

# *Ofosuwa M. Abiola*

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## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **EDUCATION**

- 2016      Ph.D., African History  
Specialization: African and African Diaspora Dance History  
Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2010      Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (B.I.S.)  
Major: Cultural Studies | Minors: Dance; History  
Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA

### **LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS**

- 2022-Present    Inaugural Associate Dean of Research and Creative Endeavors, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2022-Present    Director, Honors Program, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.

### **PREVIOUS LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS**

- 2020-2022      Interim Chair, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2018-2020      Coordinator, Dance Program, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2017-2020      Coordinator, Honors Program, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.

### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

- 2020      Associate Professor, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2016      Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2013-2016      Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.

2012-2013 Associate Teacher, Department of History, Howard University, Washington, DC.

### **AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2022 AWARD, *Outstanding National Dance Researcher Award*, National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), Washington, DC.
- 2022 AWARD, *Deans Cabinet Award*, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2021 FELLOWSHIP, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), \$15,000.00, Washington, DC.
- 2020 FELLOWSHIP, Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), \$11,000.00, Washington, DC.
- 2020 AWARD, *Mary Ellen Lane Multi-Country Travel Grant Award*, \$1,000.00, Washington, DC. \*Awarded for top-ranked research proposal. Award period, 2020-2023.
- 2019 GRANT, U.S. Department of Education/Center for African Studies, Howard University, \$3,000.00, Washington, DC.
- 2018 GRANT, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Humanities Initiatives, \$99,948.00, Washington, DC.
- 2018 AWARD, *Outstanding Assistant Professor* in the College of Arts and Sciences at Howard University, 2017-2018. Washington, DC.
- 2018 AWARD, *Outstanding Student Advisement*, Office on Research Development, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2017 GRANT, Summer Faculty Research Grant, \$10,000.00, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2012 AWARD, *Special Commendation*, Office of the Mayor, Washington, DC.
- 2012 AWARD, *Special Commendation*, Public History Lecture Series, District of Columbia Archives, Washington, DC.
- 2011-2016 FELLOWSHIP, Frederick Douglas Doctoral Fellowship, \$96,000.00, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2011 FULBRIGHT, The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship, Morocco, North Africa.

2011 SCHOLARSHIP, US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship, Arabic.

2010-2011 GRANT, Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Norfolk, VA, rehearsal space grant, \$20,800.00.

2010 FELLOWSHIP, George H. Benet Fellowship, Petersburg, VA, \$1,000.00.

2009-2010 GRANT, Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Norfolk, VA, rehearsal space grant, \$20,800.00.

2008-2009 GRANT, Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Norfolk, VA, rehearsal space grant, \$18,000.00.

2008 AWARD, *Unity Award*, for innovatively utilizing African dance to facilitate conversation between diverse groups. Hampton City Council, Hampton, VA.

2007 GRANT, Newport News Arts Council Grant, Newport News, VA, \$2,500.00.

2006-2008 GRANT, Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Norfolk, VA, rehearsal space grant, \$41,600.00.

2006 AWARD, *Excellence in the Arts Award*, Southeast Virginia Arts Association, Norfolk, VA.

2005-2006 GRANT. Grant for teaching an apprentice the art of traditional African dance and culture. Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH), Charlottesville, VA. \$3,000.00.

2005 AWARD, *Master Folk Artist Award*, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

2005 AWARD, *Outstanding Contribution to Music in the Commonwealth*, The Virginia Music Educators' Association, Norfolk, VA.

2004 GRANT, Friends of the Arts, Inc., Richmond, VA, \$2,700.00.

2003 GRANT, Hampton Arts Council, Hampton, VA, \$4,700.00.

2000 AWARD, Main Stay Award, US Navy, Newport News branch, Newport News, VA.

1998 GRANT, The Links, Newport News, VA, \$500.00.

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 “The Performance of Identity and the Disruption of Colonial Ideological Hegemony.” Book review. *Performance Research: A Journal of the Performing Arts*. (January 2023) Routledge.
- 2023 [www.africanadancehistory.org](http://www.africanadancehistory.org). Website. Published the pedagogy website to facilitate students in African and African Diaspora dance history courses.
- 2021 *Fire Under My Feet: History, Race & Agency in African Diaspora Dance*. Editor, monograph. Routledge.
- 2021 “Dancing Protest: (Re)Visiting The Black Arts Movement Through the Lens of Dance.” Book chapter. *Black Freedom Struggles*. Kendall Publishers.
- 2020 *Historical Perspectives on Dance in Africa*. Intelligentsia Press.
- 2019 *History Dances: Chronicling the History of Traditional Mandinka Dance*. Routledge.
- 2018 *Evoke: A Historical, Theoretical, and Cultural Analysis of Africana Dance and Theatre*. Peer-reviewed digital journal. Founding Editor-in-Chief. Digital Howard: Howard University.
- 2017 “Bury Me Towards Africa: Nineteenth-Century African American Cemetery Rituals.” Chapter in the government white paper report, *The Last Thing That Tells Our Story: A Cultural History of the Mt Pleasant Plains Cemetery, An Historic African American Burial Ground in Washington, DC*. National Park Service (NPS), Washington, DC.
- 2016-2022 Pedagogy website. Published the website to provide support for students in African and African Diaspora dance history courses.
- 2014 "It Fits Like a Glove: Women and Black Consciousness in South Africa, 1901-1989." Article. *Africalogical Perspectives: Historical and Contemporary Analysis of Race and Africana Studies*, Spring Issue, 2014, pp. 77-92.
- 2012 *From Strength to Liberation*. Documentary. Director, researcher, writer. Published by the District of Columbia Public Library System, Washington, DC.

## BOOK MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

*Afrokinesis: A Paradigm for Research on African and African Diaspora Dance*. Monograph.

*Unwitting Witnesses: Unearthing Narratives of African Dance in Pre-Colonial Logs*. Monograph. \*Awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) fellowship (2021-2022)

award period) and a Council of American Overseas Research Center (CAORC) fellowship (2020-2023 award period) to travel to Africa to conduct research for the book.

*For Every Thought There's A Dance: Historical Musings on Women, Dance, and Resistance in Africa and the Diaspora.* Monograph.

## **ARTISTIC AND DIGITAL WORKS**

- 2021        *Nankama African Dance Conference Recap.* Documentary Short. Director, wrote the script, narrator, and video editor. Produced by Araku Studios.
- 2020        *rites*, Choreography (African dance). Invited to present my choreographic work *rites* in Recife, Brazil, with 5 of my students. U.S. State Department – Smithsonian Museum joint project. March 23-29, 2020. (Postponed due to Coronavirus)
- 2016        *Grave Revelations: Cultural and Historical Narratives from the Colored Union Benevolent Association Burial Ground.* Documentary discussing the performance of Africanisms in African American funerary ritual. Directed, researched, wrote the script, and narrated the documentary. Produced, by Aryzen Pictures.
- 2016        *History Dances: African Dance Systems as Methodology.* Documentary, short form. Directed, researched, wrote the script, and narrated the documentary. Produced by, Aryzen Pictures. Visual supplement for my monograph *History Dances: Chronicling the History of Traditional Mandinka Dance* (Routledge).
- 2016        “Lamban.” Choreographed the African dance, and ceremonial reception director. *African American Women and the Law (AAWL) Conference.* Theme: “Black Women Still Rising: Ending Structural Racism, Patriarchy and Violence.” National Education Association (NEA), Washington, DC.
- 2012        *Meet the Rain at the Clouds.* Documentary, short form. Director, researcher, writer. Presented at “Women’s History Month,” National Park Service (NPS), Washington, DC.
- 2010        “Umoja” *Suwabi African Ballet’s 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Kwanzaa Concert.* Director, producer, choreographer. The Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.
- 2010        Cultural Continuities II: African Dance & Culture in the Diaspora Conference, Founder/Director. Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.
- 2009        Cultural Continuities: African Dance & Culture in the Diaspora Conference, Founder/Director. Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.
- 2009        *Once on This Island* (Musical), choreographer. Hampton Roads Academy Newport News, VA.

- 2009 “Faju,” choreography. *A Choreographer’s Showcase*. Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA.
- 2008 *Imani*. Suwabi African Ballet’s 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Kwanzaa Concert. Director, producer, choreographer. The Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.
- 2007 *Nia*. Suwabi African Ballet’s 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Kwanzaa Concert. Director, producer, choreographer. The Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.
- 2006 *Bena*. Choreographer. The Governor’s School for the Arts, Norfolk, VA.
- 2006 *Kuumba*. Suwabi African Ballet’s 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Kwanzaa Concert. Director producer, choreographer. The Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.
- 2004-2009 *First Night at Colonial Williamsburg*, Suwabi African Ballet was commissioned annually to perform.

#### **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES**

- 2022 *Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts Grant Writing Series*. Created the first grant writing workshop series to inspire and support grant writing efforts of Fine Arts faculty and staff.
- 2022 *Submitting Your Grant Proposal for the National Endowment for the Humanities*. Organized a workshop for humanities faculty at Howard University to support grant proposal submissions. Invited presenter was Dr. Mary Macklem, Senior Program Officer, NEH. October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- 2022 *Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts Honors Program*. In progress. Establishing/creating infrastructure, etc., for the inaugural honors program for the newly established fine arts college.
- 2022 *Candid Conversations on Arts and Research*. Conference Panel. Organized the college’s first arts research conference panel consisting entirely of Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts faculty, Howard University Research Month, April 26.
- 2022 *R.I.S.E. (Revitalize. Innovate. Sustain. Emerge) Proposal for Strategic Investment in the Department of Theatre Arts*. Submitted a \$2.2-million-dollar proposal to Howard University to increase investment in the Department of Theatre Arts.
- 2021 *Professional Pipeline Program*. Created the program to foster official partnerships between the Department of Theatre Arts and theatre/dance companies of regional and national renown to provide industry experience for students. Howard University, Washington, DC.

- 2021 *I.D.E.A. (Imagine. Design. Engage. Achieve) 5 Year Strategic Plan, 2021-2026.* Developed the Department of Theatre Arts' first strategic plan. Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2019-2020 *Nankama African Dance Conference*, Founder/Director. International Two-day Scholarly Conference on African and African Diaspora dance and performance research. Panelists and scholars from Africa, the US, Europe, and the Caribbean attended. Ralph J. Bunch International Affairs Center, Washington DC, February 8-9, 2020 & February 9-10, 2019.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2022-Present Consultant. Historian/Humanities Specialist/Researcher: Non-profit organizations, cultural agencies, etc.; Faculty Development: academic grant writing, dissertation development, humanities research methodologies, monograph/book proposals.
- 2018-2020 The Africana Theatre and Dance Collection, Director. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant project, Washington, DC.
- 2014-2016 National Park Service (NPS), Cultural Historian, Researcher. Washington, DC.
- 2014 "Polyrhythm: The Evolution of African American Dance and its African Roots." Museum exhibit. Project Curator and Research Associate for the exhibit. The National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, Wilberforce, Ohio.
- 2013-2014 National Park Service (NPS), Co-Investigator. Ethnographic and Historical Project, Washington, DC.
- 2012 Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Archivist. United States Department of the Interior, Vienna, VA. \*Created the first archives for the nation's only federal performing arts park.
- 1996-2011 Suwabi African Ballet, Artistic Director/Founder. \*Directed/managed a company of 50 dancers and drummers, operated the dance school, conducted research and choreographed African dance ballets based on findings, wrote grants, curated seasons, created and managed budget, etc. Norfolk and Newport News, VA.
- 2005-2011 CampRize! Dance Camp, Director. Norfolk, VA.
- 2004-2009 Stage Norfolk Theatre Company, Director. Norfolk, VA.
- 2000-2009 Governor's School for the Arts, Artist in Residence. Norfolk, VA.
- 2000-2003 Old Dominion University, Artist-in-Residence, African dance choreographer. Norfolk, VA.

2000-2002 Christopher Newport University, Lecturer, African Dance. Newport News, VA.

### INVITED SPEAKER

- 2022 Keynote speaker. Mellon Center for Faculty Excellence/Prairie View A&M University, Faculty Conference. *Leveraging Your Scholarship Currency: Writing Proposals for Fellowships and Grants*. Prairie View A & M University, Prairie View, Texas, August 15.
- 2021 Invited panelist. The Atlantic Council, Africa Center, *High-Level International Summit on the African Creative and Cultural Industries*. Hosted by Ambassador Rama Yade. Panelists included, Nana Addo-Akufo (President of Ghana), and other high-level officials. Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, DC, October 15.
- 2021 Invited panelist. *HBCUx Focus Group, Black Seed Fund* (a \$10 million national strategic plan to facilitate HBCU theatre and dance Programs). Occurred digitally in diverse cities including Washington, DC, California, New York, Florida, among others. October 9.
- 2021 Invited speaker. Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. *Spotlight Series: Arts Education & Leadership*. The Spotlight Series is in collaboration with Howard University's Theatre Arts Department. Washington, DC, October 25.
- 2020 Invited speaker. U.S. State Department, "African Dance in the Diaspora." Recife, Brazil, March 23-29, 2020. (Postponed due to Coronavirus).
- 2014 "Africa, the Ring Shout, and Hand Dancing: Exposing the Ancient Foundations of DC Hand Dancing," Panelist. "Hand Dance Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," the Annual Conference of the National Hand Dance Association, Arena Stage, Washington, DC.
- 2012 Invited speaker. "Fortitude and the Embodiment of a Movement," DC National Archives' Commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Emancipation in Washington, DC.
- 2013 "Research and the Arts," invited lecturer for the course, Dance History I, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2011 "African Dance and the Utility of Tradition," invited speaker (and performance and choreography). The International Arts Festival, Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA.
- 2011 "Historic Vistas of African Dance," invited speaker (and workshop). Norfolk State University Annual Dance Conference, Norfolk, VA.



- 2011 “History, Traditional African Dance, and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” invited speaker (and performance and choreography). Thomas Nelson Community College Annual Black History Month Conference, Hampton, VA.
- 2010 “Moving Forward: African American Dance,” invited speaker (and choreography). Norfolk State University Annual Dance Conference, Norfolk, VA.
- 2010 “Manjani: Conceptualizing the Rite of Passage in Mandinka Dance,” invited speaker. The Office of International and Intercultural Programs, Wesleyan College, Norfolk, VA.

## FEATURED SCHOLAR

- 2022 Featured in, *Southern Theatre*, “Opening Doors: Professional Theatres Partner with HBCUs to Help Develop Black Leaders.” Vol. LXII no. 1 (Winter 2022), p. 32-34.
- 2019 Interviewed on ABC’s *Good Morning Washington* (February 7, 2019).
- 2019 *History Dances: Chronicling the History of Traditional Mandinka Dance*, featured on Howard University’s “Hot 15” Books for Black History Month.
- 2018 *Afro-American Newspaper*, “Howard Fine Arts Professor Shows How African Dance Chronicled History.” (December 15, 2018).
- 2018 *Perspectives on History*, Spotlight Scholar. American Historical Association (AHA). (December 6, 2018).
- 2018 *Dance Spirit*, “Step By Step,” article. Interviewed and provided historical content for article on African American Step Dancing (April 2018 issue), p. 44-45.

## CONFERENCES

- 2022 Roundtable Discussion with Hon. Railia A. Odinga, African Union High Representative and former Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya. Exclusive invitation from Ambassador Rama Yade, Director of the Africa Center, Atlantic Council, Washington DC. April 25.
- 2019 “Les Ballets Africains and the Restoration of Black Identity in Africa and the Diaspora,” presentation. Paper accepted in Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) conference. November 5-9, Williamsburg, VA.
- 2018 “Dance, Performance, African Rock Art, and the History of the Earth,” paper accepted in the panel “Making People of African Origins Visible in the STEM

Curriculum.” Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE) International Conference. January 4-6, 2018, Baltimore, MD.

- 2018 “Dancing Off Blackface: Vaudeville and the Construction of Black Identity in the World War I Era.” Paper accepted in Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALAH) annual meeting and conference. October 3-7. Indianapolis, Indiana.
- 2017 “Jondon/Wolosodon,” featured artist, Master Class. Lecture and workshop, Wazee African Dance and Culture, The Hampton Performing and Creative Arts Center, Hampton, VA.
- 2016 “Nangadef: August Wilson, Dance and Ritual,” discussion. The August Wilson Society, Armour J. Blackburn Center, Washington, DC.
- 2014 “When They Stood Up: 19<sup>th</sup>-Century African American Cemetery Ritual,” paper. Organization of American Historians (OAH), Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2013 “Revelations of Africanisms: The History of Washington DC's Emancipation,” paper. District of Columbia City Council Emancipation Conference, Washington, DC.
- 2012 “From Strength to Liberation,” lectured and presented my documentary as part of the city-wide Sesquicentennial Celebrations, Anacostia Library, Washington, DC.
- 2010 “A Separate Space: Historical Highlights of Gnawa Dance, Arts and Culture in Contemporary Morocco,” paper. Cross Cultural Solutions, Morocco, North Africa.
- 2009 “The State of Black Dance in America,” invited speaker and workshop. Office of Student Affairs Black History Program, Hampton University, Hampton, VA.
- 2008 “Diversifying Dance Venues,” invited speaker (and performance). National Folk Festival, National Council for the Traditional Arts, Richmond, VA.
- 2007 “Africa, America, the Arts and Inclusion,” invited speaker (and performance and choreography). America’s 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Jamestown Settlement, Jamestown, VA.
- 2006 “Incorporating The Arts in the Homeschool Curriculum,” invited lecturer. Department of Education, Hampton University, Hampton, VA.
- 2005 “Kasa: Celebration through Traditional Jola Drumming,” invited speaker (and workshop). The Virginia Music Educator’s Association Annual Meeting, Norfolk, VA.

## **JUDGE / ADJUDICATOR / REVIEWER**

- 2022 GRANT REVIEWER, *Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education*. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Washington, DC.
- 2022 ACCREDITATION SITE EVALUATOR, *National Association of Schools of Theatre* (NAST), Reston, VA.
- 2022 REVIEWER, *Dance Research Journal*. Peer-reviewed journal of the national organization, *Dance Studies Association* (DSA).
- 2020 REVIEWER, *Journal of the Musical Arts in Africa*. Peer-reviewed journal of the South African College of Music, University of Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2021 ADJUDICATOR AND GRANT REVIEWER, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, *FY21 Arts and Humanities Fellowship in Dance*, Washington, DC.
- 2021 REVIEWER, Tenure and Promotion Application, University of North Carolina-Charlotte.
- 2021 REVIEWER, *Arts and Humanities Research Support Program*, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.
- 2020 GRANT READER, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), *Grants for Arts Projects*, Washington, DC.
- 2020 JUDGE, NAACP *ACT-SO* (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) National Competitions.
- 2019 ADJUDICATOR, John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, *Kennedy Center Dance Lab*, Washington, DC.
- 2019 ADJUDICATOR AND GRANT REVIEWER, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, *FY20 Arts and Humanities Fellowship in Dance*, Washington, DC.
- 2019 REVIEWER, *Arts*. Peer reviewed international journal, Basel, Switzerland.
- 2019 REVIEWER, *The Griot: The Journal of African American Studies*. Peer-reviewed academic journal.
- 2016-2019 JUDGE, National Park Service (NPS), *Frederick Douglass Oratorical Contest*, Washington, DC.
- 2009-2011 JUDGE, *Attucks Theater*, CampRize, Dance Auditions, Norfolk, VA.
- 2006-2008 JUDGE, NAACP *ACT-SO* (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) Regional Competitions, Newport News, VA.

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2022 KEYNOTE SPEAKER, *Celebrating Life in Harmony*, Kwanzaa Program. Cramton Auditorium, Washington DC, Dance Institute of Washington.
- 2022 CONSULTANT, Spirit of Kwanzaa. Program planning, Dance Institute of Washington (DIW), Washington DC.
- 2022 HUMANITIES SPECIALIST, “Reflections on Justice” *Dance Institute of Washington* (DIW), DC Arts and Humanities grant project. Washington DC.
- 2019 CONSULTANT, *BREathe Dance Project*, Fort Washington, Maryland.
- 2018 DANCE DRAMATURGE, “Trials to Freedom,” *Seals Dance Project*, Washington, DC.
- 2019 HOST, talkback for the D.C. screening of the web series, *Black Enough*, Landmark’s E Street Cinema, Washington, DC, November 13.
- 2017-2022 CONSULTANT, *Wazee African Dance and Culture*, Hampton, VA.
- 2016-2017 HUMANITIES SPECIALIST, *National Hand Dance Association* (NHDA) Washington, DC.
- 2016 PANEL EVALUATER, Panel discussion, National Hand Dance Association (NHDA). 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth and Young Adult Symposium, R.I.S.E. Demonstration Center, Washington, DC.
- 2016 MEMBER, Planning Committee. Director and choreographer for the opening reception. *African American Policy Forum: Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies*. African American Women and the Law Conference, National Education Association (NEA) Washington, DC.
- 2014 ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, American Historical Association (AHA), Annual meeting, Washington, DC.
- 2007 TRAVEL COORDINATOR, ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics) Gold medal finalists’ travel to final competition in Detroit, MI.
- 2004 SUWABI IN GAMBIA, organized an African dance conference for US dance artists to travel to The Gambia, West Africa, to study traditional African dance, history, and culture for three weeks, March-April, 2004.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE: HOWARD UNIVERSITY**

(WAC, Writing Across the Curriculum course; WRTG, Writing Intensive course)

### ***Academic Courses***

Dance History I (WAC): Africa, Antiquity to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
Dance History I (WAC): World Dance  
Dance History II: (WRTG) Engaging the African Diaspora, 1600 to Present  
Theatre History I (WAC): World Theatre to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century  
Introduction to Theatre  
Performance and Identity  
Honors Thesis I, II  
Honors Directed Research I, II  
Arts, Libraries, and Archives  
Research Methods in Dance, Theatre, and Performance  
African History I

### ***Dance Technique***

African Dance I, II, III,  
African Dance Performance Workshop

### ***Digital Pedagogy***

2021-2023 Pedagogy Website: *The History of Africana Dance*. Published website to enhance student engagement in the undergraduate courses: Dance History I; Dance History II; and Performance and Identity. [www.ofosuwaabiolaphd.org](http://www.ofosuwaabiolaphd.org).  
2020-Present 100% Online Course: *Dance History I*  
2020-Present 100% Online Course: *Dance History II: African Diaspora*  
2017-2020 Pedagogy Website: *Africana Cultural History*. Published website to enhance student engagement in the undergraduate courses: Theatre History; Dance History; Performance and Identity; and Arts, Libraries, and Archives.

### ***Undergraduate College Courses Created***

2020 Arts, Libraries, and Archives  
2018 Research Methods in Dance, Theatre, and Performance  
2017 Performance and Identity

## **OTHER ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*African Dance Technique* (1997-2006)

Hampton University  
Norfolk State University  
Old Dominion University  
Christopher Newport University  
Thomas Nelson Community College  
Governor's School for the Arts  
Newport News Public School System  
Hampton Public School System

## **EXTERNAL PH.D. DISSERTATION COMMITTEES**

- 2022-Present *Dissertation Director:* Rikiesha Metzger, “A Black Artistic Renaissance: Expressing the Spiritual Element through Black Artistic Thought.” Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, Portland, ME.
- 2021-2022 *Dissertation Director:* Truly A. Bennett, “Removed Closeness: A Phenomenological Inquiry into the Black Dancing Body Across Space, Time, and Geographies.” Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, Portland, ME. Successfully defended, December 8.
- 2020-Present *Dissertation Committee Member:* Dominic King, “Phenomenology of Stepping and its Potential as a Liberatory Praxis.” Department of Community, Liberation, Indigenous, and Ecopsychology. Pacifica Graduate Institute, Santa Barbara, CA.

## **UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS ADVISEMENT**

- 2018-2019 *Thesis Director:* Jaylen Wilson, “Theatre is a Weapon: The Efficacy of Theatrical Presentation as a Device for Combating Systemic Racism.” Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University. Selected to present at Howard University Research Week, April 2019.
- 2017-2018 *Thesis Director:* Adanna Paul, “Bound to Post-Black: Examining and Redefining Tenets of the Post-Black Art Movement.” Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University. \*Won award for best presentation in Arts and Design, Howard University Research Week, April 2018.
- 2017-2018 *Thesis Director:* Mary Morris, “Breaking the Cycle: An Investigation of Drama Therapy as an Intervention on the School to Prison Pipeline and At-Risk Youth.” Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University. Selected to present at Howard University Research Week, April 2018.

## **SERVICE: HOWARD UNIVERSITY**

- 2022 CHAIR, Bylaws Committee, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts. Created and directed the process for writing the bylaws that is to govern the newly established college.
- 2022 JUDGE for presentations, Howard University Annual Research Month, April 2022.
- 2022 MEMBER, Deans Cabinet, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts.
- 2021-Present MEMBER, Executive Committee, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts.

2021-Present MEMBER, Alumni, Honorary Degree, and Distinguished Faculty Committee, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts.

2020-Present MEMBER, Interdisciplinary Faculty Consortium (IFC), Howard University Office of Research.

2020-2021 FINE ARTS REPRESENTATIVE (alternate). Howard University Faculty Senate.

2020 ACTING CHAIR, Transition Team, College of Fine Arts (CoFA).

2019-2020 MEMBER, Transitional Team Executive Committee, College of Fine Arts (CoFA).

2019 MEMBER, Transition Team, College of Fine Arts.

2019 MEMBER, Transitional Team Bylaws Committee, College of Fine Arts.

2019-2020 MEMBER, Executive Committee, Department of Theatre Arts.

2019-2020 SUPERVISOR, Experiential Learning and On-Campus Placement, Howard University Student Employment Program (HUSEP), Office of Career Services.

2019 JUDGE for poster and paper presentations, Howard University Annual Research Week.

2019 REVIEWER for abstract submissions to Howard University Annual Research Week.

2018-2019 MEMBER, CoFA Working Group, Committee for reinstating the College of Fine Arts.

2018 MEMBER, Department of Theatre Arts Sabbatical Committee.

2018 MEMBER, Search Committee, Department of Theatre Arts Lighting Designer.

2018 JUDGE for poster and paper presentations, Howard University Annual Research Week.

2017-2018 CHAIR, Department Chair Search Committee, Department of Theatre Arts.

2017-2021 MEMBER, Academic Policy, Standards, and General Education (APSAGE) Committee, College of Arts and Sciences.

2017-2020 CHAIR, Curriculum Committee, Department of Theatre Arts.

2017-2019 MEMBER, Honors Council, College of Arts and Sciences.

- 2017-2018 COORDINATOR, Theatre Arts Minor Program, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2016-2019 MEMBER, Executive Committee, Department of Theater Arts.
- 2015-2019 CHAIR, Library Committee, Department of Theater Arts.
- 2014-2017 MEMBER, Curriculum Committee, Department of Theater Arts.

**CONTINUED EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 2022 THE VISIONARY LEADERS SUMMIT, *Africa Fast Forward: Building A Pathway to an Emerging Continent*, The GE7 Initiative, Washington DC.
- 2022 CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING, Office of Enterprise Technology Services, Howard University.
- 2022 WORKSHOP, Workshop for New and Aspiring Theatre Administrators in Higher Education. NAST 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Retreat for Administrators of Theatre Programs in Higher Education, March 23, Baltimore, MD.
- 2021 WORKSHOP, NAST Training Workshop for Visiting Evaluators. National Association for Schools of Theatre, Reston, VA.
- 2020-2021 CERTIFICATION, Chairs Leadership Academy (CLA), Office of Faculty Development, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2020 CONFERENCE, “Specific Procedures for NAST Evaluation,” National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST), Reston, VA.
- 2019 CERTIFICATION, HU-Teach/Quality Forward Online Course Design Initiative, workshops to convert face-to-face courses to 100% online format. Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2020 CERTIFICATION, Blackboard Certified, Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Assessment (CETLA), Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2017 CERTIFICATION, Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC), Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Assessment (CETLA), Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2017 CERTIFICATE, Faculty Writing & Creative Works Summer Academy, Office of Faculty Development, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2015 CERTIFICATE, Preparing Future Faculty (PFF), Howard University, Washington, DC.



## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)  
International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD)  
National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST)  
Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)  
West African Research Association (WARA)  
West African Research Center (WARC) Affiliated Scholar  
Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society  
National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC)

## **FIELD WORK AND ARCHIVAL RESEARCH**

Senegal, West Africa  
The Gambia, West Africa  
Morocco, Northwest Africa  
Nassau, Bahamas  
Freeport, Bahamas  
United States

## **LANGUAGES**

French (Reading) | Wolof (Basic) | Spanish (Basic) | Arabic (Basic)

## **ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **ORIGINAL FULL-LENGTH AFRICAN BALLETS (Abridged list)**

*Choreographer, wrote the script, director, drumming arrangements, designed and made costumes*

Wasalunke and the Three Virtues, 2008  
Imhotep, 2006  
Waters of Despair, Waters of Hope, 2004  
The Voices of Shu, 2002  
The Dismal Swamp, 2000  
Africa: A Song of Me, 1998

### **MUSICALS (Abridged list)**

Choreographer  
*Rainbow Park*, 2007  
*Outliers II*, 2006  
*Outliers*, 2005  
*Once On This Island*, 2004  
*The Wiz*, 2000

## COMMISSIONED TO CHOREOGRAPH SITE-SPECIFIC WORKS

(Abridged list, 2005-2011)

America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Jamestown, VA (Commissioned by the US Government)

The Chrysler Museum

The Norfolk Botanical Garden

The Mariner's Museum

The SS Rotterdam (Holland/America cruise ship)

The Spirit of Norfolk (cruise ship)

Norfolk Zoological Museum

The Peninsula Fine Arts Center

Hampton University Museum

## FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES & PRESENTATIONS

(Abridged list)

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 2010      | Gnawa Arts, Rabat, Morocco, Northwest, Africa.                      |
| 2004      | Corichow Dance, Kololi, The Gambia, West Africa.                    |
| 2006      | Lyceum Series for Cultural Engagement, Elizabeth City, NC.          |
| 1997-2011 | Newport News Folk Arts Festival, City Government, Newport News, VA. |
| 1997-2006 | African American Arts Festival (Afr-Am Festival), Norfolk, VA.      |
| 2005      | National Arts Festival, Richmond, VA. (The festival toured the US)  |
| 2000-2005 | Umoja Festival, Portsmouth Parks and Recreation, Portsmouth, VA.    |
| 1999      | African American Festival of the Arts, Charles City, VA.            |

## FEATURED ARTIST (Abridged list)

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| VFH Radio | VFH Radio Productions Program, "Suwabi African Ballet." I was featured as the Founding Artistic Director of my dance company. Interview by Connie Stevens, 2007.                            |
| NBC       | WAVY 10 Performance at the NTELOS Pavilion, <i>Suwabi African Ballet</i> . I was featured with my dance company, 2007.  |
| Book      | <i>In Good Keeping: Virginia's Folklife Apprenticeships</i> . Featured as a Master Artist, pp. 114-117. Published by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Charlottesville, VA, 2007. |
| WOWI      | "The Morning Show." Interviewed by Cheryl Wilkerson (Radio) 2006.   |
| PBS       | "Interview with Master Folk Artist Ofosuwa Abiola." Interviewed on PBS, aired in all US states including Hawaii, 2005.  |
| CBS       | "A Day with Suwabi African Ballet." I was featured with my dance company on the "Ester Pierre is Everywhere" show, 2002.  |
| CBS       | "Live at Nine." Performance, 1999.  |

## **OTHER OVERSEAS PERFORMANCES & PRESENTATIONS**

(Abridge list)

The Gambia | Senegal | Morocco | Bermuda | Bahamas | Puerto Rico | St. Thomas

## **KWANZAA DANCE CONCERTS**

1997-2011      Choreographed, Directed, and produced, 14 annual Kwanzaa concerts which opened on the second day of Kwanzaa, Kugichagulia (Self-determination), from 1997 to 2005, and on the first day of Kwanzza, Umoja (Unity), from 2006 to 2011.