

Melissa N. Sanderson

melissa.n.sanderson@gmail.com

www.melissasanderson.com

Education

- 2011 – 2014 Texas Woman's University – Denton, Texas
M.F.A. in Dance
- 2006 – 2010 San Diego State University – San Diego, California
B.F.A. in Dance – Graduated with distinction
- 2009 Lorenzo de' Medici University – Florence, ITALY

Academic and Professional Appointments

- 2014 – present *Adjunct Professor*
Eastfield College – Mesquite, Texas
Adjunct Dance Faculty – *Ballet, Jazz, Body Conditioning*
- 2013 – 2014 *Graduate Teaching Assistant*
Texas Woman's University – Denton, Texas
Teacher of Record – *Dance, Gender and Culture*
- 2012 – 2014 *Graduate Assistant*
Texas Woman's University – Denton, Texas
Department of Dance Digital Media Coordinator
- 2012 – 2013 *Graduate Assistant*
Texas Woman's University – Denton, Texas
Course Assistant – *Understanding the Arts: Dance, World Dance Forms, and Dance, Gender and Culture*
- 2012 *Graduate Assistant*
Texas Woman's University – Denton, Texas
Assistant Coordinator of the Soma Studio

Teaching

- 2014 – present *Faculty*
North Central Ballet – Keller, Texas
Modern Dance

- 2014 – present *Instructor*
Centre for Dance – Dallas, Texas
Elementary Ballet, Intermediate Ballet, Improvisation
- 2012 – 2014 *Substitute Teacher*
Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas
Modern III, Ballet I, Ballet II, Pilates
- 2013 *Guest Teacher*
Big Rig Dance Collective – Dance Co-Op – Denton, Texas
Dance Theater & Film workshop
- Instructor*
American College Dance Festival Association – Sam Houston State
University – Huntsville, Texas
Ensemble Thinking Improvisation Class
- 2011 – 2012 *Instructor*
Texas Woman’s University Community Dance Classes – Denton, Texas
Beginning and Intermediate Ballet for Adults
- 2011 *Guest Teacher*
Bellart, CBA, and Ballet Blanc – Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA
Seven-day Ballet Workshop
- 2009 *Guest Teacher*
University of Zürich – Zürich, SWITZERLAND
Beginning and Intermediate Ballet and Modern Classes
- 2005 - 2006 *Instructor*
Pamelot, A School of Dance – Auburn, California
Beginning and Intermediate Ballet and Jazz Classes

Dance Companies

- 2014 – present Contemporary Ballet Dallas
Dallas, Texas
- 2012 *Guest Performer*
Grid Dance Theater, *Games*
{254} Dance Festival – Waco, TX
- 2011 *Guest Performer*
Big Rig Dance Collective, *excerpts from Home Made Dance Project*
Black Box Theater – Denton, Texas

2010 – 2011 Curious Behaviour
Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS

2007 – 2010 University Dance Company
San Diego State University – San Diego, California
Konstanz, GERMANY, Zürich SWITZERLAND, Lugano,
SWITZERLAND, Tempe, Arizona, and the greater San Diego area,
California

Performances

2014 *Uncover*
{254} Dance Festival – Waco, TX
An improvisational solo focused on disorientation; created by Christie Nelson,
live guitar and pedals by Chaz Underriner

Physicality Script
DanceMakers Concert Series – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas
A group piece investigating rigorous solo improvisation scores; choreography
by Jordan Fuchs

In the Absence of Light
DanceMakers Concert Series – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas
A duet combined with stark light projections; choreography and projections by
Andee Scott

melissa: pt. 1 & pt. 2
Contact ++
University of North Texas – Denton, Texas
A collaborative intermedia performance with Ermir Bejo, Olivia Brown, and
Filip Celander

Acts of Absence
New Genre Arts Festival – Tulsa, Oklahoma
An evening length dance and digital media performance that explores notions of
absence, remote connections, and vast space; choreography by Sarah Gamblin

2013 *Uncover*
Texas Dance Improvisation Festival
Texas State University – San Marcos, Texas

Daggy
Dance UpClose Concert Series – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas
A trio, re-staged by Sanderson, involving performers exhausting themselves
through outdated workout video movement while wearing layers of clothes;
choreography by Rebecca Jensen

Proximity Script

DanceMakers Concert Series – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas
A group piece created through transforming solo movement into partnering;
choreography by Jordan Fuchs

Codify Infinity

Spiderweb Salon – Denton, Texas
An improvisational duet with music composition by John Osburn; choreography
by Amanda McCorkle and Melissa Sanderson

Configure Script

Gala Concert – American College Dance Festival – Sam Houston State
University – Huntsville, Texas
A group piece concentrated on contact improvisation and risk; choreography by
Jordan Fuchs

Configure Script

Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas
Performed as part of Texas Woman’s University’s Department of Dance
National Association of Schools of Dance concert

2012

This place I’ve seen before...

Excavating Place – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas
A twenty-minute group piece conveying a visual landscape; choreography by
Amanda McCorkle

Waste Not, Want Not and Whatnot

cover | un | cover – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas
A twenty-minute dance-theater piece exploring audience-welcoming strategies;
choreography by Megan Yankee

Pain(s)taking

Texas Dance Improvisation Festival – Texas Christian University – Fort Worth,
Texas
A collaborative improvisational piece exploring bodily communication of pain;
created by Bethany Nelson

Games

Grid Dance Theater – {254} Dance Festival – Waco, TX
A guest performer in a piece where the dancers’ choice making affects the
outcome of events; choreography by Christie Nelson

P.O.R.C.H. Performance Marathon

Ponderosa – Stolzenhagen, GERMANY
Multiple collaborative site-specific improvisational occurrences

After, after, the lightness of after

DanceMakers Concert Series – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas
A sextet exploring low and high performative stakes; choreography by Sarah Gamblin

Games

DanceMakers Concert Series – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas
Choreography by Christie Nelson

2011

Home Made Dance Project {excerpts}

Big Rig Dance Collective
Black Box Theater – Denton, Texas
A guest performer in a group piece exploring concepts of home;
choreography by Whitney Boomer and Amanda Jackson, live sound
composition by Hentai Improvising Orchestra

Home Made Dance Project

Denton, Texas
An evening-length site-specific piece in an old abandoned house;
choreography by Whitney Boomer and Amanda Jackson, live sound
composition by Hentai Improvising Orchestra

inradius

Rubber Gloves Rehearsal Studios – Denton, Texas
A collaborative improvisational performance with live painting by Andi Sterling, video projection by Michael Morgan, sound composition by John Osburn, and dance by Melissa Sanderson and Megan Yankee

taut

Dance UpClose Concert Series – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas
A trio exploring resentment; choreography by Megan Yankee

*Mad Madam Mel’s Magnificent Magical Mysterious Mundo & Movement
Mélange*

Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas
An evening-length dance theater piece; choreography by Melissa Watt

Curious LAB

Curious Behaviour
The Sugar Factory – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
An interactive dance-theater piece blending the borders of performance
and party

2010

Curious LAB

Curious Behaviour
Volkskrantgebouw – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS

Erupties

Heim Thuis in Transvaal Festival – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
An improvisational site-specific piece on the streets of Amsterdam's
neighborhood Oost; created by Petra Van Aken

Erupties

Rode Loper Festival – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
An improvisational site-specific piece at a construction site; created by
Petra Van Aken

[Plucked]

Art Gallery of Sushi, Contemporary Performance and Visual Art – San
Diego, California
A durational improvisational performance; created by Patricia Sandback

Plucked

Gala Concert – American College Dance Festival – Arizona State
University – Tempe, Arizona
A dance-theater quartet exploring the alteration of children's nursery
rhymes and womanhood; choreography by Patricia Sandback

Plucked

University Dance Company Concert – San Diego State University – San
Diego, California

One Place Vast

University Dance Company Concert – San Diego State University – San
Diego, California
A group dance piece with violin accompaniment by Felix Olschofka;
Choreography by Leslie Seiters

2009

One Place Vast

School of Music and Dance Soiree – San Diego State University – San
Diego, California
Choreography by Leslie Seiters

Nocturnal Episodes

Emerge Festival – San Diego, California
A quintet dance work; choreography by Martita Abril

I Told Her Not To Go There

Tanzschule Czerner Dance Academy – Konstanz, GERMANY
Solo dance piece incorporating text; choreography by Melissa Nunn

2008, 2009

I Told Her Not To Go There

University of Zürich – Zürich, Switzerland
Choreography by Melissa Nunn

2008

It's A Suite

Emerge Festival – San Diego, California

A dance-theater piece incorporating video and audience participation;
choreography by Alicia Arguilla

lum

Emerge Festival – San Diego, California

A quartet dance piece exploring light bouncing off of mirrors;
choreography by Dina Apple

All Together Now

Konstanz, GERMANY, Zürich, SWITZERLAND, Lugano,
SWITZERLAND and San Diego, California

A sextet dance piece; choreography by Faith Jenson-Ismay

The World is Round

Zürich, SWITZERLAND, Lugano, SWITZERLAND, Konstanz,
GERMANY, and San Diego, California

A sextet dance piece with an a capella quartet inspired by small gestures
and mannerisms; choreography by Patricia Sandback

I Told Her Not To Go There

Lugano, SWITZERLAND

Choreography by Melissa Nunn

I am? (A Work In Progress)

University Dance Company Concert – San Diego State University – San
Diego, California

A group dance piece focused on notions of self; choreography by
Joseph Alter

2001 – 2006

Placer Theater Ballet

Auburn and Citrus Heights, California

A performer in *The Nutcracker*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *A Festival of Great
Ballets*; choreography by Pat Colgate

Choreography

2014

To Kill the Lingering Taste

Adjudication Concert – American College Dance Festival – University of
Texas at Austin – Austin, Texas

A physically relentless trio constructed through implementing methods
that invite collaborative engagement in generating and organizing content

2013

To Kill the Lingerin Taste

a divergent series: M.F.A. Culminating Project Concert – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas

Live electro-acoustic composition by Dan Tramte; live guitar and pedals by Chaz Underriner

The Drama Socket Breakers

Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas

A physical theatre trio involving a tequila chugging contest, bad parkour, soapbox poetry, and a gansta drag music video; created and performed by Darrell Cleveland, Jessica Hale, and Melissa Sanderson

A Sleepless Migration

Dance 208 Concert Series – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas

A sextet of four dancers, one violinist, and one violist, exploring the spatial integration of two art forms on one stage

I Have Only Crashed Once

Informal Concert – American College Dance Festival – Sam Houston State University – Huntsville, Texas

A sextet with composition and live electro-acoustic music by Dan Tramte created through investigation of needing reassurance

2012

I Have Only Crashed Once

DanceMakers Concert Series – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas

Guerrilla Jam

Texas Dance Improvisation Festival – Texas Christian University – Fort Worth, Texas

A series of six improvisational-based movement happenings that are performed within an improvisation jam setting by thirteen dancers and one musician

Streamed

Dance 208 Concert Series – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas

A duet exploring possibilities in the translation of streams of consciousness from thought to movement

2010

Carragheen Moss

University Dance Company Concert – San Diego State University – San Diego, California

A quartet dance piece that explores unity in an atmospheric environment

Carragheen Moss

So Loud: Senior Project Concert – San Diego State University – San Diego, California

2008 *Narrow Hallways*
San Diego State University – San Diego, California
A quartet inspired by imagery of old abandoned houses

Dance Film

2014 *Skin in the Grass*
VI Mostra Internacional de Videodança de São Carlos – São Carlos,
BRAZIL

Skin in the Grass
Official Selection Program – Agite y Sirva: Festival Itinerante de
Videodanza – Puebla, MEXICO
International Tour 2014 – Guadalajara, MEXICO, Puebla, MEXICO,
A duet set against bold contrasting colors of their environment

Skin in the Grass
Official Selection Program – Festival International de Vidéo Danse de
Bourgogne – Le Creusot, FRANCE

Nonrepeat Promotional Video
Videographer and editor
Denton, Texas

Skin in the Grass
Breaking Windows: Dance Film Series – Texas Woman’s University –
Denton, Texas

Skin in the Grass
Dance Film Showing – American College Dance Festival – University of
Texas at Austin – Austin, Texas

Globe Trot: An International Crowd-Sourced Dance-Film Project
Volunteer videographer
Dallas and Denton, Texas

2013 *Skin in the Grass*
Spiderweb Salon – Denton, Texas

melissa, a self portrait
Dance Film Showing – American College Dance Festival – Sam Houston
State University – Huntsville, Texas
A moving self-portrait filmed in the east German countryside

Cocktail Party

Dance Film Showing – American College Dance Festival – Sam Houston State University – Huntsville, Texas

A re-contextualization of contact improvisation exercises at a cocktail party

2008

da mie prossimo a

Student Dance Film Showing – San Diego State University – San Diego, California

A solo on a hillside in San Diego

Presentations

2014

Enabling Contributions: Inviting Collaborative Engagement into a Dance Making Process

Student Creative Arts & Research Symposium – Texas Woman's University – Denton, Texas

Enabling Contributions: Inviting Collaborative Engagement into a Dance Making Process

Presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Dance

Texas Woman's University – Denton, Texas

Dance Film Showing: Q&A Panel

American College Dance Festival – University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas

Theatrical Design and Production

2014

Videographer

Mock Dance Competition

Protégé Danz Center – Argyle, Texas

2011 – 2014

Videographer

Texas Woman's University Department of Dance – Denton, Texas

Videographer for multiple concerts including the DanceMakers Concert Series, Dance UpClose Concert Series, Dance 208 Concert Series, and the M.F.A. Culminating Project Concerts

Service based on Professional Competence

2014

Director

Breaking Windows: Dance Film Series

Texas Woman's University Department of Dance – Denton, Texas

Video Editor

Promotional Video

Texas Woman's University Department of Dance – Denton, Texas

2012

Student Representative

Adjudication Committee

Texas Woman's University Department of Dance – Denton, Texas

Reviews

2011

Red Uno de Bolivia

Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA

A feature on the morning news for teaching a seven-day ballet workshop for local ballet studios in Santa Cruz, Bolivia

El Sol de Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA

An article highlighting my work with Santa Cruz's local ballet studios in a seven-day workshop

Professional Training

Ballet: Pat Colgate, Luz Morante, Shelley Padilla

Modern Dance: Joseph Alter, Jordan Fuchs, Sarah Gamblin, Melissa Nunn,
Patricia Sandback, Leslie Seiters

Contact Improvisation: Jordan Fuchs, Leslie Seiters

Dance Film: Leslie Seiters

Alexander Technique: Leslie Seiters

Choreography: Joseph Alter, Sarah Gamblin, Melissa Nunn, Patricia Sandback, Leslie Seiters

Pedagogy: Rosemary Candelario, Melissa Nunn

Effort/Shape Laban Movement Analysis: Mary Williford-Shade

Dance Aesthetics, History, Criticism: Joseph Alter, Mary Hayne, Patricia Sandback, Angeline
Shaka, Mary Williford-Shade

Workshops

- 2013 Sherwood Chen – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas
 2012 Meg Stuart – Witchcamp – Ponderosa – Stolzenhagen, GERMANY
 Keith Hennessy – Witchcamp – Ponderosa – Stolzenhagen, GERMANY
 Mary Pearson – FAILURE Lab – Ponderosa – Stolzenhagen, GERMANY
 Jess Curtis – PORCH Performance Module Ponderosa – Stolzenhagen, GERMANY
 Peter Pleyer & Eszter Gal – PORCH Performance Module – Ponderosa – Stolzenhagen, GERMANY
 Stephanie Maher – PORCH Performance Module – Ponderosa – Stolzenhagen, GERMANY
 Amii LeGendre – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas

Master Classes

- 2013 Yachun Yang and Huang Yunghuai – Denton, Texas
 Amy Marrow – Denton, Texas
 Keith Hennessy – San Marcos, Texas and Denton, Texas
 2012 Nina Martin – Fort Worth, Texas
 Andrew Wass – Forth Worth, Texas
 KT Niehoff – Denton, Texas
 2012, 2011 Leslie Scates – Forth Worth, Texas
 2011 Rebecca Bryant – Denton, Texas
 Assembly Dance Theatre of Taiwan – Denton, Texas
 Christian Von Howard – Fort Worth, Texas
 The Architects – San Antonio, Texas
 Kirstie Simson – San Antonio, Texas
 Ime Essien – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
 Fornier Ortiz – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
 Stephane Dalle – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
 2011, 2010 Cathy Martin – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
 Katarina Wester – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
 Paul Estabrook – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
 Carmen Rozestraten – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
 2010 Nederlands Dans Theater – Den Haag, THE NETHERLANDS
 Heidi Vierthaler – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
 Alexandra Beller – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
 Bruno Caverna – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
 Martin Sonderkamp – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
 Nada Kano – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
 Jack Gallagher – Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
 Bill Evans – Tempe, Arizona
 2008 Katie Duck – San Diego, California
 2008, 2006 Urban Bush Woman – San Diego, California
 2007 Elfi Schäfer-Schafroth – San Diego, California

2006 Peter Czerner – San Diego, California
Emio Grecco / PC – San Diego, California
Helen Pickett – San Diego, California
Nora Chipaumire – San Diego, California

Courses Qualified to Teach

Ballet – Beginning through advanced
Dance Appreciation
Dance Composition
Dance History for Undergraduate Students
Dance, Gender and Culture
Dance Pedagogy
Dance Production
Directing Student Choreography Projects
Improvisation
Jazz – Beginning through intermediate
Modern Dance – Beginning through intermediate
Pointe – Beginning
Tap – Beginning
Yoga / Stretch

Awards

2014 Excellence in Choreography Scholarship Award: Videodance – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas

2014 Dance Alumni to Watch Award – San Diego, State University – San Diego, California

2014, 2012 Texas Woman’s University Student Travel Grant – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas

2013 – 2014 GR Board Authorized Tuition Grant – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas

2011 – 2014 Mary Bryan & Tom C. Reitch Scholarship – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas

2012 Aileene Lockhart Dance Foundation – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas

2011 Texas Public Education Grant – Texas Woman’s University – Denton, Texas

2006 Placer Community Theater Scholarship – Placer High School – Auburn, California

References

Rosemary Candelario Assistant Professor of Dance
Texas Woman's University
Denton, Texas, 76201
rcandelario@twu.edu

Jordan Fuchs Associate Professor of Dance
Texas Woman's University
Denton, Texas, 76201
jfuchs@mail.twu.edu

Sarah Gamblin Associate Professor of Dance
Texas Woman's University
Denton, Texas, 76201
sgamblin@twu.edu

Patricia Sandback Professor of Dance
San Diego State University
San Diego, California, 92182
sandback@mail.sdsu.edu

Leslie Seiters Associate Professor of Dance
San Diego State University
San Diego, California, 92182
lseiters@mail.sdsu.edu

Mary Williford-Shade Professor of Dance
Texas Woman's University
Denton, Texas 76201
mwillifordshade@twu.edu