

Sinclair Ogaga Emoghene

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A. GENERAL INFORMATION

A.1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Sinclair Ogaga Emoghene

(Resides in the USA)

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A.2. EDUCATION

2016 M.F.A Dance, School of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies, The University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Research interests: Dance Techniques, Dance Composition and Creation, Choreography, Design and Dance Theory, Critical Studies in Traditional and Contemporary Dance Cultures.

Thesis: *“Nyam chiem:” Reconstructing and performing nightmare, Embodied Research of Sleep Paralysis*. Chair of Thesis Committee: Karen Kohn Bradley

2007 B.A. Theater Arts, *2.1 Honours*, Specialization in Dance. Other Majors: Acting, Directing, and Technical Theater. Department of Theater Arts and Mass Communications, University of Benin, Benin City, Edo, Nigeria. Head of Thesis Committee: Christopher Ugolo, PhD

A.3. POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING OR SPECIAL EXPERIENCE, AND HONORS RECEIVED

2021 New Research in Dance *“Dance Digs: Unearthing African and Diasporic Dance”* - This work is carried out as a new project supported by the United States Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and the Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

2020 The Anderson and VCUArts, commissioned project *“Facets of Esoterics”* re-installed Fall 2020

2019 John F. Kennedy Center Award for Choreography in Social Impact and Community Engagement. One of two Washington, D.C. artists awarded to be a part of a shared evening of performance at the Millennium Stage, February 2020. Washington, D.C.

2019 John F. Kennedy Center, The REACH first Dance Artist in Residence “OFFICE HOURS,” a part of Marc Bemuthi Joseph’s initiative to enliven the new Kennedy Center South Campus, the REACH in Washington, D.C.

2018 Commissioned Invitational. To create a new site-based work, “TogthRAPart,” at The Sandy Springs Museum in Sandy Springs, MD.

2016 Commissioned Invitational Award. New piece “Love + Hate = Bad Names.” Commissioned by the NEXTNOW Festival by The Clarice, University of Maryland, City of College Park, MD.

2015 University of Maryland Fellowship Awarded to five international graduate students annually: International Teaching Fellows Excellence award USA. College Park, MD.

2014 University of Maryland: Full Three Year Scholarship, 2014 - 2016.

2013 University of Maryland: The only Dean’s Fellowship in Dance Award for 2013 - 2014

2011 Commissioned to choreograph “*I’ll Take My Chances*” by the Royal Arts Academy, Lagos Nigeria, produced by Emem Isong and Ini Edo.

2008 National Youth Service Corp, Enugu State: award for Service/Commitment and Excellence out of thousands of youth corps members in 2008.

2006 University of Benin: Best Accomplished Dance Student male or female for three years in a row, 2005-2007.

B.1 CURRENT RESEARCH / CREATIVE PRACTICE:

Research:

1. Dance Digs: Unearthing African Dance (in-progress) (Supported by the US Library of Congress, Washington D.C.) – Final product: in review;
2. Facets of Esoterics – Final product: performance - Aug. 18 - Sep. 3: Site-specific installation (commissioned by two separate organizations - The John F. Kennedy Center and VCUArts The Anderson Gallery - 2019/20)
4. Therapy - Final product: Short Dance Film - 03/05/2021 (Supported by VCUArts)

B.2 EXPERIENCE:

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, USA

Assistant Professor, Dance and Choreography (tenure-track)-

August 2019 - present

Sinclair Dance/WXYZ Art Factory, Benin Edo, Nigeria + McLean/Fairfax, Virginia, USA

Artistic Director and Founder

October 2008 - present

WXYZ Art Factory, Benin City, Nigeria

October 2008 - August 2016

Director

- Administrative functions
- Created programs and ran the year programming of the company
- Ran a sustainable budgeting system within the company
- Choreographed and performed with company
- Contract and project execution on behalf of the company
- Ran the daily curriculum for the performing art school
- Coordinated the staff and management team of teachers, assistant instructors, and student interns

Levine School of Music, Washington, District of Columbia.

Dance Area Director/Coordinator

July 2016 - August 2016

University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

August 2013 - May 2016

Graduate Assistant

- Contemporary dance, West African dance technique, two classes each semester
- Developed advanced syllabus for dance and movement that incorporated history, anthropology, ethnography, and performance
- Translated West African dance education to the American education systems
- West African Dance (DANC138) and Global Movement Practices: West African Dance (DANC338)
- Maryland Day West African dance workshop, University Maryland College Park, 2015
- West African Dance, The Art and Learning Center, University Maryland College Park, 2014

University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria

September 2008 - December 2012

- Freelance/paid/volunteer work in the undergraduate and graduate Theater Arts and Dance program
- Traditional Dance Technique (intermediate and advanced techniques) undergraduate majors and graduate students
- African Contemporary Dance (intermediate and advanced techniques) undergraduate majors and graduate students

Edo State Arts Council Ministry of Arts, Culture and Tourism, Benin City, Nigeria

August 2012 - October 2012 (**Part-time Paid Work Experience**)

Visiting Artistic Director/Choreographer

- Created original dance choreography for the state troupe to the National Dance

Festival in 2012

- Created a link in the dance administration and artistic endeavors in the Arts Council
- Directed the entire process under the guidance of the state commissioner

University Preparatory, Benin City, Nigeria

March 2008 - July 2012

Dance Educator

- Created Latin and Ballroom dance in a high school in Benin City, Nigeria, 2008
- Ran the program successfully for five years
- Developed and ran connections with three other high schools in the regional area including: Negbenebor High School, Benin City; Loyola Jesuits College, Gidan Mangoro, Abuja; and Igbinedion College, Benin City.

Royal Arts Academy, Surulere Lagos, Nigeria

December 2010 - November 2011

Choreographer (commissioned)

- Developed an original choreography for film
- Worked with a cast of over a hundred and fifty people
- Organized auditions and professional casting for the film
- Collated contracts and paid dancers

B.3 PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

National Dance Education Organization, (NDEO) - www.ndeo.org - Member, 2014.

Dance Scholars Association of Nigeria (DASSON) Member, 2013.

National Association for Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners (NANTAP) Edo State Chapter, Benin City Edo State, 2010 - Secretary of the chapter in 2011

Dance Guild of Nigeria National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos Nigeria, 2010

International Dance Council (CID), 2010

B.4 SKILLS:

Artistic:

- Motion exploration
- Dance Choreography
- Teaching dance
- Projection design
- Video and new media
- Acting
- Directing
- Producing

Video/Projection Design:

- Projection design (Isadora software)
- Video design (iMovie)
- Audio design (Adobe audition, Garage Band)

B.5 FURTHER INFORMATION:

Languages:

- English
- Urhobo
- Igbo
- Hausa

Interests:

- Olympic sports
- Traveling
- TV shows
- Social media and social networking
- Collaborating

C.1 PUBLICATIONS:

“Nyam chiem:” Reconstructing and Performing Nightmare, Embodied Research of Sleep Paralysis, 2016.
(Supervisor: Karen Kohn Bradley)

“Finding a Path:” Autobiographical Research into Contemporary African Dance, 2013
(Supervisor: Miriam Phillips)

“The Big Six Wheel:” (Salsa Rueda De Casino) An Ethnographic Study of Rueda Salsa in Washington D.C., 2015.
(Supervisor: Miriam Phillips)

“Contemporary Nigerian Dance Creation:” Human Emotion and Passion as Basis for Dance Choreography, 2007.
(Supervisor: Christopher Ugolo)

C.2 COMMISSIONED PROJECTS (Selected):

“Ainihi E Alteridade:” Commissioned Residency, The Clarice and Joe’s Movement Emporium May 14 - 17, 2021 (Collaboration with Pablo Regis de Oliveira and Kate Spanos)

“Kaleidoscope of Tuts:” Commissioned Dance Performance, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, February 6, 2020

“Facets of Esoterics:” Commissioned residency at the REACH, John F. Kennedy Center, December 16 - 21, 2019

“TogthRAPart,” Sinclair Emoghene, Sandy Springs Museum in Sandy Springs Maryland, 2018.

“Love/Peace = Bad Names:” \$2500 Alumni Commission NextDANCE, NextNOW Festival, September 9 and 10, 2016

“Azaghidi, When Gods Die:” Director and choreographer commissioned by the University of Benin, 2012

“I’ll Take My Chances:” #300,000 Feature film choreographer commission by the Royal Art Academy, Lagos, Nigeria, 2011

C.3 CHOREOGRAPHIES:

“Facets of Esoteric,” Sinclair Emoghene, The Anderson, Richmond, VA, 2020

“Kaleidoscope of Tuts,” Sinclair Emoghene, John F. Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C., 2020

“Kaleidoscope of Tuts,” Sinclair Emoghene, Grace Street Theater, VCUArts, Richmond, VA, 2020

“Facets of Esoteric,” Sinclair Emoghene, John F. Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C., 2019

“TogthRAPart,” Sinclair Emoghene, Sandy Springs Museum in Sandy Springs, Maryland, 2018.

“Love + Hate = Bad Names” Sinclair Emoghene, Dance Theater The Clarice, University of Maryland, 2016.

“Rooted on a Moving Spot (ROAMS),” Sinclair Emoghene, Art and Sociology Building, University

Maryland College Park, 2016.

“Nyam chiem,” Sinclair Emoghene, Dance Theater, University Maryland College Park, 2015.

(Performers: Sinclair Emoghene, Nadav Heyman, Jonathan Hsu, Theophilus Nimpson, Rose Qi Xinran, Allen Chunhui Xing, Christopher Law, Latefia Bradley, Mustapha Braimah, Tamar Gasko, Addae Anwar)

“Nyam chiem,” (process) Sinclair Emoghene, Dance Theater, University Maryland College Park, 2015.

(Performer: Sinclair Emoghene)

“Silence in progress,” Sinclair Emoghene, Kibel Gallery, University Maryland College Park, 2014.

(Performer: Sinclair Emoghene)

“Confinement,” Sinclair Emoghene, The Stamp Art Gallery, University Maryland College Park, 2014.

(Performer: Sinclair Emoghene) (Midpoint Dance)

“Man and His Thought,” (Duet) Sinclair Emoghene, Dance Theater, University Maryland College Park, 2014.

(Performers: Sanya Motunrayo, Sinclair Emoghene)

“Grey Spots,” (Solo) Sinclair Emoghene, Dance Theater, University Maryland College Park, 2013.

(Performer: Sinclair Emoghene)

“Man and His Thought,” (Solo) Sinclair Emoghene, University of Benin, 2011.

(Performer: Sinclair Emoghene)

“Much More than Movement,” Sinclair Emoghene, University of Benin, 2011.

(Performers: All members of WXYZ Art Factory)

“I’ll Take My Chances,” Sinclair Emoghene, Royal Arts Academy, 2011.

(Performers: (Film) Cast of the movie)

“Blasted,” Sinclair Emoghene, University of Benin, 2010.

(Performers: All members of the WXYZ Art Factory)

“Oba Ovoranwmen,” Israel Wekpe, Loyola Jesuit Abuja, 2010.

(Performers: Cast of the Jesuit College Abuja)

“Apache Aliens,” Sinclair Emoghene, Calabar Festival, 2010.

(Cast of the band “Apache Aliens”)

“Inauguration of WXYZ Arts Factory,” Ekenhuan Campus 2009.

“TNT for The Brain,” Sinclair Emoghene, University of Benin, 2007.

(Performers: Oritsebinone Toriseju, Jennifer Omonkhua, Rahima, Arit Ekpeyong, Uduak Patrick, and Sinclair Emoghene)

“Solitude,” (Solo) Sinclair Emoghene, University of Benin, 2007.

(Performers: Benjamin Olaye)

“Solitude,” (Solo) Sinclair Emoghene, University of Benin, 2006.

(Performers: Sinclair Emoghene)

“Juju,” African ritual performance, dance and pantomime, Fall 2018.

“Men Having A Conversation,” A dance duet in the dark, Fall 2018.

C.4 PERFORMANCES:

“Rooted on a Moving Spot (ROAMS),” Sinclair Emoghene (Choreographer), Metal Shop, Department of Arts UMD, 2016.

“Nyam chiem,” (Dance) Sinclair Emoghene (choreographer), Dance Theater, University Maryland College Park, 2015.

“Salsa Congresses,” Baltimore, Salsa/Bachata Congress, 2015.

“Salsa Congresses,” Washington, D.C. Salsa Congress, Capital Congress, 2015.

“Rueda de Casino,” Rockville, MD, Dance in Time Salsa Rueda, D.C., 2015.

“Earth Day Celebration,” West African Dance, Loudoun County, VA, 2015.

“Men’s Dance” Bill Evans (Choreographer), NDEO Chicago, Illinois, November 2014.

“Spring Awakening,” (Musical) Brian MacDevitt (director), Key Theatre, University Maryland College Park, 2014.

“Azaghidi,” (Acting) Israel Wekpe (director), University of Benin, 2012.

“NAFEST,” (Dance) Chris Ugolo (choreographer), Cultural Centre, Minna, 2009.

“NYSC,” Enugu State Troupe, Eastern Zone Winners Enugu/FCT, Abuja, 2008.

“Ijo vudu Dance,” (Dance) Ijo dee/Sani Abu (director), National Theatre, Iganmu, 2007.

“Voyage Afrique,” (Dance) Sani Abu (choreographer), University of Lagos, 2007.

“Nigeria at Crossroads,” (Dance) Chris Ugolo (choreographer), University of Benin, 2007.

“Voyage Afrique,” (Dance) Sani Abu (director), Oba Akenzua Cultural Centre, Benin City, 2006.

“Wife’s Revolt,” (Acting) Israel Wekpe (director), Jos Repertory Theater, 2006.

“Nekhighidi,” (Acting) Israel Wekpe (director), Oba Akenzua Cultural Centre, Benin City, 2005.

“Emachibeth,” (Dance) Oshioma Nyama (director), Oba Akenzua Cultural Centre, Benin City, 2005.

“Tegonni,” (Acting) Tom Onyoryor (director), University of Benin, 2005.

“Shell Community,” Austin Asabga (director), (Community Theatre Project) Shell: Delta State, Nigeria, 2005.

“National University Theater Arts Festival (NUTAF),” Calabar (Uniben Participant), 2005.

“Obaseki,” (Play) Israel Wekpe (director), University of Benin, 2004.

“More than Dancing,” (Play) Irene Salami (writer/director), Open Air Theatre, UniJos, 2003.

C.5 DANCE TECHNIQUES:

Traditional African Dances (Dance styles):

- Bata (and Other Yoruba dance forms)
- Omi Obitun
- Akoto/Ajugbo Badagry dance forms
- Swange (Tiv Cat dances and Kwaghir Puppet Theater. Tiv Culture)
- Ekombi (Efik and Ibibio styles – Abang)
- Atilogwu, and Achikoro (Igbo dances forms)
- Udje (Other Urhobo dances forms)
- Esakpaide, and Ugho (Bini dance and songs – Bini theater/folkloric styles)
- Koroso (Other Hausa/Fulani dances forms)

African and Contemporary Dances (Teachers):

- Taurus Broadhurst of the Ronald Brown dance company (Washington, D.C.)
- Ijo Dee (Dayo) (Lagos, Nigeria)
- Ijo Vudu (Sani Abu) (Toronto, Canada)
- Christopher Ugolo (Benin, Nigeria)
- Oshioma Nyanma (Abuja, Nigeria)
- Kwame Shaka Opare (Baltimore, MD, USA)
- Jim Lepore Afro-Cuban (George Mason University)

Modern Dance (Teachers):

- David Dorfman (College Park MD, USA)
- Adriane Fang of Doug Varone and dancers (College Park MD, USA)
- Taurus Broadhurst of the Ronald Brown dance company (Washington, D.C.)
- Crystal Pite (at ADI Maryland)

Latin Styles - Social dance (Teachers):

- Arthur Adamski (Mississauga, Ontario Canada): (Latin/Ballroom international styles) (Dancing With The Stars, ABC)
- Laurie Frederick Meer (College Park MD, USA): (Salsa On 1) (American Smooth Ballroom Styles)
- Barbara Bernstein (Washington, D.C.): Salsa (On 1) Salsa Rueda
- Jim Lepore (George Mason University): Rueda de Casino (Rueda circle)
- Barbara Bernstein: Rueda de Casino (Rueda circle)
- Arthur Murray syllabus and certification (Social ballroom, American styles)

D.1 REFERENCES:

Leigh Wilson Smiley

Karen Kohn Bradley

Sharon Mansur