

Curriculum Vitae
Amy Yopp Sullivan
Associate Professor, Department of Theatre Arts
Founder and Director, Center for Dance, Movement and Somatic Learning
Office: 631 632 7392
Email: amy.yopp.sullivan@stonybrook.edu

Center for Dance, Movement and Somatic Learning
<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/dance/index.php>

Professional Profile

- Accomplished career through innovative leadership and award-winning university teaching; nationally and internationally recognized creative work; and notable community outreach projects on national, state and local levels.
- Extensive background in directing, creating, devising and producing dance theatre performances in collaboration with composers, musicians, visual artists, designers, filmmakers, poets, vocalists, actors, academics, and community members.
- Effective communicator through planning, organizational, and negotiation strengths.
- Seasoned in highly creative, imaginative and innovative thinking in order to act and promote new ideas for experimentation and change, directed toward the future enhancement of business, industry, arts, health and educational communities.
- Ability to lead, establish goals and attain results with diverse partners, collaborating on numerous interdisciplinary projects for new applications and translations of dance and the movement arts.

Education

- **CLMA, Certification Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analyst**, Integrated Movement Studies, 18 Graduate credit hours, Graduate Dance Program, University of Utah
2008
- **MFA, Master of Fine Arts, Focus: Dance Performance and Choreography**, Department of Dance, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
1980
- **M.R.Ed, Master of Religious Education, Focus: Theology and The Arts**, Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, Massachusetts
1977
- **B.S., Dance Education**, Department of Dance, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, cum laude, certified K-12 in North Carolina,
1977
-

Academic Honors and Awards

- Selected for the “Germination Space” SUNY 2018 Research Experiment for Engineering Drive Medicine
- University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, New York State
- President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, Stony Brook University
- Presidential Merit Award for Outstanding Research and Creativity, Western Illinois University
- Ethel Martus Lawther Alumni Award, UNC-Greensboro
- National Lilly Teaching Fellow, Eli Lilly Endowment
- Faculty Fellow, Undergraduate Colleges, Stony Brook University
- Teaching and Curriculum Award, Office of the Provost, Stony Brook University
- Creative and Performing Arts Faculty Research Grant, Stony Brook University

- First Prize, Performance Category, Institute for Creative Research, American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, National Convention
- Artist's Fellowship, Herman Goldman Foundation, New York City
- Funded and/or supported by New York State Council for the Arts (administered through the Huntington Arts Council, Chase Bank Restart Program, JP Morgan/Chase Artist Reachout Program, Suffolk County Cultural and Economic Develop, Suffolk County Legislature, The Maritime Museum, Long Island Seaport and Ecological Center, The Greater Port Jefferson/Northern Brookhaven Arts Council, The New York Foundation for the Arts.
- Designated as one of "250 most skilled and experienced Artists in Communities Nationally", America Creates for the Millennium, MidAtlantic Arts Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts

Academic/Teaching Experience

Associate Professor, Stony Brook University

- (Assistant Professor 1986-1989, Tenured/Associate Professor in 1989 - present)
- Founding Director and Faculty, The Center for Dance, Movement and Somatic Learning, 2009-2017, led creation of curriculum, vision and direction
 - Founding Director, SBU's Festival of the Moving Body , 2012 and 2014
 - Director and/or Senior Faculty, SBU's Dance Program, 1986 to present
 - Founding Director, Iron Works on the Edge, Dance Theatre Company
 - Founding Director, "It's Your Move!", "Dance Me a Story", "Move into Math", "Just Imagine How It Moves", "Create a Moving History" (public school programs)
 - University Classes Taught: Contemporary Dance I, II, III; Movement Awareness and Analysis; Laban Movement Analysis; Movement and Somatic Learning; Performance Techniques; Dance Improvisation; Performance Dance Ensemble, Choreography; 20th Century Dance History; Dance and Dramaturgy; Theatre MFA Committees
 - Interdisciplinary University Classes Created: Body Mind Performance for Leadership Training (for College of Leadership and Service); Body Narratives (for College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science and The Honors College); Decoding the Language of Dance (for The Honors College)
 - Affiliate Faculty, Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics; School of Health, Technology and Management: Disability Studies
 - Past Faculty advisor for 5 SBU Honors College final theses and projects, exploring Dance and Mathematics, Anthropology, Africana Studies, Bio Chemistry, and Sociology

Assistant Professor, Western Illinois University,

(1982 - 1986, Awarded Tenure/Assistant Professor in 1986)

- Director of Dance
- Director and Choreographer for University Dance Theatre
- Choreographer for Summer Stock Musical Theatre with Theatre Department, directors Jared Brown, Robert Robinson
- Teaching: Modern Dance I, II, III; Ballet I, II; Jazz I, II; Social and Ballroom Dance.
- Organized, Directed and Supervised undergraduate students from the University Dance Theatre, traveling to Europe, training and performing in Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Paris, France; St. Galens, Switzerland; and Heidelberg, Germany

Instructor, Cottey College, Nevada, Missouri (1980 - 1982)

- Founder and Director of Cottey College Dance Company
- Teaching: Modern Dance, Jazz Dance, Choreography, Performance
- Community Outreach classes

Recent Highlights of Professional and Educational Experiences at SBU:

- 2016-17 – Developing research/creative project, “Swimming the River”
based on systems of interconnectivity, relationships to spatial pull and movement processes. The project is a collaborative work with media and technology, through experimental rehearsals with undergraduates from across disciplines, resulting in the Concept/Choreography/Direction of the “Swimming the River” Dance Theatre performance for the DAN 400 Dance Ensemble at the Charles B Wang Center for two evenings of performance on the Campus of Stony Brook University.
“Swimming the River” is also translated to the work with the Parkinson’s Group, developing spatial pull and movement processes for heightened movement potential and interaction.
- 2015-16 – Developed research/creative project, “Migrations of Human Desire”
examining the interface and connections from intention, thought and action in the performance and rehearsal arenas as a means toward personal and relational agency. Resulted in the Concept, Choreography, and Direction of the “Migrations of Human Desire” Dance Theatre performance with students from the DAN 400 Performance Dance Ensemble at the Charles B Wang Center for three evenings of performance on the Campus of Stony Brook University:

“Migrations of Human Desire” also included experiments with Parkinson Patients and their caregivers to examine the connections between human desire and the enhancement of dopamine production as evidenced through enhanced movement processes, as well as agency within the process and trauma of neurological disease.

- 2013-14 - Developed and presented “Critical Movement and Babel Technique”, research and creative work. In the context of mind body training, the practice of Critical Movement© is dependent upon adaptable neural connections ready and capable of rewiring in order to meet the demands and challenges of a living, thinking, moving, speaking body. The Babel Technique© offers a combination of sensory vocal and motor skills to heighten mind body connections. It is proposed that Critical Movement© will emerge from the vocal physical and sensory practice of the Babel Technique©. The process involves freeing the voice to make a myriad of creative sounds in order to reestablish interconnectivity and expression through acts of serious and restorative play. Developed student performance, with professional dancers, “We have Yet to Find the Words” examining how and when we choose to speak, or not to speak, when faced with human rights abuse.
- Founder and Artistic Director/Choreographer – IronWorks on the Edge, a dance theatre company
- Founding Director – The Festival of the Moving Body
- Founding Director - Stony Brook University’s Body Mind Lab
- Participant, Bessie Schoenberg Experienced Choreographer’s Lab Dance Theatre Workshop, NYC with Keely Garfield, Lawrence Goldhuber, 2008
- Participant, Fieldwork, NYC, with James Scruggs, Summer 2014

- Participant, Bessie Lab: Choreographer’s Workshop, New York Live Arts with Ralph Lemon Summer 2015
- Participant, Movement Research, “The Edge is a Field”, Deborah Hay, January 2017

Research, Lectures, Presentations, Invitations, and Proposals

- Guest Speaker, International Alwin Nikolais Conference, Hunter College 2018
- Principle Investigator, Inventor:STMU (Solutions That Move Us) Products, developing wearable products for Parkinson’s Patients and others
Working with Colleagues:
Dr Milutin Stanacevic, Department of Electrical Engineering, SBU
Dr. Craig Evinger, Department of Neurobiology, SBU 2015 ongoing
- Invited Observer, Creative Leadership Summit, Metropolitan Club, NYC, Blouin Foundation 2016, 2015
- Speaker for Aging in Place Initiative, “the body as a place”
School of Social Welfare, Stony Brook University 2016
- Presenter, 30th Annual BMCA (Body Mind Centering Association) National Conference, Portland, Oregon, “Critical Movement and Babel Technique”, July, 2015
- Presenter, National Dance Educators Organization conference in Miami; “Critical Movement and Babel Technique” October, 2013
- Presenter, SomaFest +ISMETA (International Somatic Movement Educators and Therapy Association) NYC, “Critical Movement and Babel Technique.” October 2013
- Empower SCI (Spinal Cord Injuries), Stony Brook University, “Critical Movement and Babel Technique” July, 2013
- The Futures of the Cognitive Humanities at Bangor, Wales
“Critical Movement and Babel Technique” included two undergraduates who joined me supported by URECA grants April, 2013
- Converging Science Summit, Stony Brook University
“Critical Movement and Babel Technique” April, 2013
- Northeast American College Dance Festival, Hofstra University, “Critical Movement and Babel Technique” March 2013
- Minding the Body Conference, CUNY in NYC, “Critical Movement and Babel Technique” March 2013
- Designed Think Tank, SBU: “Somatics : The Future of Embodied Learning” 2010
- Project Director, Grant Writer: Voices of Action/Bodies of Change, proposed to EMCArts, NYC 2009
- “Body Narratives: The Skin of Living Thoughts” lecture, presentations, Arts in Education National Conference, “*To What End?*”, New York University, The Steinhardt School, NYC 2008
- “Body Narrative: Interdisciplinary Ways of Knowing”, Designer of Consortium, National Research Consortium, American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, National Conference, Chicago 2005
- “The Body’s Story: A Public and Universal Language of Wholeness”, research presentation, AAHPERD, Chicago 2005
- “Body Narratives: Building Rich Vocabularies Through Living Research”, Designer of Consortium, AAHPERD, Chicago 2005

Performances and Community Outreach (selected samples)

- Founding Director of STMU: Solutions that Move Us! Community Workshops for people who experience Parkinson's Disease 2015, on going
- Volunteer Teacher, "Dance Me a Story", Children's Defense Fund Freedom School, Stony Brook University, 2013, 2014
- "It's Your Move", for GATE (Guest Artists To Empower) Program, working with cancer patients at SBU Medical Center/Linda Bily 2013
- Concept/Choreographer/Director, *when the hedges fall*, in collaboration with dance artist Todd VanSlambrouck, set to Brahms's Requiem, showing at Center for Dance, performance at The Ohio State University July 2010, February 2011
- Concept/Choreographer/Director, *Shirtwaist: Legacies Woven to Wear*, 10th Annual Re-Envisioning Immigration, Wang Center, Stony Brook University 2010
- Concept/Choreographer/Director, *Time and Space for Celebration*, Brookhaven National Lab, in celebration for the groundbreaking event for the National Synchrotron Light Source II 2009
- Presenter with Chan E. Park of The Ohio State University, Performer "Dance to Pansori", An Intercultural Performance promoting encounters of social consciousness, aesthetic guidelines and group and individual behaviors across national borders and passages of time. Mary Hall, Mainstage Theatre, Sogang University, Seoul, Korea 2009
- Director/Producer: *Sea Bourne*, first screening of a work in progress. Avram Theatre, Southampton, New York, Shoot/edit: Vivian Jung, Composer: Max Duykers 2009
- "A Moving Story", short film/documentary of an experimental residency in Louisiana, shot/edited by Vivian Jung 2008
- "Body Narratives: The Skin of Living Thoughts". Arts in Education National Conference, "To What End?" New York University, The Steinhardt School, New York City 2008
- Choreographer/Performer, *Jete Baba*, Solo Performer, Bessie Schoenberg Experienced Choreographer's Lab, Dance Theatre Workshop, NYC 2008
- Concept/Choreographer/Director: *When the Sea Dies*, Built around movement therapies of physical trauma, in relationship to the tsunami of 2008, Department of Theatre Arts, Main Stage Season, Staller Center for the Arts, Stony Brook, New York. An evening length collaboration of dance, theatre, music, poetry, vocals February/March 2007
- Concept/Choreographer/Director: *Immigration and Transmigration*, Department of Theatre Arts, Main Stage Season, Staller Center for the Arts, Stony Brook, New York An evening length dance/theatre/poetry/music performance February 2006
- Poetry at the Port, Artist in Community Project, Port Jefferson Village Community Center April 2006
- Choreographer/Director: *Giants in Small, Shallow Pools* Dance/theatre/media/design, International Dance and Community Festival, (premiere) Almada, Portugal October 2003
- Choreographer/Artistic Director, *A Solemn Evening for Reflection*, Dance/Theatre/Music/Design, responding to 9/11 *Grist for the Mill*, original music by Bun Ching Lam *This Place of Ours: A Requiem*, music: Shakuhachi flute Theatre II, Staller Center for the Arts December 2001
- Choreographer, University Orchestra Children's Concert,

- Conductor: Dr. Susan Deaver, Staller Center Main Stage
 SUNY Stony Brook, by invitation
Inertia, set to Haydn's Clock Symphony
Family Gathering, set to Bartok's Romanian Folk Dances March 2001
- Choreographer/Director/Producer:
Our Mothers: A Global Community Project
 A site-specific collaboration with composer William Ryan,
 Multi-media composer Daniel Weymouth, Sceneographer
 Phillip Baldwin, and Sculpture Nikki Anderson
 SUNY-Stony Brook, Site Specific at Physics Green May 2000
 - Choreographer/Performer/Director:
This Woman Stands on Ground that is Shifting
 Collaboration of Music, Poetry, Dance, Installation Art and Theatre
 Depicting the plight of the baymen and the shellfishing industry
 NYSCA Individual Artist's Grant, site-specific work performed
 on the docks over-looking the Great South Bay October 1999
 - Artistic Director/Choreographer, John Drew Theatre,
 Full evening of original dance/theatre repertory, Collaborations with
 music, theatre, design and dance: *Memories of a Woman About to Take a Rest*,
SISU, *The Gossips*, and *Emigrant/Immigrant*
 John Drew Theatre at Guild Hall, East Hampton, New York 1998
 - Choreographer: *By Word of Mouth* and *Memories of a Woman About to Take a Rest*,
 The American Choreographer's Showcase in Mexico City at the International
 Festival of Dance in the Americas 1997
 - Creator, "*It's Your Move!*" a children's program that investigates collaborative and
 interdisciplinary learning based in the body and including "*Dance Me a Story*", "*Move
 into Math*", "*Create a Moving History*" and "*Just Imagine How it Moves*".
 - Choreographer, University Orchestra Children's Concert, Conductor: Dr. Susan
 Deaver, Staller Center Main Stage, SUNY Stony Brook, by invitation
Inertia, set to Haydn's Clock Symphony
Family Gathering, set to Bartok's Romanian Folk Dances
 - Co-Founder: "*Celebrate the Bay: A Culture Revealed*": A Collaboration with The Long
 Island Maritime Museum
 - Conceived and Directed *The Shoe Project* and *The Great Shoe Giveaway*, giving
 15,000 donated dance shoes and dance classes to disadvantaged and homeless
 communities. This project collaborated with numerous divisions and programs at
 Stony Brook University and over fifteen community centers and organizations
 throughout Long Island.
 - Choreographer/Artistic Director, Artist in Communities: *Dances by the Harbor*,
 Maritime Festival, Port Jefferson, New York
SISU and *Three Sisters*, In collaboration with the Long Island Seaport and Ecology
 Center, The Village of Port Jefferson and the Town of Brookhaven, NY
 - Choreographer/Director, Artist in Communities: Secret Garden Tour,
 South on Main Street, Arts District,
 Site-Specific work performed in the gardens of Mather Museum
Memories of a Woman About to Take a Rest, Port Jefferson, NY