

SANDY SILVA

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Sandy Silva is an award-winning choreographer, producer, and internationally acclaimed pioneer of percussive dance. She draws from global percussive dance practices infusing theme with movement, voice, theater and impeccable musicality. The result is a unique and powerful form of performance and storytelling. After 30 years of performing and teaching around the world, Sandy started the Migration Dance Film Project (MDFP) with award winning director Marlene Millar. Their films have screened internationally and won numerous awards. The migration Dance Film Project will incorporate 8 short films into a full length feature film to be released in 2021.

Selected Independent Projects and Choreography

2018 over 25 screenings of MDFP short films
2018 live performance and international premier for new MDFP film “Traverse” tour in Europe.
2018 choreographed and produced MDFP short film Traverse shot in st Etienne France.
2018 master workshops at Berklee school of Music.
2018 Workshops Playground Center for the Arts Athens Greece
2018 Teaching college National Circus School Music And Rhythm (12 years)
2017 Choreographed, produced and completed 2 short films for MDFP
2017research/casting/ master classes in France, Germany and Ireland
2016 Best choreographer for film award “Stories We Dance” Genoa, Italy
2016 Choreography and teaching for 7 fingers Fibonacci Project Marrakech Morocco
2016 7 film awards including Artist residency prize in St Etienne, France
2016 CAC grant recipient for research/teaching interdisciplinary body music methods
2015 choreographed and produced 2 award dance short films. 52 screenings in over 10 countries
2015 choreographed 2 pieces for Japan tour with Trinity Dance Co. Chicago including vocal body percussion and irish dance
2015 Performed with La Bottine Souriante at the goodwill games.
2015 European tour solo performances and teaching in Spain, Germany, and England.
2014 Researching percussive, vocal, movement choreographies on 9 interdisciplinary artists for future art/documentary film.
2014 Mentoring students of percussive dance who have received grants to work with me.
2014 Japan tour Setting 2 contemporary percussive dance choreographies and performing with Trinity Performing Arts company out of Chicago.
2014 West Virginia Davis and Elkins university. Setting a mix of traditional contemporary percussive dance choreography on teachers of percussive dance.
2013 Festival Quartiers Danses guest artist with Charmaine Leblanc
2013 Setting an new percussive dance choreography on tapestry professional dance company in Austin Texas
2011 New duo show with Dominic Desrochers, premiere at Tangente, Montreal, Qc
2010 International Body Music Festival - Sao Paulo Brazil
2009 Do I Know You? Tangente, Montreal, Qc
2009 National Theater Production, Istanbul, Turkey, el Triciclo
2008 – present Red Rabbit Project with Charmaine Leblanc

2007 Vanaver Caravan, Christmas show for disadvantaged children, New York.
 2007 Bishop's University, Lennoxville, Quebec, Special project with graduates from the department of Theatre
 2007 – present Les 7 doigts de la main, percussive dance for Projet Fibonacci, Spain, Denmark
 2005 Artist in Residence with New York composer Guy Klucevsek
 2005 Exploration and Creation, Villa Montalvo, Saratoga, California
 2004 Canada Council for the Arts grant recipient for choreography
 2003 Canada High Commission Gala, Edinburg, Scotland
 2001 Tlalapata Concert - guest artist for televised concert (San Sebastian, Spain)
 2000 My Dance - self-produced independent dance performance with Laura Risk (violin) and Francis Covan (accordion)
 1998 – 2000 KLAK Percussive Dance Ensemble with five independent percussive dancers (Festival d'été de Québec and Francfolies Festival in Montreal)
 1999 Human Rhythm Project - guest performer
 1998, 1999, 2000 Appalachian Strings theatre project - performer in musical history of immigration from Ireland to Appalachia
 1990, 1995 Belfast and Sligo Folk Festivals - guest performer with Altan and Martin Hayes
 1990 RTE Gaelic television special - Sandy Silva travels to Ireland (Dublin, Ireland)
 1989 Project Troubadour tour - PBS documentary film (Amazonia, Recife, Sao Paulo, Brazil)

Selected Performances

2015 performing at Pan Am games, Toronto
 2015 Percussive dance project in England sponsored by British Arts Council
 2010 International Body Music Festival, Sao Paulo, Brazil
 2010 Winter Olympics, Vancouver, B.C. – Closing Ceremonies
 2005 Montreal International Jazz Festival, Bobby McFerrin
 2005 Montreal International Jazz Festival, Rémi Bolduc
 2005 Dance Mission Theater, San Francisco, Guy Klucevsek
 1997 – present, La Bottine Souriante, solo dance percussion with 10 piece instrumental vocal band
 Commonwealth Games, WOMAD Festival (Australia)
 December tours throughout Quebec (Canada) and frequent festival theatre and television appearances in the USA, United Kingdom and Canada
 Celtic Connections (Glasgow, Scotland)
 USA Western tour (California, Utah, Colorado, Oregon)
 Live at Rideau Hall and Canada Day (CBC Television, live from Ottawa) United Kingdom-Ireland tour
 Annual European tours (Spain, Portugal, Norway)
 Glen Gould Studio (concert recorded and broadcast by CBC radio), Toronto, Canada
 Sandy Silva and Laura Risk 2002-2005
 Solo dance percussion with solo violin
 Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival (Maine, USA) Chico World Music Festival (California, USA) Makor Center (New York City, USA) University of Minneapolis (Minnesota, USA) Erie Art Museum (Pennsylvania, USA) Philadelphia Art Museum (Pennsylvania, USA)
 1990-1995, Open House music band - Sandy Silva (percussive dance), Kevin Burke (violin), Mark Graham (harmonica), Paul Kotapish (guitar)
 Celtic Connections (Glasgow, Scotland)
 Vancouver Folk Music Festival (Canada)
 Avante Festival (Lisbon, Portugal) Purcell Theatre (Paris, France) WOMEX (Brussels, Belgium) Falun Festival (Sweden)
 NPR's A Prairie Home Companion (Minneapolis, USA) Winnipeg Folk Music Festival (Manitoba,

Canada)

Recordings

Sandy Silva has participated in the following recordings - percussive dance, hand claps and body percussion:

2004 Magneto, Rick Haworth CD released May 2004

2003 Les Triplettes de Belleville - Oscar and Grammy nominated original soundtrack by Benoit Charest for feature animation

2003 J'ai jamais tant ri - La Bottine Souriante (Productions Mille Pattes)

1990, 1002, 1994 Open House, Second Story, Hoof n'Mouth, Open House (Green Linnet Records)

Dance Education

Sandy Silva has spent the last twenty years honing her skills by seeking out music and dance masters from various

cultural backgrounds. With a tape recorder and notebook she travelled across North America and Eastern Europe

immersing herself in distinct traditional cultures. After transcribing steps, rhythmic patterns and music, Sandy

would transpose these elements into her performance work with musicians, developing her own innovative style.

Through her current work with contemporary choreographers, she not only explores the quality and intention of sounds but also the visual content of the space between them and the finished line of the body itself in space, adding emotional depth to her work as a body percussionist and percussive dancer.

Selected Study

2012 research retreat in Turkey on « usuls » rhythms

2011 Grant recipient to study theatre with Michoue Sylvain

2006–2009 Dave Laing – jazz rhythm fundamentals, drum set to body

2001–2004 Movement choreography with Howard Richard (Montreal, Canada)

2002–2003 Tap with Brenda Buffalino (New York, USA)

1998–2000 Choreography with Julie Lachance (Montreal, Canada)

1994, 1996, 1998 Body music with Keith Terry (California, USA)

1992, 1994 Flamenco with Robina Carmona (Washington, USA and Seville, Spain)

1992, 1994 Hungarian legenyés with Orban Lazlo and Roman Sandor (Budapest, Hungary)

1988, 1992 Buck dancing/hambone with John D. Holman (North Carolina, USA)

1986, 1988 Stepdancing with Minnie MacMaster (Cape Breton, Canada)

Selected Teaching

2015 Master classes in body music and percussive dance, Germany

2014 Ongoing faculty at École nationale du cirque, teaching music and rhythm.

2013 Montreal rhythm and vocal choreography workshop at Studio 303

2013 Workshop McGill University Music Education Department.

2013 Mexico tour and master class dance workshop at Festival Cervantino and performances with La Bottine souriante.

2013 Workshop "Music training on the body" LADMMI École de danse contemporaine de Montréal

2013 Workshop Cegep Montmorency dance department

2013 Percussive dance workshop Brooklyn, New York

2010 International Body Music Festival, Sao Paulo, Brazil

2005, 2006 The National Circus School (Montreal, Canada) - Music and rhythm

1995 Cirque du Soleil - Rhythm workshops

2004 Choreography for Vishten, international touring music and dance group

2003 Erie Art Museum (Pennsylvania, USA) - public school and community lectures

2003 Wyoming State Arts Council and University of Wyoming, USA -public schools, senior centers, world music class lectures and demonstrations

2002 University of Minnesota (USA) - Lecture and demonstration: ethnomusicology program

2002 University of Limerick, (Ireland) - Lecture and demonstration: ethnomusicology program

2001 The National Circus School (Montreal, Canada) - Body percussion and choreography

2001 Experience Music Project Museum (Seattle, USA) - Roots of body percussion workshop

2001 Evergreen State College (Olympia, WA) – Lecture, performance - World Arts in Culture

2000–2004 Vanaver Caravan- Traditional elements of percussive dance and choreography workshop (New -York, USA)

1999 Human Rhythm Project (Minnesota, USA) - Roots of body percussion workshops

1995 Association of Professional Dancers (Dublin, Ireland) - Percussive dance styles of North America

1994 Augusta Heritage Dance Festival (Virginia, USA) - Cape Breton stepdance, buckdance workshops