

## Field Guide: Dance

### Alumni Takeover Weekend – Participant Bios

#### Sarae Snyder '15



Sarae Snyder '15 is a dancer based in San Francisco. She works in the tech industry and loves tumbling. As a dance major at Middlebury, anatomy was amongst her favorite classes. Her most recent creative outlet in addition to the piece she's creating with Hannah Pierce (Middlebury '13) is a video series on Instagram: @pastscenes. Photo credit: Kimara

#### Doug LeCours '15



Doug LeCours '15 is a Brooklyn, NY based artist working in dance and performance. His dance training began with a ten-year stint as a traditional Irish dancer. His work has been presented in NYC by Center for Performance Research, chashama, Dixon Place, and New York Live Arts. He has received residency support from Chez Bushwick, Yeah Maybe Gallery (Minneapolis, MN), and New York Live Arts (Fresh Tracks 2016-2017). LeCours has performed in the work of Megan Bascom, Alexandra Beller, Carte Blanche

Performance, Scotty Hardwig, Joey Loto, Paul Matteson, RADY&BLOOM, and Ashley R.T. Yergens, among others. He also makes work with Sara Gibbons as the performance duo TALL GIRLS DANCING.

Doug's class description "Making a Spectacle"

*In this class we will work and play to expand our range as performers and performance-makers through various scores and practices that I have found useful in my work. We will generate material and perform it for and with each other. We will praise it, question it, throw it away, and pick it back up again, inviting risk and rigor. We will practice seeing and being seen.*

## Jessica Lee '13



Jessica Lee ('13, Dance and Environmental Studies) is a dance and teaching artist, arts administrator and organizer. Her artistic work and teaching practice are grounded in rigorous play, fueled by the joy of movement, and dedicated to inclusive community building. Since the Middlebury Dance Company in 2011, Jessica has been a collaborator and performer for *Building a Better Fishtrap*, an iterative performance project rooted in the vanishing fishing tradition of choreographer Paloma McGregor's 91-year-old father. Jessica is also a new member of Sydnie L. Mosley Dances (SLMDances), an all-women, New York City-based contemporary dance company that works in communities to organize for gender and racial justice through experiential dance performance. Based in Brooklyn September through May, Jessica teaches early childhood creative movement at BAX|Brooklyn Arts Exchange, as well as early ballet at Brooklyn Center Stage

Dance. As an Organizer for PURPOSE Productions, she is currently a marketing strategist for Paloma McGregor's *Angela's Pulse* (*Dancing While Black* and *Building a Better Fishtrap*). Jessica is also a co-director of The Sable Project (Sable Arts Projects, Inc.), an alternative artist residency and farm in Stockbridge, Vermont, where she spends her summers living outdoors, growing food, and collaborating. (teaching Dance, Place, and Space)

## Hannah Pierce '13



Hannah Pierce grew up dancing in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She attended Middlebury College, graduating cum laude with her BA in dance in 2013. While in school she spent three years as a member of the Dance Company of Middlebury, performing work by Christal Brown, Catherine Cabeen, Nicholas Leichter, Andrea Olsen, Peter Schmitz, and others. She attended the American Dance Festival on scholarship in 2012 where she was chosen for repertory classes with Trebien Pollard and Paul Matteson. Upon graduating from Middlebury she relocated to San Francisco where she currently resides and works as a dance artist and educator. In the bay area she has had the pleasure of performing with David Herrera Dance Company, DANCE ELIXIR, Catherine Liu Dance Theater, Garrett Moulton Productions, and AXIS Dance Company, among others.

## Jeremy Cline '11



Jeremy Cline grew up in Bar Harbor, Maine and graduated from Middlebury College in 2011. His movement studies have included modern, ballet, contemporary, contact improvisation, breaking, capoeira, circus arts, yoga, and the Feldenkrais Method. Jeremy currently lives in Seattle where he has performed with Spectrum Dance Theater, Khambatta Dance Company, Ballet Bellevue, International Ballet Theater, The 5th Ave Theater, the International Capoeira Angola Foundation, Just Us Crew, and his own

company, Tessellations Dance Project. Jeremy also works as a visual artist, a musician, and a teaching artist. Photo Credit: Ines Magaña @inesmedicen

## Simon Thomas-Train '09



**Simon Thomas-Train**, originally of Keene Valley, NY, received his BA in Dance with a minor in Architectural Studies from Middlebury College in 2009. Simon's introduction to dance came through an extensive past in competitive athletics and an interest in the visual arts. After competing nationally and internationally as a cross-country skier, Simon was recruited to ski for the Division 1 ski team at Middlebury College. Shortly after reaching Middlebury

Simon wandered into his first dance class. He continued his dance education there under the direction of Andrea Olsen, Penny Campbell and Tiffany Rhynard. His dance education was also profoundly affected by numerous summers at the Bates Dance Festival and the American Dance Festival. He studied at the MADE in France program, interning and creating with various European dance and theater artists including Compagnie Au Cul du Loup and Cie Blicke, and spent a semester studying under David Dorfman and Lisa Race at Connecticut College.

Post-college Simon continued his working relationship with the Vermont-based dance company Big Action Performance Ensemble (Big APE), under the direction of Tiffany Rhynard. As a founding member of the company he performed across the country and continues a working collaborative relationship. Following his work there, Simon made his way to Belgium where he worked for nine months with Brussels-based dance company Studio Eclipse, performing across western Europe at festivals in Holland, Belgium and France. Upon returning to the United States in late 2010, Simon took up work with Pittsburgh-based Attack Theatre, a company with a strong tradition of community engagement, musical collaboration, and educational outreach.

Simon moved to New York City in 2012 to begin work with Alexandra Beller/Dances and has continued with her company as well as taking on roles in works by Megan Bascom/Dancers, Kendra Portier of band |portier, and Tiffany Mills and company.

### Otto Pierce '13



Otto Pierce is a sculptor, dancer, and the executive and creative director of The Sable Arts Projects, a nonprofit artist-in-residence program ([thesableproject.org](http://thesableproject.org)). A graduate of Middlebury College with a B.A. in dance, he explores myth, environment, and what it means to sculpt material, bodies, and space.

### Lady B '13



Lady B is a Community Engagement Advocate at The NW Network for bi, trans, lesbian, and gay survivors of abuse. As an advocate, she practices advocacy-based counseling to center and increase survivors' self-determination and safety in order to build loving, inclusive, and accountable communities. Lady serves as a Co-Chair on the Ingersoll Gender Center Board of Directors. She is a performance artist, activist, twerk facilitator, and public speaker (TEDx Middlebury- Voice and Vulnerability: Healing the Scars of My Political Body). In her more fanciful life, she works to achieve collective liberation as The Lady B – Seattle's Première TransFabulous, Femtastic, Draglesquing, Sass-Mouthing Negro.

The Lady B. began her dance training (twerking, krumping, and winding) on the inner-city street corners and basement parties of Cleveland, Ohio. Coupling these physical dialects with the New Age Buddhist practice of movement as meditation (Sacred Arts Holistic Center), she pursued the study of modern dance and political science at Middlebury College. Combining rigorous academic discipline with best practices of community development, she creates healing environments on and off stage for survivors of oppression – marginalized and historically underprivileged identity groups. In this work, Lady also invites people who identify with historically privileged groups to also contextualize themselves in order to make informed decisions about how they wish to engage with community and the larger political society.

In dedication to honoring intersectional identities as a social scientist, performance artist, and trans(cendant) person, Lady is dedicated to the healing force of the creative process, intentionally dismantling structures of systematic oppression, and being open to curiosity. The ultimate goals of her work are to engage, connect, and empower.

## Phillippe Bronchtein '10



Phillippe Bronchtein is a songwriter, producer, and multi instrumentalist based in Portland, Oregon. Born in Montreal and raised in New Jersey, Bronchtein graduated from Middlebury College with a degree in music and dance. As a side man for Quiet Life & Esme Patterson, Bronchtein has toured extensively in the United States. Performing his own songs under the moniker Hip Hatchet, he has released three full length albums and done several tours in the United States and the United Kingdom.

When in Portland, Bronchtein is a active session musician and accompanist, performing and recording with a variety of local acts.

## Sara Stranovsky '04



Šara Stranovsky is a performer, with intertwining streams of interest in dance (aerial dance, world dance forms, contemporary), songwriting, singing (jazz, soul, folk) musicianship, and multimedia. Originally from the New York area, Šara draws from her education (Middlebury College, UCLA, and Sarah Lawrence College in Paris) as well as life experiences living in Vermont, Colorado, California, France, Senegal, Brazil, and Cabo Verde, culminating in an explosion of cross-cultural and

cross-platform artistic versatility. Šara works as a musician, dancer, photographer, educator and ethnographic storyteller.

## Sara Gibbons



Sara Gibbons is a New York-based dance artist. She is currently an apprentice with David Dorfman Dance and along with making her own work, she collaborates and performs with Doug LeCours/TALL GIRLS DANCING.