

Sarah Swenson Biography

Sarah Swenson is a freelance dancer/choreographer working in modern and post-modern forms, and is the Artistic Director of **Vox Dance Theatre**. The repertory company was formed in 2004 to present her choreography and the works of others in the modern and post-modern traditions. A neo-modernist, Sarah's work is a fusion of the classical modern techniques, theatre, and improvisation. She is committed to the values of historical modern dance while using them in new ways, and seeks to engage the audience in thought as well as feeling. Since living in Los Angeles, Sarah has been working with post-modern mavericks Simone Forti and Rudy Perez in Los Angeles.

While living in New York City, Sarah danced with the Alvin Ailey Special Performance Group, Artists of Jubilation! Ensemble, Louis Johnson Dance Theatre, and toured the People's Republic of China and South Korea with Myung Sook Chun. She has also worked with Senta Driver, Linda Tarnay, the late Leni Wylliams, and worked with Solstice Dance Company under the direction of Ann Biddle. Sarah was a founding member and the Artistic Associate of Seraphim Dance Theatre, appearing with dance partner, the late Raymond C. Harris (Artistic Director), throughout New York City, including at the United Nations, Alice Tully Hall, Aaron Davis Hall, and for many hospitals, schools and churches. They were often Guest Artists at special events, including the 25th Anniversary of the Negro Ensemble Company at The Town Hall.

Sarah was on the faculty of The Alvin Ailey School in New York City from 1990 to 1996, teaching the Lester Horton technique in the Professional and Junior divisions, as well as Horton for Actors, Techniques of Performance (repertory and coaching) to advanced students, Barre-a-terre, and Pilates-based Body Conditioning. She was the rehearsal director for the Alvin Ailey Student Performance Group, and annually rehearsed selected Ailey students for their participation in Alvin Ailey's *Memoria*, performed every season by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. She was an Assistant Teacher in the New Visions Dance Project, a dance and music class for visually impaired adults, and has worked with the hearing-impaired, cerebral palsy, and head and spinal cord injury victims. Sarah also taught at Ballet Hispanico, before leaving New York in 1996.

In addition to the concert stage, Sarah has choreographed for film, opera, and musical theater. A professional repertory and movement coach, Sarah has conducted residencies and performance workshops throughout the US, and in China, Thailand and Israel. She received her MFA in Performance and Choreography from California State University at Long Beach in 2000 and has taught at CSULB, Loyola Marymount University, Cerritos College, Orange County High School for the Arts, Saint Joseph Ballet, and was Chair of Theatre, Music & Dance at Missouri Valley College in central Missouri until mid-2004.

Memberships & Affiliations

DanceUSA
Dance Resource Center of Greater Los Angeles
International Dance Council/CID-UNESCO
Pilates Method Alliance
California Dance Educators Association