



## Ofosuwa M. Abiola

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### CV

#### EDUCATION

- 2016      Ph.D., African History  
(*with distinction, Phi Alpha Theta*)  
Major Concentrations: African Dance History; African Cultural History  
Minor Concentrations: African Diaspora Dance History; Public History  
Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2010      B.I.S. (Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies)  
(*summa cum laude*)  
Specialization: Cultural Studies  
Minors: History; Dance  
Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA

#### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2020      Associate Professor with tenure, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University,  
Washington, DC.
- 2016      Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University,  
Washington, DC.
- 2013-2016      Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington,  
DC.
- 2012-2013      Associate Teacher, Department of History, Howard University, Washington, DC.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- 2022-2024      Inaugural Associate Dean of Research and Creative Endeavors, Chadwick A.  
Boseman College of Fine Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC. \*Awarded a  
Dean's Cabinet Award.
- 2020-2022      Interim Chair, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.

- 2018-2024 Director, Africana Theatre and Dance Collection, Founders Library, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2018-2020 Coordinator, Dance Program, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2017-2020 Coordinator, Honors Program, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2017-2020 Coordinator, Theatre Arts Minor program, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.

## **AWARDS**

- 2024 AWARD, *Ruth Lovell Murray Honorable Mention Book Award* for my book, *Afrikinesis: A Paradigm for Research on African and African Diaspora Dance*, National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), Washington, DC.
- 2022 AWARD, *National Outstanding Dance Researcher Award*, National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), Washington, DC.
- 2022 AWARD, *Deans Cabinet Award*, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2020 AWARD, *Mary Ellen Lane Multi-Country Travel Grant Award*, Washington, DC.  
\*Awarded for top-ranked multi-country research proposal.
- 2018 AWARD, *Outstanding Assistant Professor* in the College of Arts and Sciences at Howard University, 2017-2018. Washington, DC.
- 2018 AWARD, *Outstanding Student Advisement*, Office on Research Development, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2012 AWARD, *Special Commendation*, Office of the Mayor, Washington, DC.
- 2012 AWARD, *Special Commendation*, Public History Lecture Series, District of Columbia Archives, Washington, DC.
- 2008 AWARD, *Unity Award*, for innovatively utilizing African dance to facilitate conversation between diverse groups. Hampton City Council, Hampton, VA.
- 2006 AWARD, *Excellence in the Arts Award*, Southeast Virginia Arts Association, Norfolk, VA.
- 2005 AWARD, *Master Folk Artist Award*, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

- 2005 AWARD, *Outstanding Contribution to Music in the Commonwealth*, The Virginia Music Educators' Association, Norfolk, VA.
- 2000 AWARD, *Main Stay Award*, for a performance above and beyond. Department of the Navy, Pentagon, Arlington, VA. (Newport News, VA branch).

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024 GRANT, National Trust for Historic Preservation, \$150,000.00 Washington, DC.
- 2021 FELLOWSHIP, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), \$15,000.00, Washington, DC.
- 2020 FELLOWSHIP, Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), \$11,000.00, Washington, DC.
- 2019 GRANT, U.S. Department of Education/Center for African Studies, Howard University, \$3,000.00, Washington, DC.
- 2018 GRANT, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Humanities Initiatives, \$99,948.00, Washington, DC.
- 2017 GRANT, Summer Faculty Research Grant, \$10,000.00, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2011-2016 FELLOWSHIP, Frederick Douglas Doctoral Fellowship, \$96,000.00, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2011 FULBRIGHT, The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship, Morocco, North Africa. \*First person in the history of Virginia State University to be awarded a Fulbright.
- 2011 SCHOLARSHIP, US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship, Arabic.
- 2010-2011 GRANT, Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Norfolk, VA, rehearsal space grant, \$20,800.00.
- 2010 FELLOWSHIP, George H. Bennett Fellowship, Petersburg, VA, \$1,000.00.
- 2009-2010 GRANT, Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Norfolk, VA, rehearsal space grant, \$20,800.00.
- 2008-2009 GRANT, Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Norfolk, VA, rehearsal space grant, \$18,000.00.
- 2007 GRANT, Newport News Arts Council Grant, Newport News, VA, \$2,500.00.

- 2006-2008 GRANT, Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Norfolk, VA, rehearsal space grant, \$41,600.00.
- 2005-2006 GRANT. Grant to teach an apprentice the art of traditional African dance and culture. Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH), Charlottesville, VA. \$3,000.00.
- 2004 GRANT, Friends of the Arts, Inc., Richmond, VA, \$2,700.00.
- 2003 GRANT, Hampton Arts Council, Hampton, VA, \$4,700.00.
- 1998 GRANT, The Links, Newport News, VA, \$500.00.

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS | MONOGRAPHS

- 2024 *Afrikinesis: A Paradigm for Research on African and African Diaspora Dance.* Monograph. (Routledge). \*Won Ruth Lovell Murray Honorable Mention Award, NDEO.
- 2022 *Fire Under My Feet: History, Race & Agency in African Diaspora Dance.* Monograph (Routledge).
- 2020 *Historical Perspectives on Dance in Africa.* Textbook (Intelligentsia Press).
- 2019 *History Dances: Chronicling the History of Traditional Mandinka Dance.* Monograph (Routledge).

### MONOGRAPHS IN PROGRESS

*Unwitting Witnesses, Pivotal Moments, and the Invisible Field of African Dance History.* Monograph. \*Awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) fellowship and a Council of American Overseas Research Center (CAORC) fellowship to travel to Africa to conduct research for the book.

*Voiceless Shouts: Danced Conversations on Women, Identity, and Activism in Africa and her Diaspora.* Monograph.

### JOURNALS | CHAPTERS | DIGITAL WORKS

- 2023 “The Performance of Identity and the Disruption of Colonial Ideological Hegemony.” Book review. *Performance Research* Vol. 27 Issue 4 (April 10, 2023).

- 2023            www.africanadancehistory.org. Website. Published the pedagogy website to facilitate students in African and African Diaspora dance history courses.
- 2021            *Nankama African Dance Conference Recap*. Documentary (short form). Director, wrote the script, narrator, and video editor. Produced by Araku Studios.
- 2021            “Dancing Protest: (Re)Visiting The Black Arts Movement Through the Lens of Dance.” Book chapter. *Black Freedom Struggles* (Kendall Hunt Publishers).
- 2018-2020     Founding Editor-in-Chief. *Evoke: A Historical, Theoretical, and Cultural Analysis of Africana Dance and Theatre*. Peer-reviewed digital journal. Digital Howard: Howard University.
- 2017            “Bury Me Towards Africa: Nineteenth-Century African American Cemetery Rituals.” Chapter in the government white paper report, *The Last Thing That Tells Our Story: A Cultural History of the Mt Pleasant Plains Cemetery, A Historic African American Burial Ground in Washington, DC*. National Park Service (NPS), Washington, DC.
- 2016-2022     Dance History Pedagogy. Website. Published the website to provide support for students in African and African Diaspora dance history courses.
- 2016            *Grave Revelations: Cultural and Historical Narratives from the Colored Union Benevolent Association Burial Ground*. Documentary discussing the performance of Africanisms in 19<sup>th</sup> century African American funerary rituals. Directed, researched, wrote the script, and narrated the documentary. Produced, by Aryzen Pictures.
- 2016            *History Dances: African Dance Systems as Methodology*. Documentary (short form). Directed, researched, wrote the script, and narrated the documentary. Produced by, Aryzen Pictures. Visual supplement for my monograph *History Dances: Chronicling the History of Traditional Mandinka Dance*.
- 2014            "It Fits Like a Glove: Women and Black Consciousness in South Africa, 1901-1989." Article. *Africalogical Perspectives: Historical and Contemporary Analysis of Race and Africana Studies*, Spring Issue, 2014, pp. 77-92.
- 2012            *Meet the Rain at the Clouds*. Digital Story. Director, researcher, writer. Presented at “Women’s History Month,” National Park Service (NPS), Washington, DC.
- 2012            *From Strength to Liberation*. Documentary. Director, researcher, writer. Presented as part of the city-wide Sesquicentennial Celebrations. Published by Anacostia Library, Washington, DC.

## JOURNAL/DIGITAL WORKS IN PROGRESS

*At the Cutting Edge*. Peer-reviewed international digital journal. Founding Editor-in-Chief. Digital Howard: Howard University.

## ARTISTIC WORKS | CREATIVE PRODUCTION

- 2020         *RITES*, Choreography (African dance ballet). Invited to present my choreographic work *RITES* in Recife, Brazil, with 5 of my students. U.S. State Department – Smithsonian Museum joint project. March 23-29, 2020. (Postponed due to Coronavirus).
- 2016         “Lamban.” Ceremonial reception director, and choreographer for the reception African dance and the processional. *African American Women and the Law (AAWL) Conference*. Theme: “Black Women Still Rising: Ending Structural Racism, Patriarchy and Violence.” National Education Association (NEA), Washington, DC.
- 2010         “Umoja” *Suwabi African Ballet’s 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Kwanzaa Concert*. Director, producer, choreographer. The Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.
- 2010         Cultural Continuities II: African Dance & Culture in the Diaspora Conference, Founder/Director. Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.
- 2009         Cultural Continuities: African Dance & Culture in the Diaspora Conference, Founder/Director. Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.
- 2009         *Once on This Island* (Musical), choreographer. Hampton Roads Academy Newport News, VA.
- 2009         “Faju,” choreography. *A Choreographer’s Showcase*. Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA.
- 2008         *Imani*. Suwabi African Ballet’s 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Kwanzaa Concert. Director, producer, choreographer. The Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.
- 2007         *Nia*. Suwabi African Ballet’s 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Kwanzaa Concert. Director, producer, choreographer. The Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.
- 2006         *Bena*. Choreographer. The Governor’s School for the Arts, Norfolk, VA.
- 2006         Choreographer/Director. *Suwabi African Ballet*. Elizabeth State University, NC.
- 2006         *Kuumba*. Suwabi African Ballet’s 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Kwanzaa Concert. Director producer, choreographer. The Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.

2004-2009 *First Night at Colonial Williamsburg*, Suwabi African Ballet was commissioned annually to perform. College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA.

#### NATIONAL ARTISTIC PROJECTS

2018-2024 *The Africana Theatre and Dance Collection*. Director. Established a digital archival collection in Howard University's Founders Library. Awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant for the project. Washington, DC.

2012 *Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts*. Created the first archives for the nation's only federal performing arts park. United States Department of the Interior, Vienna, VA.

#### PROGRAM INITIATIVES

2023 *Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts Honors Program*. Established the framework for the inaugural honors program for the newly established fine arts college.

2022 *Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts Grant Writing Series*. Established the first grant writing workshop series to inspire and support grant writing efforts of Fine Arts faculty and staff. (5 workshops, September-November).

2022 *Submitting Your Grant Proposal for the National Endowment for the Humanities*. Workshop. Organized a workshop for all humanities faculty at Howard University to support grant proposal submissions. Invited presenter, Dr. Mary Macklem, Senior Program Officer for Research, NEH. October 28<sup>th</sup>.

2022 *Candid Conversations on Arts and Research*. Conference Panel. Convened the college's first arts research conference panel consisting entirely of Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts faculty, Howard University Research Month, April 26.

2022 *Reimagining Research 2022-2024, Strategic Plan for Research*. Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts. Spearheaded the college's first strategic plan for research.

2021 *R.I.S.E. (Revitalize. Innovate. Sustain. Emerge) Proposal for Strategic Investment in the Department of Theatre Arts*. Successfully submitted a \$2.2-million-dollar proposal to Howard University to increase investment in the Department of Theatre Arts. The proposal was fully funded.

2021 *Professional Pipeline Program*. Established the program to foster official partnerships between the Department of Theatre Arts and theatre/dance companies of regional and national renown to provide industry experience for students. Howard University, Washington, DC.

- 2021 *I.D.E.A. (Imagine. Design. Engage. Achieve) 3 Year Strategic Plan, 2021-2024.* Developed the Department of Theatre Arts' first strategic plan. Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2020 *Nankama African Dance Conference*, Director. Convened the international two-day scholarly conference on African and African Diaspora dance and performance research. Panelists and scholars from Africa, the US, Europe, and the Caribbean attended. Ralph J. Bunch International Affairs Center, Washington DC, February 8-9.
- 2019 *Nankama African Dance Conference*, Founding Director. International Two-day Scholarly Conference on African and African Diaspora dance and performance research. Panelists and scholars from Africa, the US, Europe, and the Caribbean attended. Ralph J. Bunch International Affairs Center, Washington DC, February 9-10.

## **PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS AND CONSULTANCY**

- 2022-Present Consultant/Researcher: cultural organizations, non-profits, agencies, government
- 2014-2016 Cultural Historian/Researcher. National Park Service (NPS). Washington, DC.
- 2014 Research Associate Curator for the exhibit, "Polyrhythm: The Evolution of African American Dance and its African Roots." Museum exhibit. The National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, Wilberforce, Ohio.
- 2013-2014 Co-Investigator. Ethnographic and Historical Project, National Park Service (NPS), Washington, DC.
- 1996-2011 Artistic Director/Founder. Suwabi African Ballet. \*Directed/managed a company of 50 dancers and drummers, operated the dance school, conducted research and choreographed African dance ballets based on findings, wrote grants, curated seasons, created and managed budget, etc. Norfolk and Newport News, VA.
- 2005-2011 Director. CampRize! Dance Camp, Norfolk, VA.
- 2004-2009 Director. Stage Norfolk Theatre Company, Norfolk, VA.
- 2000-2009 Artist in Residence. Governor's School for the Arts. Norfolk, VA.
- 2000-2003 Artist-in-Residence. Old Dominion University, African dance choreographer. Norfolk, VA.
- 2000-2002 Artist-in-Residence. Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA.



## INVITED SCHOLAR/SPEAKER

- 2024 Invited Scholar. “African Dance and Culture: the Glue that Binds Africa to Her Diaspora.” Lecture. *AfroSoul Symposium: Embracing Our Shared Narratives Across the African Diaspora.* Blackburn Center, Washington DC. February 25.
- 2024 Invited Scholar. “Afrikinesis: A Research Paradigm for African Dance.” Lecture. University of California-Irvine’s, Claire Trevor School of the Arts | Dance. January 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 2022 Keynote speaker. Mellon Center for Faculty Excellence/Prairie View A&M University, Faculty Conference. “Leveraging Your Scholarship Currency: Writing Proposals for Fellowships and Grants.” Prairie View A & M University, Prairie View, Texas, August 15.
- 2021 Invited panelist. The Atlantic Council, Africa Center, *High-Level International Summit on the African Creative and Cultural Industries.* Hosted by Ambassador Rama Yade. Other panelists included, Nana Addo-Akufo (President of Ghana), and other high-level officials. Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, DC, October 15.
- 2021 Invited panelist. *HBCUx Focus Group, Black Seed Fund* (a \$10 million national strategic plan to facilitate HBCU theatre and dance Programs). Occurred digitally in diverse cities including Washington, DC, California, New York, Florida, among others. October 9.
- 2021 Invited speaker. Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. *Spotlight Series: Arts Education & Leadership.* The Spotlight Series is in collaboration with Howard University’s Theatre Arts Department. Washington, DC, October 25.
- 2020 Invited speaker. U.S. State Department, “African Dance in the Diaspora.” Recife, Brazil, March 23-29, 2020. (Postponed due to Coronavirus).
- 2014 Invited panelist. “Africa, the Ring Shout, and Hand Dancing: Exposing the Ancient Foundations of DC Hand Dancing,” in the panel, “Hand Dance Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,” the Annual Conference of the National Hand Dance Association, Arena Stage, Washington, DC.
- 2012 Invited speaker. “Fortitude and the Embodiment of a Movement,” DC National Archives’ Commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Emancipation in Washington, DC.
- 2013 “Research and the Arts,” invited lecturer for the course, Dance History I, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.

- 2011 Invited speaker (and performance and choreographer). “African Dance and the Utility of Tradition,” The International Arts Festival, Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA.
- 2011 Invited speaker (and workshop). “Historic Vistas of African Dance,” Norfolk State University Annual Dance Conference, Norfolk, VA.
- 2011 Invited speaker (and performance and choreographer). “History, Traditional African Dance, and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” Thomas Nelson Community College Annual Black History Month Conference, Hampton, VA.
- 2010 Invited speaker (and choreographer). “Moving Forward: African American Dance,” Norfolk State University Annual Dance Conference, Norfolk, VA.
- 2010 Invited speaker. “Manjani: Conceptualizing the Rite of Passage in Mandinka Dance,” The Office of International and Intercultural Programs, Wesleyan College, Norfolk, VA.

## **FEATURED SCHOLAR**

(Abridged list)

- 2024 Featured scholar in the podcast, *Grovin’ Griot: The Role of Dance in African Diasporic Storytelling*, a production of the Digital Futures Institute at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. Release date, May 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 2022 Featured in *Southern Theatre*, “Opening Doors: Professional Theatres Partner with HBCUs to Help Develop Black Leaders.” Vol. LXII no. 1 (Winter 2022), p. 32-34.
- 2019 Interviewed on ABC’s *Good Morning Washington* (February 7, 2019).
- 2019 *History Dances: Chronicling the History of Traditional Mandinka Dance*, featured on Howard University’s “Hot 15” Books for Black History Month.
- 2018 *Afro-American Newspaper*, “Howard Fine Arts Professor Shows How African Dance Chronicled History.” (December 15, 2018).
- 2018 *Perspectives on History*, Spotlight Scholar. American Historical Association (AHA). (December 6, 2018).
- 2018 *Dance Spirit*, “Step By Step,” article. Interviewed and provided historical content for article on African American Step Dancing (April 2018 issue), p. 44-45.

## CONFERENCES

- 2024 15<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Stigma. “Traditional African Dance Praxis: Discrediting Stigma, Elevating Honor.” Curated the dance workshop on dance applications for stress release. Washington DC. (Forthcoming November 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>).
- 2022 Roundtable Discussion with Hon. Railia A. Odinga, African Union High Representative and former Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya. Exclusive invitation from Ambassador Rama Yade, Director of the Africa Center, Atlantic Council, Washington DC. April 25.
- 2022 Summit, *Africa Fast Forward: Building A Pathway to an Emerging Continent*. The Visionary Leaders’ Summit, GE7 Initiative, and The George Washington University Institute for African Studies. Exclusive invitation. December 11<sup>th</sup>. Washington DC.
- 2022 Summit, *Investing in Africa’s Creative Industries*. Exclusive invitation from Ambassador Rama Yade, Director of the Africa Center, Atlantic Council, Washington DC. December 15th.
- 2019 “Les Ballets Africains and the Restoration of Black Identity in Africa and the Diaspora,” presentation. Paper accepted in Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) conference. November 5-9, Williamsburg, VA.
- 2018 “Dance, Performance, African Rock Art, and the History of the Earth,” paper accepted in the panel “Making People of African Origins Visible in the STEM Curriculum.” Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE) International Conference. January 4-6, 2018, Baltimore, MD.
- 2018 “Dancing Off Blackface: Vaudeville and the Construction of Black Identity in the World War I Era.” Paper accepted in Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALAH) annual meeting and conference. October 3-7. Indianapolis, Indiana.
- 2017 “Jondon/Wolosodon,” featured artist, Master Class. Lecture and workshop, Wazee African Dance and Culture, The Hampton Performing and Creative Arts Center, Hampton, VA.
- 2016 “Nangadef: August Wilson, Dance and Ritual,” discussion. The August Wilson Society, Armour J. Blackburn Center, Washington, DC.
- 2014 “When They Stood Up: 19<sup>th</sup>-Century African American Cemetery Ritual,” paper. Organization of American Historians (OAH), Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia.

- 2013 "Revelations of Africanisms: The History of Washington DC's Emancipation," paper. District of Columbia City Council Emancipation Conference, Washington, DC.
- 2010 "A Separate Space: Historical Highlights of Gnawa Dance, Arts and Culture in Contemporary Morocco," paper. Cross Cultural Solutions, Morocco, North Africa.
- 2009 "The State of Black Dance in America," invited speaker and workshop. Office of Student Affairs Black History Program, Hampton University, Hampton, VA.
- 2008 "Diversifying Dance Venues," invited speaker (and performance). National Folk Festival, National Council for the Traditional Arts, Richmond, VA.
- 2007 "Africa, America, the Arts and Inclusion," invited speaker (and performance and choreography). America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Jamestown Settlement, Jamestown, VA.
- 2006 "Incorporating The Arts in the Homeschool Curriculum," invited lecturer. Department of Education, Hampton University, Hampton, VA.
- 2005 "Kasa: Celebration through Traditional Jola Drumming," invited speaker (and workshop). The Virginia Music Educator's Association Annual Meeting, Norfolk, VA.

#### **JUDGE | ADJUDICATOR | REVIEWER**

- 2024-2025 *National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)*, Research Evaluator. HBCU Research Study Technical Working Group Specialist. Washington, DC.
- 2024 Wesleyan University, External Reviewer. Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure application, Middletown, CT.
- 2023 *National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)*. Judge. Ruth Lovell Murray Book Awards.
- 2022 *National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)*. Grant Reviewer for the Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education grant program, Washington, DC.
- 2022 *National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST)*. Accreditation Site Evaluator, Reston, VA.
- 2022 *Dance Research Journal*. Reviewer. Peer-reviewed journal of the international organization, *Dance Studies Association (DSA)*.

- 2021 *DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities*. Adjudicator and Grant Reviewer. FY21 Arts and Humanities Fellowship in Dance, Washington, DC.
- 2021 University of North Carolina-Charlotte. External Reviewer. Tenure and Promotion Application.
- 2021 Wayne State University. Reviewer. Arts and Humanities Research Support Program. Detroit, MI.
- 2020 *Journal of the Musical Arts in Africa*. Reviewer. Peer-reviewed journal of the South African College of Music, University of Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2020 *National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)*, Grant Reader. Grants for Arts Projects, Washington, DC.
- 2020 NAACP *ACT-SO* (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics). Judge. National Competitions.
- 2019 *John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts*. Adjudicator. Kennedy Center Dance Lab, Washington, DC.
- 2019 *DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities*, Adjudicator and Grant Reviewer. FY20 Arts and Humanities Fellowship in Dance, Washington, DC.
- 2019 *Arts*. Reviewer. Peer reviewed international journal, Basel, Switzerland.
- 2019 *The Griot: The Journal of African American Studies*. Reviewer. Peer-reviewed academic journal.
- 2016-2019 *National Park Service (NPS)*. Judge. Frederick Douglass Oratorical Contest, Washington, DC.
- 2009-2011 *The Attucks Theater*. Judge. CampRize, Dance Auditions, Norfolk, VA.
- 2006-2008 NAACP *ACT-SO* (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics). Judge. Regional Competitions, Newport News, VA.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE: HOWARD UNIVERSITY**

### *Academic Courses*

African History I

Arts, Libraries, and Archives

Research Methods in Dance, Theatre, and Performance

Dance History I: Africa, Antiquity to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Dance History I: World Dance

Dance History II: Engaging the African Diaspora, 1600 to Present

Theatre History I: World Theatre to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century  
Introduction to Theatre  
Performance and Identity  
Honors Thesis I, II  
Honors Directed Research I, II

*Dance Technique Courses*

African Dance I  
African Dance II (intermediate)  
African Dance III (advanced)  
African Dance Performance Workshop

*Digital Pedagogy*

2021-Present Pedagogy Website: *The History of Africana Dance*. Published website to enhance student engagement in the undergraduate courses: Dance History I; Dance History II; and Performance and Identity.  
2020-Present 100% Online Course: Dance History I: Africa, Antiquity to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
2020-Present 100% Online Course: Dance History II: African Diaspora  
2017-2020 Pedagogy Website: *Africana Cultural History*. Published website to enhance student engagement in the undergraduate courses: Theatre History; Dance History; Performance and Identity; and Arts, Libraries, and Archives.

*Undergraduate College Courses Created*

2020 Arts, Libraries, and Archives  
2018 Research Methods in Dance, Theatre, and Performance  
2017 Performance and Identity

*Faculty Advisor*

2023-Present *Omoge African Dance Ensemble*. Student-led African dance company. Howard University.  
2023 *DeFine Talk*. College of Fine Arts Student Council hosted panel event. Student leaders from the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Business, and the College of Fine Arts discussed systemic racism and student mental health.

**OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*African Dance Technique & Culture* (abridged list)

Hampton University | Norfolk State University | Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts (ME) | Old Dominion University (VA) | Christopher Newport University (VA) | Thomas Nelson Community College (VA) | Governor's School for the Arts (VA) | Dance Institute of Washington (DC) | Pacifica Graduate Institute (CA)

**EXTERNAL PH.D. DISSERTATION COMMITTEES**

2024 *External Reader*, Ph.D. Comprehensive Oral Exam. Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, Portland, ME.

- 2022-2024 *Dissertation Director*: “Black Artistic Thought: Contextualizing the Spiritual as An Art Form Through the Voice of Black Women Artists and Thinkers.” Rikiesha Metzger, Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, Portland, ME. Successfully defended, April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 2021-2022 *Dissertation Director*: “Removed Closeness: A Phenomenological Inquiry into the Black Dancing Body Across Space, Time, and Geographies.” Truly A. Bennett, Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, Portland, ME. Successfully defended, December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 2020-2023 *Dissertation Committee Member*. “Phenomenology of Stepping and its Potential as a Liberatory Praxis.” Dominic King, Department of Community, Liberation, Indigenous, and Ecopsychology. Pacifica Graduate Institute, Santa Barbara, CA. Successfully defended, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS ADVISEMENT**

- 2018-2019 *Thesis Director*: Jaylen Wilson, “Theatre is a Weapon: The Efficacy of Theatrical Presentation as a Device for Combating Systemic Racism.” Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University. Selected to present at Howard University Research Week, April 2019.
- 2017-2018 *Thesis Director*: Adanna Paul, “Bound to Post-Black: Examining and Redefining Tenets of the Post-Black Arts Movement.” Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University. \*Won award for best presentation in Arts and Design, Howard University Research Week, April 2018.
- 2017-2018 *Thesis Director*: Mary Morris, “Breaking the Cycle: An Investigation of Drama Therapy as an Intervention on the School to Prison Pipeline and At-Risk Youth.” Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University. Selected to present at Howard University Research Week, April 2018.

### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

- 2022 Keynote Speaker, *Celebrating Life in Harmony*, Kwanzaa Program. Cramton Auditorium, Washington DC, Dance Institute of Washington.
- 2022 Consultant, Spirit of Kwanzaa. Program planning, Dance Institute of Washington (DIW), Washington DC.
- 2022 Humanities Specialist, “Reflections on Justice” *Dance Institute of Washington* (DIW), DC Arts and Humanities grant project. Washington DC.
- 2019 Consultant, *BREathe Dance Project*, Fort Washington, Maryland.
- 2018 Dance Dramaturge, “Trials to Freedom,” *Seals Dance Project*, Washington, DC.

- 2019 Host, talkback for the D.C. screening of the web series, *Black Enough*, Landmark's E Street Cinema, Washington, DC, November 13.
- 2017-2022 Consultant, *Wazee African Dance and Culture*, Hampton, VA.
- 2016-2017 Humanities Specialist, *National Hand Dance Association* (NHDA) Washington, DC.
- 2016 Panel Evaluator, Panel discussion, National Hand Dance Association (NHDA). 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth and Young Adult Symposium, R.I.S.E. Demonstration Center, Washington, DC.
- 2016 Member, Planning Committee. Director and choreographer for the opening reception. *African American Policy Forum: Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies*. African American Women and the Law Conference, National Education Association (NEA) Washington, DC.
- 2007 Travel Coordinator, ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics) Gold metal finalists' travel to final competition in Detroit, MI.
- 2004 Suwabi In Gambia, organized an African dance conference for US dance artists to travel to The Gambia, West Africa, to study traditional African dance, history, and culture for three weeks, March-April, 2004.

**SERVICE: HOWARD UNIVERSITY**

- 2022-Present Member, New Building Committee, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2023 Member, Bylaws Committee, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts. Worked as a team member to continue the creation of the bylaws after the initial format and initial draft was completed.
- 2022-2023 Chair, Bylaws Committee, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts. Created and directed the initial process for writing the bylaws that is to govern the newly established college.
- 2022 Judge for presentations, Howard University Annual Research Month, April 2022.
- 2021-2024 Member, Executive Committee, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts.
- 2021-2024 Member, Alumni, Honorary Degree, and Distinguished Faculty Committee, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts.



2020-Present Member, Interdisciplinary Faculty Consortium (IFC), Howard University Office of Research.

2020-2021 Fine Arts Representative, Howard University Faculty Senate.

2020 Acting Chair, Transition Team, College of Fine Arts (CoFA).

2019-2020 Member, Transitional Team Executive Committee, College of Fine Arts (CoFA).

2019 Member, Transition Team, College of Fine Arts.

2019 Member, Transitional Team Bylaws Committee, College of Fine Arts.

2019-2020 Member, Executive Committee, Department of Theatre Arts.

2019-2020 Supervisor, Experiential Learning and On-Campus Placement, Howard University Student Employment Program (HUSEP), Office of Career Services.

2019 Judge for poster and paper presentations, Howard University Annual Research Week.

2019 Reviewer for abstract submissions to Howard University Annual Research Week.

2018-2019 Member, CoFA Working Group, Committee for reinstating the College of Fine Arts.

2018 Member, Department of Theatre Arts Sabbatical Committee.

2018 Member, Search Committee, Department of Theatre Arts Lighting Designer.

2018 Judge for poster and paper presentations, Howard University Annual Research Week.

2017-2018 Chair, Department Chair Search Committee, Department of Theatre Arts.

2017-2021 Member, Academic Policy, Standards, and General Education (APSAGE) Committee, College of Arts and Sciences.

2017-2020 Chair, Curriculum Committee, Department of Theatre Arts.

2017-2019 Member, Honors Council, College of Arts and Sciences.

2017-2018 Coordinator, Theatre Arts Minor Program, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.

2016-2019 Member, Executive Committee, Department of Theater Arts.

- 2015-2019 Chair, Library Committee, Department of Theater Arts.
- 2014-2017 Member, Curriculum Committee, Department of Theater Arts.

### **CONTINUED EDUCATION | PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 2024 TRAINING, *Mapping Your Budget to Your Strategic Plan*. Office of Strategic Development, March 21<sup>st</sup>, Washington, DC.
- 2023 WORKSHOP, *Navigation Excellence: Exploring the Federal Peer Review Ecosystem & Peer Review Fair*. White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity Through HBCUs. September 26, Arlington, VA.
- 2023 WORKSHOP, Pre-Meeting Workshop for Seasoned Theatre Administrators in Higher Education, NAST 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Retreat for Administrators of Theatre Programs in Higher Education, March 14-18, St. Louis, MO.
- 2022 TRAINING, Cybersecurity Awareness Training, Office of Enterprise Technology Services, Howard University. (2022, 2023, 2024)
- 2022 WORKSHOP, Workshop for New and Aspiring Theatre Administrators in Higher Education. NAST 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Retreat for Administrators of Theatre Programs in Higher Education, March 23, Baltimore, MD.
- 2021 WORKSHOP, NAST Training Workshop for Visiting Evaluators. National Association for Schools of Theatre, Reston, VA.
- 2020-2021 TRAINING, Chairs Leadership Academy (CLA, for Chairs and Associate Deans), Office of Faculty Development, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2020 CONFERENCE, “Specific Procedures for NAST Evaluation,” National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST), Reston, VA.
- 2019 CERTIFICATION, HU-Teach/Quality Matters Online Course Design Standards workshops to convert face-to-face courses to 100% online format. Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2020 CERTIFICATION, Blackboard Certified, Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Assessment (CETLA), Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2017 CERTIFICATION, Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC), Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Assessment (CETLA), Howard University, Washington, DC.

2017 CERTIFICATE, Faculty Writing & Creative Works Summer Academy, Office of Faculty Development, Howard University, Washington, DC.

2015 CERTIFICATE, Preparing Future Faculty (PFF), Howard University, Washington, DC.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

African Studies Association (ASA)

The Center for HBCU Research, Leadership, and Policy

National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)

Dance Studies Association (DSA)

National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST)

Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)

West African Research Association (WARA)

### **FIELD WORK AND ARCHIVAL RESEARCH**

Republic of Senegal | Republic of The Gambia | Morocco | Nassau, Bahamas | Freeport, Bahamas | The United States

### **LANGUAGES**

French (Reading) | Wolof (Basic) | Spanish (Basic) | Arabic (Basic)

### **ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

(Original Full-Length African Ballets, Abridged list)

*Choreographer, wrote the script, director, drumming arrangements, designed and made costumes.*

Wasalunke and the Three Virtues, 2008

Imhotep, 2006

Waters of Despair, Waters of Hope, 2004

The Voices of Shu, 2002

The Dismal Swamp, 2000

Africa: A Song of Me, 1998

MUSICALS: Choreographer (Abridged list)

*Rainbow Park, 2007*

*Outliers II, 2006*

*Outliers, 2005*

*Once On This Island, 2004*

*The Wiz, 2000*

## COMMISSIONED TO CHOREOGRAPH SITE-SPECIFIC WORKS

(Abridged list, 2000-2011)

America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Jamestown, VA (Commissioned by the US Government)

The Chrysler Museum

The Norfolk Botanical Garden

The Mariner's Museum

The SS Rotterdam (Holland/America cruise ship)

The Spirit of Norfolk (cruise ship)

Norfolk Zoological Museum

The Peninsula Fine Arts Center

Hampton University Museum

## FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES & PRESENTATIONS

(Abridged list)

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 2010      | Gnawa Arts, Rabat, Morocco, Northwest, Africa.                      |
| 2006      | Lyceum Series for Cultural Engagement, Elizabeth City, NC.          |
| 2004      | Corichow Dance Company, Kololi, The Gambia, West Africa.            |
| 1997-2011 | Newport News Folk Arts Festival, City Government, Newport News, VA. |
| 1997-2007 | African American Arts Festival (Afr-Am Festival), Norfolk, VA.      |
| 2005      | National Arts Festival, Richmond, VA. (The festival toured the US)  |
| 2000-2005 | Umoja Festival, Portsmouth Parks and Recreation, Portsmouth, VA.    |
| 1999      | African American Festival of the Arts, Charles City, VA.            |

## FEATURED ARTIST

(Abridged list)

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| VFH Radio | VFH Radio Productions Program, "Suwabi African Ballet." I was featured as the Founding Artistic Director of my dance company. Interview by Connie Stevens, 2007.                            |
| NBC       | WAVY 10 Performance at the NTELOS Pavilion, <i>Suwabi African Ballet</i> . I was featured with my dance company, 2007.  |
| Book      | <i>In Good Keeping: Virginia's Folklife Apprenticeships</i> . Featured as a Master Artist, pp. 114-117. Published by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Charlottesville, VA, 2007. |
| WOWI      | "The Morning Show." Interviewed by Cheryl Wilkerson (Radio) 2006.   |
| PBS       | "Interview with Master Folk Artist Ofoosuwa Abiola." Interviewed on PBS, aired in all US states including Hawaii, 2005.   |
| CBS       | "A Day with Suwabi African Ballet." I was featured with my dance company on the "Ester Pierre is Everywhere" show, 2002.  |

CBS            “Live at Nine.” Performance, 1999.

**OTHER OVERSEAS PERFORMANCES & PRESENTATIONS**

(Abridge list)

The Gambia | Senegal | Morocco | Bermuda | Bahamas | Puerto Rico | St. Thomas

**KWANZAA DANCE CONCERTS**

1997-2011      Choreographed, Directed, and produced, 14 annual Kwanzaa concerts which opened on the second day of Kwanzaa, Kugichagulia (Self-determination), from 1997 to 2005, and on the first day of Kwanzaa, Umoja (Unity), from 2006 to 2011.