

EDUCATION

October 2010

Hollins University/American Dance Festival, Roanoke VA

M.F.A. in Dance

Thesis: “Queer Vaudeville: An Intersection of Race, Gender, History, and Sexuality in Tap Dance”

December 2004

Columbia University, New York, NY

Post baccalaureate course, Center for Jazz Studies, “Gender, Race & Jazz”

January 1984

Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, NY

B.A. in English

TRAINING

Tap: Brenda Bufalino (1982-1992) and workshops with Sarah Petronio, Lynn Dally, Honi Coles, Steve Condos, Eddie Brown, Buster Brown, Chuck Green, Jimmy Slyde, Gregory Hines, Savion Glover

Modern: June Finch, Cynthia Novack, Janet Soares, Cunningham Studio, Graham Studio, Contact Improvisation

Jazz Dance: Billy Siegenfeld and others

Appalachian Clogging: Ira Bernstein

West African, Haitian, African-American popular dance forms: various teachers

Acting: Carol Fox Prescott

Alexander Technique: Anne Waxman

Ballet: Andra Corvino

Clowning: Bill Irwin

Percussion: various teachers

Pilates: Allison Easter

Shakere: Caru Thompson

Voice: Birdey Rutkin

Writing: Cheryl King

Childhood training: Natalia Clare (ballet),

Dean Barlow (jazz & tap),

Meredith Golden (ballet & tap)

TEACHING

2014 - present American Tap Dance Foundation, New York, NY
Co-Director Tap Teacher Training Certificate Program
Conceived, developed, direct, and teach a multi-level curriculum for tap teachers based in the Copasetic Canon Repertory. Courses include rhythm tap technique, repertory, pedagogy, music, composition, and history.

2010 – present American Tap Dance Center, New York, NY
Freelance Teacher

Teach workshops in composition, improvisation, and professional music skills for tap dancers; teach tap technique and original and historic repertory

- 1997 - present Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, NY
Adjunct Lecturer in Dance.
Teach “Tap as an American Art Form,” a lecture/studio course on the history and artistry of tap dance in American culture; “Tap Ensemble and Composition,” an advanced composition, improvisation and performance course; all levels rhythm tap technique with an emphasis on jazz musicianship.
- 1997 – present Master teacher at international tap festivals
Teach all aspects of rhythm tap: technique, repertory, improvisation, and history. Cultural Envoy to Moscow as guest of US Embassy (2008), Tap City--The NYC Tap Festival (2001-2013), the Chicago Human Rhythm Project (2001, ‘02), Columbus Tap Festival (2001, ‘02), Rio de Janeiro’s Tap Encontro (1997, ‘98, ‘99), Bates Dance Festival, ME (1999), workshops in Germany, Spain, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey
- 2003, 2004,
2011, 2012 Tap Teacher Seminars, American Tap Dance Foundation, New York, NY
Designed and lead enrichment seminars for tap dance teachers: curriculum development, pedagogy, injury prevention, history, resource sharing.
- 1990 – 2001 Taught all levels tap technique, improvisation, and repertory: programs include NYU-Tisch School of the Arts musical theater program at CAP 21, Broadway Dance Center, Steps Studio, Woodpeckers Tap Center, New Jersey Ballet.

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

- Forthcoming “Juanita Pitts: Race, Gender, and the Female Hooper.” In *Dancing The African Diaspora*, edited by Thomas F. DeFrantz. Durham: Duke University Press, 2019.
- “Tap and Modernity,” “Bill ‘Bojangles’ Robinson and Modernism,” “John W. Bubbles and Modernism.” In *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*.
Forthcoming.
- 2018 Co-author with Susan Hebach, *Rhythm Tap Teacher Training Manual: Copasetic Canon Curriculum, Levels 1, 2 & 3*, revised edition. New York: American Tap Dance Foundation, 2018.
- 2016 “Tap Dancing: Reports of Our Death Have Been Grossly Exaggerated: A Review of *What the Eye Hears: A History of Tap Dancing* by Brian Seibert.” In *The Los Angeles Review of Books*. September 18, 2016.

Editor, *Tap Dance in America: A Twentieth-Century Chronology of tap performance on stage, film, and media*, by Constance Valis Hill. Database published by Library of Congress, 2016.

Contributing historian and co-author of guide materials for “Tap Treasures: A Tap Dance Storytelling Tour,” a public, site-specific event, produced by the American Tap Dance Foundation, New York City, 2016.

2014 “Tap and Teeth: Virtuosity and the Smile in the Films of Bill Robinson and Eleanor Powell.” *Dance Research Journal* 46, no. 2 (August 2014): 21-37.

Co-author with Susan Hebach. *Rhythm Tap Teacher Training Manual: Copasetic Canon Curriculum, Level 1*. New York: American Tap Dance Foundation, 2014.

“Juanita Pitts: A Biographical Sketch.” Unpublished manuscript.

2012 “John W. Bubbles.” Dance Heritage Coalition’s Exhibit *America’s Irreplaceable Dance Treasures*, 2012.
http://www.danceheritage.org/treasures/bubbles_essay_morrison.pdf

2004 “Savion Glover and the Authenticity Wars: Improvisational Soloist vs. Ensemble Choreographer.” Unpublished paper.

MEDIA COVERAGE & CITATIONS

2018 Featured article by Rachel Rizzuto, “Susan Hebach and Margaret Morrison: How We Teach Rhythm Tap,” *Dance Teacher Magazine*, May 2018.

2010 Featured biographical section on my contributions to tap dance in *Tap Dancing America* by Constance Valis Hill, Oxford, 2010 (357-359).

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

2018 Serving on doctoral dissertation committee of Carolyn Hebert, candidate for Doctorate of Philosophy in Education, Studies in Teaching and Learning, University of Ottawa, phenomenological research on tap dance improvisation.

Mentor for independent study in tap history and the Whitman Sisters, Thelma Goldberg, candidate for Doctorate in Education, Lesley University.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS & GUEST LECTURES

Feb 19, 2016 “‘Miss Bert Whitman Meets Dyke Astaire’: Danced Masculinity and Embodied Research.” Paper presented at Dancing the African Diaspora:

Embodying the AfroFuture, Collegium for African Diaspora Dance (CADD) Conference, Duke University, Durham, NC.

- Aug 4, 2015 "Tap Dance: History, Artistry & Meaning." Lecture presented at the Augusta Heritage Festival, Davis and Elkins College, Elkins WV.
- July 11, 2012 "Alice Whitman and the Whitman Sisters Legacy." Video and performance tribute for the induction into the American Tap Dance Foundation Tap Dance Hall of Fame. Tap City Award Ceremony, Bruno Walter Auditorium, NYC.
- June 15, 2012 "The Miller Brothers and Lois: Agency, Exploitation and Spectacle in Philadelphia's Tap and Flash Act." Paper presented at the Society of Dance History Scholars. Philadelphia, PA.
- Nov 18, 2011 "Alberta 'Bert' Whitman: Strut and Flash Dancer and Composer." Paper presented at the Joint Conference of the Congress on Research in Dance/Society for Ethnomusicology. Philadelphia, PA.
- Mar 14, 2011 "Body of Rhythm." Guest lecture in Traditional American Concert Dance at MIT, Cambridge, MA. Co-sponsored by MIT departments of Music and Theater Arts and Women's and Gender Studies.
- Mar 11, 2011 "She Stayed With the Sisters: Tap Dance Narratives and Invisibilized Women" Paper presentation at the Congress on Research in Dance, Tallahassee, FL.
- Mar 10, 2011 "Tap History & Artistry." Guest lecture in Dance Appreciation at Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus, NY
- Feb 19, 2011 "Juanita Pitts: Gender, Race and the Female Hooper." Lecture and video presentation at the American Tap Dance Center, New York, NY.
- Dec 11, 2010 "Jigging, Jazz Tap, Hoofing & History." Film and tap history presentation for children and families at the American Tap Dance Center, New York, NY
- Nov 9-11, 2010 "Jazz Dance, Musical Theater, & Tap Dance." Guest lectures in Dance Appreciation at Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus, NY
- Jun 18, 2010 "Juanita Pitts: Gender, Race and the Female Hooper." Paper presented at the American Dance Festival, Durham, NC.
- Nov 14, 2008 "Clothes Make the Woman: Women Tap Dancers and the Iconography of the Suit." Paper presented at the Congress on Research in Dance, Roanoke, VA.
- Feb 9, 2008 "Challenges Facing Women in Tap." Panelist at Women in Tap Conference, Los Angeles, CA.

Jan 31, 2005 "On Dance: Brenda Bufalino." Moderator, Barnard College, New York, NY.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CHOREOGRAPHY, PLAYS & THEATER WORKS

- 2019** "I See the Future in Your Eyes" ensemble tap work choreographed in collaboration with composers Jean Rohe and Philip Hamilton, supported by American Tap Dance Foundation Artist in Residence program.
- 2015** *Home in Her Heart* - wrote, choreographed, produced and starred in the full-length play, premier Stage Left Studio, NYC, ran 43 performances in 2012-13 and 2015
"Buff Loves Basie Blues" - restaged large ensemble tap work by Brenda Bufalino for Tap City Youth Ensemble, NYC
- 2013** *The Loves of Miss Jimmie LeRoy* - wrote and starred in the short play, premier Stage Left Studio, NYC
Miss Bert Whitman Meets Dyke Astaire – wrote and starred in staged reading of excerpt of a work in progress at Fresh Fruit Festival, Nuyorican Poets Café, NYC
- 2012** "In Search of Alice Whitman" tap dance/text solo, premier Symphony Space, NYC
- 2011** "Dyke Astaire" tap dance/theater solo, premier Stage Left Studio, NYC
- 2010** "Dyke Astaire and the Queen of Tap" theater/tap work exploring gender, race and sexuality in tap with Mildred Gerestant
- 2009** "Queer Vaudeville" solo mixed media, video & tap performance
"In Search of the Whitman Sisters" theater/tap work created for Barnard/Columbia Tap Ensemble Class
- 2008** "Five Points" large ensemble tap work for Tap City Youth Ensemble school show on the African-Irish fusion of dance in 19th century New York
"Copasetic Suite" restaged historic tap repertory for Vortex Tap Ensemble, Moscow, Russia
- 2007** "Willow Weep For Me" improvisational tap solo on space and grief
"Work Song" large ensemble tap work for Bay Area Dance Company (Tampa, FL) and the Barnard/Columbia Tap Ensemble Class, NYC
"Lucero" ensemble for Tap City Youth Ensemble
- 2006** "It Ain't Necessarily So" tap and vocal duet, collaboration with Jaque DuPree
"Blues for ZW" ensemble work created in collaboration with Tap Collective
- 2005** "Dreams of What Could Be" restaged my 1997 work for Barnard/Columbia Tap Ensemble Class, performed at Miller Theater and Joyce Theater, NYC.
- 2004** "Saturday Night in the Cosmos" tap solo in swing 5/4
- 2003** "Oxossi" collaboration with Brazilian tap choreographer Valeria Pinheiro, percussionists Robin Burdulis and Rita Silva
"Errol Garner Suite" tap ensemble for New Tampa Dance Theater (FL)
- 2002** "Boogie Stop Shuffle" tap solo
"Rhythm Changes" tap solo for Barnard Dance Major Senior Thesis Concert
- 2001** "Pirupiri" tap ensemble for Sole Full of Rhythm (Ypsilanti, MI)
- 2000** "2nd Ave Jump" tap ensemble for Tisch School of the Arts Celebration at

Avery Fischer Hall

- 1999** “**Black & Blue**” tap solo for Barnard Dance Major Senior Thesis Concert
- 1998** “**Song For My Father**” tap ensemble reconstruction for North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble (Chapel Hill, NC)
“**5s & 6s**” original composition and duet for percussion and tap in 5/4 and 6/4, created in collaboration with percussionist Robin Burdulis
“**Shadows**” duet for percussion and tap, collaboration with Robin Burdulis
- 1997** “**Dreams of What Could Be**” tap solo suite based on “Round Midnight” in 6/8 and Cuban guaguanco
“**Jeannine**” tap bebop solo
“**Song For My Father**” tap solo
“**Wombapusi**” collaboration of tap, percussion and text with Tandum Lett and Robin Burdulis, exploring sexuality and empowerment
- 1995** “**Eronel**” tap solo to the Thelonious Monk bop classic
- 1993** “**Pulsation**” quartet collaboration of poetry, percussion and tap
- 1992** “**Corner Pocket**” tap duet with Robin Tribble
“**Unit 7**” tap duet with Robin Tribble
- 1990** “**How Little We Know**” tap solo
- 1989** “**New Orleans**” tap duet with Robin Tribble
- 1984** “**Demons**” tap dance and physical comedy collaboration

TAP PERFORMANCE

- 2001-2012** **Tap City, The New York City Tap Festival** – Solo performance and collaborations at the annual festival. Duke on 42nd St Theater, the Joyce Theater, Symphony Space, NYC.
- 2010** **American Dance Festival/Hollins MFA Thesis Concert** – Choreographer & performer. Reynolds Industries Theater, Durham, NC
- 2008** **International Celebration of Tap Dance Moscow** – Solo performance. Guest of the of the US Embassy, Moscow
- 2004-2008** **Tap City on Tour** - Principal soloist. Tony Waag, director. National and international tours including US State Dept tours of Armenia and Romania
- 2006** **Soul Full of Rhythm Festival** – Solo performance. Tampa, FL
- 1997, 2005** **National Tap Dance Day Extravaganza** – Solo performance and collaboration. Town Hall and Haft Auditorium, NYC
- 2003** **Body of Rhythm** - Director and performer. Tap and jazz collaboration with Jeannie Hill and Max Pollak. Schein Auditorium, Sanibel, FL.
- 2001, 2002** **Chicago Human Rhythm Project** – Solo performance
- 1986-2001** **American Tap Dance Orchestra** - Principal soloist. Brenda Bufalino, dir. The Joyce, Dance Theater Workshop, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, the Apollo, Town Hall, Danny Kaye Playhouse; Woodpeckers Tap Dance Center; PBS-TV Special "Tap Dance in America" (1990); national and international tours including USIA

tour of Turkey, Cyprus, Poland, Latvia and Estonia; performances in Brazil, Germany, Bermuda.

- 1997, 98, 99 Tap Encontro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil** - Solo performance
- 1997-1998 Solo Tap Adventures/One Woman Show** – Solo performance.
Gowanus Arts Exchange, Brooklyn and Schein Auditorium, Sanibel, FL
- 1993-1998 Pulsation** - Co-director & performer. Women's performance art project of percussion, poetry, and tap. Performances include Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Philadelphia Fringe Festival.
- 1997 Wombapusi** - Co-choreographer and performer. A tap, percussion, spoken word collaboration with Tandum Lett and Robin Burdulis, performed at PS 122 and Gowanus Arts Exchange.
- 1992-1995 Tap Express** – Featured soloist and ensemble dancer. Robin Tribble, director
- 1992-1999 Nuyorican Poets Café, La Mama, Zinnos** - Solo performance.
- 1990-1992 Tribble and Morrison** - Co-director and choreographer.
- 1990 National Commercial for Seagrams** – Featured performer.
- Tap Thru Time** – Co-choreographer and performer. School show for grades K-5
- 1987-1989 Pat Cannon's Foot and Fiddle Dance Company** – Dancer. Pat Cannon, director
- 1986-1989 Vanaver Caravan** - Dancer. Bill and Livia Vanaver, directors

PRODUCTION & ARTS ADMINISTRATION

- 2005 - present Education Advisor, American Tap Dance Foundation, NY, NY
Developed and co-direct the ATDF Tap Teacher Training Certificate Program; co-produce tap performance events; select guest choreographers for residencies and design training program of Tap City, The New York City Tap Festival; serve on nominating committee for Tap Dance Hall of Fame, Hooper Award, and Tap Preservation awardees; advise all training programs including year-round training for children and adults and Tap City Youth Ensemble.
- 2001 – 2005 Adult Program Director of Tap City, the New York City Tap Festival, a project of the American Tap Dance Foundation, New York, NY
Co-produced performance events and coordinated training programs.
- 1989 – 2001 Director of the American Tap Dance Orchestra's NYC Tap Intensives at Woodpeckers Tap Dance Center and other locations. Coordinated workshops with tap master teachers; co-produced performances, events and tap jams.
- 1994 – 1996 “Music, Rhythm, Community I & II,” produced benefit music concerts featuring women percussionists.
- 1986 - 1989 Produced and lead Tap Jams in collaboration with Robin Tribble.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Dance Studies Association
Dramatists Guild