Michael Medcalf, MFA

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With over thirty years of arts related leadership, administrative, and practical experiences, Mr. Medcalf continues to seek engaging, inspirational, and transformational educational and artistic opportunities where he can leverage his knowledge, skills and vast network to the benefit of the constituents and organizations that he serves.

Various leadership positions, but particularly in academia as the director of Alabama State University’s BFA/Dance Program, has prepared Mr. Medcalf to engage with a vast range of artistic, administrative, and managerial responsibilities confidently, fearlessly, and with success. In these positions, vision, collaboration, community engagement/responsiveness, commitment to advancing knowledge, and advocacy have been hallmarks of his tenure.

In addition to his leadership skills, he has provided organizations with strong and proven administrative skills: developing fundraising plans, grant writing, the ability to proficiently use Google, Apple and Microsoft applications, documents and forms, engagement with a variety of social media platforms, website development, excellent typing skills, SMART goal setting, as well as the ability to develop program evaluation and assessment tools.

As a part of his on-going professional development, in the Spring of 2013, received a Master of Fine Arts degree in dance from the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa. In 2016, he was awarded the Alabama State Council on the Arts’ Fellowship for Dance and was selected for leadership mentoring as apart of Dance/USA’s Dance Institute for Leadership Training. And in 2018 was selected to serve as a mentor. Most recently, he served as the Vice-President/President Elect of the Alabama Dance Council, a statewide dance service organization, on the Next Generation Board of the International Association of Blacks in Dance and on the board of Cleveland Dance Movement.

As a professional dancer, he has been a member and guest artist with numerous professional companies; Alfred Gallman’s Newark Dance Theatre (Newark), Ballethnic Dance Company (Atlanta), Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble (Denver), Dancing Wheels (Cleveland), David Taylor Dance Theatre (Denver), Groundworks Dance Theatre (Cleveland), Kim Robards Dance (Denver), Lula Elzy Dance Theatre (New Orleans), Several Dancers Core (Atlanta), Ohio Dance Theatre (Oberlin), and Verb Ballets (Cleveland). His own endeavors as founder/artistic director include the Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre (Cleveland) and the Greene/Medcalf Movement Project (Cleveland). Currently, he develops solo and duet projects for the stage and camera for Michael Medcalf/INVENTIONS (Montgomery).

**Michael Medcalf**

**Scholarly and Creative Research Statement**

I am currently in the process of researching and compiling data using the outline of the dance history course I developed to create the manuscript, ***From Juba to Hip Hop: The Development and Influence of Black Dance in America***. The eventual book will cover significant figures from the African diaspora who significantly contributed to the development and advancement of dance in America.

An additional interest of mine is researching and compiling data for another book, ***From the Ground Up: Building and Sustaining a Dance Company in the 21st Century***. This publication will provide entrepreneurs, arts administrators, independent dance artists and those interested in the nuts and bolts of developing a not for profit model dance company and while comparing for profit models. This resource guide will also provide its readers with advice from professionals in the industry, from both the artistic and administrative sides, who are currently managing and directing dance companies.

As a dance maker, I believe that the art of choreography, be it for the stage or camera, can provide its viewer with an insight to the human spirit and condition. It is to this purpose that I pursue my craft. With this guiding mission, tremendous possibilities for the exploration of myriad themes emerge. The possibilities for ways in which these stories can unfold offer the unique possibilities for innovative approaches and collaborative extensions to surface. I’m current exploring this by developing dance projects for the camera.

In my creative process emphasis is placed on finding the right material generating procedures that work best for the specificity of the theme/ideas behind the work. Identity tends to have a prevailing presence in my contemporary work: in re-composing one’s identity, there is always the process of deconstructing. The matter that decomposes is also the material that fertilizes it. The nucleus of my work tends to emerge from this notion. The intersection of identity and universalism is the location where I find the most compelling conversations and challenging arguments take place. I harness this tension and take various routes and tactics to locate the entry point to develop the conversation and to examine the results.

**Michael Medcalf**

**Leadership Statement**

What drives me as a leader is the ability to affect positive change within the organization that I serve, within the colleagues that I lead, and within myself. To foster this change, I strive to create an organizational culture that respects and appreciates short and long-term goal planning, inspires individual and collective creativity, innovation and growth, considers humanity and embraces diversity.

The key to growth is change and the key to change is conscientious planning that is supported by the consensus. As a leader, it is important to me to assist with driving the organization that I serve with staying viable and ahead of the curve. Observing industry trends, and not necessarily following them, is a crucial aspect of this directive.  To help me facilitate this mission, I cultivate and support individual and collective intellect, creativity, and professional development for those within the organization under my leadership.

Humanity also plays an important role in my leadership guidance. The arts remind us of our role in humanity through which our common humanity emerges as a form of communication that is shared between global participants.  Humanity also remind us of the importance of balance in our lives. I have a sincere interest in my own personal holistic well-being and that of those under my leadership. Having balance in one's personal and professional is essential.

I support the fact that diversity is larger than just race and culture and is inclusive of gender, sexual orientation, and disability as well.  This sensitivity helps fosters an organizational culture that is appreciative and tolerant of difference and can see the larger vision and importance of inclusiveness, equality, and equity.

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

**Alabama State University, Montgomery, Alabama, 2013-Present**

Director of the BFA/Dance Program and Assistant Professor of Dance

**Responsibilities**

* Successfully guides the program in graduating majors with Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in dance
* Provides the program with leadership in the areas of administration, artistic direction, curriculum development, and strategic planning and implementation.
* Teaches technique and lecture courses in Dance History, Contemporary, Modern (Horton), Jazz, Ballet, Improvisation, Dance Production, and Composition
* Advises and mentor students on academic and career planning
* Serves on departmental, college and University committees
* Develops policies and guidelines that governs the program’s curricular and artistic activities
* Consults with the Chair of the department on the fiscal management of the program
* Oversees all aspects of program’s faculty and student performances, events, masterclass and guest lecturer series.
* Organizes regional and national attendance at dance conferences
* Oversees and creates marketing and promotional materials
* Oversees and assists with outreach and recruiting efforts
* Serves as the public face of the BFA/Dance Program

**Accomplishments**

* Elected by colleagues to serve on the University’s Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee
* Guided the program in graduating its first class of dance majors in the Spring 2017
* Instrumental in increasing the program’s enrollment from 18 students in 2013 to its current 72 majors and minors.
* In 2015-2016 and 2017-2018 school year secured grant funding from the Alabama State Council on the Arts for the program towards educational and artistic programming
* Successfully advocated for the construction of two additional dance studios and one informal performance space
* Created several educational and artistic collaborations within the University community as well as with institutions and organizations across the State of Alabama.
* Implemented the program’s alignment, academically and artistically, with National Association of School of Dance standards and guidelines in preparation for a program Self Study as a part of the application process for membership
* Founded Alabama State University Dance Company, a pre-professional dance company comprised of dance majors only
* In 2014, led the new dance program in its first year to perform at the National College Dance Festival in Washington, D.C.

**University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, 2011-2013**

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Jazz and Modern

**Cuyahoga Community College - East, Highland Hills, Ohio, 2001-2002**

Part-time Instructor: Modern

**University of Akron, Akron, Ohio, 1999-2000**

Auxiliary Lecturer II/Special Lecturer: Jazz and Modern

**Secondary Education**

**Cleveland School of the Arts (Upper), Cleveland, Ohio, 2010-2011**

Guest Artist in Residence: Modern and Dance History

**Cleveland School of the Arts (Upper), Cleveland, Ohio, 1999-2000**

Guest Artist in Residence: Modern

**Professional/Private Education**

**Verb Ballets - Shaker Heights, Ohio, Summer 2011**

Instructor: Modern (Horton)

**Cleveland School of Dance - Mayfield, Ohio, 2007-2011**

Faculty: Modern (Horton)

**Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre and School - Cleveland, Ohio, 1998-2007**

Company and School Instructor: Modern (Horton)

**Dancing Wheels - Cleveland, Ohio, 2004-2005**

Company Instructor: Modern

**Dance Institute - Akron, Ohio, 1999-2000**

Instructor: Modern/Jazz

**Kim Robards Dance School - Denver, Colorado, 1995-2008**

Faculty: Jazz

**Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Cleveland, 2001 – 2011**

Consultant

**Responsibilities**

* Reported to Tony Sias, Director of the Department of Arts Education
* Assisted Mr. Sias as a community liaison by organizing meetings, communications, and follow-up with community constituencies
* Directed the All-City Dance Program for both East and Westside sites
* Created original choreography for the All-City Dance Program and All-City Musicals
* Recruited students for the All-City Dance Program
* Conducted dance technique classes for the 8-12 grade All-City Dance Program participants

**Accomplishments**

* Served as the choreographer of the All-City Musical from 2001 to 2009
* Assisted Cleveland School of the Arts dance department in preparing annual budget
* Created performance opportunities for the All-City Dance Ensemble
* Helped to secure a donation of over $1,500 in dance shoes

**Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre, Cleveland, 1998 – 2007**

Founder, Artistic/Executive Director

**Responsibilities**

* Hired, trained, and managed a company of 8-12 professional dancers and administrative staff
* Developed proposals and fundraising initiatives that funded core operations, programming, and special projects
* Served as the company’s public and media representative
* Developed press releases and organized events for the media to advance company’s mission
* Created original choreography, productions, educational programs, and events for main stage and outreach performances
* Organized and maintained daily, weekly, monthly and yearly schedules for company members and the artistic and administrative staff
* Conducted daily company modern and ballet technique classes
* Conducted company rehearsals
* Served as MC for outreach programs

**Accomplishments**

* Organized CCDT as Northeast Ohio’s first professional minority-based 501(c)3 contemporary dance organization
* In 2001, established CONSORT, CCDT’s flagship educational afterschool dance program for at-risk youth ages 12-18
* Garnered over $500,000 in support from individuals, foundations, and corporations
* Commissioned works by such established and emerging choreographers as Dianne McIntyre, Shapiro & Smith, David Rousseve, Kevin Iega Jeff, Krislyn World, Gary Abbott, Peter Kalivas, Paloma McGregor and Germaul Barnes.

**EDUCATION**

**2014 Ailey School (Summer)**

New York, New York

Lester Horton Pedagogy Workshop I and II

**2011-2013 The University of Iowa**

Iowa City, Iowa

Iowa Arts Fellow

Master of Fine Arts Degree in Dance

**1991-1992 Ailey School**

New York, New York

Scholarship Student

**1986-1989 The University of the Arts**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Talent Scholarship Recipient

**1987-1988 The Philadelphia School of Dance Arts**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Scholarship Student

**1985 The Chautauqua Institute (Summer)**

Chautauqua, New York

Scholarship Student

**1982-1986 The Cleveland School of the Arts**

Cleveland, Ohio

High School Diploma

**FELLOWSHIP AND GRANTS**

**State Fellowships**

For artistic achievements in dance, I have received fellowships awards from both the State of Ohio (2001) and Alabama (2016) totaling in amount of $10,000.

**Alabama State University/Alabama State Council on the Arts**

For the 2015-2016 and 2017-2018 school years secured a total of $27,500 in funding to develop several educational and artistic programs that benefitted the dance program, University community, and the region.

**Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre/Various Foundations**

Successfully procured over $750,000 in funding as an individual artist and on behalf of Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre between 1998-2007 for operating and program support from individuals and foundations such as The Ohio Arts Council, The Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, The Nord Family Foundation, The United Black Fund, The Kulas Foundation and The John P. Murphy Foundation.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

2017-Present International Association of Blacks in Dance, Inc.

Next Generation Board Member

2013-Present Alabama Dance Council, Vice President/President Elect

Committees: Guest Faculty Selection, Chair; Audition

2013-Present Cleveland Dance Movement, Board Member

2004-2007 Ohio Dance, Board Member

2002-2003 Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland, Artist Representative to the Board Member

**AWARDS, HONORS, AND CERTIFICATE**

2016 Alabama State Council on the Arts

Dance Fellowship

Dance/USA

Dance Institute for Leadership Training, Mentee

2014 Alabama State University

Department of Theatre Faculty Appreciation Award

Ailey School

Lester Horton Pedagogy Workshop Participant Certificate (Sessions I and II)

Alabama State University

Professional Development Award

2011 University of Iowa

Iowa Arts Fellow

2007 Northern Ohio Live Magazine

Award of Achievement in Dance

Ohio National Dance Week

Outstanding Contributions to Youth in Northeast Ohio

2006 Time Theatre Tribute,

Choreography Award: The Wild Party, Kaliope Stage

The George Gund Foundation

Emerging Leader in the Arts

2005 Cuyahoga County Commissioners

Outstanding Commitment and Contributions

2004 Cuyahoga County Commissioners

The Cleveland Dance Connection

Cleveland School of the Arts

Wall of Fame Alumni Award

2003 The Taskforce of Greater Cleveland

Leadership and Service to the Community Award

2002 BlackOut Unlimited

Brother Circle Vanguard Award

City of Cleveland

Mayor Jane Campbell, Proclamation

Kaleidoscope Magazine

40/40 Club Inductee

2001 Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland

Sunshine Award

2000 The Brother Circle of Cleveland

Certificate of Appreciation

**PANELS**

2017 International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference, Moderator

Panels: Men in Dance

2017 Artistic Competition for Excellent Students

Dance Judge

2016 Alabama State Council on the Arts, Grant Reviewer

Dance Category

Dance/USA (National Conference), Panelist

Dance in Academia in the 21st Century: Training Beyond Ballet and Modern Dance.

Battle of the Dancelines, Judge

2015 Battle of the Dancelines, Judge

International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference, Moderator

Panels: Men in Dance; College: To Go or Not to Go

2014 African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Judge

Mount Zion’s Got Talent

2013 Alabama State Council on the Arts, Grant Reviewer

Dance Category

2013 Alabama State University, Panelist

Theater and Dance Symposium

2007 Ohio Arts Council, Grant Reviewer

Southwest Region

2007 Dynamite Dance Competitions, Judge

2006 Dynamite Dance Competitions, Judge

2006 Ohio Arts Presenters Network, Panelist

Demystifying Dance

2005 Dance Cleveland, Moderator

Talkback with Ronald K. Brown/Evidence

**RESIDENCIES, MASTER CLASSES, AND GUEST POSITIONS**

2018 Performing Arts Studio, Lester Horton Workshops Munich, Germany

2017 Tri-C Creative Arts Academy, Guest Instructor Cleveland

2017 International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference, Master Class Dallas

2015 International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference, Master Class Cleveland

2014 Alabama Dance Festival, Master Classes Montgomery

2014 American College Dance Festival – South Region Little Rock

2014 Booker T. Washington High School, Master Class Montgomery

2014 Alabama Arts Institute, Guest Speaker Montgomery

2010-2012 Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio: Artworks, Master Teaching Artist Cleveland

2010-2011 Cleveland School of the Arts, Artist in Residence Cleveland

2009 Virginia School of the Arts, Guest Artist Lynchburg

2009 Youngstown State University, Guest Artist Youngstown

2008 Longwood University, Artist in Residence Longwood

2007 Firestone High School, Artist in Residence Akron

2006 Oberlin College, Master Class Oberlin

2004 Ohio Northern University, Artist in Residence Ada

2002 Ohio Dance Festival, Master Class Cincinnati

2002 Ohio Northern University, Artist in Residence Ada

2002 The Dance Place, Master Class Washington, D.C.

2001 Elmira College, Master Class Elmira

2001 Cleveland School of the Arts, Artist in Residence Cleveland

2001 University of Missouri-Kansas City, Artist in Residence Kansas City

1997 University of Northern Colorado, Artist in Residence Greely

**PERFORMING EXPERIENCE**

2013-Present Michael Medcalf/Inventions, Director, Choreographer, Performer Montgomery

2014 Summer Grown Women’s Dance Collective, Performer San Francisco

2011-2012 The Greene/Medcalf Movement Project, Director/Company Member Cleveland

2008-2009 Verb Ballets, Company Member Cleveland

2008 Dianne McIntyre’s, In the Groove and Over the Top, Performer Cleveland

2008 Cain Park’s The Wiz, Ensemble Member/Dance Captain Cleveland Heights

2004-2006 Karamu House’s Black Nativity, Joseph Cleveland

2001-2002 Groundworks Dance Theater, Guest Artist Cleveland

1999-2001 Dancing Wheels, Company Member Cleveland

1998-2007 Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre

Founding Artistic/Executive Director/Company Member Cleveland

1998-1999 Ohio Dance Theater, Company Member Oberlin

1996-2008 Kim Robards Dance, Company Member/Guest Artist Denver

1996-1997 David Taylor Dance Theater, Guest Artist Denver

1993-1996 Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, Company Member Denver

1992-1993 Ballethnic Dance Company, Company Member Atlanta

1992-1993 Several Dancers Core, Company Member Atlanta

1990-1992 Alfred Gallman’s Newark Dance Theater, Company Member Newark

**CHOREOGRAPHY: CONCERT STAGE**

2017 Sleeping/Beauty Alabama State University

Meditations for a Solo Mover Michael Medcalf/Inventions

2016 Today (Dance for the Camera) Michael Medcalf/Inventions

Re: Rosas! Alabama State University

Detroit 67 Alabama State University

2015 Til the End of Time, Quartet Michael Medcalf/Inventions

Brownian Movement, Variation #2, Group Work Alabama State University

2014 Love Letters, 17 minutes, Group Work Alabama State University

The Creation, 4 minutes, Duet Alabama State University

Rhinoceros Skin, 4 minutes, Solo Michael Medcalf/Inventions

The Chosen, 6 minutes, Group Work Alabama State University

Hearthside, 8 minutes, Group Work (Re-Staged) Alabama State University

A Place of Heaven, 17 minutes, Group Work Alabama State University

2013 Emma, 7 minutes, Solo (Dance for the Camera) University of Iowa

rainbows weren’t meant for little black boys

like me but i kept them in my pocket anyway,

(Thesis), 24 minutes, Group Work University of Iowa

2012 Ne Me Quitte Pas, 4 minutes, Duet University of Iowa

Once There Was Space, 8 minutes, Trio University of Iowa

Things I Have Not Forgotten, 5 minutes, Solo University of Iowa

Breathe of Life , 2 minutes, Group Work Linn Mar High School

2011 Hearthside, 8 minutes, Group Work

(Selected for 2013 ACDFA Gala Concert-Mankato) University of Iowa

(Un)Done, 6 minutes, Solo University of Iowa

Embryo, 8 minutes, Group Work University of Iowa

Yes, 5 minutes, Solo Greene/Medcalf Movement Project

2008 Carol of the Bells, 5 minutes, Group Work All-City Dance Ensemble,

Cleveland Metropolitan School District

2006 Hymn by the Water, 7 minutes, Duet Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre

2005 Long Story Short, 25 minutes, Group work Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre

If, 7 minutes, Solo, 2004 (Re-Staged) Dancing Wheels

2004 If, 7 minutes, Solo Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre

Timespent, 12 minutes, Group Work Dancing Wheels

2003 Brasilliance, 22 minutes, Group work Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre

Spiritual Suite, 12 minutes, Group Work

2002 Night Before Christmas, 75 minutes Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre

Love Suite, Love, 17 minutes, Group Work Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre

2001 Aria, 32 minutes, Group Work Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre

2000 Ceremonies, 35 minutes, Group work Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre

Ostinato, 6 minutes, Sextet Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre

Lovejoy Lane, 22 minutes, Group Work (Re-Staged)

Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre

1999 Lovejoy Lane, 22 minutes, Group Work Ohio Dance Theater

1998 Joy, 4 minutes, Solo Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre

1997 Heading into Valhalla, 10 minutes, Duet Dancespace at St. Mark’s Church

**CHOREOGRAPHY: OPERA AND THEATRE**

2017 Dauphin Island Alabama Shakespeare Festival

The Tempest Alabama Shakespeare Festival

2016 Detroit 67 Alabama State University

Cinderella Alabama Shakespeare Festival

Ain’t Misbehavin Alabama Shakespeare Festival

A Midsummer Night’s Dream Alabama Shakespeare Festival

2013 The Meeting Alabama State University

2010 Fame, The Musical! Cleveland Metropolitan School District/

Great Lakes Theater Festival

2009 Little Shop of Horrors Beck Center for the Arts

A Decade of Dreams Cleveland Metropolitan School District/

Great Lakes Theater Festival

2008 Caroline, Or Change Karamu House/Dobama Theater

Dreamgirls Cleveland Metropolitan School District/

Great Lakes Theater Festival

Hansel and Gretel Opera Cleveland

2007 Guys and Dolls Cleveland Metropolitan School District/

Great Lakes Theater Festival

A Little Night Music Opera Cleveland

La Traviata Opera Cleveland

2006 The Wild Party Kalliope Stage

Urinetown Firestone High School

South Pacific Cleveland Metropolitan School District/

Great Lakes Theater Festival

2005 The Hot Mikado Cleveland Metropolitan School District/

Great Lakes Theater Festival

Crowns Weathervane Playhouse

2004 Carmen Jones Cleveland Metropolitan School District/

Great Lakes Theater Festival

2003 Westside Story Cleveland Metropolitan School District/

Great Lakes Theater Festival

2002 The Wiz Cleveland Metropolitan School District/

Great Lakes Theater Festival

2001 The Bacchae of Euripides Cleveland Public Theater

1999 South Pacific East Cleveland Community Theater

**CHOREOGRAPHY: CORPORATE EVENTS**

2017 Martin Luther King, Jr Citywide Celebration Davis Theatre

2016 Martin Luther King, Jr Citywide Celebration Davis Theatre

2015 Martin Luther King, Jr Citywide Celebration Davis Theatre

Season Opening Football Game Celebration Alabama State University

2005 The Idea Center Opening Gala Playhouse Square Foundation

Fundraising Gala United Black Fund

2004 Fundraising Gala United Black Fund

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Alltel Corporation

2003 Fundraising Gala United Black Fund

Football Hall of Fame Luncheon Eventworks, Inc.

2002 Football Hall of Fame Luncheon Eventworks, Inc.

