

Stephen M. Rooks

Vassar College

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EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

B.A. (Cum Laude) Dartmouth College – Senior Fellow in Music 1977

The Mercersburg Academy 1973

French and German

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Professor of Dance and Resident Choreographer, Vassar College, 1996 to present

Guest Artist-in-Residence, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, 2001

Lecturer in Dance, Howard University, 1993 – 1996

Instructor of Dance, Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, 1991 – 1996

Guest Instructor of Dance, Martha Graham Dance Center 1997 to present

PRINCIPAL DANCER WITH MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY, 1981 –1991;
1998, 2007 (Danced major roles in Graham repertory)

DANCER WITH ALVIN AILEY II, 1980 – 1981 (performed in works by Alvin Ailey,
Tally Beatty, Ulysses Dove, and Donald McKayle)

PUBLICATIONS

Rooks, Steve “An Interview with Ann Reinking: Teacher’s Wisdom” **Dance Magazine**, November 2006

TEACHING

Undergraduate Courses:

Beginning through Advanced Modern Dance (courses all informed by the codified Martha Graham technique – Vassar College), 1996 to present

Graham Technique and Repertory (intermediate technique, repertory, and lectures on Martha Graham –Vassar College), 2003 to present

Dance Composition/Craft of Choreography (working with students on the study, process, creation and performance of dance –Vassar College), 1996 to present

Advanced Modern Dance and Contemporary Partnering – University of North Carolina School of the Arts, 2001

PRESENTATIONS/LECTURES

Informal viewing and discussion of “Appalachian Spring” – Graham’s creation to the iconic score by Aaron Copeland - Turku University, Finland, March 2014

Professional Panel at the 2013 American College Dance Festival – Southeastern Conference –Belhaven University, Jackson Mississippi, March 2013

Panelist on “The Legacy of Martha Graham” - University of North Carolina at Charlotte, April 2011

Contemporary Juror at the Fourth International Ballet Competition- Roseta Mauri, Teatro Foruny in Reus, Spain, March 2009

Discussion on Professional Careers in Dance –Department of Dance at Belhaven University, Jackson Mississippi, September 2008

Panel Discussion on the legacy of Eleo Pomare –International Association of Blacks in Dance –Brooklyn, New York, January 2002

Lecture on Legacy of Martha Graham –University of the North Carolina School of the Arts, Winston-Salem North Carolina, November 2001

MAJOR DANCE WORKS:

“Vista” – International Ballet Competition, Jackson, Mississippi, June 2014

“Plate Tectonics” – Turku University, Finland, March 2014

“Klonos” –MasterWorks Festival – Winona Lake, Indiana, July 2013

“Impressions Suite” – MasterWorks Festival – Winona Lake, Indiana, July 2011

“The Griot Dance” (a full-evening work) –Vassar College, April 2010

“Sanctus” - Finals, Youth American Grand Prix Ballet Competition, New York, April 2004

“Brasileirinho” – Hubbard Street Dance Chicago II, June 2004

“Tarifa” – University of North Carolina School of the Arts, November 2001

“Cool River” – Martha Graham Dance Company, September 1996

PERFORMANCES (1996 – 2009)

Ahsas Festival – Expressions Modern Dance Company at Rang Sharda Auditorium - Mumbai, India, April 2009

“From the Horses Mouth” –Martha Graham Dance Company – Joyce Theater, New York, New York, September 2007

“Skull and Bones Club” with Kathy Wildberger – d.u.m.b.o. Dance Festival at the White Wave Dance Theater, Brooklyn, New York, October 2006

“Life –People – Times” with Jubal Productions – Minkler Auditorium in Toronto, Canada, December 2000

“Talisman” performed with the Utica Symphony Orchestra at Stanley Center for the Arts - Utica, New York, November 1999

Gala performance of “Appalachian Spring” with the Martha Graham Dance Company – Coolidge Auditorium, Washington D.C., May 1998

Performed with Great Day Chorale – Carnegie Hall, New York, New York, May 1997

Portrayed Joseph in “Billy Graham Ministries Christmas Television Special,” September 1996

International Tour to Israel –Morning Star Classical Biblical Theater, June 1996

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES/FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS

Vassar Grant 2014 – Turku, Finland (residency at Turku University, and creation of dance “Plate Tectonics”)

Vassar Grant 2008 – Lusaka, Zambia (humanitarian/missions project that informed creation of full-evening work “The Griot Dance: Notes from Zambia”)

Vassar Grant 2002 – Riga, Latvia (residency at National Conservatory and creation of dance “Bold”)

PROFESSIONAL (International) TRAVEL (2004 -2014)

2014 Residency at Turku University, Finland

2006 – 2014 - Guest faculty member at the annual International Summer School at McDonald College –Sydney, Australia

2009 and 2012 - Ahsas Festival and residency with Sumeet Nagdev Dance Arts – Mubai, India

2011 - Guest artist residency at The Dance Place – Barbados, West Indies

2006, 2009, and 2011 - Guest faculty member at the International Ballet Course – Guadalajara, Mexico

2010 - Guest teacher at Aldgate Dance Studio of Royal Academy of Dance – Adelaide, Australia

2009 – Contemporary Juror at Fourth International Ballet Competition- Roseta Mauri, Teatro Foruny in Reus, Spain

2008 and 2009 - Guest teacher at Stage di Danza Contemporaneo/International Dance Association – Centro Studi de la Torre, Ravenna, Italy

2009 - Master Classes at Talleres de Tecnica y Repertorio – Danza Contemporanea – Monterrey, Nuevo Leon Mexico

2008 - Research Grant Award Project (Humanitarian outreach/missions trip) – Lusaka, Zambia

Community Service

Board of Directors - Barrett Art Center - Poughkeepsie, New York, 1997 -1999

AWARDS: AFFILIATIONS; APPOINTMENTS

Appointed and served as Chair of Dance at Vassar College, 2009 - 2013

National Choreographic Competition – Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, 2004

Distinguished Alumni Award – The Mercersburg Academy, 2003

Community Service Award - Lions Club, 1996

Declaration from Minister of Tourism –Jerusalem, Israel, 1996

Merit Award for Outstanding Teaching –Howard University, Washington D.C, 1993

The State of the Art Award –T. J. Productions New York, New York, 1981

Marcus Heiman Award for the Performing Arts, Dartmouth College, 1977

Black Underground Theater and Arts Award for Dance, Dartmouth College, 1976

Friends of the Hopkins Center Scholarship for the Performing Arts, 1975

