

# THOMAS FORD

## ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE IN DANCE

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA | Gloria Kaufman School of Dance

[fordt@usc.edu](mailto:fordt@usc.edu) | [thomasforddance.com](http://thomasforddance.com)

### EDUCATION

**City University of New York/Hunter College**

**May 2023**

MFA/Dance

Thesis: *For What Is a Man?: Towards Languageing Contemporary Dance in a Black, Queer, Male-presenting Body*

GPA: 4.0

**Marymount Manhattan College**

**May 2011**

BA/Journalism and Communications

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

**2023–Present**

**Assistant Professor of Practice in Dance**

University of Southern California

**2022–2023**

**Adjunct Lecturer**

Marymount Manhattan College

**2022–2023**

**Adjunct Lecturer**

City University of New York (CUNY)/Hunter College

**2021–2023**

**Guest Lecturer**

CUNY/Hunter College

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Book chapters

*In progress*

“Blackening/Queering the Academy,” *Stories We Dance/Stories We Tell: Pathways in US Academia*, edited by Karen Schupp and Sherrie Barr, McFarland and Co. Anticipated: 2024.

#### Edited collections

*In progress*

“Pedagogies of Care and Trauma-informed Teaching.” *Journal of Dance Education*. Co-edited by Thomas Ford and Karen Schupp. Anticipated: 2024.

#### Public scholarship and performance criticism, selected works

2023

“Care As Practice,” *Movement Research Performance Journal* Issue 57, October 2023.

- 2022 “‘Trilogy’ Is Black and Proud,” *The Dance Enthusiast*, December 7, 2022.
- 2022 “Struggling With Stage Fright? Use These 3 Tips to Conquer Your Fears,” *Dance Magazine*, November 10, 2022.
- 2022 “How to Know If Graduate School for Dance Is the Path for You,” *Dance Teacher*, October 13, 2022.
- 2022 “Dance Teacher Award Honoree Ronald K. Alexander Is Still Opening Doors for Young Ballet Dancers of Color,” *Dance Teacher*, August 1, 2022.
- 2022 “How to Mentor Your Students Who Want to Become Teachers,” *Dance Teacher*, July 8, 2022.
- 2022 “Francesca Dominguez’s ‘Galvanizing Steel’ is Capable,” *CultureBot*, June 15, 2022.
- 2022 “What Do Summer Audition Panelists Want? Here Are Answers to Your 7 Biggest Dilemmas,” *Dance Magazine*, January 18, 2022.
- 2021 “Melanie George & Ali Rosas-Salas with Thomas Ford,” *The Brooklyn Rail*, July-August 2021.
- 2021 “J. Bouey & Jacqueline Green with Thomas Ford,” *The Brooklyn Rail*, April 2021.
- 2020 “Why Dance Mission Theater Is Starting a Reparations Program,” *Dance Magazine*, December 8, 2020.
- 2020 “4 Queer Dancers Taking Over Media—and Maybe the World,” *Dance Spirit*, October 1, 2020.
- 2020 “5 Black Women on the Obstacles of Dancing While Black,” *Dance Spirit*, September 23, 2020.
- 2020 “How to Support the Black Dance Community, Beyond Social Media,” *Dance Spirit*, June 1, 2020.
- 2020 “4 Latinx Dancers Breaking Boundaries,” *Dance Spirit*, October 13, 2020.

2020 “Here's Why You Should Credit TikTok Dance Creators—And How to Do It the Right Way,” *Dance Spirit*, August 20, 2020.

2020 “The Space Between: Being Gender-Nonconforming in the Dance World,” *Dance Spirit*, March 29, 2020.

### **Choreography**

2023 *The Fine Print II*, USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance Fall '23 BFA Concert, Bing Theater, Los Angeles, CA

2023 *Queering Blackness: Solo on a Theme of Reconciliation*, 543 Black Box Theater at CUNY/Hunter College, NYC

2022 *Embers of Rage*, The Kaye Playhouse, NYC

2020 Next@Graham, Martha Graham Studio Series, NYC

2019 Steps Performance Lab, Steps Studio Theater, NYC

2018 Peridance APEX Showcase, Salvatore Capezio Theater, NYC

2018 Joffrey Ballet School Summer Concert, Symphony Space, NYC

2018 Capezio A.C.E. Awards, The Grand Ballroom, NYC

2017 Joffrey Ballet School Winter Concert, Ailey Citigroup Theater, NYC

2017–2022 Boulton Center for the Performing Arts, Bay Shore, NY

2011 DRA's “Dancin’ Downtown at the Joyce.” The Joyce Theater, NYC

2008 The White House National Christmas Program, PBS

### **Selected Live Performances**

2023 *Blacklash* (Chor. Darvejon Jones), La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, NYC

2023 *Susurrations* (Chor. Darvejon Jones), “EstroGenius Festival,” The Kraine Theater, NYC

2022 *Blacklash* (Chor. Darvejon Jones), The Kaye Playhouse, NYC

2000-2019 *Dreams* (Dir. Debbie Allen), The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

*Breakthrough* (Dir. Neil Goldberg), Ziegfeld Theatre, NYC

*Tap Dance Concerto* w/ the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (Comp. Morton Gould), Meyerhoff Hall, Baltimore, MD

Kennedy Center Honors, NBC, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.

*Tapaholics* (Dir. Michael Minery), US Tour

*Prodigy* (Dir. David Saxe), Tropicana Casino & Resort, Atlantic City, NJ

*Olender Foundation Awards*, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.

*The Today Show*, NBC, NYC

*A Capitol Fourth*, PBS, Washington, D.C.

*Showtime at the Apollo*, NBC, The Apollo Theater, NYC

*Tap Kids* (Dir. Lisa Hopkins), US Tour

#### INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 Paper presentation. "From Body to Social Media: Black, Queer Performance and the Cost of Mass Consumption," Dance Studies Association. Conference: *Movement, Mobility, Reciprocity*.
- 2023 Panelist. "Dancing Together With Time," Dance Studies Association. Conference: *Radical Acts of Translation: Mobilizing Reciprocities Across Bodily Arts*. Salvador, Brazil.
- 2022 Panelist. "Dance Is a Weed: Disentangling Trauma from the Teaching," Dance Studies Association. Conference: *Dancing Resilience: Dance Studies and Activism in a Global Age*. Vancouver, BC, Canada.

#### PRE-PROFESSIONAL TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

- 2023** **José Limón Dance Foundation**  
Master faculty at the Summer Dancer's Intensive; taught contemporary and improvisation
- 2016–2023** **The Joffrey Ballet School**

- Year-round faculty; taught contemporary, jazz and improvisation techniques
- Summer intensive faculty
- Choreographer for winter and summer concerts, presenting evening-length works

**2016–2022**

**companyONE Pre-professional Dance Training Program**

- Artistic director for year-round training program
- Artistic director for winter and summer intensives
- Developed curriculum for somatic and theory courses
- Year-round faculty: ballet, pointe, contemporary, Black vernacular jazz, theatre jazz, tap and dance history
- Directed annual spring concert featuring evening-length works
- Mentored and advised students for success in individual career paths

**SERVICE TO THE FIELD**

2023-Present	Board of Directors, Molly Lieber and Eleanor Smith, LLC
2023	Written historicization of the University of Southern California Glorya Kaufman School of Dance
2023-Present	Curriculum Committee, University of Southern California
2023-Present	Admissions Committee, University of Southern California
2022–Present	Editorial Board, <i>Journal of Dance Education</i> (JoDE)
2022-Present	Selection Committee, WHITEWAVE DUMBO Dance Festival
2022	Editorial Manager, New York Dance and Performance Awards (“The Bessies”)
2022–2023	Curriculum Committee, CUNY/Hunter College
2022–2023	University-wide Curriculum Committee Student Alternate, CUNY/Hunter College
2022–2023	Anti-racism Committee, CUNY/Hunter College
2022	Guest Speaker, “Mellon Foundation: Transformative Learning in the Humanities” Podcast
2020–Present	Organizer, “Dancers for Racial Justice” Fundraising Campaign

## HONORS AND AWARDS

2022	Jacob's Pillow Choreographic Fellow Alternate
2022	Mellon Student Scholar (Transformative Learning in the Humanities)
2011	National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts/YoungArts Presidential Scholar

## COURSES TAUGHT

- *Choreography & Performance*, USC (DANC 170)
- *World Perspectives on Dance Performance*, USC (DANC 107)
- *Colloquium*, USC (DANC 201)
- *Repertory & Performance* (Rehearsal Director), USC (DANC 120)
- *Critical Approaches to Dance*, MMC (DANC36401/2)
- *Contemporary Dance Technique III*, CUNY (DAN3100001)
- *Lecture-Demonstration: Touring Company*, CUNY (DAN4400001)
- *Global Dance History*, CUNY (DAN2320001)
- Guest lectures, CUNY: Ballet Technique II, Contemporary Dance Technique I, Contemporary Dance Technique II, Fundamentals of Contemporary Dance Technique, Improvisation I

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Dance Studies Association (DSA)
  - Dismantling White Supremacy Working Group
  - Dance History Teachers Working Group
- International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD)
- National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)