

Alex Gossen

502-876-6287 alexgossendance@gmail.com

EDUCATION

2017 Bachelor of Fine Arts
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Dance Major.

DANCE INTENSIVES AND TRAINING

2018 b12 Research or Die Festival.
2018 Catch the Flava Summer Breaking Intensive.
2017 Abby Z and the New Utility Training Intensive.
2016, 2015 RUBBERBANDance Group Summer Intensive.
2015 Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts.
2014 American Dance Festival Six Week School.

CHOREOGRAPHED WORKS

2018 *Broken Rhythms* - Choreographer and performer.
In this duet, I explored the rhythms of breaking and the creative possibilities of fitting breaking movement into non-4/4 time signatures.

2018 *Solid Thought* - Co-Choreographer with A. Raheim White and performer.
This improvisational work used vigorous yet sensitive partnering to explore and challenge our relationship with our own race and gender expectations and stereotypes.

2017 *Anechoic* - Choreographer and performer.
This was a play that examined the process of a person going insane inside an anechoic chamber and reflected upon traumas people hide inside themselves. The play was written by Emily Rich and directed by Eric Turner.

2017 *Connections* - Choreographer.
I created this improvisational duet as part of my research into teaching others how to connect while dancing together, and what connections people form between each other.

- 2017** ***Hardboiled* - Choreographer and performer.**
I choreographed this trio with two other breakers for fun on spring break. This piece was the physical embodiment of the song “Hardboiled” by A.Y.B. Force.
- 2016-18** ***Raw* - Choreographer and performer.**
A solo created using a blend of breaking and contemporary dance as a way to understand my relationship with the dance styles I practice, to understand my relationship with control and vulnerability, and to experiment with how my upbringing in the American Midwest affects my performance of breaking, an East Coast dances style.
- 2016** ***Flickering Illusion* - Choreographer and performer.**
Created in collaboration with costume technician Laura Molander, this solo used unconventional movement in a programmable, light-up costume to create imaginative pictures in a darkened space.
- 2015** ***Deconstructed* - Choreographer and performer.**
I made this solo to present my passion for difficult movement and to explore the elements of breaking by deconstructing them.
- 2014** ***12:37 am, or When the Dreaming Starts* - Co-choreographer with Thomas Welsh-Huggins and performer.**
We created this solo to re-create the feeling of waking up in the middle of the night from wild dreams.

PERFORMANCES

- 2018** **Crooked Tree Center for the Arts**
Performed as Cavalier in *The Nutcracker*.
- 2017-18** **BraveSoul Movement Company**
Dancer in first company.
2018 *A Line Through* - Choreographed by Shirley Mordine and Kelsa “K-Soul” Robinson.
2018 *Be About It* - Choreographed by Daniel “BRAVEMONK” Haywood and Kelsa “K-Soul” Robinson.
2017 *untitled* - Choreographed by Daniel “BRAVEMONK” Haywood and Kelsa “K-Soul” Robinson.
- 2016** **Raphael Xavier**
Guest performer in *Point of Interest*.
- 2014** **Leonie McDonagh**
Performer in *Four Fingers and a Thumb*.

2013-17

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- 2017 *Point 0* - choreographed by Momar Ndiaye.
- 2016 *heavy planet* - choreographed by Abby Zbikowski.
- 2016 *Pxyxl...* - choreographed by Brendan P. Behan.
- 2016 *Baldwin/NOW* - choreographed by Ping Chong.
- 2015 *Androgenous* - choreographed by Skylar Males.
- 2015 *Lalula* - choreographed by Jan Erkert.
- 2014 *Journey* - choreographed by Earl Mosley.
- 2014 *Tom* - choreographed by Philip Johnston.
- 2014 *Dido and Aeneas* - directed and choreographed by Philip Johnston.
- 2014 *Echoes* - choreographed by Meng-Hsuan Wu.
- 2014 *Kama Begata Nihilum* - choreographed by John Toenjes and Janice Dulak.
- 2014 *Psychosis* - choreographed by Elijah Gibson.

AWARDS

2017

Outstanding Undergraduate Performance Award

Awarded by the Department of Dance at the University of Illinois for my performances in *heavy planet*, *Raw*, and *Point 0* during the 2016-17 academic year.

2016

James Scholar Project Grant

Awarded by the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois to train with RUBBERBANDance Group and Raphael Xavier as preliminary research for my thesis, *Raw*.

2014, 2016

Undergraduate Travel Award

Awarded by the Department of Dance at the University of Illinois to support my preliminary research for *Raw* (2016) and to attend the American Dance Festival (2014).

2014

Perry Souchuk Memorial Scholarship

Awarded by the Department of Dance at the University of Illinois, this is a talent based scholarship awarded to one incoming undergraduate per year.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2018

Crooked Tree Center for the Arts

Guest teacher of 5 masterclasses for pre-professional dancers.

2017-18

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

Hip-hop/Breaking Instructor for ages 9-14.

2017-18

Dovetail Studios

Hip-hop/Breaking Instructor for ages 5-12.

2016-17

Champaign Parks District

Hip-hop/Breaking Instructor for ages 10+.

2013-17

Floor Lovers Illinois

Head of Education and Outreach for a registered student organization focused on breaking and hip-hop culture.

2014-17

University of Illinois course work

2017 Teaching Art to Incarcerated Youth

Met at the Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center to lead weekly arts-based activities.

2014 Creative Dance for Children

Studied brain-compatible dance for all ages and creative dance practices for children. Assisted and led lessons for students ages 4-12.