

Elijah Lennington

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Education

Wayne State University | Detroit, Michigan (2020 - 2024)
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Honors*
*Minor in Anthropology
Chair: Jessica Rajko

Employment/Relevant Experience

Wayne State University | Detroit, Michigan (2023-2024)

- Dance Workshop: Wayne State University's Student Led Company
- Faculty Mentor: Jessica Rajko
- Roles: Performer, Student Research Lead, Volunteering and Events Committee Member

Dance Workshop is an entirely student-led dance-theatre company and collective. The company functions under the mentorship of the Associate Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department, Jessica Rajko. Students self-produce an evening-length show, with fundraising, outreach, marketing, and publicity all done by the members of the company.

During the 23/24 I danced and acted in the evening-length work *Soil Bodies*, curated the research under the advisement of Jessica Rajko and Brother(hood) Dance, as well as led our weekly research meetings through September and October 2023, and worked with other students in the Volunteering and Events Committee to put on events and connect to local partnerships.

Wayne State University | Detroit, Michigan (2022 - Present)

- Position: Theatre and Dance Peer Mentor, Part-Time Student Assistant
- Advisor: James Fortune, Erika Robinson

Theatre and Dance Peer Mentors take a leadership training seminar and are employed to support underclassmen in their transition to college. The role includes checking in with students biweekly or monthly, holding office hours for students to drop in, guiding students to campus resources, and holding events.

Wayne State University | Detroit, Michigan (2022 - Present)

- Position: Undergraduate Research Assistant
- Faculty: Jessica Rajko
- 2024: Participated in a week-long residency at Brown University's robots lab working with SPOT robots and Choreography SDK, including dancing in proximity to SPOT, teaching and movement experimentation on SPOT, and critical conversations around dance and robotics.

- 2023 - 2024: Assisting on the Arts and Humanities Research Grant awarded to Jessica Rajko for 2023 - 2024. Duties include compiling, organizing, and participating in research related to the subject, communicating with the team through email and slack, hosting and organizing zoom meetings, as well as residency planning and participation at Brown University's robotics lab.
- 2023: Co-created and presented a 20 minute talk titled *Navigating Critical Approaches to Media Design in Student-Led Companies* at the 2023 Getting Closer to Dance: A Homecoming Symposium hosted by the Joyce Theater and New York University/Steinhardt.
- 2022: Helped prep and plan for a week-long residency between BAIRA MVMNT PHLOSPHY, Brother(hood) Dance, Dirty Glove Buck, and Jessica Rajko. I also attended the residency and helped with Jessica's creation and running of the haptics leading into the evening-length work presented at Detroit Music Hall *Devil's Shoestring*.

Wayne State University | Detroit, Michigan

(2021 - Present)

- Position: Pilates Instructor
- Faculty: Hannah Andersen
- 2021 - 2024: I taught both Pilates mat and reformer to other undergraduates at least once a week in the Wayne State University's Pilates Lab.
- 2021: Completed Stott Pilates Mat training program.
- 2022: Completed Stott Pilates Reforming training program.

Wayne State University | Detroit, Michigan

(2022-2023)

- Dance Workshop: Wayne State University's Student Led Company
- Faculty Mentor: Jessica Rajko
- Roles: Performer, Co-Executive Director, Choreographer

Dance Workshop is an entirely student-led dance-theatre company and collective. The company functions under the mentorship of the Associate Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department, Jessica Rajko. Students self-produce an evening-length show, with fundraising, outreach, marketing, and publicity all done by the members of the company.

During the 22/23 I danced and acted in the evening-length work *Eyes on the WatchTower*. My additional responsibilities were co-executive director, which required planning and leading research, rehearsals, and administration, and choreographer, which involved creating two scenes within the show.

Wayne State University | Detroit, Michigan

(2022)

- Dance Workshop: Wayne State University's Student Led Company
- Faculty Mentors: Bryan and Shaina Baira
- Roles: Performer, Fundraising Committee

Dance Workshop is an entirely student-led dance-theatre company and collective. The company functioned under the mentorship of the directors of BAIRA MVMNT PHLOSPHY, Bryan and Shaina Baira. Students self-produce an evening-length show, with fundraising, outreach, marketing, and publicity all done by the members of the company.

During the Winter 2022 semester I danced and acted in the evening-length work *It Will Be Bliss*. I also was a member of the Fundraising Committee and ran a fundraising campaign, as well as hosted events such as improv jams.

Ann Arbor Aviary

(2019 - 2022)

- Roles: Instructor

Taught introduction to Aerial Arts, Boot Camp (a conditioning class), Trapeze Boot Camp, Silks Boot Camp, Intro to Trapeze, Intro to Silks, Trapeze I, Silks I, Kids Mixed Apparatus, and Pilates for Aerialists

Dance Uprising

(2019 -2022)

- Roles: Company Member

“Dance Uprising is a modern dance company located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, directed by dancer/choreographer Amy Cadwallader. We work collaboratively to create unique dance pieces that speak to our human experiences. Our primary purpose is to establish real, human connections — through company class, in our rehearsals, in performances, and through outreach programs.”

Performance Experiences

Student - Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

95th Annual Spring Dance Concert “Echoes of the Future”, Hillberry Gateway State (2024)

Whispers of Decay

- Performer
- Choreographers: Noor Kaffarani, Olivia Wuebke, Stormy Davis, Catey Selemba, Jon Chapdelaine in collaboration with Dance Workshop members.
- Sound Design: Jessica Rajko

Suerza

- Performer
- Choreographer: Amy Miller in collaboration with dancers
- Music: Origamibiro

Dance Workshop

Soil Bodies

(2024)

- Hillberry Gateway Studio
- Company Member
- Faculty Artistic Director: Jessica Rajko

- Choreographers: Catey Selembe, Olivia Woebke, Stormy Davis, Jon Chapdelaine, Noor Kaffarani, Jessica Rajko, Brother(hood) Dance
- Sound Design: Bryan Baira

Senior Capstone Showcase “Shades of Bloom”, Hillberry Gateway Studio (2024)

Within Quiet Joy (Make it Louder)

- Soloist
- Choreographer: Elijah Lennington
- Music: Jobriath, Art Garfunkel, Jesus Loves You

94th Annual Spring Dance Concert “On The Horizon”, Hillberry Gateway Stage (2023)

Thin Line Project

- Performer
- Choreographer: Dr. RAS Mikey C
- Music: RAS Mikey C, IRON LION

Dance Workshop

Eyes on the WatchTower

(2023)

- Allesee Dance Theatre
- Company Member
- Faculty Artistic Director: Jessica Rajko
- Choreographers: Elijah Lennington, Annie Dingwall, Meghan Allen, Rachel Meloche, Mary Renko, Jessica Rajko, BAIRA MVMNT PHLOSPHY
- Sound Design: Savanna McFadden

93rd Annual December Dance Concert, Allesee Dance Theatre

(2022)

Variations 5 parts

- Performer
- Choreographers: Biba Bell, Hannah Andersen, Jessica Rajko, Karen Prall, Dr. RAS Mikey C
- Music: Soma Hayato, Gregory Alan Isavok, Michael Wall, Prince Kaybee (feat. Busiswa & TNS), Agnes Obel

Configurations

- Performer
- Choreographers: Elijah Lennington, Rachel Meloche
- Music: Green Noise Track

***A DREAM IS A HOUSE for remembering the future*, McGregor Conference Center(2022)**

- Performer
- Choreographer: Biba Bell
- Composer: Joo Won Park

Dance Workshop

It Will Be Bliss (2022)

- Allesee Dance Theatre
- Company Member
- Faculty Artistic Directors: Bryan and Shaina Baira
- Choreographers: Joey Mattar, Taylor Craft, Eric Blovits, BAIRA MVMNT PHLOSPHY
- Sound Design: Bryan Baira

Senior Capstone Showcase “Making Our Mark”, Allesee Dance Theatre (2022)

in my heart

- Performer
- Choreographer: Kaylee Adair
- Music: Ólafur Arnalds, Valgeir Sigurosson, Max Ritcher, Louisa Fuller, Natalia, John Metcalfe, Philip Sheppard, Chris Worsey

Never Ending Narrative, Vimeo (2021)

Know More

- Performer
- Choreographer: Dr. RAS Mikey C
- Music: Dr. RAS Mikey C

RECLAIMING

- Performer
- Choreographer: Kayle Gonzalez
- Music: Big Wild, Rationale, Neil Frances

Professional - Dance Uprising, Ann Arbor, Michigan (2019-2022)

“We work collaboratively to create unique dance pieces that speak to our human experiences. Our primary purpose is to establish real, human connections — through company class, in our rehearsals, in performances, and through outreach programs.”

Company Member / Artistic Director: Amy Caldwell

Water Bounty (2022)

- Oakland Dance Festival
- Performer
- Choreographer: Amy Caldwell
- Music: DJ Arek, Trinix, Guspire, Alltair

Pandemic Suite: Disbelief, Stress, Hope (2022)

- Detroit Dance Race
- Performer
- Choreographer: Amy Caldwell
- Music: Pylot, Conti Music, Royalty Free Institute

Practically Presidential (2019)

- Ypsi Dance Swap
- Performer
- Choreographer: Amy Caldwell
- Music: Lorde, IAMX

Professional - Ann Arbor Aviary, Ann Arbor, Michigan

“The Aviary is an inclusive, body-neutral, non-competitive, and supportive circus space for adults to learn, play, explore, and grow. We offer instruction in aerial and circus arts. Our students range from experienced athletes looking to expand upon the skills they learned in previous aerial, dance, and gymnastics training to absolute beginners who want to try a new and exciting type of exercise, and we are committed to finding training plans to match all ability levels. We want our students to feel challenged and exhilarated during the time they choose to spend with us and encouraged to build strength, flexibility, and confidence.”

Untitled Trapeze Solo (2022)

- Ann Arbor Summer Festival
- Soloist
- Choreographer: Elijah Lennington
- Music: Young the Giant

Untitled Trapeze Solo (2022)

- Plymouth Library Summer Festival
- Soloist
- Choreographer: Elijah Lennington
- Music: Young the Giant

Untitled Trapeze Solo (2022)

- Plymouth Library Summer Festival
- Soloist
- Choreographer: Elijah Lennington
- Music: Carly Rae Jepsen

Untitled Trapeze Solo (2019)

- “Halloween Lift Off”, The Ann Arbor Aviary
- Soloist
- Choreographer: Elijah Lennington
- Music: The Raconteurs, Sufjan Stevens

Untitled Silks Duet (2019)

- “Halloween Lift Off”, The Ann Arbor Aviary
- Performer
- Choreographers: Elijah Lennington, Kat Eilers
- Music: Glass Animals

Untitled Trapeze Solo (2019)

- “Things With Wings”, Matthaei Botanical Gardens
- Soloist

- Choreographer: Elijah Lennington
 - Music: Rosie O'Donnell, Phil Collins, Cast - Tarzan
- Untitled Silks Solo (2019)
- "Lift Off: Lodestar", The Ann Arbor Aviary
 - Soloist
 - Choreographer: Elijah Lennington
 - Music: Florence and the Machine
- Untitled Silks Solo (2018)
- "Halloween Lift Off", The Ann Arbor Aviary
 - Soloist
 - Choreographer: Elijah Lennington
 - Music: Matt Fink

Training

- BAIRA MVMNT PHLOSPHY (2023)
- Ran by Shaina and Bryan Baira, BIARA MVMNT PHLOSPHY is a dance theatre company that focuses on movement research, spirituality, and cognitive inquiry. They are primarily momentum, improvisation, and partnering based.
 - Winter Intensive - exploring the MVMNT PHLOSPHY modules and improvisational performance practices.
 - Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan
- BAIRA MVMNT PHLOSPHY (2023)
- Summer Intensive - Focused on rapid building of a longer-length work within the MVMNT PHLOSPHY framework. Performed a showing at the end of the week.
 - PeriDance, New York City, New York
- BAIRA MVMNT PHLOSPHY (2022)
- Winter Intensive - exploring the MVMNT PHLOSPHY modules and improvisational performance practices.
 - Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan
- New England Center for the Circus Arts (NECCA) (2021)
- NECCA is one of the United States leading circus performing arts centers. They serve both their local community as well as the national community with training, performance, and resources.
 - Skills Week Summer Intensive - Students choose one apparatus to focus on (I did static trapeze) in order to train with professional coaches on tricks and basic skills. Additionally, students get to explore other forms of circus arts, such as tumbling, Pole, Silks, Swinging Trapeze, Trampoline, and more.
 - New England Center for the Circus Arts, Brattleboro, Vermont

Choreography

- Senior Capstone Showcase "Shades of Bloom", Hillberry Gateway Studio (2024)

Choreographed the 8 minute solo *Within Quiet Joy (Make it Louder)* for my Bachelor of Fine Arts capstone project. This project was an exploration of self-expression within movement through a gendered lens, and what it means to be able to celebrate yourself. Performed by myself.

Dance Workshop “Eyes on the WatchTower”, Allesee Dance Theatre (2023)

Choreographed two ~10 minute sections for the evening-length piece. The show involved use of technology and movement and props. One of my scenes included speaking, projection, as well as live manipulation of voice and video. Performed by company members.

93rd Annual December Dance Concert, Allesee Dance Theatre (2022)

Choreographed *Configurations* with Rachel Meloche as a continuation of a project from the year prior entitled *Sepia* (2022). The piece explores relationality and care to the mundane object, and how that changes with proximity to each other. Performed by Elijah Lennington and Rachel Meloche.

Virtual Dance Collaboratory “Dynamic Perspective”, Vimeo (2021)

Choreographed a portion *Build a Plane and Fly it Too* with Taylor Craft for the virtual show. I built a teeter totter, choreographed, and taught movement explored on the prop. Performed by company members of Virtual Dance Collaboratory.

Aerial Arts (2018 - 2022)

Choreographed and performed various solos for local circus shows. Speciality in static trapeze and aerial silks.