

ABBY MARCHESSEAU ZIMMERN

teacher | choreographer | dancer

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Teaching and Presenting Experience

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|---|-------------------|
| University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN | 2025 - present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistant Adjunct Professor, Department of Film, Television, and Theatre• Teach Musical Theatre Dance course to MT minors and non-minors | |
| Southold Dance Theater
South Bend, IN | 2021 - present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teach Pre-professional Division Ballet and Pointe, Levels 3-8 (ages 9-18), Modern (ages 15-18), and Adult Ballet and Modern (open level)• Choreographer and Rehearsal Director for biannual productions, including <i>The Nutcracker</i>, <i>Cinderella</i>, <i>Giselle</i>, and <i>Sleeping Beauty</i>• Choreographer and Coach for Solo and Ensemble pieces featured at Youth America Grand Prix, and Prix de Lausanne international competitions | |
| Saint Mary's College
Notre Dame, IN | Spring 2025 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guest taught Graham and Taylor techniques to students pursuing a minor in Dance | |
| Church Life Africa Conference
Abuja, NIGERIA | Summer 2024, 2025 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presented paper, "Hidden Language of the Soul: Reflections on Theology from a Dancer"• Choreographed and led dance-as-prayer event with local dancers the Zumuntamata Women's Dance Choir, and AMEMUSO Choir | |
| Catholicism, Literature and the Arts Conference
London, UK | Spring 2022 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presented paper, "The Mass: My Most Site-Specific Work"• Performed by invitation at London's National Gallery museum | |
| Connecticut Ballet Center
Stamford, CT | 2017-2021 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taught Creative Movement (ages 3-4), Pre-Ballet (ages 4-5), Ballet 1 (ages 9-10), Jazz Lyrical 1&2 (ages 9-12), and Teen Jazz Lyrical (ages 13-18) | |
| Chen Dance Center
New York, NY | 2018-2021 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taught Ballet 2 (ages 8-11), Ballet 4 (ages 16+), and Pointe & Variations (ages 16+) | |
| Russell School of Ballet
Chantilly, VA | 2012-2014 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taught intermediate-level ballet, modern dance (ages 7-10) | |
| Ridgewood Presbyterian Church Music and Arts Camp
Dallas, TX | Summer 2014 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taught musical theater choreography for children ages 3-10 | |
| Movement Exchange
Panama City, Republic of Panama | Spring 2014 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led dance and community-engaging movement classes at orphanages in Panama• Taught master classes at the University of Panama | |

Vickery Meadow Dance Clinic

2013

Dallas, TX

- Organized, taught, and performed at a dance clinic for refugee children in the Dallas area

Meadows Organization of Visual Entertainers (MOVE)

2013 - 2015

Dallas, TX (Southern Methodist University)

Position: President

- Established organization goals and outreach programs such as student-taught dance classes, dance clinics for children, and community performances
- Oversaw relations with collaborating departments and organizations

Choreography and Performance Experience

Presenting Artist, DUMBO Dance Festival, NYC

Summer 2026

- Internationally selected as one of 40 artists to present choreography excerpts of *Blueprint of a Point Ascending*

Presenting Artist, St Louis Contemporary Dance Festival

Summer 2026

- Nationally selected as one of 15 artists to present choreography excerpts of *Blueprint of a Point Ascending*

Commissioned Artist, Allied Center for the Performing Arts

Jan-May 2025

- Awarded commission to create new short work for Indianapolis's Tarkington Theater: *Blueprint of a Point Ascending*
- Premiere, May 2025

Commissioned Artist, Raclin Murphy Museum of Art

2023-4, 2025

- Commissioned at the University of Notre Dame's Raclin Murphy Museum of Art (South Bend, IN)
- Researched and created new full-length work based on the sculpture work of Kiki Smith (2023-2024)

Artist in Residence, Villa Barr Art Park

2022 - 2023

- Artist in Residence at Villa Barr Art Park (Novi, MI), commissioned to research and create new work based on the life and legacy of Beth Dwaihy Barr

CPR Dance: Inhale Movement Dance Company

2023-present

- Commissioned choreographer for 2026 season, new duet work *Don't Forget Me*
- Commissioned choreographer for 2024 season, with new ensemble work *Take the Balloon Lightly*
- Company dancer under artistic director Carolyn Pampalone Rabbers (Stevensville, MI)
- Soloist and ensemble roles in Rabbers' full-length shows, *Exhale*, *Eupnea*, *Resonance* and *Soma* with premieres at Detroit City Dance Festival, RADFest, and Grand Rapids Ballet Festival

New Industry Dance

2022 - present

- Dancer/contributing artist in artistic director Chloe Ilene's *Fullness of Twelve*, (South Bend, IN)
- Soloist in Joanna Whitmeyer's *throughspace*
- Modern dance premieres at RADFest, and Fieldworks Dance Festival

Southold Dance Theater

2021 - present

- Guest artist in artistic director Calin Radulescu's *Cinderella* and *Sleeping Beauty* (South Bend, IN)
- Commissioned choreographer for alumni performances and student showcases

Commissioned Artist, Snite Museum of Art

2021

- Commissioned at the University of Notre Dame's Snite Museum of Art (South Bend, IN)
- Researched and created new full-length works based on the paintings of Jim Dine

Connecticut Ballet

2015 - 2021

- Company Member under artistic director Brett Raphael
- Soloist roles in Lila York's *Strays*, Anna Sokolow's *Magritte Magritte*, Aguibou Bougobali Sanou's *Trust Me If I Lie*, and Raphael's *The Nutcracker*
- Dance Captain in Joe Locarro's *Now & Then*, and Bob Fosse's *Sweet Charity Frug* and *Dancin' Man*
- Ensemble roles in Darrell Grand Moultrie's *Pulse*; Elena Comendador's *Sonatina*; Michel Fokine's *Les Sylphides* and *Petrouchka*; Brett Raphael's *Nutcracker*, and *Cinderella*

ShadowDance Productions

2016 - present

- Co-choreographer/co-director with Julia Bengtsson in *Most Beloved Sister*, and *The Adventures of Johnny Appleseed* (Spring 2021); produced by Inwood Art Works, premiered at Little Island NYC; City Artist Corps Grant Award recipient
- Performances at Dixon Place, Fort Tryon Park, United Palace Theatre, New York Presbyterian Hospital, The Secret Theatre, and Children's Museum of Manhattan; works commissioned by Higher Ground Festival, Inwood Art Works, and Opera Lafayette

Adams Company Dance

2019 - 2021

- Contributing Artist under director Mitzi Adams
- Soloist role in Adams' *Dust Devil*
- Soloist in Adams' film *Honkin' Red High Heels*

Arim Dance

2019 - 2021

- Company Member under artistic director Ari Mayzick
- Soloist in Mayzick's *Vortex*
- Ensemble role in Mayzick's *Mimic*

Bach Cello Suite Festival

2019 - 2021

- Dance Consultant for Carnegie Hall premiere
- Grant writer and dance consultant for 2020-2021 festival tour

Artists By Any Other Name

2017 - 2021

- Dance Artist, Choreographer, and Teaching Artist under Artistic Director Harmonnia Junus
- Creative Director, choreographer, and performer in *Elements Of*, with tours to Australia and New York
- Ensemble performance roles in *The Travellers*, with tours to Australia and New York
- Choreographer and curriculum developer for interactive children's performances *The Planetarium* and *The Toybox* in New York and Australia
- New work premieres at The Secret Theatre's Sounds of Music Festival, Center for Performance Research, Queen's College, and Ballet Hispanico.

Avoir Motion Dance Collective

2017 - 2019

- Co-founder, performer and choreographer
- Performances with Nimbus Dance Works, Spark Film Festival (Audience Choice Award), 92nd Street Y's Mobile Film Festival, and Summer in the Park at Little Island (City Artists Corp Grant Award)

Tina Croll's *From the Horse's Mouth*, and *Stamping Ground*

2015 - 2020

- Ensemble dancer with Carmen de Lavallade, Loretta Abbott, Sandra Devine, Deborah Jowitt, et al.
- Bessie Award Recipient for Best Revival in 2020

Heidi Latsky's <i>On Display</i>	2017 - 2018
Ensemble role in exhibitions at Mark Morris Dance Center and Brooklyn Bridge Park	
<i>The Chaperone</i> , PBS Masterpiece Film	2017
- Featured dancer (Dance Student) with Robert Fairchild, Miranda Otto, Elizabeth McGovern, and members of Paul Taylor Dance Company - Directed by Julian Fellowes, choreography by John Carrafa	
Kaleidoscope Dance Theatre	2015 - 2017
- Company-in-Training under artistic director Sean McLeod - Ensemble roles in Sean McLeod's <i>Return to Eden</i>, and <i>Rite of Passage</i> at Danse L'Amour International Festival in Venice, Italy	
Dark Circles Contemporary Dance	2014 - 2015
Guest performer in artistic director Joshua L. Peugh's <i>White Day</i>	
<i>Footloose</i> at Southwestern Medical Center Gala	2014
Back-up dancer for Kenny Loggins	

Education

Southern Methodist University	2015
- Summa Cum Laude - Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance - Awarded Outstanding Achievement in Dance - Minor in Applied Physiology - University Honors in Liberal Arts - Alpha Chi, National Honors Society - Research and Study Abroad as SMU Engaged Learning Fellow and Richter Scholar: <i>As Well As We Can: The Pedagogical Methods of Traditional Balinese Dance</i> - Studied Ballet with Adam Hougland, Leslie Peck, Shelley Berg, and Joshua L. Peugh - Studied Graham technique with Myra Woodruff, Christopher Dolder, and Anne Westwick - Studied Jazz technique under Danny Buraczkeski and Millicent Johnnie	
Paul Taylor Dance Foundation School	2015 - 2021
- Studied Taylor technique under past and current company members - Summer and Winter Intensives in 2011, 2013, 2017	
Fairfax Ballet Company	2007 - 2011
Company member under Margaret Virkus, Andrea Heininge, and Mark P. Rubin	
Russell School of Ballet	2004 - 2011
Studied Ballet, Pointe, Modern, Jazz, Musical Theater, and Tap with Margaret Virkus, Marcela Figueroa, Andrea Heininge, Andrea Jones, and Mark P. Rubin	
Alonzo King's LINES Ballet Summer Program	2010
Studied contemporary ballet with Alonzo King, Maurya Kerr, Marina Hotchkiss, and Heather Cooper	
Alvin Ailey Summer Intensive Program	2009

- Studied Ballet, Horton and Graham Techniques with Helen Pickett, Graciela Kozak, Dudley Williams, and Ana Marie Forsythe

Pittsburgh Ballet Intensive Summer Program

2008

- Studied ballet with Marjorie Grundvig, and Pollyanna Ribeiro