

CURRICULUM VITAE : Jeanne Louise Coetzer

Choreographer / Dancer / Teacher

“Coetzer understands the requirements of choreography, group dynamics, characterization and focus, how to use good music in surprising juxtapositions with content and movement and how to comment in an entertaining way on society. She is a big talent.” – Schalk Schoombie, Die Beeld

EDUCATION:

Baccalaureus Technologiae – DANCE (COMPOSITION): Technikon Pretoria - 2001

I trained as dancer at the Pretoria Technikon (now Tshwane University of Technology), and graduated with a B.Tech Degree in dance, majoring in choreography. I completed my fourth year of study at this institution in 2001. During this time, my student choreography projects *Sondagoggendsuurlemoentee*, *Dit proe van pienk pomelos*, *What used to be vices are now habits*, and *Mamma, ek wil n man he*, were staged at the FNB Vita Dance Umbrella and the Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees. During my fourth year of study I acted as assistant lecturer in Performance Creation for the Musical Theatre Department.

Practical Dance Training: Classical Ballet, Contemporary Dance, Jazz Dance, African Dance, Spanish Dance, Body Conditioning and Pilates. I trained as a dancer under Gillian Joubert (Zurich Opera Ballet & PACT Ballet), Ken Yeatman (PACT Ballet), Susan Abrahams & Anton van Niekerk (PACT Dance Company), Gregory Maqoma (Vuyani Dance Theatre), Wendy Quarmbly and Debbie Rakusin.

Coursework: Movement Composition, Arts Administration, Anthropology, History of Art, Dance Teaching, Creative Movement, Music Theory, Information Technology and Anatomy.

Minor Dissertation: Art in relation to Art – *a comparative study between the art of choreography and the art of painting.*

HIGH SCHOOL FINAL YEAR EXAMINATION: Grade 12, Success College: 1997

HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION: Grade 8 – 10, Pro Arte High School for the Arts: 1994 – 1996

LANGUAGE SKILLS: Fluent in English and Afrikaans

IT SKILLS : Proficient in a variety of applications including word processing, spreadsheets and e-mail

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: As dancer, teacher and choreographer, I continue studying and training in a variety of dance techniques. Recent professional development experiences include master classes taught by artists of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Joshua Beamish, Alfred Hinkel, International Summer School at the Charles University in Prague, CI Technique Workshops by Lucia Walker, ongoing Contact Improvisation practice through jams and workshops and continuous

technique classes which I attend in Classical Ballet and Contemporary Dance, with a variety of teachers. I was selected to participate in a 7-day intensive training session for dance filmmakers, taught by renowned UK director David Hinton (DV8), in conjunction with Netherlands based film festival Cinedans.

EXPERIENCE: CHOREOGRAPHER & DIRECTOR

Founder and Artistic Director: Darkroom Contemporary Dance Theatre Company CapeTown, SouthAfrica (2010 - Present)

I founded Darkroom Contemporary, a project-based dance theatre company, in 2010. The company has established itself as one of Cape Town's leading contemporary dance ensembles, and aims to continue delivering innovative, unexpected works of the highest artistic standard. Darkroom Contemporary works are often staged as site specific performances and the medium of dance film features often in its repertoire. As Founder and Artistic Director of Darkroom Contemporary, my roles include project planning, conceptualising and choreography of all performance and film projects for the company, administration, fundraising, overseeing all staff and volunteers, and promoting the company's work. I oversee the artistic vision of the company's work, choreography of new productions, facilitating of workshops, and overseeing all logistics of performance and film creation. The works created for Darkroom Contemporary aim to reimagine dance as art form, through innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration. The company has implemented a wide range of performance, film, developmental and educational projects in the Western Cape and Gauteng and operates as a non-profit organisation with the objectives to promote dance, theatre, and dance film through a variety of projects. Darkroom Contemporary is project-based and my position in the organisation is of part-time, voluntary nature.

For more information visit: www.darkroomcontemporary.com

CHOREOGRAPHY WORKS - Works created for stage, site specific performance and film:

In C (2016) Choreographer and Director - Running time: 27 minutes

A neo-classical piece created as the commissioned work for the 2016 Baxter Dance Festival. *In C* recreates Terry Riley's landmark composition through sound and motion. Music duo Without Eyes adapts and performs *In C for two laptops*, employing electronic sound to replace traditional orchestral instruments. The movement design takes its cue from the composition's 53 phrases as they pass through, catch up and occasionally find a meeting point, focusing on these fleeting moments of connect and disconnect.

We,the transposed (2016) Choreographer and Director - Running time: 50 minutes

An installation performance, created for Darkroom Contemporary as collaboration with sound artist Mischa Mathys. Staged at Youngblood Arts & Culture Development.

Divergence (2016) Choreographer - Running time: 10 minutes

A short dance work created for the stage, commissioned by Northern Dance Project.

Let it rain (2015) Choreographer - Running time: 40 minutes

A dance work commissioned by Unmute Dance Company for the first Unmute ArtsAbility Festival, celebrating mixed ability performers, artists and theatre makers.

These Shadows (2015) Choreographer - Running time: 12 minutes

A work created for the stage, for Dance For All's InSPIRATIONS Youth Company. Performed as part of Kaleidoscope, Azishe, Cape Town International Dance Festival and Baxter Dance Festival 2015.

BLUEPRINT (2014) – Director and Choreographer - Running time: 45 minutes

Inspired by urban architecture, BLUEPRINT is an installation work incorporating dance theatre, sound design, data visualisation and sculptural elements. This site-specific production was staged at the Cape Town City Hall, Baxter Dance Festival 2014 and the SA Innovation Summit, and is an official project of World Design Capital Cape Town 2014.

The Forgotten (2013) – Director and Choreographer - Running time: 10 minutes

The Forgotten was created as a stage performance work for the DFA InSPIRATIONS Youth Dance Company. The work was later adapted for film by Darkroom Contemporary.

SWARM (2013)– Director and Choreographer - Running time: 60 minutes

An evening length dance theatre work created for Darkroom Contemporary, SWARM uses the world of insects as metaphor to explore the intricacies of human life, merging dance theatre with installation and light design by ThingKing. Performed at Cape Town City Hall.

A Wolf at the Door (2012) – Director and Choreographer - Running time: 50 minutes

An evening length physical theatre production for Darkroom Contemporary, incorporating visual and light installation. Staged as a site specific performance at the Cape Town City Hall, Baxter Dance Festival Main Programme 2012 and Creative Week Cape Town.

Canvas (2011) – Director and Choreographer - Running time: 45 minutes

A collaboration with Graffiti artist Imraan Samo, Canvas uses elements of street art with physical theatre and was adapted for numerous non-traditional performance spaces. Staged at the District Six Museum, Cape Town City Hall, Baxter Dance Festival 2011 as site specific performance, Dance Umbrella Festival Main Programme 2012 (JHB), The Black Box (JHB).

Dead Air (2011)– Director and Choreographer - Running time: 4 minutes

A dance film created for the Letters from the Sky Project, in collaboration with videographer Oscar O'Ryan. Screened at the *Video Dance Festival of Burgundy* (France), *the GLAMY Awards* (Finland), *Agite Y Sirva* (Mexico), *COP17 Climate Change Convention*, *Sustain Our Africa Summit* and shortlisted for the *AVIFF* as part of the 2013 Cannes Film Festival. Awarded as Top Ten Film in the Letters From the Sky Project.

Scary Monsters (2010)– Director and Choreographer - Running time: 40 minutes

Created in collaboration with sound designers Gustavo Fasani & Douglas Armstrong of LoRez Tango Electronica, staged at the *Alliance Francaise* gallery space, New Africa Theatre and Baxter Dance Festival 2010.

I walk the streets with loose parts (2009)– Choreographer - Running time: 4 minutes

A dance film created for the City Breath Festival of visual poetry, in collaboration with film director Ryan Kruger. Screened at the National Arts Festival 2011, The British Film Institute (UK), the GIPCA Dance & Film Conference and Shortcuts.

(Older works 1998 - 2009 not listed)

REVIEWS:

“Dance theatre with enormous dramatic flair – zany, unusual brimming with odd and bizarre ideas. *Sondagogendsuurlemoentee* could just as well have been an earthy drama by Reza de Wet. Her metaphorical language is humorist and extremely strange, extremely Afrikaans. Coetzer is an asset”- *Schalk Schoombie, Die Beeld*

“...Darkroom Contemporary has found a way to transform contemporary dance into an experience that captures the zeitgeist of the times.” – *David Fick, Broadway World*

“A thoroughly entertaining and thought provoking collaboration between extremely talented artists whose passion shine through what they do best. “ – *Lauren Smit, Orms Direct*

“The most artistically interesting and mature work in my opinion is ‘Challenges’ by Louise Coetzer. It is a contemporary work that manages to be choreographically intricate and dynamic while at the same time utilising the technical ability of the talented young dancers. These dancers perform with such maturity and commitment, and in some cases with such a captivating stage presence that I genuinely look forward to seeing them in professional companies in future. “ - Review: Dance For All’s Kaleidoscope, 2015/07/07 - *Shirley-Anne Bezuidenhout (WhatsoninCapeTown)*

“I was pleased to see Dance For All performing ‘These Shadows’ again with much more refinement and musicality. The improvement in the dancers’ clarity and sharpness brings out the choreography’s nuances and ingenuity, while their showmanship and athleticism enhance the dynamics, engaging the audience through the shifting patterns and phases of this captivating work by Louise Coetzer.” - Review: Azishe! 3 July 2015 – *Shirley-Anne Bezuidenhout (WhatsoninCapeTown)*

“Sure enough, Blueprint, a World Design Capital project, portrays the talented masterminds of Darkroom Contemporary’s vision both aesthetically and intellectually.” - *Angeliki Theodorou, WhatsoninCapeTown*

EXPERIENCE: DANCE TEACHER

**Dance Teacher, Contemporary Dance Faculty: Cape Academy of Performing Arts (CAPA)
Cape Town, South Africa (2014 – Present)**

As Contemporary Dance Teacher at CAPA, I work with students aged 15 – 23 years old, teaching Contemporary Dance Technique and Release Technique classes, including Contact Improvisation Techniques. The Accelerated Training Programme is aimed at high school level students who wish to continue dance studies at tertiary level. The Full Time Course is aimed at tertiary level students working towards a professional career in dance, and is the feeder school for the highly acclaimed Cape Dance Company under Artistic Direction of Debbie Turner. I teach year 1 - 4 students of the Full Time Course and various class groups of the Accelerated Training Programme. I have been in this

position since August 2014. I have also created choreography for the FTC students, staged as part of their Bittersweet Reloaded programme at Artscape Theatre in 2014.

**Guest Lecturer, Contemporary Dance Faculty: University of Cape Town School of Dance
Cape Town, South Africa (2015)**

This was a contract position for the duration of the Second Semester of 2015(July – November). I was invited to teach the Repertoire Class subject for Year 3 and Year 4 students. For this class, a section of work from Darkroom Contemporary's repertoire was selected, in this instance an extract from *SWARM*. Students studied this work, its themes and choreographic structures, and was then taught the choreography which is performed as part of their final practical assessment.

**Head: Contemporary Dance Programme & Dance Teacher - Dance For All (DFA)
Cape Town, South Africa (2013 - Present)**

As Head of the Contemporary Dance Programme ,I handle course administration duties and curriculum planning, leading and collaborating with the team of teachers on this faculty. I create choreography works for the junior and senior contemporary dance students, and new works for the student company - DFA InSPIRATIONS Youth Dance Company. As teacher for the Contemporary Dance Programme at Dance For All, I work with students aged 10 – 19 years old. The junior course is focused on teaching a basic understanding of contemporary dance technique, while the senior students work at a more advanced level. This course includes elements of Classical Ballet, Horton Technique, Graham Technique, Release Technique and Body Conditioning. Simultaneously I teach Contemporary Dance Technique, Composition and Improvisation Technique classes for the DFA Bridging Programme. This is a tertiary level programme for students aged 18 – 23 years old, who are preparing for a professional dance career. I've worked with Dance For All since 2013.

REFERENCES:

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2. Nicolette Moses, Associate Producer for the Baxter Theatre Centre
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3. Philip Boyd, Founder and CEO of Dance For All
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