/-yd1G2I9XsU>

Thresh(hold)

The Mayne Stage, Chicago, IL – December 2015

<https://youtu.be/R3X_Ji6kFFk>

Another Time, Another Place

Stage 773, Chicago, IL – June 2016

<https://youtu.be/q7AMYQ_Jhk8>

One

The Athenaeum Theater, Chicago, IL – April 2015

<https://youtu.be/U2nJLFDTyBM>

**FILM DANCE**

The Blood Harvest, 2020 - <https://vimeo.com/487644220/40d9e9ef05>

Achievements: Toronto International Film Festival, Dance and Media Japan International Dance Film Festival.

Egg Head, 2019 - <https://youtu.be/XhY4nsd63O4>

**PROFESSIONAL DANCE EXPERIENCE**

Dance Avondale Collective

Company Dancer

December 2020 – Present

Noumenon Dance Ensemble

Artistic Director & Resident Choreographer

September 2015 – June 2018

Joel Hall Dancers

Company Dancer

August 2012 – August 2016

Choreographic performance by Joel Hall, James Morrow. Kenneth Epting & William Gill

Thodos Dance Chicago

Guest Artist

May 2009 – July 2009

Choreographic performance by Elijah Gibson

Inaside Chicago Dance

Company Dancer

July 2008 – June 2010

Choreographic performance by Eddy O’Campo, Lizzie McKenzie & Richard Smith

Eisenhower Dance Detroit

Company Dancer

June 2007 – June 2008

Choreographic performance by Doug Varone, Keisha Llama-White, Larry Keigwan & Laurie Eisenhower

**PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE**

Brahms Waltzes. Choreography by Charles Weidman reset by Anne Marie Loesch. Chicago, IL. August 2021.

For Lo, Winter is Past. Choreography by Mary Ann Mee reset by Anne Marie Loesch. Chicago, IL. June 2021.

Christmas Oratorio. Choreography by Charles Weidman reset by Anne Marie Loesch. Chicago, IL. December 2020 – January 2021 and December 2021.

SEVEN TO THE SEVENTH. Concept by Ana Sanchez-Colberg. Jacksonville, FL. July 2019.

The Particle Dance. Choreography by Alia Montijo in completion in partial fulfilment of the Master of Fine Arts in Choreography at Jacksonville University. Swisher Theater, Jacksonville, FL – August 2019

Return to Source. Choreography by Alia Montijo in completion in partial fulfilment of the Master of Fine Arts in Choreography at Jacksonville University. Venice International Art Festival. Venice, Italy. April 2019.

Hear/Here concept by Nick Cave, Jeanna Gang with musical composition by Kahlil El’Zabar. Choreography by William Gill at Art Expo Navy Pier. Chicago, IL. September 2017.

Lush Life – Billy Strayhorn Festival. Choreography by Joel Hall with the Joel Hall Dancers. The Auditorium Theater, Chicago, IL. November 2015.

Anja, The Unexpected. Choreography by Joel Hall with the Joel Hall Dancers. Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts. Chicago, IL. August 2015.

Nuts & Bolts. Choreography by Joel Hall with the Joel Hall Dancers. Ruth Page Center for the Arts. Chicago, IL. December 2014 and December 2015.

Wake Up! Waltz. Directed by Josie Davis. Choreography by Garett Kind and Katherine Hill. Rooftops in Chicago, IL. May – June 2013.

Before and After. Choreography by Elijah Gibson with Thodos Dance Chicago in New Dances. Ruth Page Center for the Arts. Chicago, IL. July 2009.

The Alarm Will Sound. Choreography by Eddy O’Campo with Inaside Chicago Dance in Finale Weekend, Dance Chicago. The Athenaeum Theater. Chicago, IL. November 2008.

Catharsis and Not Even a Postcard. Choreography by Laurie Eisenhower with Eisenhower Dance Detroit. Performing Arts High School. Troy, MI. January 2008.

Five Beds Children of the Dream. Choreography by Neta Pulvermacher at the American Dance Festival. Durham, NC. July 2006.

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, IL

School of Fine and Performing Arts, Community Schools Initiative.

Program Associate

January 2015 – January 2020

Support the Director and Managers of the Community Schools Program including but not limited to: data collection and analysis, budget review and balance, supplies ordering and event coordination that includes:

Professional teacher development.

Student showcases (school group coordination, site-coordinator coordination, performance order, room assignments, food order and distribution, stage management.

Parent-child together-time in after-school arts enrichment activities.

Summer programming through CCC.

School year arts-enrichment after-school programming

Joel Hall Dancers & Center, Chicago, IL

Freelance Grant Writer and Fundraiser

September 2009 – June 2010

Draft state, federal and private organization grants designed to compel funding for the Joel Hall Dancers & Center. Research previous projects in which finding was or was not granted, expand on relationships of involvement and promote new grant giving.

Proof of success:

The Wrightwood Neighbors $2,600. January 2010

Illinois Arts Council - $4,200. June 2009

The Catalyst Center of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Freelance Grant Writer

October 2010 – December 2010

Research federal and private sector grants applicable to the community center effort. Create original grant narratives and proposals, and assist with an annual operating budget and budget projection. Develop relationships with the local alderman and community leaders.

Proof of success:

W.K. Kellogg Foundation $3,200 June 2010

Wish You Well Foundation $2,600 June 2010

OhioDance, Columbus, OH

Intern for Jane D’Angelo

May 2004 – June 2007

Created dynamic marketing and publicity techniques for the company facility. Contacted subscribers, potential subscribers, higher education facilities, and professional dance companies to gain financial support and involvement. Increased exposure and connectivity among professional dancers and higher institutes in Columbus and the surrounding area.

**REFERENCES**

Christina Teague-Mann, Artist-in-Residence, Jacksonville University – [cteague@ju.edu](mailto:cteague@ju.edu)

Cari Coble, Professor of Dance & MFA Coordinator, Jacksonville University – [ccoble@ju.edu](mailto:ccoble@ju.edu)

Jacqueline Sinclair, Artistic Director, Joel Hall Dancers – [peaceandplies@gmail.com](mailto:peaceandplies@gmail.com)

Rachel Culich, Program Manager, Columbia College Chicago – [rculich@colum.edu](mailto:rculich@colum.edu)