

Sean Feit Oakes, PhD

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Curriculum Vitae 2018

EDUCATION

- 2016 PhD, Performance Studies, UC Davis, with a Designated Emphasis in Practice as Research
Dissertation: *This Very Body is the Bodhi Tree: The Performance of Contemplative States in the Western Jhāna Revival & Contemporary Movement Theater*
- 1993 BFA, Music Composition, California Institute of the Arts

PUBLICATIONS

- 2016 “Commit, Amplify, Inquire: Dark Work & Remix as Contemplative Rehearsal Practices,”
Dancing with Dharma, ed. Blum (McFarland)
- 2016 “Her Heart Moves Mountains by Beating: Form & Formlessness in Contemplative Theater,”
Sentient Performativities of Embodiment: Thinking Alongside the Human, ed. Hunter, et al. (Lexington)
- 2016 “Yoga,” *Encyclopedia of Asian American Religions and Spiritual Cultures* (ABC-CLIO)
- 1999 “Highnoon: A Public Space Performance Project,” *Contact Quarterly* 24, no. 2

CONTEMPLATIVE TRAINING

- 1999- Training in Theravāda Buddhism & Insight Meditation:
Spirit Rock Meditation Center, Woodacre, CA
Chammyay Yeiktha Meditation Center, Burma (retreat with monastic ordination, 2002)
2.5 total years of retreat. 2010 teaching authorization from Jack Kornfield
- 1993-99 Training in Rinzai Zen with Joshu Sasaki, Roshi, Mt. Baldy and other Zen Centers
1 year total in residence, including 2 3-month training periods & 9 *sesshin* (retreats)
- 1991- Training and performing as a musician, dancer, and performance artist, Bay Area & Europe

[Participation in movement-based performance and Buddhist meditation communities is the basis of my fieldwork, where I perform the hybrid position of the embedded scholar-practitioner.]

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2008 Isadora Duncan Dance Award: Best Music/Text (for *Circo Zero, Sol Niger*)
- 1995 John James Blackmore Prize in Composition, Cornell University

GRANTS: ACADEMIC

- 2014 Dissertation Writing Year Fellowship, Bilinski Educational Foundation, UC Davis
2010-12 Graduate Study Research grants, UC Davis (winter 2012, winter & spring 2011, fall 2010)

GRANTS: ARTS

- 2003 Meet the Composer Fund & Zellerbach Family Fund
2002 Meet the Composer Fund
1999 SF Hotel Tax Fund/CA\$H Grant & Zellerbach Family Fund

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

- 2008 Mama Calizo's Voice Factory, San Francisco (with Seth Eisen/Eye Zen)
2007 Les Subsistences, Lyon (with Keith Hennessy/Circo Zero)
 Centre Choréographique Nationale, Belfort (with Keith Hennessy/Circo Zero)
2005 Counterpulse, San Francisco (as solo performer)
1998 848 Community Space, San Francisco (as Rujeko Performance Collaboration)

CONFERENCE & SYMPOSIA PAPERS

- 2013 "The Listening Subject: Phenomenology, Meaning, and Subjectivity in Music Listening,"
 Performance Studies International, Stanford, CA
2013 "Inner & Outer Object, Inner & Outer Gaze: Paradoxes of Buddhist Performance,"
 Performance Studies Symposium, UC Davis
2011 "You are the music: Improvisation, practice, research,"
 Interdisciplinary Graduate and Professional Student Symposium, UC Davis
2010 "Never... decide: Improvisation, practice, silence,"
 Methods and Materials in Performance Research Symposium, UC Davis

TEACHING: ACADEMIC

UC Davis, Lecturer

Diversity and Global Cultures: Race and Religion in/as Theater (spring 2017)

UC Davis, Associate Instructor

Asian Theatre and Drama: Contexts and Forms (winter 2016, spring 2014, spring 2013, winter 2012)
Introduction to Dramatic Art (fall 2012, fall 2011)

UC Davis, teaching assistant

Introduction to Music Theory (winter 2011)
Introduction to Film Studies (spring 2016, winter 2014)
Introduction to Documentary Studies (fall 2015)
Introduction to Technocultural Studies (fall 2013, fall 2010)
Introduction to Dramatic Art (spring 2012, spring 2011)
Religions of South Asia, reader (winter 2011)

TEACHING: COMMUNITY

Buddhism & Yoga (philosophy, history, practice)

2002-pr. Independently, and at Spirit Rock Meditation Center, Woodacre;
East Bay Meditation Center, Oakland;
Piedmont & Namaste Yoga Studios, Oakland;
Yoga Tree & Yoga Garden, San Francisco

Trauma Counseling

2016-18 Organic Intelligence® Associate Faculty

Contact Improvisation, dance, performance process, curation

1997-04 848 Community Space, Brady St., Footloose, Studio Valencia, Cell Space, SF

SERVICE

2013-15 Inward Bound Mindfulness Education (teen retreat teaching assistant)

2013-15 Somatic Experiencing® professional training assistant

LANGUAGES

French (Reading, basic)
Sanskrit (Reading, minimal)

SKILLS

Contact Improvisation & postmodern dance technique
(teachers Kathleen Hermesdorff & Keith Hennessy, lineage of Sara Shelton Mann)
Authentic Movement
(teacher Bill McCully, lineage of Janet Adler)
Piano performance
improvisation (lineage of Myra Melford) & classical (lineage: David Arden)
Music theory & composition
(lineage of Steven Stucky)
Buddhist meditation & philosophy
(teachers Jack Kornfield, Sylvia Boorstein, Eugene Cash, Gil Fronsdal, U Janaka Sayadaw,
Thanissaro Bhikkhu, Anam Thubten Rinpoche,
lineages: Thai & Burmese Theravāda, Rinzai Zen, Nyingma Vajrāyāna)

Yoga, including classical Haṭha Yoga (*prānāyāma, bandha, mudrā*) & modern *vinyāsa* forms
(teachers Rachel Shaw, David Moreno, Alice Joanou, Ānandi Ma, Anne Cushman, Tias Little,
lineages: Bihar, Ashtanga, Krishnamacarya)

Counseling

Somatic Experiencing: SEP certification 2010, training assistant 2010-13
(teachers Steven Hoskinson & Peter Levine)

Organic Intelligence: associate faculty 2015
(teacher Steven Hoskinson)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2013-pr. Body Politic Think Tank, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco

2012-pr. Yoga Alliance (E-RYT 500 certification)

PERFORMANCE (SELECTED)

Solo

2014 *Luminous is This Mind*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco

2005 *When the Heart's an Empty Room*, Counterpulse, San Francisco

1995 *Lear*, Center for Theater Arts, Cornell University, Ithaca

Director, Ensemble Theater

2012 *The Midnight Club*, UC Davis [PhD "Practice As Research" (PAR) project]

2003 *When Light Falls*, 848 Community Space, San Francisco

2002 *High Noon*, Rujeko Performance Collaboration

1999 *As Flowers in the Gloaming Sky*, Rujeko Performance Collaboration

1998 *StoneSandTea*, Rujeko Performance Collaboration

1997 *Breaking Light*, Rujeko Performance Collaboration

Music Director / Composer-Performer

2011 *The Book*, Avy K Productions

2010 *Traces of Grace*, Anne Bluethenthal & Dancers, with Eric Glick Reiman

2008 *Blackbird*, with Seth Eisen

2008 *Scrap Soup*, Avy K Productions, with Albert Mathias

2007 *Sol Niger*, Circo Zero, with Keith Hennessy

2004 *.grab.land.hold.fly.*, with Frieda Kipar & Melecio Estrella

Sutro Baths, BodyCartography

2003 *Chapel of the Chimes*, BodyCartography

2002 *On the Rebound*, Scott Wells & Dancers

Nine Days on Dark Water, Angus Balbernie

References available