# VERSHAWN SANDERS WARD

# vershawndawnyel@gmail.com

#### **EDUCATION**

# Master of Fine Arts in Dance, May 2007

Tisch School of the Arts, Department of Dance, New York University

# **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, June 2002**

School of Fine & Performing Arts, Department of Dance, Columbia College Chicago

### **AWARDS**

2022 Dance USA Artist Fellow

2020 Trillium Arts Inaugural ACE Fellow

2019 Chicago Dancemakers Forum Award

2019 Harvard Business School Club of Chicago-Community Impact Scholar

2019, 2018 & 2015- New City Magazine- Fifty People Who Perform For Chicago

2017 Dance USA Leadership Fellow

2016 AS220 Residency Fellowship- Providence, RI

2013 3Arts Award- Dance

2009 Harlem Stage Choreographic Commission

#### **CERTIFICATIONS**

Institute for Dunham Certification (2018- Present)

#### CHOREOGRAPHIC WORKS

Rest.Rise.Move.Nourish.Heal, 2023, Grant Park, Chicago, IL

Harvest, 2022, Spark Plug, Dance Center of Columbia College

Reckonings, 2020, Harold Washington Cultural Center

Art of Resilience 2.0 (2019), DuSable Museum Roundhouse, Chicago, IL

EKILI MUNDA | What Lies Within (2018), Dance Center of Columbia College, Chicago, IL

Re(SOURCE) (2018) Northwestern University, Chicago, IL

Love Letters 2 CHI-IL (2017) Pritzer Pavilion, Chicago, IL

The Art of Resilience (2017) Logan Center for the Arts, Chicago, IL

Blackbird (2017) Logan Center for the Arts, Chicago, IL

FEMME (2017) Northwestern University, Chicago, IL

Woman's Work (2017) Knox College, Galesburg, IL

Divided States of America (2016) Columbia College Chicago, IL

Written on the Flesh (2016) DuSable Museum, Chicago, IL

#SayHerName (2015) Performing Arts Center, Richton Park, IL

ri'flekSHens in 6 (2015), Beverly Arts Center, Chicago, IL

On Hallowed Ground (2013) Logan Center for the Arts, Chicago, IL

Gone 2 Soon (2012) Kennedy King College Theater, Chicago, IL

Sistahs (2011) Harold Washington Cultural Center, Chicago, IL

New World Afrikan (2010) Dance Transmissions Festival, Kampala, Uganda

Dancin' the Skin I'm in (2009) Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL

Diamond in the RUF (2009) A.W.A.R.D. Show 2009 Joyce Soho, NYC

(2007) Movement for Hope Benefit- Broadway Dance Center, NYC

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#### **CHOREOGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS**

# University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee- Peck School of The Arts (2024)

Guest Choreographer for Spring Dances Concert

# **University of Chicago (2023)**

Guest Choreographer for Student Professional Concert

# Northwestern University (2017, 2018)

Guest Choreographer for Senior Concert (2017) and DanceWorks Spring Concert (2018).

# Columbia College Chicago (2017)

Guest Choreographer for Repertory Performance Workshop students. (Spring 2016)

# Knox College (2014 & 2017)

Guest Artists in Residence. Set my company work "Gone 2 Soon" and "Diamond in the RUF" on the college's dance department students.

### **TEACHING**

**Loyola University (2021-present)-** Adjunct Faculty **University of Chicago (2022,202**3)- Guest Artists, Masterclass

National Theater of Uganda-(2022)- Guest Faculty for 4-week professional development series University Of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Summer 2023)- Guest Faculty, Graduate Dance Program Northwestern University (2020)- Guest Faculty, Graduate Dance Program

Columbia College Chicago (2019) - Guest Faculty, Contemporary Technique

Knox College (2014 & 2017)- Guest Artists Masterclasses (2 technique classes)