



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Raja Kelly '09

Dance, English



Q: What made you decide on Connecticut College?

A: In seventh grade, my favorite dance teacher was a graduate of Connecticut College. I decided right then that I wanted to attend Connecticut College.

Q: What classes did you take for dance?

A: As a dance major, I took classes in anatomy, composition, dance theater, technique, dance history and the experimental workshop. Every class offered a different perspective on dance. I also majored in English, so the 'Dance Writing' course brought my two favorite worlds together. It helped me articulate my responses to dance and find new ways to talk about dance.

Q: What outside activities were you involved in?

A: I led and choreographed for the dance club on campus, as well as for theater department productions. Although we spent a lot of time in the studio, dance majors are highly active outside of the department too. I was president of my freshman class and a dorm senator in my sophomore year. I also participated in the Student Government Association's diversity and equity and residential life committees.

Q: Did you study abroad?

A: I spent a semester studying in Sydney, Australia, at the University of New South Wales, and I interned there with the PACT Theater as an assistant production manager. I felt lucky to be at Connecticut College and to study with such amazing students and professors, dancers and teachers who inspired me.

Dance

Overview

Step into dance at Connecticut College, and you'll discover a major shaped by some of the most notable names in the field. The American Dance Festival was held here for 30 years, showcasing work by artists from Alvin Ailey to Twyla Tharp and establishing the College's reputation as a premier place to learn dance. You will find here the best of all worlds — a strong liberal arts education with an equally strong, comprehensive, supportive and demanding dance program. Our students go on to graduate programs and to a wide range of opportunities in the field as choreographers and members of professional dance companies. Many have created their own dance companies.

Interdisciplinary Study

This is an environment in which you can love your dancing and creating and combine them with a wide range of other disciplines and interests. You will be exposed to a broad array of dance techniques, from ballet and modern dance to West African dance and improvisation. You will also develop your understanding of dance in three key areas: choreography and performance, dance studies, and dance and technology (the last in partnership with the College's Ammerman Center for Arts & Technology). Most important, you will be encouraged to find a singular voice for your artistry.

Dance Productions

There are dance companies associated with two of our professors, including the College's company-in-residence, David Dorfman Dance. Our faculty continually add to the College's reputation through their involvement in dance on and off campus, regularly hosting and participating in key festivals and conferences such as the American College Dance Festival Association. At Connecticut College, you will be able to participate in at least four dance productions each year through the dance department and the student-run, faculty-supported dance club.

Guest Artists

Thanks to our proximity to New York City, Boston and Providence, we are able to bring in many guest artists and performances. Each semester, we bring in a guest artist to work with students in a two-week residency. The guest artists teach classes and choreograph works with our students that will be performed in department concerts. Recent guest artists have included Alexandra Beller, Doug Elkins, Jeremy Nelson and Eddie Taketa.

Internships and Study Abroad

Off campus, you will have the opportunity to intern with arts groups such as the Association of Performing Arts Presenters in New York City. Internships are often facilitated by Connecticut College alumni in these organizations. Recently, student interns toured with David Dorfman Dance to Russia and Poland.

Because dance is such a universal language, the department encourages dance majors to study abroad, in locations ranging from Europe to Australia and India.

Faculty

Shani Collins Achille, *Assistant Professor of Dance*

B.A., Hollins University; M.F.A., Hollins University in partnership with the American Dance Festival
Contemporary technique; West African dance; topics in multicultural perspectives

David Dorfman, *Professor of Dance; Chair of Dance Department*

B.S., Washington University; M.F.A., Connecticut College
Modern technique; advanced composition; acting for dancers; dance history; dance/theater

Heidi Henderson, *Assistant Professor of Dance*

B.A., Colby College; M.F.A., Smith College
Modern technique; improvisation; creative process; kinesiology; dance writing

Adele Myers, *Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance*

B.A., Sarah Lawrence College; M.F.A., Florida State University
Contemporary dance technique; dance history; dance composition; the work of Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and Urban Bush Women

Lisa Race, *Assistant Professor of Dance*

B.A., Rutgers University; M.F.A., Hollins University in association with the American Dance Festival
Advanced modern technique; improvisation; dance for the camera

Richard Schenk, *Adjunct Assistant Professor of Dance*

B.M., Oberlin College Conservatory of Music; M.M., Ohio State University
Master accompanist for ballet and modern; dance composition; music for dance

Selected Courses

Ballet and Modern/Post-Modern Technique; World Dance; Creative Process; Ballroom Dance; Drumming; Dance Production; Dance Styles; Somatics Sampler; Elements of Composition; Music for Dance; Dance and Technology; Dance Writing; Acting for Dancers; Anatomy/Kinesiology; Movement Analysis; Performance Art in Practice; Dance/Theater; Experimental Workshop

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900 students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers 47 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities as well as innovative interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the experience of all.

What can you do with a major in dance?

Annie-B Parson '80

Choreographer and co-founder with Paul Lazar of Big Dance Theater. Named a 2007 Guggenheim Fellow. Past honors include a "Bessie" award and two New York Foundation for the Arts fellowships. Did choreography for the 1993 film *Philadelphia*.

Nicholas Leichter '94

Artistic director of Nicholas Leichter Dance. Was a member of the Ralph Lemon Company and performed with the companies of Jennifer Muller, Ronald K. Brown and Gus Solomons. Has been on the faculty at Tisch School of the Arts and the American Dance Festival.

Elisabeth "Betsy" Miller '05

Dance major, history and English minors
Freelance choreographer and dancer and assistant institute director of the José Limón Dance Foundation. Co-founder with four other Connecticut College alumnae of Propel-her Dance Collective.

Kate March '07 & Jessica Noe '07

Co-artistic directors of NoeMarch Dance, an emerging modern dance and film company that is company-in-residence for the Art League of New Britain, Conn.

For more information, visit
www.conncoll.edu/academics/