

## Stefanie Cohen

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### Education/Certification

M.A. with Distinction, Dance and Somatic Well-Being, University of Central Lancashire, Preston UK, 2012 Modules included Dance, Connection and Support, Dance and the Skeletal System, Dance and Fluid Transitioning, Soma and Phenomenology, Dance and Relaxation, Reformation: Sacred in Dance, Presence, Kinesthesia and Meta Kinesis, and Somatic Research (Thesis)

ISMETA, Registered Somatic Movement Therapist, 2020; Registered Somatic Movement Educator, 2010

B.A. Cum Laude with High Honors in Theater, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, 1990  
Contemplative Dance Year - Long Program in Authentic Movement, West Haven, MA, 1997-98

Wolf Trap Arts-Infused Early Learning Training, Living Arts/Detroit Wolf Trap, Detroit MI 2013

### Publications

“Sightless Touch and Touching Witnessing: Interplays of Authentic Movement and Contact Improvisation”, *Journal of Dance and Somatic Practices* 2: 1, 2010, pp. 103-112

“Embodied Listening: Teaching Intersections of Contact and Authentic Movement, *Encounters with Contact*, Editor: Ann Cooper Albright, Oberlin University, 2010, pp. 74-75.

Poetry included in *Fire in the Womb: Mothers and Creativity*, XLibris Press, Fall, 2003, p.38.

“They Move Through Us,” co-authored article, *Contact Quarterly*, Vol. 26, Number 2, May, 2001, pp. 49-55.

### Academic Teaching and Presentations

- Towson University, Guest Artist Teaching Authentic Movement, Theater MFA and BFA students, Towson, MD, 2018
- University of Michigan, Frankel Fellows, performance workshop held at Light Box Performance Space, Detroit, MI 2018 \*\*
- University of Michigan, “The Female Experience: Creativity of Difference”, Guest lecturer of workshop seminar on creative process, Ann Arbor, MI, 2013 \*\*
- University of Michigan, “Embodiment/Environment/Community”, Department of English, Guest lecturer of workshop seminar on devising performance,, Ann Arbor, MI, 2012 \*\*
- Purdue University, “Kinetic/Kinesthetic Sculpture”: Contact Improvisation and Site-Specific performance workshop, West Lafayette, IN, 2012 \*\*
- University of Michigan, “Embodiment/Environment/Community”, Guest lecturer of two-part seminar on devising performance, Ann Arbor, MI, 2012 \*\*
- University of Michigan, Fellow, Somatics, Movement and Writing: Art-based Research Symposium; conference director: Petra Kuppens, Ann Arbor, MI, 2011

- University of Michigan, Embodiment/Environment/Community, Department of English, Guest lecturer of three-part seminar devising performance, Ann Arbor, MI, 2011 \*\*
- Naturopathic School of The Healing Arts, Core Teaching Staff, Ann Arbor, MI, 2009 - 2012
- Oakland University Department of Dance, Guest lecturer “Contemporary Trends in Modern Dance.” – Contact Improv, Authentic Movement, Somatic Education, 2009 and 2011.
- University of Michigan, “Arts and Bodies” Symposium — Led experiential presentation for faculty and students in somatic practice, Duderstadt Center,, Ann Arbor, MI, 2009
- Living Arts/Detroit Wolf Trap, Detroit, MI, 2010 – 2013– Independently contracted teaching artist working with arts-infused education program in Detroit public schools, and preschools.
- University of Michigan, Dance and Writing, Guest lecturer of two-part seminar, Dept. of English, Ann Arbor, MI October 2009
- Eastern Michigan University Department of Dance, Ypsilanti, MI, Fall semester, 2008, DANC 278: Dance Workshop – taught semester-length course in improvised dance; directed students in dance for annual concert
- University of Michigan, Fellow, “Touching Time: Bodies/Writing/Histories” - Practice-based research symposium; director: Petra Kupperts, Ann Arbor, MI, 2008  
University of Michigan Department of Dance, Guest lecturer, Ann Arbor, MI 2008
- Eastern Michigan University Department of Dance, Ypsilanti, MI, January 2008 – Guest lecturer teaching Authentic Movement as source for dance composition.
- Oakland University Department of Dance, Rochester, MI, October, 2007. – Two- part class, taught Contact Improvisation to undergraduates
- University of Michigan Department of Dance, Ann Arbor, MI, March, 2006
- Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan, Chelsea, MI, April, 2001. – Assisted in setting work on company dancers between 8-18 yrs of age; introduced principles of improvisation.
- The Museum School of Fine Arts, Guest Lecturer – “Artists’ Survival Skills” Boston, MA, 1997.
- Harvard University, Guest Artist – Performance Studies, Cambridge, MA, 1996.
- Boston University, Graduate Playwriting Seminar, Boston, MA, 1991-92. Theatrical director, assisting Derek Walcott’s MFA playwriting students in staging and editing dramatic writings.

\*\*One of several workshops collaboratively-taught with Corey Gearhart

### **Leadership/Artistic Affiliations:**

- Co-Artistic Director, Curator, and Steward Light Box Performance Space, Detroit, MI 2014 - present.
- Collaborative Artist, Stefanie Cohen and Corey Gearhart (frmlly: Upended Teacups), Ann Arbor and Detroit, MI — Collaborative, cross-disciplinary project with Corey Gearhart creating performance art, installation, dance and video works. 2010 - present.
- Owner Moving Stories: Discovering the Body’s Wisdom Through Movement. 2007-present.
- Owner/Manager SOMA: Studio Of Movement Arts, Ann Arbor, MI 2007- 2019.
- Teaching Artist, independently contracted arts-infused education teacher of preschool to second grade students, through Living Arts and Detroit Wolf Trap, Detroit, MI, 2009-2013
- Member, Teaching Artist Group, West Coast Contact Improv Festival, Berkeley, CA 2002-2007

- Assistant Coordinator/Advisory Committee member, SomaFest, Assisted in running Los Angeles-based festival of Somatics and Conscious Embodiment in Performance; moderated post-performance panel discussions among festival faculty, Santa Monica, CA 2007
- Co-Creator/Administrator, GLACIER (Great Lakes Area Contact Improvisation Enthusiasts' Retreat). Founding and on-going leader of a regional community of Contact Improvisation dancers. Primary creator and facilitator, and among the faculty of annual, 50 participant, five-day dance retreat in central Wisconsin. 2001- 2011.
- Founding Member, LAVA Dance Collective, Chicago-based improvisational dance company performing across the U.S. 2001-2010

**Awards:**

Brandeis University, 1990, Brown Award for excellence in theater