

Allison Orr

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--artistic director and founder of Forklift Danceworks in 2001

--adjunct faculty dance dept. at Austin Community College since 2001.

She has taught a wide variety of students, including children, adults over 65, and people with disabilities.

Grew up in Houston, moved to Austin in 6th ...married in '99 then back to Austin...began working on projects then officially formed in 2001 at time I joined as adjunct

MFA at Mills...moved to DC to work with Liz Lerman for yr before back to Austin.

Undergrad degree Wake-Forest in anthropology; loved idea of fieldwork, but decided to apply that to dance...danced whole life...loved to make dances...in 20s looked how dance used like anthropologist to see how communities function...Liz was one of them...

Knew didn't want 'my' company...wanted to find non-dancers to use their movements as building blocks of company...husband comes up with 'everything great' ...came up with name which embodies idea of everyday movement...ethnographic choreography.

Hope to tell stories about our communities, esp under-heard of...

Grad school did piece using campus employees...all-women undergrad college...what did maintenance men do at this progressive all-womens college...shadowed workers...talked about jobs...would you do a dance about your jobs? By third day had workers and students co-mingling and had big crowds...thought on to something...all about when you ask to do dancing...at first say want to learn about job as if anthropologist...try to learn language and be fly on wall...if I'm sincere and do pay respect for several times over weeks, when time to ask they'll say 'yes' 'cause we're friends or see value...

...gotten easier in Austin (fire dept was first proj in '01)...'09 did trash proj...once had video of fire dept makes it easier...

...audiences great here in arts...very adventurous and willing...gotten easier once get officials seeing value of work...value of art in civic engagement and making lives richer...people can see that...

...gondola proj was hardest to pull off...speak fair Italian...Wake-Forest had undergrad house there...comedy of errors to get coordinated...beautiful showdid it twice and the gondoleers who are not well thought of were behind love of gondolas...

...always have videos of them...most well known is trash dance proj...w/ documentary...soon to be released...

...now working on proj w/ power workers (Sept 21-22...Travis Co. Expo Center)...

More dancer? More teacher?

With what you do, how do you define choreography? Changed w/ your proj

Being involved in an art project changes us....how?

What do you hope audiences leave the performance talking about?

How does your work effect your a community as a whole?

Anthropologists try to understand culture...what have your dance projects taught you about how culture works or how it is changing...?

Know Lucy DuBose?