

SANDY SILVA
PERCUSSIVE DANCE

SANDY SILVA is an award-winning performer, choreographer, composer, teacher, producer, and internationally-acclaimed percussive dance artist. She engages global percussive practices infusing movement with themes, vocal integration, theater, and impeccable musicality. The result is a singular and powerful form of performance storytelling forged through movement and sound. After 35 years of performing and teaching around the world, Sandy started the Migration Dance Film Project (MDFP) with director Marlene Millar. Their films have screened internationally and won numerous awards, expanding into Procession-Creative, a co-creation model immersing MDFP's Québec-based performers alongside interdisciplinary artists and everyday community members globally. A recipient of the 2023 McKnight Choreography Fellowship, Sandy is also co-founder of the international Percussive Dance Lab, a development intensive for professional percussive dancers which occurred in Montreal.

Selected Projects & Community Activities

2024	World Premiere Migration Dance Film Project <i>Refuge</i> and <i>Offering</i> , International Festival of Films on Art, Montreal, PQ
2024	Dance Camera West Procession Creative commission, Los Angeles, Bakersfield, CA, USA
2023	McKnight Fellowship International Choreographer award, Minneapolis, MN, USA - Commissioned residency & site-specific performance with professional dancers - Community outreach workshops with Brian Coyle Center, Pillsbury United Migrant Communities, Indigenous People's Task Force, and Ikidowin youth
2023	Rhythm & Movement workshops, Helsinki, Finland - Intensive for music educators & students at special education institution Live Vocational College
2023	École Nationale de Danse du Canada, <i>Music and Rhythm</i> program director, Montreal, PQ
2023	Migration community engagement project research, Italy
2022	Migration Procession Creative mentor project, Montreal, PQ
2022	Social Prescribing Exchange Project with Centre de Creation O Vertigo and Cardiff Dance Festival, Wales
2022	Conservatoire National Supérieur Musique et Danse de Lyon, Lyon, France
2022	FIFA screening: Films dansés et société : pour un nouvel impact, Montreal, PQ
2022	Coopération France-Québec "Migrations, Pouvoir & Identités," Lyon, France
2022	Migration Dance Film Project retrospective residency and workshop, Turin-Genoa, Italy
2022	Workshop Playground for the Arts, Athens, Greece
2022	The Annual Indeterminacy Festival, Alfred University, New York, USA
2022	Procession Installation, Opus 40, New York, USA
2022	Percussive Dance Festival, Paris, France
2021 - 2022	Screendance mentorship for streaming project Procession Creative

Selected Screenings

REFUGE

2024 International Festival of Films on Art, Montreal, PQ

OFFERING

2023 Dance Camera Istanbul, Turkey; InShadow ScreenDance Festival Lisbon, Portugal

HOME

2021 Kino Tanca, Poland
2020 Athens Video Dance Project, Festival Quartiers Danes

NAVIGATION

2022 Female Eye Film Festival, 75th Yorkton Film Festival
2021 Short Waves Festival, Screendance Festival Stockholm, Festival International du Film, Dance Camera West
2020 Moving Body Festival, Leeds International Film Festival, Screen.dance Festival, Stories
We Dance Festival, Bucharest International Dance Film Festival, Winter Apricots Film Festival

TRAVERSE

2019 Yorkton Film Festival, Screendance Festival Stockholm, Festival International du Film sur L'Art, Short Waves Festival, Athens Video Dance Project, Women in Action Project, Cinema on the Bayou Film Festival

2018 Sans Souci Screendance, Aesthetica Short Film Festival, San Francisco Dance Film Festival, Set Me Free Screendance Festival

PILGRIMAGE & MOVE

2019 Group Exhibition, Jim Macintosh Solo Exhibit, Horsecross Arts, Perth, Scotland; Cinedans, Amsterdam, ND
2018 Gallery Exhibition, Threshold Artspace, Scotland; Festival International du Film sur L'Art
2017 Aesthetica Short Film Festival, Leeds International Film Festival, Stories We Dance Festival, Perth
Screendance, Screendance Stockholm Festival, Short Waves Festival, Set Me Free Screendance Festival

LAY ME LOW & MIGRATION

2024 Virgin Airlines in-flight entertainment
2017 Gallery Exhibition, Ming Contemporary Art Museum: Shanghai, China; Best of Loikka 2016, Helsinki Gallery, Finland
2016 Frame/IMZ Dancescreen, Cottier Chamber Festival, Festival International du Film sur L'Art, Northwest Film Center
2015 Dance Bridges Festival, ikonoTV, Dance Camera West, Jumping Frames, Videomedija Novi Sad, Cinedans Festival, Utah Dance Film Festival, San Francisco Dance Film Festival, Third Coast Dance Film Festival, Femincé 5

Selected Awards

OFFERING

2024 Jury's Choice Award, Thomas Edison Film Festival

LAY ME LOW

2021 Best Experimental Film, Women Over Fifty Film Festival
2016 Best Dance Film, Aesthetica Short Film Festival
2nd Dances with Camera Award, Short Waves Film Festival
Audience Award, Screendance Miami 2016
2015 Best of Festival Award, Third Coast Dance Film Festival
Best Screendance Short Award, San Francisco Dance Film Festival
Prix Lumière, Cinedanse
Special Jury Prize, Festival Des Arts Des Cines
Best of Festival Award, Utah Dance Film Festival
Audience Award for Best Short Dance Film, Cinedans
Shortlisted for Best Film Award, Light Moves
Shortlisted for Most Innovative Use of Sound Award, Light Moves

PILGRIMAGE

2020 NBFF Visionary Award, kNOwBOX dance Film Festival
2019 2nd Prize, International Video Dance Festival Braga
2018 Audience Award, Festival VideoMovimiento
Jury Award, Cinematica Festival
2017 Best International Screendance, Perth Screendance Festival
Best Performer, Best Choreography, Audience Choice Award, Stories We Dance Festival
Public Jury Award, Lisbon Screendance Festival
Honorable Mention, Dolhar Festival Itinerante Dança e Video

TRAVERSE

2018 Honorable Mention, Sans Souci Screendance Festival
2019 Best Screendance Award, Best Cinematography, Best Sound, Idaho Screendance
Performing Arts Golden Sheaf Award, Yorkton Film Festival
Moving Pictures Dance Film Award, Dances Made in/Fait au Canada Festival
Cinémathèque Québécoise Award for Best Film, Quartier Danses

NAVIGATION

2021 Best Canadian Short Film Award, Fifa
Best Screendance Award, Flatpack Festival Screendance Film
Special Mention, Short Waves Film Festival
2nd Place Best Production, Wilddogs Dance Film Festival
2020 Award Finalist & Jury Special Mention, Screen.Dance Festival
Best Film Award, Audience Awards, Stories We Dance Festival
Best Film Award, Moving Body Festival
Best Film Award, Bucharest International Dance Film Festival
Best Performance Award, InShadow Festival

Jury Recommendation Award, ROLLOUT Dance Film Festival

Selected Independent Projects and Choreography

2020	Film production for Migration Dance Film Project <i>Navigation</i> , Ireland
2019	Choreography <i>Death of a Ladies Man</i> starring Gabriel Byrne, USA
2018	Film production for Migration Dance Film Project, Traverse, France
2017	Research/casting/master classes in France, Germany, and Ireland
2020	Film production for Migration Dance Film Project, <i>Pilgrimage & Move</i> , Quebec
2007 - 2016	Choreography/Teaching for Fibonacci Project, Morocco, Spain, Denmark, Mexico, Igloolik Nunavute
2020	Film production for Migration Dance Film Project <i>Lay Me Low & Migration</i> , Quebec
2015	Choreography for Japanese tour with Trinity Irish Dance Company, Chicago, USA
2014	Contemporary Percussive Dance Choreography, Davis & Elkins College, USA
2013	Festival Quartiers Danses guest artist with Charmaine Leblanc
2012	Choreography for Tapestry company, Austin, USA
2012	International Body Music Festival, Istanbul, Turkey
2011	Duo show with Dominic Desrochers premiere, Montreal, Quebec
2009	National Theater Production, Diyarbakir, Turkey
2008	Red Rabbit Project with Charmaine Leblanc, Montreal, Quebec
2007	Choreography for The Vanaver Caravan, New York, USA
2006	Theatre Department at Bishop's University, Quebec
2005	Exploration and Creation, Villa Montalvo, Saratoga, California
2003	Canada High Commission Gala, Edinburgh, UK
2001	Guest artist for televised Txalapata concert, San Sebastian, Spain
1989 - 2000	KLAK Percussive Dance Ensemble, Festival d'été de Québec, Francofolies Festival, Montreal, PQ
1990	RTÉ Television Special, Dublin, Ireland
1989	Project Troubadour Tour, PBS documentary film, Amazonia, Recife, São Paulo, Brazil

Selected Performances

1997 - 2018	La Bottine Souriante, solo dance percussion with ten-piece musical ensemble
2021	Solo dance/vocal performance for Fall for Dance North, St. Catherine, Ontario
2019	Performance/screening Migration Dance films at Kilkenny Arts Festival and Masters of Tradition, Ireland
1996 - 2019	Performance with La Bottine Souriante at the Goodwill Games
2018	Live performance and international premiere for Migration Dance Film Project film <i>Traverse</i> tour, Europe
2018	Masterclasses at Berklee College of Music, Boston, USA
2017	Concert recorded and broadcast by CBC radio, Toronto, Ontario
2015	European tour solo performances/teaching, Spain, Germany, England
2015	Performance at Pan Am games, Toronto, Ontario
2015	Percussive dance project sponsored by British Arts Council, UK
2010	International Body Music Festival, São Paulo, Brazil
2010	Winter Olympics, closing ceremonies, Vancouver, British Columbia
2005	Montreal International Jazz Festival with Bobby McFerrin, Quebec
2005	Montreal International Jazz Festival with Rémi Bolduc, Quebec
2005	Dance Mission Theater with Guy Klucevsek, San Francisco, USA
1999	Guest performance, Human Rhythm Project, Minnesota, USA
1998 - 2000	Performance, Appalachian Strings Theatre project
1990, 1995	Guest performance with Altan and Martin Hayes, Belfast, Northern Ireland and Sligo Folk Festival, Ireland

Selected Recordings

2004	Magneto, Rick Haworth CD released May 2004
2003	Les Triplettes de Belleville – feature animation Oscar- and Grammy-nominated soundtrack by Benoit Charest
2003	J'ai jamais tant ri – La Bottine Souriante (Productions Mille Pattes)
2002, 1994, 1990	Open House, Second Story, Hoof And Mouth, Open House (Green Linnet Records)

Selected Study

2018 - present	Vocal Study with Meagan Zantigh
2020 - 2021	Songwriting Study and Research with Tim Eriksen and Mark Simos
2020 - 2021	Canada Arts Council Grant Recipient Community Engagement Research
2018	Research with Patrick Graham on South Indian rhythm
2012 - 2016	Field research in Turkey on <i>Usul</i> rhythms
2011	Grant recipient to study theatre with Michoue Sylvain
2006 - 2009	Jazz rhythm fundamentals, drum set to body percussion with Dave Laing
2002 - 2003	Tap dance with Brenda Buffalino; New York, USA

1998 - 2000	Choreography with Julie Lachance; Montreal, Quebec
1994, 1996, 1998	Body music with Keith Terry, California, USA
1992, 1994	Field Research Hungarian legenyés with Orban Lazlo and Roman Sandor, Budapest, Hungary
1992 - 1994	Flamenco, Washington, USA and Seville, Spain
1988, 1992	Buck dancing/hambone with John Dee Holeman, North Carolina, USA
1986, 1988	Step dancing with Minnie MacMaster, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia

Selected Teaching

2006 - 2022	Curriculum <i>Music and Rhythm</i> , National Circus School, Montreal, Quebec
2019 - 2021	Curator/Mentor/Teacher at Percussive Dance Lab, Montreal, Quebec
2018	Workshops for Playground Center for the Arts, Athens, Greece
2015	Masterclasses in body music and percussive dance, Germany
2013	Rhythm and vocal choreography workshop at Studio 303, Montreal, Quebec
2013	Workshop, McGill University Music Education Department, Montreal, Quebec
2013	Tour and master class dance workshop at Festival Cervantino, Mexico
2013	Workshop "Music training on the body," École de danse contemporaine de Montréal; Montreal, PQ
2013	Workshop Cegep Montmorency dance department, Montreal, Quebec
2013	Percussive dance workshop, Brooklyn, USA
2010	International Body Music Festival, Sao Paulo, Brazil
2005	Rhythm workshops for Cirque du Soleil, Montreal, Quebec
2003	Public school and community lectures, Erie Art Museum, Pennsylvania, USA
2003	Public schools, senior centers, world music class lectures and Demonstrations, Wyoming State Arts Council and University of Wyoming; USA
2002	Lecture and demonstration: Ethnomusicology program, University of Minnesota, USA
2002	Lecture and demonstration: Ethnomusicology program, University of Limerick, Ireland
2001	Body percussion and choreography, National Circus School / École Nationale de Cirque, Montreal, PQ
2001	Roots of body percussion workshop, Experience Music Project Museum, Seattle, USA
2001	Lecture, performance, "World Arts in Culture," Evergreen State College, Olympia, USA
2000 - 2004	Traditional elements of percussive dance and choreography workshop, Vanaver Caravan, New York, USA
1999	Roots of body percussion workshop, Human Rhythm Project, Minnesota, USA
1995	Percussive dance styles of North America, Association of Professional Dancers, Dublin, Ireland