



being with

artwork by Kim Kaufman

The BMCA 36th Annual Conference

Hybrid Presenter Biographies

Alphabetical by first name

B.J. Sullivan, known for creating “Safety Release Technique” is an international dance artist and scholar who began dancing in upstate NY. B.J. received her BFA from The Juilliard School and MFA from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. A professor in the School of Dance at the University of North Carolina Greensboro, she teaches courses in movement technique and pedagogy, performance, choreography, contact improvisation and partnering techniques, and the body in motion and wellness theories. Her research and choreography combines contemporary movement possibilities and somatic practices with dance training methods such as ballet, Graham, Horton, Limón, and Taylor and other body-based techniques she has studied throughout her career.

Billy James Hawkains III (MFA, BFA), dance artist and educator, is the founder of The III (Third) Collective, a band of artists in collaboration and conversation with each other to generate relevant, provoking works of art. He has performed nationally and internationally in works by recognized choreographers including Duane Cyrus, B.J.Sullivan, Juel D. Lane, Doug Varone, Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor, and more. In 2020 Hawkains joined the faculty of Kennesaw State University where he teaches Choreography, Improvisation, Ballet, Dance Entrepreneurship, and Safety Release technique (SRT). His scholarship focuses on SRT and how its practical application aids dancers of African descent in the process of relieving themselves from pressures to conform to unjust standards.

Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen (OTR/L. RSMT, RSME) is a movement artist, researcher, educator and therapist. She has been working with movement, touch and the body-mind relationship for over 50 years. As innovator and leader in developing the Body-Mind Centering® approach, her work has influenced the fields of bodywork, movement, dance, yoga, body psychotherapy, childhood education and many other body[1]mind disciplines. In 1973, she founded The School for Body-Mind Centering® which offers certification programs in seventeen countries. Bonnie’s current publications include: Sensing, Feeling, and Action, The Mechanics of Vocal Expression and Basic Neuocellular Patterns: Exploring Developmental Movement.



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Caitlyn Schrader is a dance artist and educator. She holds a dual-role at University of North Carolina Greensboro (UNCG) – Director of the School of Art’s off-campus gallery and Community Engagement; she also adjuncts in the Schools of Dance and Art. She makes and presents individual and collaborative works under the monikers DanSeries Collective and The Liminality Project. She received an MFA in Dance from UNCG, a MS from the Univ. of Rochester, and a BA from Hobart and William Smith Colleges. As a mover and maker, she is steeped in the practice of Safety Release Technique and rooted from somatic perspectives through her personal investigations in yoga, Kinetic Awareness, Cortical Field Reeducation, and Alexander Technique. She strives to use dance as a strategy to construct and invite diverse experiences, exploring how dance intersects with life, challenging easy classifications through social provocation and immersive community platforms.

Damaris Webb is a theatre maker and social justice advocate. She has created new works for the stage with diverse communities around the US and internationally; her work lives in the intersection of contemplative dance, improvisational performance art, and contemporary theatre. Ms Webb is the co-founder and co-director of The Vanport Mosaic: a multidisciplinary non-profit, dedicated to presenting, celebrating and preserving the silenced histories around us in order to better understand our present and create a future where we all belong. Ms Webb holds her MFA in Contemporary Performance from Naropa University. She is an artist primarily trained in somatic studies; Body-Mind Centering®, Viewpoints Practice, Psychophysical Acting, Contemplative Dance Practice, & Roy Hart Vocal Technique.

David Hurwith made a life, dancing and performing for three decades. His performance work has been seen at venues large and small around the world. In the midst of that exploration, the study of the body’s natural expression and health supplanted an art career. For the last 25 years, he has been offering Authentic Movement and Experiential Anatomy. David is thankful for his teachers, Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen as a healer, Steve Paxton as an artist, and to Janet Adler for being instrumental in creating the form of Authentic Movement. The examples of Alison Zuber, Gail Turner, Vera Orlock, Erik Beeler, Lisa Nelson inspire me.

Erika Berland, a movement artist, BMC® Practitioner, RMT and LMT, has taught in studios and schools throughout the US and Europe. In 2004 she helped create the MFA Theater: Contemporary Performance Program at Naropa University where she developed a 2-year training for performers integrating meditation and somatic movement. Erika is a senior teacher and Meditation Instructor in the Shambhala Buddhist lineage and a founding faculty member and teacher of WELCOME: Mindful Compassion Training, a Naropa University extended study program. She is the author of *Sitting: The Physical Art of Meditation* and chapters in *Movement for Actors*; 2nd ed. (Allworth Publications) and *Physical Dramaturgy* (Routledge) and the upcoming *On the Horizontal* with Mary Overlie and the Viewpoints (Michigan Press).



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Ethan “E.E.” Balcos, MFA, RSDE and Professor of Dance at UNC Charlotte, trained with modern dance pioneer Hanya Holm and began practicing contact improvisation in 1982. He has performed and choreographed for over 35 years, danced for numerous well-known choreographers; and presented his choreography nationally and internationally. His passion lies in the BMC® approaches applied in teaching dance, anatomy, contact improvisation, the creative process, and performance. He has presented and performed at many national Body-Mind Centering® Conferences; the Annual Somatic Dance Conference & Performance Festival; Dance and Somatic Practices Conference, Coventry, UK; Body IQ Festival, Berlin, Germany; and international conferences with ISMETA with which he is on the Board of Directors.

Jill Becker is a modern dancer, teacher and choreographer. She currently teaches dance to people with PD and T'ai Chi for Balance in Yellow Springs, Ohio. She taught dance at Antioch College, toured in Holland and Germany with Portraits of Women and directed Jill Becker & Dancers in NYC.

Jorge Samuel Faria, Samuel is a Brazilian Artist and Translator, with a background in Somatic Education and Social Justice. In 2022 he debuted his first dance-film at the United Nations high level meeting in New York City. The film was commissioned by the UN, WHO and the Claiming Our Space Program. Samuel has translated for Wendy Hambidge in Brazil, for Kunta Leonardo da Cruz who taught an Orisá Dance Class at the BMC® gathering at Pomona College, in the USA and for Joye Hardimann PhD in Brazil when she lectured on Ancestral Healing in the University of Bahia He has collaborated creatively with Wendy Hambidge since 2018, performing Seeing and Being Seen in Portland, OR in 2020 and editing two documentary films around their work together. Stand Up, Show Up, Own Up and Standing Together.

KT Williams (she/her) is a contemporary dancer, educator, choreographer, and dance filmmaker based in Greensboro, NC. kt earned her BFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she received the Donald Carducci Memorial Scholarship Award for overall excellence in dance performance, and in May 2023, she received her MFA in Dance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. kt's pedagogical and creative processes are somatically-informed, and encourage an exploration of self, boundaries, and relationship; her embodied practice places a high priority on internal reflection and questions how she exists in relation to her surrounding environment.



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Margaret Guay is a BMC® Teacher, Practitioner and Massage Therapist with a private practice in Northampton, Ma. She is an artist whose illustrations are in *The Basic Neurocellular Patterns* by Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen. Creating art has been an essential part of her learning, developing, experiencing and expressing the many and varied somatic experiences of life!

Martha Eddy, CMA, RSMT, EdD, was among the first to teach a somatic approach to dance beginning in the 1980s. She also incorporated the yoga she was learning when joining Bonnie at Jeannie Erlbaums yoga classes in South Amherst MA. She published *Mindful Movement - The Evolution of the Somatic Arts and Conscious Action* which speaks to somatic approaches to dance, health, education and social justice. *Moving For LIfe* and *BodyMind Dancing* are two systems with over 50 teachers around the world. Each grows out of *Dynamic Embodiment - her form of Somatic Movement Education and Therapy*, combining knowledge from her direct studies with Irmgard Bartenieff (Laban/Bartenieff Movement Studies) and Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen (*Body-Mind Centering®*) starting in 1976.

Miroslav Petrovic is a TedX speaker, teacher, facilitator and founder of The Enlivened Speaking Institute. He has worked with over 5,000 people across the world supporting them to bring their message to the world. He teaches how to go beyond didactic teaching to create transmission in an embodied way that is enlivening and engaging for audiences. His message and 'off the beaten path' approach speaks to thought leaders, future visionaries, progressive educators and transformational leaders who are empowered to move away from traditional teaching methodologies and embrace a deeper embodied approach.

Olive Bieringa is a dance, performance and visual artist working at the intersection of social and creative practice, pedagogy, and healing. Born in Aotearoa, she is a first generation New Zealander. She moved to Oslo in 2017 from the USA where she was based for twenty years. She studied at the European Dance Development Center in the Netherlands and completed her Master in Fine Arts in Performance and New Media from Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York. She is a Registered ISMETA Somatic Movement Therapist, Somatic Movement Educator, Somatic Movement Dance Educator and a Certified Practitioner and Teacher of *Body-Mind Centering®*, Shiatsu practitioner and certified *DanceAbility* teacher, working with performers of all abilities. She is the Program Director for Somatic Education Australasia's *Body-Mind Centering®* program in Melbourne, Australia.



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Paula Josa-Jones is a dance and performance artist who brings an improvisational perspective to all of her work. She is a Certified Laban Movement Analyst (CLMA), and a Registered Somatic Movement Educator and Therapist (RSMET). She is a Guild-certified Tellington TTEAM practitioner and a Somatic Experiencing® practitioner. Her writings on movement and dance have been published in Contact Quarterly for the past 30 years. Her book, *Our Horses, Ourselves: Discovering the Common Body* was published by Trafalgar Square Books in 2017. As the creator of Embodied Equine Experiencing™ she teaches an intuitive, improvisational approach to the human-horse bond with movement and touch, as well as riding and performing with her horses Izarra and Blue.

Sandrine Harris is an embodiment and meditation facilitator, Somatic Experiencing® Practitioner, Feldenkrais® Practitioner, dancer, and trauma and chronic pain educator. She has been involved with somatic praxis for several decades, offering trainings, workshops and retreats internationally since 2008. She maintains a private practice in Massachusetts, where she lives, as well as online, working with folx globally. Her dynamic process is collectively named Emergent Nature, to reflect the innate quality of emergence — through being and becoming in an embodied state — that informs our capacity for vitality of expression, playfulness and curiosity, neurobiological resilience, and sensing connection.

Shakti Smith is a Somatic Movement Educator, Registered 500 Hour Yoga Teacher, Dynamic Embodiment Therapist, Sound Healer, and founder of Prema Soma Healing Arts in Brooklyn. She served on the faculty at The Swedish Institute College of Health Sciences, Movement Research, and the Muscular Therapy Institute. She developed the courses Integrating Chakras into your Bodywork Practice, Movement for Bodyworkers, Medicine Dance, and FALLing into Nature. A long time member of ISMETA and Yoga Alliance, Shakti teaches Contact Improv & Authentic Movement, and has been teaching and practicing the Sun Salutation for 35 years. She developed a somatic approach to yoga that integrates shamanic earth-based practices, developmental movement, and awareness of the chakral/neuroendocrine bridge.

Sylvia Maes, BMC® Practitioner, is fascinated by the body. A first class in 1984 with Bonnie articulating brain patterns into developmental bodily movements continues to inspire her to further Body-Mind Centering® explorations. Currently she is researching water and other small molecules of life. She has assisted in many BMC® classes and trainings most recently as a chat fairy in Bonnie's online classes. She practices in person and online in Western Massachusetts at Healing Hands- Movement Therapy.



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Tal Halevi is a choreographer, dancer and teacher based in New York City. She has performed and taught in the United States, Europe, Israel and Canada. A registered somatic movement educator and a certified teacher and practitioner of Body-Mind Centering®, for the past 30 years she has maintained a private practice exploring awareness in the body as a source for physical well-being, personal insight and creative expression. Her articles, "The Anatomy of Risk (2013), "The Forms Things Take: Dance as Somatic Exploration" (2017) were both published in Currents magazine.

Tarina Quelho is a professional member of BMCA. She is a Teacher of BMC® in the Brazil program and a choreographer/director and instructor at the University level.

Toni Smith, M.F.A., is a choreographer & dance activist in the Capital Region of New York. She served as the Artistic Director of the National Museum of Dance & dance faculty for Skidmore College over 2 decades. Toni is a founding member of the NYS DanceForce, a 25 year old task force that has raised 7 million dollars for projects that promote dance literacy throughout New York State. She currently teaches BMC®, movement and yoga to all ages and abilities. Toni is a Body-Mind Centering® Practitioner and Infant Development Movement Educator with a private practice in upstate NY and on line. Toni is the Chair of the BMCA Conference Committee and regularly offers BMC® classes online.

Wendy Hambidge is a certified Body-Mind Centering® Practitioner and Teacher, Registered Somatic Movement Educator and Therapist, and an Infant Developmental Movement Educator. As an artist, she produced dance work for 30 years and holds an MFA in choreography and performance. Wendy first encountered Body-Mind Centering® in 1990 where she found it to radiate with possibility for self-study, movement, and choreography. She currently teaches Experiential Anatomy for The People's Yoga Teacher Training Program, and the School for Body-Mind Centering® Licensed Programs. She has been collaborating with Damaris Webb and Jorge Samuel since 2018 through performance and film on Standing Together and Stand up Show up Own up, works that engage with issues of race, ancestry and social justice.