

DAVALOIS FEARON

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EDUCATION

- 2015–2016 **MFA, Dance**, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
- 2001–2005 **BFA, Dance**, SUNY Purchase College Conservatory, Purchase, NY

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- 2016–present **Davalois Fearon Dance**, Founder, Executive Director, Artistic Director
Choreographer and Director of an emerging, socially conscious dance company. Responsible for managing all administrative operations, including development and marketing; overseeing an internship program to educate young dance professionals about the business side of dance; and serving as a booking agent, procuring performance and residency opportunities for the company.
- 2014–2016 **DVF Dance**, Founder, Executive Director, Artistic Director
See above

CHOREOGRAPHY & COMMISSIONS

Select performances & works

- “Finding Herstory” *Commissioned by the Stephen Petronio Company for the 2021 Bloodlines(future) Program. Finding Herstory is inspired by Africanist forms such as reggae and dancehall that have contributed to the American dance landscape and shaped Fearon as an artist.*
October 2021, PLG Arts, New York, NY
- “Joy” *Developed in response to conversations with Mary Mount Manhattan Dance Conservatory students about the challenges of accessing joy during the COVID-19 pandemic and performed at the Spring 2021 Mainstage Performances.*
May 2021, Marymount Manhattan College Dance Department, New York, NY
- “Just Be” *An “emotionally resonant contemporary work” (Nelly van Bommel, Director, Purchase College Conservatory of Dance) inspired by my need to envision a world in which people radically support one another so that every human can Just Be.*
May 2021, Spring 2021 Virtual Dance Concert, Purchase College, Purchase NY
- “COVID Talks with Raja and Dava” *Part of the “Future Impossible” series of prompts via interview, essay, and other prose, featuring conversations with 16 artists, curated by choreographer Raja Feather Kelly. This work explores what the future may hold for dance, given the pandemic.*

April 2021, *Bates Dance Festival*, Lewiston, ME

“For C.J.”

Dedicated to my nephew C.J., the victim of a fatal asthma attack, this three-part piece for three dancers uses nature to explore themes of loss and remembrance. The work celebrates C.J.’s life and tells his story through my fluid yet assertive movement vocabulary. It features original music composed by multi-reedist Mike McGinnis; wearable sculpture, costume, and makeup by interdisciplinary artist Jasmine Murrell; set design by the performer and visual artist Myssi Robinson; and was created in part from “As Above, As Below.”

October 2020, Davalois Fearon Dance Virtual Theater

March 2020, BRIC, Brooklyn, NY

October 2019, Elebash Hall, New York, NY

March 2019, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, Bronx, NY

“Walk Good ‘Lady’”

A Barnard Dances 2019 commission uses themes of dysfunction and function to explore feminine identity related to mental health, born out of in-depth discussions on gender, toxic femininity, and notions of positive femininity.

November 2019, Barnard Columbia Dances, New York Live Arts, New York, NY

“Let Us”

Sparked by the current mass incarceration epidemic and informed by statistical data from the EJI and the 2016 documentary 13th by director Ava DuVernay, this piece was developed as part of the 2019 Swamp Dance Festival.

July 2019, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

**“Longing
Belonging”**

The shared artistic and personal experiences of Davalois Fearon and Keely Garfield are harnessed in this exploration of the complex reality of raising biracial children and having a multi-ethnic cultural heritage. This piece was a commissioned solo for Gibney’s Solo for Solo series, created and curated by Eva Yaa Asantewaa, featuring commissions by developing choreographers created expressly for veteran performers during a three-month residency.

June 2019, Gibney Dance, New York, NY

**“The Motion of
Words and Sound”**

A music, dance, and poetry experience featuring longtime collaborators Davalois Fearon and Mike McGinnis, joined by world-renowned poet Patricia Smith. This piece stems from Fearon’s work Power Inside and Between, inspired by rage, sexuality, and the spirit of improvisation.

June 2019, Vision Festival, Roulette Intermedium, Brooklyn, NY

“One Day”

A commissioned solo for a graduating student at Skidmore College, reflecting on how difficult, life-changing moments may find their way into our lives on any ordinary day.

April 2019, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY

- “Power Inside and Between”** *A site-specific piece commissioned by Pentacle for their Dance Series at the Rubin Museum. This piece reclaims the “Angry Black Woman” trope to find the power inside rage, inside community, and inside the black female body.*
April 2019, The Rubin Museum of Art, New York, NY
- “As Above, As Below”** *This site-specific choreography was created in dialogue with Gordon Matta-Clark’s 1971 performance Tree Dance, incorporating the alchemic philosophy of his conceptual processes with my own. The Bronx Museum of the Arts commissioned this piece as part of the BxMA Co-Lab dance series.*
April 2018, Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY
- “Time to Talk”** *This very personal and still-evolving solo work reflects my experiences with racial identity in the United States, institutionalized racism, and the ahistorical erasure of black dancers and artists in arts education.*
February 2021, Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, FL
June 2020, Davalois Fearon Dance Virtual Theater
August 2018, The Yard, Martha's Vineyard
July 2018, Victory Theater, New York, NY
March 2018, Mabou Mines, New York, NY
July 2017, The Met Breuer, New York, NY
- “Dismantling Racial Bias in Arts Funding”** *This essay, “Dismantling Racial Bias in Arts Funding: The Role of NYC Arts Institutions,” was commissioned by Dance/NYC for their Advancing Fiscally Sponsored Dance Artists & Projects report.*
June 2017, DanceNYC, New York, NY
- “Lift”** *A response to “Time to Talk” examines the roles played by cross-cultural movements stemming from the African diaspora in the development of contemporary dance and celebrates those who helped build American dance, often without acknowledgment or credit.*
August 2017, Wassaic Summer Arts Festival, Wassaic, NY
- “Water, Thirst & Storm”** *This group piece, commissioned by The Harlem Stage, draws three sections of “Consider Water” into one shorter work exploring water properties, human reliance on this life-sustaining resource, and its power as a force of nature.*
April 2016, E-Moves 17, The Harlem Stage, New York, NY
- “Consider Water”** *A contemporary 10-part dance for four dancers accompanied by live music and video projection. This long-evolving work, which I have also sometimes danced as a solo or presented as a trio, features original music composed by Mike McGinnis and brings attention to important social and environmental issues related to water.*
March 2021, World Water Week, University of Texas at El Paso, Virtual Screening
January 2017, Joyce Theater, New York, NY

January 2016, *Sheffield Global Arts Management APAP Showcase*, Manhattan Movement & Arts Center, New York, NY

December 2015, *Berkeley Arts Festival*, Berkeley, CA

October 2015, *BAAD! BlacTinX Dance Festival*, Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance, Bronx, NY

May 2015, *Bronx Council on the Arts: Artist for Community Engagement*, Andrew Freedman Home, Bronx, NY

February 2014, *Brural: Shattering Phenomena*, Bronx River Arts Center, Bronx, NY

“Everything Water” *This opening solo from “Consider Water” explores the characteristics, power, and movement of water through the embodiment of its qualities.*

November 2014, *BAAD! BlacTinX Dance Festival*, Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance, Bronx, NY

May 2014, Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FL

“Ängsudden Song Cycle” *A solo work choreographed to the music of Mike McGinnis, inspired by the visual art of MuKha.*

October 2013, Roulette, Brooklyn, NY

“Let It Take You” *A duet dedicated to letting go and losing oneself in the moment.*

May 2013, SUNY Purchase Dance Theater Lab, Purchase, NY

“It’s Still Warm” *An excerpt from “Ängsudden Song Cycle.”*

January 2013, Ängsudden House, Ängsudden, Sweden

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

“Dance We Do” *A celebration of black choreographers and a testament to the power of community.*

March 2021, IABD 30th Anniversary Celebration

“A Conversation among Ntokaze’s SiStars,” with Mickey Davidson, Dayne Harvey Salaam, Dianne McIntyre, and Halifu Osumare.

“For C. J. Initiative” *Awareness-raising events featuring performance and public discussion about asthma and the effects of systemic environmental and medical racism.*

May 2021, Kumah Festival

Awareness-raising events featuring a performance of an excerpt of “For C.J.”

October 2020, Davalois Fearon Dance Virtual Theater

Post-performance discussion

March 2020, BRIC, Brooklyn NY

Post-performance discussion

December 2018, BAAD! Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, Bronx, NY

Paneled public discussion with Paulette Spencer, MPH, MA, Consultant/Community Engagement-Policy Analyst with the Bronx Community Health Network (BCHN).

April 2018, Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY

Paneled public discussion with Charmaine Ruddock, MS, Project Director, Bronx Health REACH; Jennifer Mitchell, Executive Director of The HOPE Program, Sustainable South Bronx; and Paulette Spencer, MPH, MA Consultant/Community Engagement-Policy Analyst with the Bronx Community Health Network (BCHN); moderated by Christine Licata, Director of Community & Public Programs at BxMA.

“Time to Talk Initiative”

Facilitated public discussion about American history, dance history, racial identity formation, and systemic racism related to the field of dance and society at large.

March 2021, BAX, Brooklyn NY

Virtual Time to Talk - Shedding Workshop with Mikaila Ware and guest facilitators Kadie Henderson and Brooke Rucker

February 2021, Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, FL

Post-performance Discussion

October 2020, Davalois Fearon Dance Virtual Theater

Moderated by Dr. Charmaine Warren

June 2020, Davalois Fearon Dance Virtual Theater

Facilitated by Elissa Buxbaum, Anti-Defamation League, and Jennifer Jordan, former NAACP New York State Youth & College Division Advisor, and former NAACP New York State Youth Work Committee Chairperson

August 2018, The Yard, Chilmark, MA

Moderated by David White, Artistic Director/Executive Producer, The Yard

July 2018, New Victory Theater, New York, NY

Facilitated by New Victory Teaching Artists Patrick Ferreri and Penelope McCourty

March 2018, Mabou Mines, New York, NY

Co-facilitated by Jennifer Jordan, NAACP Youth Advisor; and Elissa Buxbaum, Director of Campus Affairs for the Anti-Defamation League

January 2018, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Moderated by Linda Murray, Dance Curator for the Jerome Robbins Dance Division, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

July 2017, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Theater of the Resist, New York, NY

Moderated by Terrance McKnight, a WQXR host

April 2017, BAAD! Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, Bronx, NY

Paneled public discussion with Dalaeja Foreman, Bronx Council on the Arts Grant Administrator; moderated by composer Mike McGinnis

“Consider Water Initiative”

Public awareness-raising discussions about local and global water issues.

March 2021, The University of Texas at El Paso

Re-Valuing Water in Glocal Practices Structure Dance Symposium panelist

February 2018, DanceNYC

Dance in the Changing United States: Working at the Intersection of Dance & Climate
panelist

December 2016, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI
Paneled public discussion with Amber Tucker, Interim Assistant Director of UWM Women's Resource Center & Ph.D. Candidate, Urban Education; Karen Collins, Sociology MA, Ph.D. Candidate; Fred Royal, President of the NAACP UWM; moderated by Angela McKenzie, Administrative Law Judge, FPC Commissioner

October 2015, BAAD! Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, Bronx, NY
Paneled public discussion with Damion Good, Education Director; Bronx River Alliance

October 2015, Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, FL
Paneled public discussion with Sheree Scheuer, Natural Resources Agent for UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension

“Consider Water Workshops”

Awareness-raising dance workshops for youth, exploring water issues.

September 2015, *Ages 9-12*, Yonkers Family YMCA, Yonkers, NY

March 2014, *Ages 4-12*, The Bronx House Performing Arts School, Bronx, NY

PROFESSIONAL HONORS & AWARDS

- 2021
- Performing Artist Recovery Fund**, Doris Duke Foundation, New York, NY
 - The Arts Fund Grant**, Bronx Council on the Arts, Bronx, NY
 - Bloodlines(future) Commission**, Stephen Petronio Company, New York, NY
 - Dance Advancement Fund Award**, DanceNYC, New York, NY
 - Howard Gilman**, Howard Gilman, NY
 - Finalist for Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship**, Jerome Foundation, NY
 - FCA Emergency Grants COVID-19 Fund Grant**, Foundation for Contemporary Artists, NY
- 2020
- New Music USA Project Grant Award**, New Music USA
 - Dance Advancement Fund Award**, DanceNYC, New York, NY
 - The Arts Fund Grant**, Bronx Council on the Arts, Bronx, NY
 - BAX Parent Artist Space Grant**, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Brooklyn, NY
- 2019
- MAP Fund Grant**, MAP Fund, New York, NY
 - BRIO Fellowship**, Bronx Council on the Arts, Bronx, NY
 - BRICLab Residency**, BRIC, Brooklyn, NY
Resident Artist Awardee
 - BAX Parent Artist Space Grant**, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Brooklyn, NY

New Directions Choreography Fellowship, Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation

ART Award, Pentacle, New York, NY

Prestigious Young Leader Artists' Committee , Joyce Theater, New York, NY

2018

Artistic Residency, Wassaic Projects, Wassaic, NY

Resident Artist Awardee

Suite/Space Residency, Mabou Mines, New York, NY

Resident Artist Awardee

ChoreoQuest Residency, RestorationART, Brooklyn, NY

Resident Artist Awardee

New Work Commission, Bronx Museum of the Arts BxMA Co-Lab, Bronx, NY

Artist for Community Grant, Bronx Council on the Arts, Bronx, NY

The Arts Fund Grant, Bronx Council on the Arts, Bronx, NY

ART Award, Pentacle, New York, NY

Prestigious Young Leader Artists' Committee , Joyce Theater, New York, NY

2017

Pearl Diving Movement Residency, Pearl Arts Studio, Pittsburgh, PA

Visiting Artist Awardee

BRIO Fellowship, Bronx Council on the Arts, Bronx, NY

ART Award, Pentacle, New York, NY

Bessie Award

Outstanding Performer, as part of the "skeleton architecture" ensemble

Prestigious Young Leader Artists' Committee , Joyce Theater, New York, NY

2016

New Work Commission, The Harlem Stage, New York, NY

Advanced Opportunity Fellowship, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Artist for Community Grant, Bronx Council on the Arts, Bronx, NY

The Arts Fund Grant, Bronx Council on the Arts, Bronx, NY

Prestigious Young Leader Artists' Committee , Joyce Theater, New York, NY

2015

Advanced Opportunity Fellowship, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

The Arts Fund Grant, Bronx Council on the Arts, Bronx, NY

MuKha Dance Award, MuKha Arts & Science Foundation, Stockholm

Prestigious Young Leader Artists' Committee , Joyce Theater, New York, NY

TEACHING

2018–Present

Adjunct Assistant Professor, CUNY College of Staten Island, Staten Island, NY

Non-Western and Western approaches to improvisation, Black Dance Workshop, and Ballet

- 2018–2021 **Lecturer of Dance**, SUNY Purchase College, Purchase, NY
Contemporary/Special Modern Dance/Fearon Technique, non-Western and Western approaches to improvisation, Senior Seminar, Purchase Dance Company Guest Choreographer.
- 2021 **Guest Professor**, Mary Mount Manhattan College, New York, NY
Spring Concert Guest Choreographer
- 2019 **Guest Professor**, Fordham University/The Alvin Ailey School
New Directions Choreographer
- 2019 **Guest Professor**, Barnard College, New York, NY
New York Live Arts, Barnard/Columbia Dances Fall semester Guest Choreographer
- 2019 **Guest Teacher**, South Bronx Charter School for International Culture and the Arts,
Pentacle's Behind the Scenes education program
- 2019 **Guest Professor**, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Non-Western based improvisation, Composition, Swap Dance Festival Guest Choreographer
- 2017 **Guest Professor**, Skidmore College
Petronio Technique, non- Western and Western approach improvisation, Injury prevention and Petronio repertory
- 2017 **Guest Teacher**, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA
Skeleton Architecture Residency non-Western based improvisational workshop facilitatory, coordinator and teacher
- 2017 **Guest Professor**, Long Island University Brooklyn Dance Program
Fearon Contemporary Technique and Petronio repertory
- 2017 **Guest Professor and Education Coordinator**, Bam Dance Motions USA
*Petronio Technique, Non-Western and Western approaches to improvisation, and Petronio repertory to a student body population that included pre-professional dancers, professional dancers, and beginning dancers with mixed abilities such as deafness, blindness, and autism. Selected locations at which this programming was presented include **Pathlight School, the first autism-focused school in Singapore; Maharakham University, Thailand; and the Vietnam University of Fine Arts (formerly Hanoi College of Fine Arts).***

- 2016 **“Artistpreneur” Workshop**, SUNY Purchase College, Purchase, NY
This class was designed to help dance artists navigate the wider dance world and take control of their careers and businesses by introducing participants to income streams outside of performing and discussing how to start and run a company that reflects and honors the core values inspiring their work and lives.
- 2015–present **Contemporary Master Classes**, Gibney Dance, New York NY
- 2015 **Contemporary Master Classes**
 Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
 SUNY Purchase College, Purchase, NY
 Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance, Bronx, NY
- 2015 **“The Making of ‘Consider Water’: A Music & Dance Collaboration Workshop,”**
 New York, NY
Taught with multi-reedist Mike McGinnis, this non-Western improvisation-based workshop was designed to help dancers and musicians co-create, explore improvisation, develop movement and music phrases, and then collaboratively shape and edit them.
- 2014–2017 **Stephen Petronio Company Education Coordinator**, New York, NY
Conducted teacher training workshops for company members and created the first Petronio Technique syllabus.
- 2014–present **Lyrical Dance**, Youth Theater Interactions, Yonkers, NY
- 2014–present **Modern Dance**, The Bronx House Performing Arts School, Bronx, NY
- 2014 **“Consider Water” Repertory Workshop**, CAP21, New York, NY
- 2014 **Contemporary Dance**, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, Twin Lake, MI
- 2011 **Liz Gerring Dance Company**, Company Class, New York, NY
- 2010–2012 **Ballet, Pointe & Modern Dance**, The Dance Hut, Queens, NY
- 2009 **Contemporary Dance**, Roy Arias Studio, New York NY
- 2005–2017 **Stephen Petronio Company Master Classes**
Classes taught over this period include but are not limited to:
2015, Amherst College, Amherst, MA
2014–2017, Gibney Dance, New York, NY
2013, DANY Studios, New York, NY
2011, Artown Festival, Reno, NV
2008, Sheffield, UK
2006, Dance New Amsterdam, New York, NY

2005–2006, Baryshnikov Arts Center, New York, NY

2005–2017, Steps on Broadway, New York, NY

PERFORMANCE

- 2013–present **Davalois Fearon Dance**, New York, NY
The repertory includes the following premieres:
2019, “The Motion of Words and Sound”
2019, “Longing Belonging”
2019, “Power Inside and Between”
2018, “Time to Talk”
2017, “Consider Water”
2016, “Water, Thirst & Storm”
2013, “Ängsudden Song Cycle”
- 2005–2017 **The Stephen Petronio Company**, New York, NY
The repertory includes the following premieres:
2016, “Big Daddy Deluxe”
2015, “Non Locomotor”
2014, “Locomotor”
2013, “Like Lazarus Did”
2012, “Architecture of Loss” & “City of Twist”
2011, “Underland”
2009, “I Drink the Air Before Me”
2008, “This is the story of a Girl in the World”
2006, “Bloom”
- February 2013 **Laurel Desmarais**, “The Encounter,” New York, NY
- September 2012 **Katrina Philip**, “Kari(s)ma,” New York, NY
- April 2012 **Barrington Hinds**, “Let It Take You,” New York, NY
- April 2008 **The Concert of Hope for Pope Benedict XVI**, New York, NY
Choreography by Danny Ezralow
- 2004–2005 **Forces of Nature Dance Theater**, Brooklyn & New York, NY

DIRECTING

Choreography by Stephen Petronio

- 2015–2017 **BLOODLINES** | Rehearsal Director, New York, NY
This initiative honored the lineage of postmodern dance and featured iconic choreographers of the 20th and 21st centuries. My role was to ensure that dancers embodied the qualities required by each piece.

- May 2014 **“Non Locomotor”** | Rehearsal Director, The Atlantic Center for the Arts, Smyrna, FL
- March 2013 **“Science of the Mind”** | Rehearsal Director, Purchase Dance Theater Lab, Purchase, NY
- February 2012 **“City of Twist”** | Rehearsal Director, Alvin Ailey Theater, New York, NY
- March 2011 *Prometheus Bound* | Assistant Rehearsal Director, ART, Cambridge, MA
- November 2010 **“Social Band”** | Rehearsal Director, Asolo Theater, New York, NY
- March 2006 **“No More Heroes”** | Rehearsal Director, Purchase DTL, Purchase, NY