

Curriculum Vitae

Debra Hickenlooper Sowell
Associate Professor, Humanities
Department of Humanities, Classics, and Comparative Literature
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EDUCATION

New York University: 1983-90. Ph.D. (May 1990) in Performance Studies. Area of emphasis: Dance history and criticism. Dissertation: "The Christensen Brothers: A Career Biography." Advisor: Marcia B. Siegel.

Tufts University: 1978-80. M.A. (June 1980) in Drama (Theatre History). Thesis: "Seventeenth-Century Costume Conventions and the Designs of Jean Berain I." Advisor: Peter Arnott.

Università degli Studi di Firenze: Summer 1977. Diploma received for Intensive summer course in Italian at the Centro di Cultura per Stranieri.

University of Chicago: Summer 1976. NEH graduate seminar in theatrical dance in America before 1900 with Selma Jeanne Cohen. Researched primary sources on dancing among Mormon pioneers in Utah.

Columbia University: 1975-76. Courses in dance history under Jeanette Roosevelt and Walter Sorell. Independent study project on Bournonville and the Danish Romantic Ballet.

Brigham Young University: 1971-75. B.A. cum laude (April 1975), with High Honors from Honors Program. Humanities major with French literature emphasis. Served on Honors Program Admissions Committee. Coordinated speakers for "Women in Academics" Lecture Series.

EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor, Department of Humanities, Classics, and Comparative Literature, Brigham Young University: Summer 2005 to present. Courses taught: General Education Humanities 201 and 202, Senior/Graduate Seminars on Romanticism and Performance Criticism, and Religion 121, The Book of Mormon.

Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities, Classics, and Comparative Literature, Brigham Young University: Fall 2002 to 2005. Courses taught: General Education Humanities 201-202 sequence and 490/690 seminar, "Writing about Performance."

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Dance, Brigham Young University: Fall 1990 to Winter 1998.

Part-time Instructor, "Introduction to the Humanities," and "Critical Approaches to Dance," Department of Humanities; "Dance Theory and Criticism," Department of Dance; Brigham Young University: 1981-83, 1984-1986, 1990. Also taught Humanities during Study Abroad programs, Paris and London, in 1980's.

Guest Instructor, Court Dances of the Renaissance, for Dance Department and Honors Program, Brigham Young University: Fall 1979, Fall 1980, Fall 1981, and Winter 1983.

Part-time Instructor, "Survey of the Humanities," General Education Dept., Utah Technical College: 1980-81.

Dance critic for The Herald, Provo, Utah: 1979-83, Sept. 1984-87.

Cambridge Court Dancers: 1977-79. Studied and performed Renaissance and Baroque Dance with Ingrid Brainard.

Harvard Theatre Collection: 1976-78. Worked with George Chaffee Collection of prints of the Romantic and Pre-Romantic Ballet, listing and cross-referencing. Identified and listed Berain engravings.

Brigham Young University Theatre Ballet: 1971-75. Performed regularly and served as treasurer in 1972-73. Advanced ballet student; studied with Irène Skorik in Paris while on Semester Abroad program in 1974.

BOOKS

Il Balletto Romantico, with Madison U. Sowell, Patrizia Veroli, and Francesca Falcone. Palermo (Italy): L'EPOS Società Editrice (Palermo, Italy), 2007. 243 pages.

The Christensen Brothers: An American Dance Epic. Vol. 16 of *Choreography and Dance Studies*. Amsterdam: Harwood Academic Publishers, 1998. 580 pages.

Received 1998 Evans Handcart Award for western biography and 1999 De La Torre Bueno Prize Special Citation from the Dance Perspectives Foundation.

Reviewed in *Dance Chronicle*, *Ballet Review*, and *Dance Magazine*.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

“A Plurality of Romanticisms: Italian Ballet and the Repertory of Antonio Cortesi and Giovanni Casati.” *Dance Research Journal* 37, No. 1 (Summer 2005): pp. 37-55.

“‘Virtue (almost) Triumphant’ Revisited: Of Sylphs and *Silfidi*.” *Dance Chronicle* 18, No. 2 (1995): pp. 293-301.

“Theatrical Dancing in the Territory of Utah, 1848-1868.” *Dance Chronicle*, I, No. 2 (1978): pp. 96-126.

INVITED PUBLICATIONS

“From Ancien Régime to Revolution: Dance in Art, 1693-1793.” With Madison U. Sowell. Article for *P Art and Culture Magazine*, published in Turkish as “18. Yüzyilin Dans İkonlari” [18th-Century Dance Iconography]. *P Dünya Sanati Dergisi* 32 (Kış 2004): 58-67.

“Harold Christensen” and “Lewellyn Christensen.” *American National Biography*, 4:846-849. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

“Carlotta Brianza,” “Christensen Brothers,” and “Nicola Guerra,” *International Encyclopedia of Dance*, 1:540-41, 2:160-62, 3:320-21. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998. Also provided, with assistance from Madison U. Sowell, approximately 50 illustrations with accompanying captions for this six-volume encyclopedia.

“Introduction” to *The Art of Terpsichore: From Renaissance Festivals to Romantic Ballets*. (Exhibition catalog of dance-related rare books and prints.) *Friends of the Brigham Young University Library* 44 (1994): pp. v-xi.

“Lew Christensen” and “William Christensen.” *International Dictionary of Ballet*. London: St. James Press, 1993.

“A ‘Screw-tape Letter’ of Performance Criticism,” *Dance Critics Association News* (Winter, 1988), pp. 1, 9). First delivered as part of a panel on Women in Performance, 1987 Brigham Young University Women's Conference; first printed in the newsletter of the Tisch School of the Arts, Department of Performance Studies, New York University.

“Dance Talk.” *Arts and Inspiration: Mormon Perspectives*, ed. S. P. Sondrup. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University, 1980, pp. 102-109.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

"Marinetti's Manifesto of Futurist Dance." *Proceedings*, Dance History Scholars Eighth Annual Conference, University of New Mexico, 15-17 February 1985, pp. 111-120.

"Jean Berain and Costume Design in *Le Triomphe de l'Amour*," *Proceedings*, Dance History Scholars Fifth Annual Conference, Harvard University, 13-15 February 1982, pp. 57-68.

REVIEWS

Review of manuscript, "Lives and Livelihoods: Five Women Dancers from the 18th Century to the 20th Century," by Karen Eliot, for University of Illinois Press, September 2005.

Review of *Ballet and Opera in the Age of 'Giselle,'* by Marian Smith. *Music and Letters* 84.2 (May 2003): 303-306.

Review of *Rethinking the Sylph: New Perspectives on the Romantic Ballet*, ed. Lynn Garafola. *Chorégraphie: Rivista di ricerca sulla danza*, Nuova Serie, No. 1, 2001 [appeared in 2003] (Roma: Meltemi Editori): 143-46.

OTHER ARTICLES

"Society Events: Historical Dance," *Society for Dance Research Newsletter*, No. 12 (Sept. 1989), pp. 2-3.

"The 1980 Dance History Scholars Conference." *Dance History Scholars Newsletter*, III, No. 1 (Spring 1981): pp. 1-5.

-----". "Ballet West: The Expanding Years." *Performance Magazine*, I, No. 6 (May 1980): pp. 12-14, 16.

-----". "Before Ballet West: The Genesis of a Company." *Performance Magazine*, I, No. 5 (April 1980): pp. 16-18.

-----". "The Nutcracker: A Holiday Tradition Revisited." *Performance Magazine*, I, No. 3 (December 1979): pp. 10, 20, 23, 25, 30-31.

-----". "The 1979 Conference." *Dance History Scholars Newsletter*, I, No. 2

(November 1979): pp. 2-5.

Hickenlooper, Debra. "Sara Alexander, Brigham Young's Favorite Danseuse." *Exponent II*, III, No. 4 (June 1977): p. 10.

Numerous dance reviews and feature stories for *The Herald*, Provo, Utah, 1979-1987.

EXHIBIT

"Splendor and Spectacle: Images of Dance from Court Ballet to Broadway," with Madison U. Sowell and Paul Anderson, BYU Museum of Art, July 5-December 31, 2007. Contributed to the conception of the exhibit, image selection process, research and writing of label texts, docent training, podcast commentary, and other supporting materials. Lectured on "The Sowell Collection: A Scholar's Point of View" for museum staff and students, and gave tours for campus bodies and independent groups.

UNPUBLISHED PRESENTATIONS - PAPERS, LECTURES, AND BROADCASTS

"Thinking Aloud: Splendor and Spectacle." Broadcast interview, with Madison U. Sowell, for KBYU-FM, September 17, 2007.

"Choreographic Transformations: Incorporating *Giselle* into the Interdisciplinary Canon." Paper delivered at the National Association for Humanities Education Conference, San Francisco, California, February 28-March 3, 2007.

"The Christensen Brothers: Utah Connections." Lecture for the Brigham City Symposium: The Christensen Brothers, Brigham City, Utah, February 22-23, 2007

"Meet the Christensens." Presentation given at the Brigham City Symposium: The Christensen Brothers, Brigham City, Utah, February 22-23, 2007.

"Rethinking the Repertory: Genre Descriptors in Nineteenth-Century Italian Ballet Libretti." Paper delivered at the joint conference of AIRDanza and the European Association of Dance Historians, Rome, Italy, October 13-15, 2006.

"Romantic Landscapes for Dance: Ballet Narratives and the Ideology of the Sublime." Paper delivered at the Society of Dance History Scholars Conference, Banff, Canada, June 15-18, 2006.

“*Sleeping Beauty: The Tchaikovsky-Petipa Collaboration.*” Lecture for BYU Honors Program, March 4, 2004.

“Family and Fantasy: Holiday Inspiration from *The Nutcracker.*” Lecture for BYU Women, December 3, 2003.

“The International Association of Music Librarian’s Thesaurus: A Dance Scholar’s Point of View.” Presentation given to a working group at the IAML Annual Conference, Tallinn, Estonia, July 6-11, 2003.

“Exploring the Contours of the Romantic Ballet in Italy: The Work of Giovanni Casati and Antonio Cortesi.” Paper delivered at the Society of Dance History Scholars International Conference, Limerick, Ireland, June 26-29, 2003.

Moderator, "A Christensen Symposium." Panel at the University of Utah Marriott Center for Dance, April 27, 1991.

"Masked Performance in the Repertory of Diaghilev's Ballets Russes." Paper delivered at conference of Society of Dance History Scholars, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, February 12-15, 1988.

"Shakespeare and the Ballet: A Critic's Introduction to Kenneth MacMillan's Romeo and Juliet." Lecture for Brigham Young University Honors Program and International Cinema, October 2, 1986.

"Highlights of the Romantic Ballet." Lecture for the Friends of the London Festival Ballet at Royal Festival Hall, London, England, May 15, 1986.

“Images of Dance in Children’s Literature.” Lecture with slides given at RMMLA annual convention in October 1985 in Provo, Utah.

"Baroque Dance: Choreography in the Age of Bach and Handel." Lecture for Flea Market of Ideas series, Brigham Young University Honors Program, March 19, 1985.

“Moliere and the Ballet.” Paper read at the RMMLA annual convention in El Paso, Texas, October 1984.

"Artistic Manifestations of the Medieval Dance of Death." Lecture for Humanities Department Colloquium, Brigham Young University, March, 1983.

"The Nutcracker: A New Look at an Old Favorite." Lecture for Brigham Young University Women, December, 1982.

Radio broadcasts on KBYU-FM, Provo, Utah, on the history of dance and dance music for "Excursions" program, aired February 4-25, 1982.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Harvard Theatre Collection, July 1992-June 1993. Received the John M. Ward Fellowship in Dance and Music for the Theatre; studied libretti and iconography of the Italian Romantic Ballet.

San Francisco Performing Arts Library and Museum, 1987-1990. Received a \$20,000 grant to write a career biography of the Christensen brothers.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND HONORS

Dance Critics Association: 1984-present.

Society of Dance History Scholars: 1979-present. Founder and Convener, Working Group on Interdisciplinary Approaches to Nineteenth-Century Dance, 2005-2008. Chair, Selma Jeanne Cohen Award Committee, 2002-2005. Co-chair, 1994 annual conference, Provo, Utah. Secretary, 1992-1995. Member, Board of Directors, 1988-1991.

Congress on Research in Dance: 1978-1997, 2004. Associate Editor for Libraries and Archives for the CORD Dance Research Journal, 1978-1983.

Boston Ballet Society: 1977-79. Served on Education Committee, 1977-79, and on Board of Trustees, 1978-79.

Included in 1981 Outstanding Young Women of America.

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, initiated in 1974.

Pi Delta Phi French Honor Society, initiated in 1974.