

## **Mary Francis “Cissy” Whipp**

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### **Education/Training**

- August 1980: MA: Performing Arts: Dance, American University, Washington D. C. Areas of concentration: Laban Movement Analysis, Choreography, Performance, Kinesiology.
- December 1978: BFA: Choreographic Design, University of Louisiana, Lafayette. Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*. Areas of concentration: Choreography, Performance, and Dance Pedagogy.
- September 1999-present: Training sessions at the Kennedy Center Workshop Leaders’ Retreat include such topics as Understanding by Design (with J. McTighe), Essential Questions/Big Ideas (with J. McTighe), Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Framework, Creating Assessments for the Arts, Documenting Student Work, Kennedy Center’s Definition of Arts Integration, Common Core Standards & the Arts, Differentiated Instruction in the Arts, Arts Assessments, STEAM, Presenting Virtual Workshops
- 2017- present: Training with Louisiana A+ Schools with topics such as multiple learning pathways, arts assessments, 8 Essentials of A+ schools, arts integration strategies, and technology tools for virtual workshops
- 2008-2009: Training in Bernstein Artful Learning methods. Created and coached arts-integrated units for K-5 teachers at J Wallace James Elementary
- 2009-2010: Training at Lincoln Center’s Institute for Educators.
- 2011-2013: Training in VTS (Visual Thinking Strategies)
- 2021-2022: Training in creating Online Educational Resources, Pressbooks, and Moodle. Training on writing a Dance Appreciation course and textbook for the Louisiana State Board of Regents.

### **Awards/Honors**

- 2015: Dance Educator of the Year, LAHPERD
- 1997: Acadiana Arts Award for outstanding contributions to the arts in Acadiana.
- 1997-1999: One of six artists chosen for Listen Up! Conversations on Creativity, a panel discussion/performance evening, edited into a 30 minute video documentary aired on Louisiana Public Broadcasting during Fall 1998 and Spring 1999.
- 1986-2002: Louisiana State Artists Roster
- 1980: Metropolitan Dance Association’s Choreographers Showcase in Washington, D.C.

### **Professional Choreographic & Performing Experience**

- 2023: Performed in Ten Tiny Dances in Paige Krause’s choreography.
- 2019: There’s More to the Story, choreographer, and performer for the original play by Patricia Drury Sidman.
- 2005-present: Acting Up! In Acadiana: Performer and contributing choreographer for productions such as: Sustained Winds: Before, During, and After the Hurricanes, Macbeth, Richard III, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Patriot Acts, Play.Music.Heal, Twelfth Night, April Fools, and Showcases 2019 – 2023.

- 2014 Reconstructed a 2000 choreographic work, Eye of the Blackbird, an original multimedia work inspired by the poetry of Wallace Stevens for ULL College of the Arts' ArtTech Fusion and for Oiseau at the Acadiana Center for the Arts.
- 2003–2007, 2011, 2013: Summer Youth Shakespeare, Acadiana Center for the Arts. Choreographer and dance instructor for A Midsummer Night's Dream, Much Ado About Nothing, As You Like It, Love's Labour's Lost, Twelfth Night and The Tempest.
- 2003–2005: Star Blazer's Children's Dance Company: Director, choreographer.
- 2003 Swamp Magic: The Birth of the Gris Gris Sisters. Festival International de Louisiane. Choreographer.
- 1999 Centennial Oaks University of Louisiana, Lafayette's Centennial Celebration, choreographer for the film and live performance at the Cajun Dome.
- 1992–2002: State of LA Danse University of Louisiana, Lafayette. Repertory pieces include Shakers and Water Study by Doris Humphrey, Falling Off the Back Porch and Café Dansants...With and Without Sugar by Clay Taliaferro and Faded Love by Martha Brim. Own work includes Rhythm Rites, Festival Suite, Taiko Drums, Inner Voices, Lapin and the Ball at M'sieur Deer's, Free Associations, and Eye of the Blackbird. Reconstructed four choreographic pieces (from Mary Poppins, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, and The Fred Waring Show) by Louisiana Legend Marc Breaux.
- 1999 USL Concert Series: Compere Lapin's Bayou Folk Tales with Michael & Sharon Doucet. Director, choreographer, and performer.
- 1997 IMagination PROVocation Performer in evening-length jazz and dance improvisation at the Artists Alliance, Lafayette, LA.
- 1997 Festival International de Louisiane: Festival Suite for the Festival Preview Party to the music of La Vesse du Loup, a Quebecois folk/rock band.
- 1997–1998: The Dancer's Group: Featured performer in Le Fay and Fairyland
- 1994–1995: Choreographer for USL School of Music Opera Guild: Pirates of Penzance and H.M.S. Pinafore.
- 1993–1994 Gris Gris Co-director, choreographer and performer. Dance and drumming improvisational group with street and theater performances based on Louisiana themes.
- 1992–1994: SUNY Potsdam. Performer and choreographer for ten dances in four Faculty Dance Concerts
- 1989–1994: La Compagnie Louisianaise Musical Theater touring company based on Cajun and Creole culture. Performances include regional music and folklore festivals and include a five week tour of France in 1990, Belgium in 1991. Performer and co-choreographer.
- 1981–1990: Moving South Dance, Inc. Founding member, performer, choreographer, studio director. Choreographed or co-choreographed Cajun Days of the Week, The Gospel of Mark, High Tech, Flashbacks, Vivaldi Variations, On the Beach, Dimanche, Country Nights, Night Zone, and The Princess and the Sparrow. Extensive regional touring with Young Audiences of New Orleans and various arts education programs. Repertory concerts include Festival International de Louisiane and International Children's Festival in Washington, D.C.
- 1978–1998: Performed with Independent Choreographers/Performance Artists: Sharon Wyrick, Addison Hoffman, Nancy Galeota, Murray Spaulding, Bradley Wester, Toni Brown, Ellen Roberts, Meghan Larpenter, The Dancer's Group.
- 1981: Presented own work, Scales, at the Cunningham Studio in NYC, 1981.
- 1980: Master's Thesis Concert, Mixed Means, American University: Shadow Dance and Drives.
- 1979: American University's Fall and Spring Concerts: Discussions on Making All Things Equal and Footage.
- 1978: USL Senior Thesis Concert: Elemental States of Energy and Media Variations.

## ***Administrative Experience***

- 2023: Dance Curriculum Writer for St. Martin Parish STEAM Academy.
- 2014- 2015: Dance Education Chair for Louisiana Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (LAHPERD)
- 2007- 2016: Mentoring Teaching Artists with the PACE arts residency program through the Acadiana Center for the Arts. Designing the Scope & Sequence for the Creative Movement/Dance component. Designing the assessment tools for the program.
- 2012 –2014: Member of the Arts Task Force for Lafayette Parish School System
- 2012 – 2014: Chair, JWJ Arts/Cultural Committee: event planning for arts-related fundraisers, exhibitions, community events, field trips, and performances.
- 2007-2010: PAL (Performing Arts Learners) Initiative One of the three Master Artists presenting workshops and panel discussions for educators and artists on various topics concerning the use of performing arts in schools. Included a mentoring program for emerging artists or classroom teachers in dance, music, and theatre.
- 2007-2009: Middle School Dance chair for Louisiana State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Design Committee. Wrote sample lessons for each content standard.
- 2002-2003: Dance representative for Louisiana State Department of Education Arts Assessments Design Committee. Wrote assessments for State Content Standards.
- 2001-2002: Design Committee for the new arts-integrated elementary school in Lafayette, LA. Duties included planning the details of scheduling arts classes for the K-5 school and planning and implementing arts integration training for faculty.
- 1997-1999: The Artist's Alliance. Chair of Programming Committee
- 1993-2002: Director, Children's Dance Guild at ULL
- 1981-1990: Moving South Dance Company, Founding member, Studio Director, Designer of the Touring Arts programming, member of the Executive Board.
- 1985-1988: Showcase Coordinator for Acadiana Arts Council's Arts Expo
- 1982-1984: Lafayette Summer Dance Workshop, Director.

## ***Teaching Experience***

### **Professional Development Workshops:**

- January 1999-present: John F. Kennedy Center National Teaching Artist Presenting workshops on integrating dance into the curriculum for teachers in Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.
- January 2017-present: Louisiana A+ Schools Teaching Artist Fellow Presenting workshops on integrating dance into the curriculum for teachers in Louisiana.
- Summers 1998, 1999 & 2005: LA Lagniappe at University of Louisiana, Lafayette. Presented workshops for gifted education teachers on integrating the arts into the curriculum.
- Fall 1993-present: Adventures for Educators, Acadiana Center for the Arts. Presenting workshops for teachers on a variety of topics relating to arts integration.

### **University Level:**

- August 2023-current: University of Louisiana, Lafayette. Adjunct Faculty in Performing Arts, Dance. Courses taught: Philosophy and History of Dance, Choreography II, Dance Pedagogy, and Dance and World Cultures. Mentoring student choreographers.
- August 1993- May 2002: University of Louisiana, Lafayette. Adjunct Faculty in Performing Arts, Dance. Courses taught: Beginning Jazz, Modern I, Dance Production I & II, Intro to Dance, Rhythmic Analysis I & II, Co-teacher for Dance Pedagogy. Guest lecturer for the Education Department's Arts in the Curriculum class 1996 – 2001. Presented master classes for ACDFAs. Choreographed for both Evening of Dance and State of LA Danse concerts each year.

August 1990- May 1992: Potsdam College of the State University of New York. Visiting Instructor  
Courses taught: Beginning Ballet, Beginning Jazz, Modern I – IV, Ballet I & II, Composition I  
& II, Improvisation, Teaching of Dance: Creative Movement, and Senior Seminar.

January 1988: University of Louisiana, Lafayette. Guest Faculty, Choreographic Design program.  
Courses taught: Beginning & Advanced Jazz, Beginning & Advanced Modern, Dance  
Production, New Repertory.

August-December 1981: George Washington University, Lecturer. Taught Laban Movement  
Analysis and Effort/Shape for graduate and undergraduate dance majors.

August 1979-May 1980: American University. Graduate Teaching Assistantship. Taught Beginning  
Ballet and Beginning Modern.

### **Workshops/Private Studios:**

2023: Embodying Our Voices, an eight-week workshop of joyful life writing and creative movement  
for the 60+ community with poet, Clare Martin.

2022-2023: Basin Arts/Bluebirds Ballet Academy, Children’s Modern I and Modern II

1981-1990: Moving South Dance Studio. Studio Director and Instructor. Taught company class  
(Advanced Modern), Creative Movement, Ballet, and Modern classes for all ages.

1982-1984: Lafayette Summer Dance Workshop. Lectures on alignment, nutrition, dance careers, and  
injury prevention.

1980: Murray Spaulding Movement Arts, Washington, DC. Adult classes in Modern Dance.

### **Children’s Dance Education:**

August 2002- June 2021: J. Wallace James Elementary Academy for the Arts & Technology.  
Lafayette, LA. Creative movement and dance specialist for Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.  
Choreograph two musical productions per year for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Coordinate four  
showcases per year for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students.

2001: Represented University of Louisiana, Lafayette’s College of the Arts in a two-week teaching  
residency in Derby, England at an Arts Magnet High School.

1982-2002: Acadiana Arts Council. Teaching artist in the “Bright New Worlds” program, curricular  
integrated movement classes and mini-residencies in Lafayette area schools. Recipient of  
many Arts Grants for Teachers and Decentralized Arts Grants to fund school residencies and  
collaborative projects.

1993-2002: Children’s Dance Guild at ULL. Director and instructor. Children’s classes in creative  
dance, modern, ballet and composition.

1999-2000: Academy of the Sacred Heart, Grand Coteau, LA. Creative Movement classes PK-4<sup>th</sup>.

1997-2000: L.J. Alleman Middle School Arts Academy, Lafayette, LA. Guest choreographer for the  
Middle School Dance Company.

1996-2002: Guest instructor for several Lafayette, St. Landry and Vermilion Parish schools for the  
Fine Arts Survey course. Taught Principles of Choreography and Introduction to Dance.

1999: Saturday Art Makers: River Oaks Art Center in Alexandria, LA. Guest Teacher, Creative  
Movement, K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

1994: The Louisiana Dance Festival, Lafayette. Taught Beginning and Intermediate Modern.

1994-1995: USL’s Summer Academic Enrichment classes for Gifted & Talented Children.

1994-1997: Yeah, You Write Lafayette, LA. Children’s summer writing & Creative movement.

1993-1994: Children’s Community School, Lafayette, LA. Taught weekly classes in creative  
movement & creative drama for Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

1982-1984: Lafayette Natural History Museum & Planetarium. Teacher for summer workshop  
integrating dance into the curriculum.