

CURRICULUM VITAE Gwennaëlle Rakotovao

EDUCATION

2019 New York University, New York

Master of Arts in Performance Studies, Tisch School of the Arts
GPA: 3.952

2017 Paris 8 University, Paris

Bachelor of Arts. Degree in Dance Studies with Honors

2009 Alvin Ailey School, New York

International Independent Studies

2007 Institut de Formation Professionnel Rick Odums, Paris

EAT Jazz. Credits: Anatomy, History of dance, Music

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

2011- present

Gwen Rakotovao Company, New York/Paris

Artistic/Producing Director, Choreographer, Dancer, Teacher,

- Planning, producing, directing, choreographing and touring solo and ensemble dance productions for international venues and festivals.
- Financing and budgeting dance tours, recruiting and supervising dancers, negotiating contracts, writing newsletters, press & marketing material, website and social media.
- Teaching Master classes and workshops to hundreds of students, ranging from underprivileged children, teenagers and adults to professional dancers, including the *Centro Nacional de las Arte* in Mexico City, 6th *IDOCDE Symposium* in Vienna, outreach programs under the patronage of the *French Ministry of Culture, Education, and Health*.

Selected company performances and choreographies (long term projects)

2017-present

FITIAVANA (previously ESPERANTO) Full evening solo performance.

Premiered September 30, 2017 at the Goethe Institute, Antananarivo, Madagascar.

- 2021 Africa Dance Biennial, Marrakech, Morocco
- 2018 Trianon, Sotteville-Lès-Rouen, France
- 2018 TPAM Bukatsudo, Yokohama, Japan
- 2018 FRINGE MANILA, Alliance Française, Manila, Philippines
- 2018 Me Ya Be Festival, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
- 2017 Goethe Institut, Antananarivo, Madagascar

2014-2017

L'amour. La liberté. Full evening performance with 6 dancers.

Premiered October 26, 2014 at Dixon Place, New York.

- 2016 Figure de notes, Théâtre Charles Dullin, le Grand Quevilly, France
- 2015 Take Root's Festival, Greenspace, Queens, United States
- 2015 Chopin Festival Urodzine, Warsaw, Poland
- 2014 Night of a 1000 Rabbits, Riley Theater, Leeds, United Kingdom
- 2014 Dixon Place, New York, United States

2013-2016

INITIATION. Full evening solo performance.

Premiered December 10, 2013 at Théâtre Charles Dullin, Grand Quevilly, France.

- 2016 Zama Aix, Aix en Provence, France
- 2016 Festival les lieux mouvants, Lanrivain, France
- 2015 Festival Souar Souar, N'Djamena, Tchad

- 2015 Fondation des Etats-Unis, Paris, France
- 2015 Afrik Urban'Arts, Abidjan, Ivory Coast
- 2014 Conservatoire de Danse, Oujda, Morocco
- 2014 Institut Français, Agadir, Morocco
- 2014 Alliance Française, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2013 Théâtre Charles Dullin, Grand Quevilly, France

2016-2017

Dancer, *YK Projects*, Direction Qudus Onikeku, Paris/Lagos

- Performed in the touring production *We Almost Forgot* performed at Ballhaus Naunynstrasse in Berlin, National Universities Commission Auditorium in Abuja, Freedom Park - Lagos Live Arts Festival in Lagos, Musée des Confluences - Biennale de Lyon in Lyon, Fontenay-en-scenes, Fontenay-sous-Bois, Théâtre Antoine Vitez, Ivry-sur-Seine, International Festival Bogso in Eséka,

2009-2011 Associate Artistic Director, Dancer Performer, *Bodystories/Teresa Fellion dance*, Direction Teresa Fellion, New York

- Performed general office administration duties, including updating website, editing trailer videos, helping organizing fundraiser.
- Co-directed rehearsal. Danced and toured in dance festivals and venues such as *Fringe Festival* in Edinburgh and *Baryshnikov Arts Center* in New York.

2005-2007 Dancer, *Jeune Ballet Jazz*. Direction Rick Odums, Paris

- Performed in venues in Paris and its greater area.

Selected performances (short term projects)

2020 Caretaker, *Letters to Marsha with Viewing Hours (a diptych)*, choreographer Mayfield Brooks, Jack, Brooklyn

2019 Dancer, *ProjectTAG* - as part of Battery Dance Company Adel euro campaign, choreographer Hussein Smko, New York

2018 Performer, *Keep Walking Intently*, artist Lori Waxman, MoMA PS1, New York

2016 Dancer, *DO NOT ENTER*, choreographer Mehdi Farajpour, premiered at Institut du monde Arabe, Paris

2015 Dancer, Choreographer, Finalist at Seoul International Dance Competition, category contemporary dance, Seoul, South Korea

2015 Dancer, Choreographer, Finalist at Korea International Modern Dance Competition, Seoul, South Korea

2009 Dancer, *Lil'Sally*, choreographer Whitney V Hunter - Yon Tande, premiered at Long Island Theater, Brooklyn

2009 Dancer, Performer, *Annette*, choreographer Regina Nejman, premiered at Dixon Place, New York

2009 Dancer, *SHIFT*, choreographer H.T. Chen, premiered at La MaMa, New York

2009 Dancer, *For the time the dreams endure*, choreographer Brian Carey Chung, premiered at Baryshnikov Arts Center, New York

PUBLISHED WORK

The Standing up move, Funambule, Anacrouse Paris 8 University, Peer-Reviewed Journals Publication, #15, 2019, pp.92-103, Paris

We Almost Forgot, Funambule, Anacrouse Paris 8 University, Peer-Reviewed Journals Publication, #14, 2016, pp. 82-87, Paris

Zari L'intrépide, Novel, New York: CreateSpace, 2013.

LECTURES/PANELS/SEMINARS

2019 Lecturer, "Pensando y creando danza para el siglo 21: Innovacion y connexion", Centro Nacional de las Artes, Mexico City

2017 Speaker, Performer, "Danser avec les mots", TEDx, Lorient

2018 Co-lecturer, "A Holistic approach to dance pedagogy: towards a better understanding of humanity," IDOCDE "You are Here," Symposium, Vienna. Mentor: Ulla Mäkinen, lecturers: Johanna Henritius, Marianna Panourgia, Gwen Rakotavao

RESIDENCIES/AWARDS/GRANTS

2021 Artist in residency - Centre Victor Gelez, Paris

2020 Artist in residency - La Maison Rouge, Fort-de-France

2019 J. Ndukaku Amankulor Memorial Award for Academic Excellence awarded by the Department of Performance Studies, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University

2019 M-U-S-E, Residency, New York

2019 Tisch School of the Arts - Department of Performance Studies Travel Reimbursement Award. Granted for presenting work at an academic conference: "Pensando y creando danza para el siglo 21: Innovacion y connexion," Mexico City

2019 Tisch School of the Arts Graduate Scholarship

2019 Iris & Gerald Cantor Scholarship

2019 Lew Wasserman Scholarship

2019 Paulette Goddard Scholarship

2018 6th IDOCDE Symposium, Residency, Vienna

2017 Centre National de la Danse Paris, Residency, Paris

2017 Pavillon Noir, Residency, Aix en Provence

2017 Ecole des Sables, Residency, Toubab Dialaw

2017 Micadanses, Residency, Paris

2017 Le Relais Catelier, Residency, Catelier

2016 La Gare | Fabrique des arts en mouvement, Residency, Le Relecq-Kerhuon

2012 First prize, Concours International de danse de Biarritz awarded by Thierry Malandain and jury committees.

2009 Régionale Haute Normandie grant

2009 LCU Foundation Grant. Women's Education awards grant

2008 Rosella Hightower full summer Scholarship, Cannes

2007 Régionale Haute Normandie grant

2007 Institut de Formation Professionnel Rick Odums Merit based Scholarship

2006 Institut de Formation Professionnel Rick Odums Merit based Scholarship

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- *Article. Danse au Maroc, expo au Sénégal, débat d'idées en Mauritanie : l'agenda culturel du « Monde Afrique »* Gladys Marivat, Le Monde, 26/11/21
- *Entretien. La chorégraphie malgache à la biennale de la danse en Afrique à Marrakech*, Muriel Maalouf, RFI, 24/11/21
- *Entretien. Originaire de Rouen, la danseuse Gwen Rakotovo va présenter son nouveau spectacle, au Japon*, Thierry Chion, Actu76, 02/15/18
- *Gwen Rakotovo, orateur au TEDx Lorient*, Joachin Michael, Les Nouvelles, 02/08/18
- *« Human & espéranto » : Saroy et Gwen Rakotovo dansent la paix et la lutte pour la vie*, Mahetsaka, Midi Madagasikara, 09/27/17
- *CGM Analakely : Esperanto & Human se conjuguent au féminins*, Joachin Michael, Les Nouvelles, 09/27/17
- *Danse contemporaine – Trio d'artistes dans « Human & Esperanto»*, Andry Patrick Rakotondrazaka, L'Express de Madagascar, 09/28/17
- *Femmes en danses : « À voir comme un dessin »*, Nils Hedouin, Ouest France, 07/03/16
- *Il était une fois, un conte chorégraphique inattendu...*, Léa, CCCDANSE, 06/22/16
- *Gwen Rakotovo: "La danse et l'art, des vecteurs pour promouvoir le vivre ensemble,"* Rakotomalala, Global Voices, 02/08/16
- *Le festival Souar Souar à N'Djamena (Tchad)*, Gerard Mayen, Danser Canal Historique, December 2015
- *GWEN RAKOTOVAO – "Oser créer, voila ce que m'ont appris les Etats-Unis"*, Mélanie Volland, Le petit journal international, 05/20/15
- *INTERVIEW - Gwen Rakotovo danse Baudelaire ce soir à l'Alliance*, Le petit journal Alger, 01/18/13

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Long term projects

2011-present

Founder and Artistic Director, Masimihanta Program.

- Developing programs, teaching 100 children contemporary dance classes in collaboration with a local team of educators. Project sponsored by Eau Vive, Vontovorona

2017-2018

Artist in residency, *Même pas peur d'exister*, Institut Medico Educatif – Association l'Essor.

- Taught dance and created dance work in collaboration with children with intellectual disability, physical and

cognitive impairments. Project sponsored by the French Ministry of Culture – DRAC, French Ministry of Health – ARS, Fonds Caisse d'Épargne Normandie, Ferrero France, Le trait

2017 (spring) Artist in residency, *Danse avec les mots/maux*, Maison de quartier Gagarine,

- Taught dance and created dance work in collaboration with women living in an underprivileged area. Project sponsored by the Théâtre Antoine Vitez supported by the Conseil Départemental de la Région du Val-de-Marne and the région Île-de-France, Ivry-sur-Seine

2016-2017

Artist in residency, *Même pas peur de découvrir d'exister, d'être ensemble*, Institut Medico Educatif – Association l'Essor.

- Taught dance and created dance work in collaboration with children with intellectual disability, physical and cognitive impairments. Project sponsored by the French Ministry of Culture – DRAC, French Ministry of Health – ARS, Fonds Caisse d'Épargne Normandie, Ferrero France, Le trait

2016-2017

Guest Choreographer, *Danse Baroque*, School Claude Debussy.

- Taught dance and created dance choreography in collaboration with underprivileged children and Le Poème Harmonique. Project supported by the city of Rouen, the French ministry of culture and education – CLEAC, DRAC, DSDEN, Rouen

2016-2017

Guest Choreographer, *Projet danse*, School Jean-Philippe Rameau.

- Taught dance and created dance work in collaboration with underprivileged children. Project supported by the city of Rouen, the French Ministry of Culture and Education – CLEAC, DRAC, DSDEN, Rouen

2015-2016

Guest Choreographer, *L'arbre et les saisons*, School Jean-Philippe Rameau.

- Taught dance and created dance work in collaboration with underprivileged children. Project supported by the city of Rouen, the French Ministry of Culture and Education – CLEAC, DRAC, DSDEN, Rouen

Short term projects

2022 Guest Teacher, Masterclass: Mitsangana, Conservatory of Paris 11ème

2020 Guest Teacher, Online Masterclass: Mitsangana, Municipal dance school, Sotteville Les Rouen

2019 Guest Teacher, workshop: Dancing in Togetherness, as part of the 1619 Project, Brooklyn Public Library Midwood

2019 Guest Teacher, workshop: Dancing in Togetherness, as part of the 1619 Project, Brooklyn Public Library Kings Highway

2019 Guest Teacher, workshop: Dancing in Togetherness, as part of the 1619 Project, Brooklyn Public Crown Heights

2019 Guest teacher, Masterclass, Centro Nacional de las Artes, Mexico City

2018 Guest Choreographer, workshop and creation: *Zari L'intrépide*, Lycée Français, Vienna

2017 Guest Choreographer, Dance creation: Corps en mouvement, Le relais Catelier, Le Catelier

2017 Guest Choreographer, workshop and creation: *Zari L'intrépide*, Lycée Français, Toamasina

2015 Guest Choreographer, workshop: *Zari L'intrépide*, Lycée Français, London

2014 Guest Choreographer, workshop: *Zari L'intrépide*, Lycée Français, Bangkok

2014 Guest Choreographer, workshop: *Zari L'intrépide*, Lycée Français, Agadir

2014 Guest Choreographer, workshop: *Zari L'intrépide*, Conservatory, Oujda

2014 Guest Choreographer, workshop: *Zari L'intrépide*, Lycée Français, Kyoto

2014 Guest Choreographer, repertory: *L'amour. La liberté*, Northern School of Contemporary Dance in collaboration with the Leeds College of Music, Leeds

2014 Guest Choreographer, workshop : *Zari L'intrépide*, Lycée Français, New York

2014 Visiting Performer, Masterclass, Alliance Française, Bangkok

2013 Visiting Performer, Masterclass, Alliance Française, Bangkok

2011 Guest Teacher, Ballet dance department - Juste Debout School, Paris

2011 Guest Teacher, Masterclass, Kreatic Academy, Fort-de-France

2011 Guest Teacher, Masterclass, K'art Académie, Antananarivo

2009 Guest teacher, Masterclass, Conservatory of Rouen, Rouen

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

2019 – 20

Studio Manager, The Ballet Institute | Greenpoint, New York

- General administrative management, including liaising with clients (200 students), ensuring financial and operational functioning of the school.
- Creating and implementing monthly projects in alignment with the Director's artistic vision, including project goals and deadlines to market the school's services and ensure a smooth "entry of capital".
- Creating strategies to help expand the school locally and internationally by connecting with public and international schools.
- Proofing and reviewing designs and documents. Serving as a point of contact between Director and employees.

2018 – 19

Graduate Assistant, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, New York University

- Performed office and outreach assistant duties, including general office administration, assisting the Director, staffing events and working on special projects.
- Performed Event associate duties, including general event management, requesting campus media services, setting up the event space, greeting and registering guests, filling out event report.

AFFILIATIONS WITH PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

2016 – present:

Anacrouse, Paris 8 University's Dance Department's non-profit organization.

2018-2019:

Master of Arts representative, Department of Performance Studies, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University.

Languages: Native in French, fluent in English, basic understanding of Malagasy