

MK Ford
Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

- 2024 University of Maryland College Park**
MFA in Dance
Assistantship in Maya Brin Institute for Technology in New Performance
Committee: Kendra Portier, Maura Keefe, Andrew Cissna, Abby Zbikowski
- 2020 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**
BFA in Dance
Specialty in Dance Documentation & ScreenDance
- 2019 RYT Certificate – 200-Hour Yoga Teacher Training**
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PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Present Arizona State University**
Clinical Assistant Professor of Dance and Media
Department of Music, Dance, and Theatre
Herberger Institute for Design in the Arts
- 2021-24 University of Maryland College Park**
Teaching Assistantship
Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies
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CREATIVE RESEARCH:

Choreography for Live Performance

- 2025 “Redacting” (Choreographer)**
A duet created with Sam Arrow.
Premiered at the Tempe Center for the Arts – Tempe, AZ
- 2025 “Redacted” (Choreographer)**
A duet created with performers Emilia Bruno and bree breeden.
Premiered at the Herberger Theatre Center – Phoenix, AZ
- 2024 “Prisms” (Choreographer + Performer + Designer)**
A duet created with performer Brit Falcon
Premiered at ACDA Mid-Atlantic North Conference - Rochester, NY
Performed in Adjudicator’s Pick Concert at ACDA - Rochester, NY

MK Ford

Curriculum Vitae

“Lifeguard” (Choreographer + Performer + Media Designer)

A live solo with ScreenDance featuring Brit Falcon, Ryan Smith and Christina Collins

Premiered at Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center - College Park, MD

“Material Body 01 + Pulse” (Director + Choreographer + Performer)

A group piece created with Kaela Lawrence, Brit Falcon, Emilia Bruno, Christina Collins, and bree breeden.

Premiered at Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center - College Park, MD

2023 “h a u n t (now broadcasting in technicolor)”

(Choreographer + Performer + Video Artist)

A live solo with ScreenDance featuring Rebecca Steinberg, Javi Padilla, and Brit Falcon

Premiered at Rhizome, D.C. Art, Learning, DIY, Culture

2022 “Prismatic Flare” (Choreographer + Performer)

A duet created with performer Brit Falcon

Premiered at 29thChoreographer’s Dance Festival – Washington, D.C.

Performed at the Cleveland Dance Festival – Cleveland, OH

“Bite” (Choreographer + Media Designer)

A group choreography featuring multimedia design created by Ford with performers Christina Alemayehu, Paetyn Lewis, Megan McDevitt, Ryan Smith Alondra Torres Negrón, and Caleb Wein. Projection support by Mark Williams

Premiered at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center – College Park, MD

2020 “On the Blue End of Violet” (Choreographer + Performer)

Premiered at the Louisville Dance Series 2020 Concert “Hindsight”

Performed at the J E L L O series – Chicago, IL

2019 “On the Blue End of the Violet Spectrum” (Choreographer + Media Designer)

Premiered at the Krannert Center for Performing Arts – Urbana, IL

2018 “Honey Heart” (Choreographer + Performer)

Premiered at StudioDance II at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

2017 “Us and Us” (Choreographer)

Premiered at the American Dance Festival Student Showcase

Screendance/Film

2024 “UNDERBELLY” Response (Director, Cinematographer, Editor)

A ScreenDance in collaboration with Kaela Lawrence and Dan Ortiz Leizman

2023 “Spect(RE-)m” (Director, Cinematographer, Editor)

A Screendance with performers Emilia Bruno, Ryan Smith, Javi Padilla and Rebecca Steinberg and designers Deja Collins and Mark Williams

MK Ford

Curriculum Vitae

Premiered at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center – College Park, MD
Screened at the Bates Dance Festival ScreenDance Showcase

2022 “Haunt” (Director, Editor, Animator, Performer)
A Screendance and animation with performers Javi Padilla, Rebecca Steinberg, and Brit Falcon and designer Xavier Augustus Lee Taylor
Premiered at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center – College Park, MD
Screened at the Bates Dance Festival ScreenDance Showcase

2022 “A Cyborg Anti-Porno” (Director, Editor, Cinematographer, Poet, Animator)
A Screendance and animation with Dan Ortiz Leizman
Screened at the 2023 ACDA Nationals Festival in Long Beach, CA
Screened at the Informal Media Showcase at Bates Dance Festival 2023
Screened at the Process and Play Film Festival

2021 “Radical Tenderness” (Director, Performer, Editor)
A film short and animation.
Premiered at the ADF Movies by Movers

2021 “Interior” (Director, Editor, Cinematographer, Performer)
Premiered at the Cleveland ScreenDance Festival 2022
Screened at the Third Coast Dance Festival 2022

2021 “Woven” (Director, Editor, Cinematographer, and Choreographer)
A Screendance with Brit Falcon, Carlo Antonio Villanueva, and Tristan Koepke

2021 “Queer Tides” (Director, Editor, Choreographer)
A Screendance with Mya McClellan and Jess Ziegler
Screened at the Cleveland ScreenDance Festival 2021

2020 “Peoria” (Director, Performer, Editor)
A ScreenDance with cinematic support from Michael Gutzmer

2020 “On Blue” (Director, Performer, Editor)

Collaborative Projects

2025 “Looking Back // Moving Forward” exhibition

2024 “I Resist This” with Charlotte Richardson-Deppe (Performer, Assistant Choreographer, Sound Designer)
Performed at the STAMP Student Gallery – College Park, MD

2024 “Untitled” with bree breeden (Performer)
Performed at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center – College Park, MD

MK Ford
Curriculum Vitae

- 2024** **“Emotional Tofu”** with Tristan Koepke (Text Collaborator)
- 2024** **“The Black Smile”** with Shartoya R. In.Baptiste and Liv Ellington (Cinematographer)
- 2024** **“Shellz”** with bree breeden (Cinematographer)
- 2023** **“I don’t own the rights to this autobiography…”** with Brit Falcon (Performer)
- 2022** **“””””** with Dan Ortiz Leizman (performer, film director, installation support)
- 2021** **“Stumble Merge” and “Body Knots”** with Charlotte Richardson-Deppe

Selected Performance

- 2019-Present** **BAND/Portier** (Performer, Collaborator, Media Support)
- 2021-2024** **Falcon Dances | Brit Falcon** (Performer, Collaborator)
- 2023** **Kate Ladenheim** “Gestural Publics”
- 2023** **Ari Melanciano** “Improvisational Performance of Otkzö Kazo”
- 2022** **Abby Zbikowski + Momar Ndiaye** “Drawing Out the Light”
- 2022** **Carlo Antonio Villanueva** “Last Dance, Lost Dance”
- 2021** **Maura Keefe** “Coastal Paradox”
- 2021** **Tristan Koepke, Carlo Antonio Villanueva, Andres Poch** “Triple Helix”
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**
- 2020** **Abby Zbikowski** Untitled (Cancelled due to COVID19)
- 2019** **Jennifer Monson** “Gorge Idling, Idling Just, Just Idling, Just”
- 2019** **Roxane D’Orleans Juste** “Psalm” (restaged) by José Limón
- 2019** **Jennifer Monson** “Gorge Idling, Idling Just, Just Idling, Just”
- 2019** **Roxane D’Orleans Juste** “Psalm” (restaged) by José Limón
- 2018** **Reneé Wadleigh and Nico Brown** “Tragedy, Ecstasy, Doom”
- 2018** **Endalyn Taylor** “In the Fullness Thereof”
- 2018** **Linda Lehovec** “(My)Tom”

MK Ford
Curriculum Vitae

2018 **Grace Courvosier** “Mountain Dew, Honey Spring”

2018 **Kendra Portier** “Burnish”

2018 **Elliot Reza Emadian** “Back Quarter Time Turn”

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2025 National Orchestral Institute Festival: Innovation Studio Fellow

2023 Bates Dance Festival – Video Fellow

2023 Arts AMP Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Research Grant at the University of Maryland College Park

2023 Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies ARHU Graduate Student Travel Award

2023 Jim Henson Fund for Puppetry at the University of Maryland College Park

2022 International Program for Creative Collaborators and Research Grant

2019 Research Support Grant from the Office of Undergraduate Student Research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

AWARDS, HONORS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2019 Overall Outstanding Achievement Award from the Department of Dance at The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2019 “Illinifest” Finalist from the University of Illinois Student Recreation Committee

2019 Undergraduate Outstanding Research Award from the Department of Dance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2018 Undergraduate Outstanding Performance Award from the Department of Dance at The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2016-2020 Larry Scholarship for Outstanding Achievement Award from the Department of Dance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2016 Talented Student Scholarship from the Department of Dance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

MK Ford
Curriculum Vitae

2016 Bates Scholarship for Continuing Students from the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY/PARTICIPATION

2025 ScreenDance Workshop at Bates Dance Festival

2025 “Redact” Lecture-Demonstration and Moderation of ScreenDance Showcase at the American College Dance Festival Mid-Atlantic Conference – College Park, MD

2024 Documentation of Screens and Machines Symposium – College Park, MD

2024 “Prisms” Performance Premiere at the American College Dance Festival Mid-Atlantic North Conference – Rochester, NY

2023 “A Cyborg Anti-Porno” Screening and Artist Talk at Techno-Futures: Collaborations in Performance, Technology, and Creative Scholarship– College Park, MD

2024 Contemporary Floorwork at the American College Dance Festival Mid-Atlantic North Conference – Rochester, NY

2023 “Haunt” ScreenDance Premiere at the American College Dance Festival Nationals Conference – Long Beach, CA

2023 Queer Yoga at the American College Dance Festival Nationals Conference – Long Beach, CA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Arizona State University

Undergraduate

Media for Dance (Fall/Spring 2024-2025)

First Year Seminar (Fall 2024)

Co-Taught with Jorge “House” Magana

Creative Practices (Spring 2025)

Co-Taught with Cari Koch, JiSun Myung, and Shola Roberts

Guest Artist Residency Support (Spring 2025)

Graduate

Creative Practices (Fall 2024)

Co-Taught with Elizabeth Lerman

Advanced Media for Dance (Spring 2025)

Independent Study/Special Topics (Spring 2025)

Guest Artist Residency Support (Spring 2025)

University of Maryland College Park

MK Ford

Curriculum Vitae

Instructor of Record

Beginning Ballet (Spring 2024)

Advanced Contemporary Dance (Fall 2023)

Fundamentals of Contemporary Modern (Spring 2023)

ScreenDance for Dance Majors (Fall 2022)

Introduction to Dance (Online) (Summer 2022 & 2023)

Teaching Assistant

Site-Specific Performance and ScreenDance (Spring 2024)

Taught by Sara Pearson and Patrik Widrig

Introduction to Hip Hop Hip Hop (Fall 2023)

Taught by Ama Law

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Instructor of Record

Yoga Practicum (Online) (Spring 2021)

Teaching Assistant

Advanced Contemporary Modern (Hybrid) (Fall 2020)

Taught by Abby Zbikowski

Introduction to Dance (Online) Fall 2020

Taught by Ken Beck

Community Classes, Workshops, and Events

2021-2024 **Yoga Heights** – Regular Yoga Instructor & Workshop Facilitator

2022-2023 **Core Power Yoga** – Regular Yoga Instructor

2022 **Dance Place D.C.** – Contemporary Dance Instructor

2021-2022 **Hatha Yoga + Fitness** – Regular Yoga Instructor

2021 **University of Illinois Department of Exercise Science** – Lead Yoga Instructor
for SAY Exercise Study

2018-2021 **Amara Yoga + Arts** – Regular Yoga Instructor, Workshop Facilitator, and Studio
Assistant Management

DEPARTMENTAL / UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Arizona State University

Committee for Yawen Luo (2024-2026)

Documentation of Dance Concerts + Events (2024-Present)

Mentorship for Undergraduate Student Projects (2024-Present)

RELATED EXPERIENCE

2025 **“LOOKOUT” Summer Workshop Series – Reporting as Resistance** - Online
Workshop Participant

2025 **Bates Dance Festival** – Lewiston, ME

MK Ford

Curriculum Vitae

Director of Video Promotions

- 2024 Studio A Summer Art Camp** – College Park, MD
Performance Instructor
- 2024 CreativeWorks D.C.** – Washington, D.C.
Teaching Artist in Media Arts
- 2022 Media Assistant at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**
Classroom Technologist + Flatlands Dance Film Festival Assistant
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FREELANCE MULTIMEDIA

Documentation, Archive, Streaming

- 2025 “Breaking Ground” ConderDance at Tempe Center for the Arts – Phoenix, AZ
- 2025 “True North” ConderDance Tiny Dances at Tempe Center for the Arts – Phoenix, AZ
- 2025 “Pop Up Performance” Third Space Dance Project Herberger Theatre Center – Phoenix, AZ
- 2024 “The Mystery of You” PearsonWidrig site specific at Meherabode – Los Angeles, CA
- 2024 “D^2” Jonathan D. Martin – College Park, MD
- 2024 Screens and Machines Symposium – College Park, MD
- 2024 “COMMIT!” Kate Ladenheim at Dance Place D.C. – Washington, D.C.
- 2024 “Nora and the Lighthouse” Javi Padilla at Dance Place D.C. – Washington D.C.
- 2024 “Beauty Happens” Brit Falcon at Dance Place D.C. – Washington, D.C.
- 2024 “...and with this lies the need for us to be together” Kendra Portier at Dance Place D.C. – Washington D.C.
- 2024 “Pantone” Kendra Portier – College Park, MD
- 2023 Bates Dance Festival – Various Artists – Lewiston, ME

Photography

- 2024 “The Mystery of You” PearsonWidrig site specific at Meherabode – Los Angeles, CA

Promotional Video

- 2024 “D^2” Jonathan D. Martin – College Park, MD
- 2024 “WIP” Gesel Mason – Lewiston, ME
- 2024 “WIP” Vanessa Anspaugh – Lewiston, ME
- 2023 “Pantone” Kendra Portier – College Park, MD

ScreenDance

- 2024 “Medusa” Christina Collins – Assistant Video Editor
- 2024 “Shellz” bree breeden – Assistant Cinematographer
- 2024 “The Black Smile” Shartoya R. Jn. Baptiste & Liv Eddings – Lead Cinematographer
- 2023 “I don’t own the rights to this autobiography” Brit Falcon – Assistant Video Editor

Visual Art

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Curriculum Vitae

2023 Art Vendor / Printmaker at NextNow in College Park, MD
2022 Web Design for Jennifer Monson
2021 Animation for Catalina Hernandez

PROFESSIONAL DANCE TRAINING

2025 **Bates Dance Festival** – Lewiston, ME (with staff position)
2025 **Ground Grooves** – Phoenix, AZ (with promotions work study)
2024 **Countertechnique** – Phoenix, AZ
2024 **SolPower** – Tempe, AZ (with documentation work study)
2024 **New Dialect Summer Intensive** – Nashville, TN
2023 **Faye Driscoll “Present Practice”** – Field Center – Bellows Falls, VT
2023 **Bates Dance Festival** – Lewiston, ME (with Video Fellowship)
2023 **Countertechnique “One Body, One Career”** – New York, NY
2022 **New Dialect Summer Intensive** – Nashville, TN
2022 **STREB Labs** – New York, NY
2018 + **David Dorfman Dance Intensive** – Athens, OH + New York, NY
2021 (with social media work study)
2018 **American Dance Festival** – Durham, NC (with Memory for Movement work study)
2018 **Choreographic Platform** – Urbana, IL

PUBLICATIONS

MFA Thesis: *Flying Up and Falling Down; Queer Phenomenology, Cyborgs, Quantum Entanglement, and Tensegrity in “Material Body 01 + Pulse”: An Anti-Disciplinary Performance of Dance and Technology* (2024)

Conference Paper: *Stock Motion Performances: Gestural Publics and Digital Intimacy*. Written by Kate Ladenheim, Leo Grierson, and Tim Kelley, and MK Ford
Presented at the International Federation of Theatre Research Scenography Working Group Symposium, Prague Quadrennial (2023)
