

dawn lane

career narrative

My career as a choreographer began over 25 years ago while studying dance and design at Massachusetts College of Art (B.F.A **1980**). In **1978** I choreographed "Run of the Mill", a solo based on working at a paper mill in Lee, MA that same summer. This piece in combination with my studies at Mass Art was pivotal in indentifying myself as a choreographer. It was at this time that I was tremendously influenced by Dawn Kramer, a graduate of Sarah Lawrence, who would become my mentor. My definition of dance was stretching into new territory that allowed me to share how I saw the world. Instead of making dances that replicated already established dance vocabularies, I was trying to establish my own.

1985, 86, & 87 I received scholarships to attend the prestigious and competitive School At Jacob's Pillow to study choreography with noted choreographers and dance historians, such as Trisha Brown, Sally Banes, Liz Lerman, Lucinda Childs and Guggenheim Fellows, Deborah Jowitt and Victoria Marks.

1987 I was acknowledged by the Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Foundation as a semi-finalist in choreography for a triptych of my work.

1989 I was the only choreographer from Berkshire County to have work selected for MASSmoves a dance festival recognizing emerging choreographers from Massachusetts.

1990-99 I choreographed two full evening works (see attached list) and over one dozen individual works. The Massachusetts Cultural Council awarded me 5 LCC (local cultural council) grants to produce work and 2 Professional Development grants to study with Liz Lerman at The Dance Exchange in Takoma Park, MD. It was during this period that I made a conscious decision to integrate people with little or no technical dance training in my work.

In **1992**, I completed my Masters Degree (M.ED) at Lesley University.

January-May **1993**, I was invited by Dance Department Chair, Sandra Burton to be a guest artist & teacher in the dance department at Williams College.

1993 to present I have taught, "Curriculum in Motion TM". This residency model created by Jacob's Pillow engages artists & teachers in a co-teaching model that focuses on kinetic learning and setting the curriculum literally in motion. Also since 1993, I have taught for the D.A.R.T.s program (Days in the Arts) through the Boston Symphony Education Resource Center at Jacob's Pillow.

1995 I joined Community Access to the Arts (CATA) as a dance educator and Artistic Director. CATA nurtures and celebrates the creativity of people with disabilities through shared experiences in the visual and performing arts. In 1997, I founded and continue to direct The Moving Company, an integrated dance company of professionals from the area and 8 women with varying degrees of physical & developmental disabilities. The Company has performed at the VSA International Arts Festival in Washington, D.C., Founders' Theater at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, MA, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, The Unicorn Theater, Tewksbury Hospital and many schools in Berkshire County, MA.

1999 I was invited to be part of a dance procession in Meredith Monk's "A Celebration" at Sanders Theatre at Harvard University.

2000 I was one of 4 Western Massachusetts artists to participate in collaboration with Liz Lerman Dance Exchange artist, Peter DiMuro in "OPEN BOX", an MCC Elder Arts Initiative project funded by a Mid-Atlantic Arts Millennium Grant.

2000-05 I have served as chief reader for dance in the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure(tm) at National Evaluation Systems in Hadley, MA.

2001 I was asked by Jacob's Pillow Executive Director, Ella Baff to be one of one hundred dancers in the reconstruction of Twyla Tharp's, "The100s" and was also asked to participate in the Pillow Premiere of "From the Horses Mouth", directed by Tina Croll and Jaime Cunningham.

2002 I met Marisa Yudkin, a New York based dancer w/ Huntingtons Disease, a genetic, degenerative, neurological disease. In 2004 The LEF Foundation awarded me a new works grant to create, "Mattress Ticking" (see attached list) which was performed at Jacob's Pillow and Founders' Theater. The duet was performed on and around an Aerobed which inflated and deflated throughout the piece. Marisa performed on the mattress and I around her. A live video image was projected behind us as we performed. Marisa's disabilities confined her to the horizontal plane of the mattress: the video camera rotated thus rotating the projected image; putting her vertical and me horizontal. Video documentation of this piece is currently being edited. Prior to "Mattress Ticking", (see attached) I created "Moving Chronicle", which has since been recreated for the film, "Too Much to Stop", a docu-dance about my work with Marisa by filmmaker, John Whalan. This film has been screened at The Moving Image Festival in Williamstown, MA, the Berkshire Museum and The National Brain Injury Conference in Harrisburg, PA.

2002 I was awarded funds from The Cottonwood Foundation, The Vermont Arts Exchange and the MCC to bring The Moving Company to Tewksbury Hospital in Tewksbury, MA. This was one of two pilot residencies for psychiatric residents, Huntingtons Disease residents and staff as the hospital was working on a new clinical model, "The Healing Arts Initiative", designed to invite artists to the clinical table to bring an artistic voice to diagnosis and treatment.

2006 I was chosen to receive a Berkshire County Unsung Hero Award for my artistry and inspirational community work.

2007 Received the Distinguished Educator Award in Dance fro the Massachusetts Arts Alliance.

2008 Received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Massachusetts College of Art & Design.

2008 Finalist in Choreography form the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

2010 Awarded a Fellowship in Choreography from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

2010 Awarded a 6 day October Dance Residency at Jacob's Pillow.