

CURRICULUM VITAE
MARY-JEAN COWELL

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Education:

B.A., University of Kansas (Art History, French), Lawrence, 1963
Graduate work in Art History, University of Strasbourg, 1963-64
M.A. (Dance), University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, 1965
Graduate study in Asian theater, University of Hawaii, Honolulu,
September, 1968-May, 1969
M.A. (Japanese literature and theater), Columbia University,
New York, 1977
Ph.D., Columbia University, 1983. Dissertation: *Restless
Journeys, Native Shores: The Poetry of Miyoshi Tatsuji*

Honors and Awards:

Phi Beta Kappa; Carnegie Undergraduate Research Grant
Exchange grant to the University of Strasbourg, France
Woodrow Wilson Fellow (1963-65)
Vassar Faculty Fellowship (1968-69)
NDFL Fellowships (Columbia University, 1971-74)
Japan Foundation Grant (1975)
W.U. CSAS award for excellence in teaching (1980)
Missouri Creative Artists Project Grant (1988; in
collaboration with Wendy Katz)
Invited to perform in Mid-America Invitational Faculty Concert,
Springfield, MO (1991)
Invited to choreograph and perform for the Master Artists Concert
produced by the National Dance Association (1997)
One of 13 St. Louis choreographers commissioned to present work on
Contemporary Moves concerts produced by Dance St. Louis, 2004
University College Dean's Faculty Award (May, 2016)

Professional dance training:

Modern Dance: Merce Cunningham; Paul Sanasardo; Alwin
Nikolaus; Viola Farber; Dan Wagoner; Katherine Litz
Ballet: Dorothy Hill; Antony Valdor; Alfredo Corvino
Jazz: Matt Maddox; Nat Horne; Frank Petri
Ethnic: classical Japanese dance (noh and odori); Polynesian
Michio Ito Technique and Repertoire: Kyoko Imura, Kumiko Kashiwagi

Employment:

Washington University, St. Louis, 1976-present.
Assoc. Professor; Coordinator, Dance Program in Performing Arts
Half-time as of fall, 2015. Continuing as Coordinator, Dance
Program, and Coordinator of University College Dance Courses.
Teach dance theory, technique, composition, improvisation;
seminars in dance history, ethnology, applied gender studies;

lectures contributed to courses in theater, comparative arts and Asian culture. Curriculum development.

Artistic Director, Dance Close-Up concerts until 2012; Co-Artistic Director, WU Dance Theatre 1993-2002; choreography and performance. Coordinator, University College dance and somatic curriculum. Organize guest artist residencies; fundraising, grant writing.

Kobo Abe Studio, Tokyo, 1975. Taught modern dance to the company and choreographed some productions.

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., 1965-68 (Instructor), 1969-71 (Asst. Professor). On leave 1968-69.

Master classes/residencies: Dance Circle, Boston; University of Hawaii; Tokyo University of the Performing Arts; Mary Institute and Principia Upper School, St. Louis; Mid-America Dance Network (1992-93); Artist in Residence, SIUE, Edwardsville, IL (1990); University of Kansas, Lawrence (1998); Principia College, (2008,2009); Webster University (2009); Principia College, Master class and guest lecture (2010); Master classes in Ito Technique, Principia College, May (2011 and 2012)

Master classes at American College Dance Festivals in:

Ames, IA (1989); Wichita, KS (1990); Springfield, MO (1991); St. Cloud, MI (1992); Iowa City, IA (1993); Lexington, KY (1994); Boulder, CO (1995); Salt Lake City, UT (1996); Iowa City, IA (1997); Columbus, OH (1998); Hayward, CA (1999); Wichita, KS (2000); U. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, (2001); University of Maryland, College Park, (2002); University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA, (2003); Wayne State University, Detroit (2004); Ohio State University, Columbus (2006); Friends University, Wichita, 2008; Hendrix College, AR, (2009); U. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (2010); Missouri State University (2012); Southeast Missouri State U. (2013); Northeast Illinois State U. (2014), Southeast Missouri State (2015); Anderson University (2016)

Professional classes taught for Mid-America Dance Company and Off-Track Dancers.

Choreography (since 1965): *Produced in New York City

1965 *Inner Room; Gallery; Crossroads*

1966 *Threshold; Moor*, Simplex**

1967 *Through the Vibrant Air*; Cartoon; Odes*

1968 *Junction; Where Night Gathers; Still Point*

1970 *Place of Transients; Clearing; Groups and Gatherings*
(dance/film event in collaboration with film maker James Steerman); choreography for Lorca's *Blood Wedding*

1971 *Night Drift, Darkening; Orbit* (dance/film works with Richard Sykes)

1972 *Night Drift*; On Location**

1973 *Pining Wind** (modern *noh* with film by James Steerman, electronic score by Carl Michaelson)

1975 Choreography for Kobo Abe Studio productions *Wee* and *Yurei wa koko ni iru* (Tokyo)

1976 *Changing Company; Lurok; Fusion* (with Peggy Berg); *Cloud*

1978 *Garden of Stone and Sand; Dependencies*
1979 *Garden of Stone and Sand**; *Brocade; Company* (for Off-Track Dancers)
1980 *Brocade II; Corridors* (commission, Off-Track Dancers)
1981 *The Grizzly Bear; Pathways Through the Valley of Time*
1982 *Amplifications*
1983 *The Border of Somewhere Else*
1984 *Strata*; choreography for Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*
1985 *Memory Variations; Dust* (multi-media work with Wendy Katz)
1986 *Vagaries* (for St. Louis Repertory Dancers); choreography for *Flying High* (summer stock musical); *Gauguin's Dream*
1987 *Komachi* (script, choreography for Holy Roman Repertory Company); *Amplifications* (rechoreographed for In Motion Dance Company); *Prismatic Variations*
1988 *Dust and Karesansui* (multi-media, New Music Circle)
1989 *Soundings I*
1990 *Motional Missives; Incidence*
1991 *Strata II* (for Mid-America Faculty Invitational Concert)
1992 *From Stillness; After Darkness, Songs*
1993 *From the Edge; Doin' the Grizzly Bear; Time Zones*
1994 *Beyond Incidence; Vagaries* (rechoreographed)
1995 *Research; Feats of Strange Proportion*
1996 *Intimations and Revelations; Research* (expanded)
1997 *For Robert: On Order(s)*
1997 *After Darkness, Songs* (revised and expanded)
1998 *Primal Axis*
1999 *Unmatched Pair*
2000 *Departures*
2001 *Feats of Strange Proportion, II*
2002 *On Location I; On Location II/III*
2003 *On Location IV: Perspective(s)*
2004 *On Location* (commissioned work for Dance St. Louis' *Contemporary Moves* concerts, May, 2004)
2005 *Potencies*
2006 *Pastpresentpresentpastpresent...*
2006 *One among Many*
2007 *Shifting Sightlines*
2008 *Manic Music II*
2008 *S(p)laces*, collaboration with composer James Hegarty
Commissioned by The New Music Circle
2008 *Tete a Trois*
2009 *Nocturnal Landscapes*
2010 *Source Tracings*
2010 *Shall We...?*
2011 *Afters*
2012 (A Dance to the) *Mislaid* (Sept.); *Migratory Roots* (Dec.)
2013 *States of There*
2014 *Ebb and Flow* (Sept.) *Strangely Unfamiliar* (Dec.)
2015 *Pavane* (Dec.); rehearsal director, Ito technique instructor and assistant to reconstructor)
2016 *Afters (II)* (April; commissioned for Principia College concert)
2016 *Mashup Moves* (December)

Professional Performance:

Katherine Litz Company (dancer and actress), 1965-67
New Choreographers Concerts (in own choreography, selected by audition), 1966-69
University of Hawaii Dance Theatre Concerts, 1969
Experimental dance and music concerts, Honolulu Museum, 1969
State-sponsored Lyceum Company which toured the Hawaiian Islands giving public and school performances, 1969
Concerts at Vassar College, 1966-68, 1970-72
Claudia Gitelman Company, N.Y.C., 1972
Dances for a Large Space concerts in collaboration with Irene Dowd and two other choreographers, N.Y.C., 1972
Centrifugal Theater (as choreographer, dancer, actress), N.Y.C., 1972-73
Fusion (multi-media performance in collaboration with four other St. Louis artists), 1976
Washington University Faculty Dance Concerts, 1976-
Modern Dance in St. Louis concert (collaboration), 1979
Dance Theatre Workshop Choreographers Showcase, N.Y.C., 1979
Dancer/choreographer with St. Louis Ragtime Ensemble, 1978-81
Dancer/choreographer with St. Louis Repertory Dancers, 1981-86
Dancer/actress in Ping Chong's *Angels of Swedenborg*, 1986 (Saint Louis Art Museum production)
Dancer/actress in *Komachi*, Holy Roman Repertory Co., 1987
Dancer/choreographer in *Dust* and *Karesansui* (Missouri Creative Artist Project) 1988
Dancer/choreographer in *Vagaries*, Hong Kong International Dance Festival, 1990
Dancer/choreographer in *Strata II*, 1991 and 1992
Dancer/choreographer in *After Darkness, Songs*, 1992
Dancer/actress/author in *Research*, 1995, 1996
Performed *Research* on the Master Artists Concert (by audition) for National Dance Association, 1997
Dancer/actress/author in *For Robert: On Order(s)*, 1997, 1998
Dancer/choreographer in *Unmatched Pair*, 1999
Dancer/choreographer in *Research, Third Edition*, 2000
Dancer/choreographer in *On Location I*, 2002
Dancer/choreographer in *Sliders* (with Cecil Slaughter), 2004
Dancer/choreographer in *Pastpresentpresentpastpresent...*, 2006
Dancer/choreographer in *S(p)laces* (New Music Circle), 2008
Dancer/choreographer in *Tete a Trois*, 2008
Dancer, David Dorfman's *Underground*, 2009
Dancer, Henry Claude's *Oracle*, 2009
Dancer/choreographer in *Source Tracings*, 2010
Dancer/choreographer in *60 X 60*, 2010
Dancer/choreographer in (A *Dance for the*) *Mislaid*, 2012
Dancer/choreographer in *Ebb and Flow*, 2014

Artistic Direction

Vassar College Dance Concerts, 1965-68, 1969-71
Washington University Dance Theatre, co-director, 1993-2002
Dance Closeup, professional dance faculty showcase, 1995-2012
Artistic direction and production of professional dance concert and
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panel *Dancing Who I Am* (ethnic profiling and the dance artist);
September 12, 2009

Publications:

Excerpts from my translation of Beaujoyeulx' *Ballet Comique de la Reine* appear in Selma Jeanne Cohen's *Dance as a Theatre Art* and Jack Anderson's *Ballet and Modern Dance*
"Mishima Yukio's Modern Noh: An Effort to Revive a Classic Genre" presented at the O.S.U. Biannual Theatre Conference, 1988; published in a conference issue of *Theatre Studies*, Summer, 1989.
"East and West in the Work of Michio Ito," *Dance Research Journal*, Fall, 1994
"Komachi" (script), in *Currents in Japanese Culture: Translations and Transformations*, Columbia U. Press, 1997
"Michio Ito in Hollywood: Modes and Ironies of Ethnicity," *Dance Chronicle*, Vol. 24, Number 3, 2001
"The Real American Choreographer," *Belle Lettres*, Vol. VIII, No. 2, 2008
Essays on Michio Ito for websites: Dance Heritage and Michio Ito: <http://www.danceheritage.org> and www.michioito.org 2011-2015

Conference Presentations and Lectures:

"East and West in the Work of Michio Ito," lecture-demonstration with Satoru Shimazaki; at Society of Dance History Scholars National Conference, 1989, and Hong Kong International Dance Festival, 1990
Lectures on Michio Ito accompanying performances by *MOVING FORWARD* Contemporary Asian American Dance Company, Japan Information and Culture Center, Embassy of Japan, and Dance Place, January, 1996, Washington, D.C.
"Kobo Abe: "Playwright, Performer, and Performance Revolutionary" (panel member), International Kobo Abe Commemorative Symposium," Columbia University, 1996
"Michio Ito in Hollywood: Modes and Ironies of Ethnicity," presented at the CORD (Congress on Research in Dance) conference, November, 1997
Lecture-Demonstration "Blurring the Boundaries of Theatre and Dance," Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan, 1997
"Michio Ito and Sally Rand: Concert Dance and Tasteful Titillation," Paper for the national conference of Society of Dance History Scholars, June, 1999
"Integrating 'World Dance' in Curricula and Performance," organized and moderated forum for the National Association of Schools of Dance (by invitation), September, 1999
"Noh: Distilled Image and Gesture, " Lecture for Saint Louis Art Museum, November 7, 1999

"Dance History and Theory in a Technique Class? Yes!" Workshop presented with Alice Bloch at the National Dance Education Organization conference, Providence, R.I., 2003
"From Enemy Agent to Army Choreographer: Michio Ito at the Ernie Pyle Theatre," paper for Congress on Research in Dance Conference, Taiwan, 2004
"Decompartmentalizing the College Dance Student" workshop presented

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at the National Dance Education Organization conference, U. of Michigan, Lansing, 2004
"Kinesthetic Historiography" workshop presented at the National Dance Education Organization conference, S.U.N.Y., Buffalo, 2005
"Michio Ito as Utopian and Social Activist," paper presented at National Dance Education Organization conference, Towson, MD, 2008
Eight lectures on Michio Ito's life and art presented at Utah Repertory Dance Theater summer workshop (Scholar in Residence; facilitator, NEA and Japan Foundation Grant project)
"Contemporary Dance and the Michio Ito Technique," Workshop presented at National Dance Education Organization conference, Tempe, AZ, October, 2010
"Michio Ito's Use of Music," lecture-demonstration presented at the National Dance Education Organization conference, Minneapolis, MN, October, 2011
"Michio Ito's Enduring Legacy," panel (organized, chaired and spoke on) National Dance Education Organization conference. Los Angeles, CA, October, 2012
"Developing Collaborative Dialogue in and across Disciplines," co-presented with Alice Bloch," National Dance Education Organization conference, Chicago, IL, November, 2014.

Ongoing research: new choreography and book on Michio Ito

Washington University Committees:

Center for the Humanities, board member, 2009-2012
Affirmative Action Monitoring Committee (1995-99)
Student Affairs Committee (1997-99)
Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee (1999-2002)
Film and Media Studies Executive Committee (1999-2001)
Department liaison, Handicapped Students
Physical Education Committee (past)
Assembly Series (past)
Humanities Center Committee for Bill T. Jones Award and related events (scheduled for September, 2016)

Departmental Committees:

Chair's Advisory Committee
Undergraduate Studies Committee
Graduate Committee
Search and Tenure Review Committees

Other Service and Presentations (WU and Outside):

Consultant for Newcomb College (Tulane University) on development of dance major, October, 1985
On site Coordinator for Mid-America Dance Network Conference, October, 1988
Outside evaluator of choreography of faculty member at Southern Illinois State University, Edwardsville, 1989
Co-Coordinator of the *Dunhamfest*, a benefit dinner and concert for Katherine Dunham, Edison Theatre, May, 1997
Lectures for WU Life Long Learning Institute, 1998, 1999

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Outside evaluator of choreography (for tenure) by faculty member at Southwest Missouri State University, 2000
Tenure Review Committee member for Northwestern University, 2003
Occasional reader (blind review) of articles submitted to *Dance Research Journal*
Funding development: grant application written for National College Choreography Initiative project; grant received fall, 2001.
Application for Distinguished Visiting Scholar funding for Donald McKayle; funding received fall, 2001.
Application for Distinguished Visiting Scholar funding for Gus Solomons; funding received fall, 2004.
N.C.C.I. grant application written to bring Alonzo King; grant received fall, 2005.
Festival Coordinator for the Central Region American College Dance Festival held at Washington University in March, 2005.
Outside reviewer of tenure candidate, University of Vermont, 2007
Outside evaluator for Southeast Missouri State annual Dance Concert choreographed by faculty, April, 2009, and April, 2012.
American College Dance Festival Central Region Director, 2008-10
Application for Distinguished Visiting Scholar funding for Rulan Tangen residency; funding received fall, 2009
Organized and directed the annual Marcus Residencies by visiting dance artists (3-4 days duration), 1991 to the present.
Organized and directed 20 more extended residencies (1-2 weeks) by visiting artists and scholars since 1991.
Organized special Marcus Residency and Memorial event for Dr. Morris D. Marcus, February, 2010
Filmed for Dance Treasures DVD on Michio Ito, March, 2011
Adjudicator, Tennessee Arts Commission, for Professional Fellowships In Choreography and Solo Performance, February-April, 2011
Application for Distinguished Visiting Scholar funding for Jock Soto; funding received, fall, 2011
Designed and secured funding for Ailey Legacy residency, fall, 2012
Performed and spoke in new film, *Michio Ito (1893-1961) Pioneering Dancer-Choreographer*, directed by Bonnie Oda Homsey (released, 2013)
Pre-publication reader for a dance history text for young readers, June, 2013
Outside reviewer of tenure candidate, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, July, 2013
Author, narrative script for documentary film on Michio Ito produced By Utah Repertory Dance Theatre, "The Legacy of Michio Ito"
Guest artist residency at DeSales University, Nov. 10-14, 2014, (lectures on Michio Ito and studio instruction in the Ito

Technique and repertory)
Designed and secured funding for Rodney Hamilton Guest Artist Residency (2014)
Application for Distinguished Visiting Professor grant for Thomas DeFrantz (fall, 2015) received.
Departmental Review Committee for Emory University, October, 2015
Designed new MFA in Dance degree program (approved, summer, 2015)
Performing Arts Colloquium series lecture, March 4, 2016: "Michio Ito and Sally Rand: Concert Dance and Tasteful Titillation."
Commencement address for University College, May 18, 2016
Guest artist residency at Principia College, February-April, 2016
Application for Distinguished Visiting Professor grant for Jock Soto (repeat visit scheduled for October, 2016); received.

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Designed September, 2016, residency by Nathan Trice, secured funding.
Departmental Review Committee (outside) for the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, spring, 2017.
Guest artist residency at Principia College, January-April, 2017.
Invited speaker for conference, *Border-Crossing Dancer Michio Ito*, Waseda University, Tokyo, November 11, 2017.
Rehearsal Director for Ting-Ting Chang's *Tones*, Nov.-Dec., 2017
Co-presenter (With Bonnie Oda Homsey) of day long workshop for NYC Public School Dance Teachers (Using Michio Ito Theory and Technique in classes with historical context), January 9, Gibney Center, NYC. Included new essays for teachers' handbook.

Professional Memberships:

Society of Dance History Scholars (National Board Member, 1992-94)
Congress on Research in Dance (CORD)
National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)
National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD)
Missouri Dance Education Organization, Vice-President, 2000-2002; President-Elect, 2003-2004
Missouri Dance Organization
American College Dance Festival Association, National Board Member, 2000-2003; second term, 2005-2007; Central Region Director, 2008-10, 2011-2013

Updated 6/25/18.