

FRANCISCO SAJO GELLA
1012 Marquez Place, Unit 102
Santa Fe, NM 87505
949.929.2837
francisco@franciscogelladance.com

EDUCATION

1996 Bachelor of Arts in Dance
University of Washington, Seattle, WA

CHOREOGRAPHIC WORKS AND COMMISSIONS

2023 “Nomadic”, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
“Seat with a View”, Zeitgeist Dance Theatre, Santa Fe, NM

2022 “Seasons”, PHILADANCO, Philadelphia, PA
“Breathless”, Zeitgeist Dance Theatre, Santa Fe, NM
“Reverado”, Ballet West Trainee Company, Salt Lake City, UT
“Truth” (Dance on Film), Zeitgeist Dance Theatre, Santa Fe, NM

2021 “Stitching”, Ballet West Trainee Company, Salt Lake City, UT
“Moonlight Serenade”, Ballet West Academy, Salt Lake City, UT

2020 “af-ekt”, Ballet Idaho, Boise, ID
“Lightness”, Orange County High School for the Arts, Santa Ana, CA

2019 “Perpetual Continuum”, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT
“Particles” (extended), LA Dance Project dancers, Los Angeles, CA
“Calambre”, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet School, Santa Fe, NM
“Protheus”, Heidi Knight School of Dance, Huntsville, AL

2018 “Aloneness”, Repertory Dance Theatre, Salt Lake City, CA
“Horn of Plenty”, Utah Valley University, Orem, UT
“Particles”, Former NDT and Hubbard Street Dancers, Santa Fe, NM
“Ashes”, USC Kaufman Dancers, Los Angeles, CA
“Roots”, The Dance Studio of Fresno, Fresno, CA
“Ravel’s Bolero”, Leighton Dance Project, Sacramento, CA
“One Number Thirty One”, Dance Institute, Austin, TX
“Trenched”, Danceworks, Escazu, Costa Rica

2017 “Timelapse”, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Jacksonville, FL
“Untitled”, New Century Dance Project, Salt Lake City, UT
“Flow”, National Dance Institute (NDI), Santa Fe, NM
“Verano Poteno”, The Dallas Conservatory, Dallas, TX

- “Tango Passages”, Master Ballet Academy, Scottsdale, AZ
 “Roots”, The Dance Studio of Fresno, Fresno, CA
 “Palladio”, Danceworks, Escazu, Costa Rica
 “Batique”, Dancemakers Atlanta, Atlanta, GA
 “Rachmaninov Concerto” and “Rhapsody”, The Dance Institute, Austin, TX
 “I Exist Because of You”, and “Cloud Three”, Columbia City Jazz,
 Columbia, SC
 “Vigilance”, Studio Fusion, Huntington Beach, CA
 “Infra”, Hawkins School of Performing Arts, Castro, CA
 “Lyra Angelica”, Dance Connection, Scottsdale, AZ
- 2016 “Between the Lines”, PHILADANCO, Philadelphia Dance Company,
 Philadelphia, PA (for the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts)
 “Souvenirs de Mouvement”, Booker T. Washington High School for the
 Performing and Visual Arts, Dallas, TX
 “Collage”, The Dance Studio of Fresno, Fresno, CA
 “Untitled”, Cary Ballet Conservatory, Cary, North Carolina
 “Configured Echoes”, Dance Connection, Phoenix, AZ
 “Elements”, Danceworks, Escazu, Costa Rica
 “Four Dimensions”, The Dance Institute, Austin, TX
 “Consolation”, Dance Industry, Dallas, TX
 “Violin Concerto”, Columbia City Jazz, Columbia, South Carolina
 “Birds of Prey”, Creative Arts Academy, Bountiful, UT
- 2015 “Tango alla Piazzolla,” Academy of Ballet and Jazz, Tuscaloosa, AL
 “Convergence,” DANCO II, Philadelphia Dance Company, Philadelphia, PA
 “Schubert Impromptu”, Repertory Dance Theatre, Salt Lake City, UT
 “Movement for Seven,” Master Ballet Academy, Phoenix, UT
 “Dreamscape,” Creative Arts Academy, Bountiful, UT
 “Configured Echoes,” Bunker Dance Center, Las Vegas
 “Leave My Head Alone,” Dance Industry, Dallas, TX
- 2014 “Collage”, Irvine Valley College, Irvine, CA
 “Solstice”, Phoenix Ballet, Phoenix, AZ
 (for the Beijing Academy of Ballet Anniversary Gala)
 “Flood” and “Earthquake”, Luminario Ballet, Los Angeles, CA
 (part of Luminario’s “Trails” ballet)
 “The Empress”, Los Angeles Ballet Academy, Encino, CA
 “Ashes”, Center Stage Performing Arts Academy, Orem, UT
 (for the Dancing Under The Stars Festival)
 “Desert Serenade”, Creative Arts Academy, Bountiful, UT
 “Transmutation”, Dance Industry Performing Arts, Plano, TX
 “Wait Until Your Turn”, Dance Industry Performing Arts, Plano, TX
 “Come In! Movement II”, Bunker Dance Center, Las Vegas, NV
 “Palladio for 15”, Hawkins School of Performing Arts, Folsom, CA
 “Echorus (reset)”, Center Stage Performing Arts, Orem, UT
 (for the McCallum Desert Choreography Festival)
 “Stairway”, Center Stage Performing Arts, Orem, UT
 (for the McCallum Desert Choreography Festival)

2013 For COLABO Youth Dance Collective, Chino, CA:
 “Concentric Harmonies” (Commissioned for Celebrate Dance)
 “Echorus”
 “Sunlight”
 “Memories du Futur”
 “Crossroads”
 “The Moment I Said It”

For Center Stage Performing Arts Center, Salt Lake City, UT:
 “Rachmaninov Concerto”
 “Mozart Piano Concerto”

2012 “Solstice” for Long Beach Ballet, Long Beach, CA
 “Untitled: Dance for 12” for Project LAUNCH, Roseville, CA
 “Ave Maria” for San Diego Academy of Ballet
 “Air” for Laguna Dance Theater

2011 “Interlude” for *innovate*, NUEVO Dance Concert
 “Palladio” for Backhausdance’s PLATFORM, Irvine, CA

2010 “en deux” for *re:define*, NUEVO Dance Concert
 “Nocturne Studies” for the University of Washington Dance Program

2009 “Ave Maria” for *reawakening*, NUEVO Dance Concert

2008 “White Noise” for South Bay Ballet, Torrance, CA
 “Speak for Yourself” for Ballet East, Austin, TX
 “Spirals” for Tucson Regional Ballet

2007 “Configured Echoes” for South Bay Ballet, Torrance, CA
 “For Lola” for Tucson Regional Ballet
 “Nocturne Studies” for Ballet East, Austin, TX
 “Dream’s on Me…” for the Laguna Beach Dance Festival

2006 “Tango Passages” for South Bay Ballet, Torrance, CA
 “Untitled Duet” for the Laguna Beach Dance Festival

2005 “no es lo que aparece” for Reflections Dance, Washington, DC

2004 “Suite Vivaldi” for California Ballet, San Diego, CA

2002 “Ballet Re-mixed” for Pennsylvania Ballet’s *Shut-Up & Dance* benefit

2001 “Concerto Armonico” for Philadelphia Dance Company II

2000 “In a Different Space” for the Philadelphia Dance Company

1999 “Solo Study #4” for Philadelphia Dance Company II

1998 “Tango Passages” for the University of Utah Ballet Ensemble

- 1997 “Septet Variations” for the Proving Ground Concert, Salt Lake City, UT
- 1996 “Untitled Duet” for Dance Majors Concert, University of Washington
- 1995 “Concerto in A” for Dance Majors Concert, University of Washington
- 1994 “Sacred Heart” for Dance Majors Concert, University of Washington

CHOREOGRAPHY AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- 2022 Choreography Award, Youth America Grand Prix
- 2021 Choreography Award, Icon Dance Awards
- 2017 First Place Ensemble Award for ‘Master Ballet Academy at Youth America Grand Prix
- 2016 “Between the Lines” commissioned for the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts funded by the National Endowment for the Arts
 “Between the Lines” invited for New-York Premiere at the BRIC Celebrate Brooklyn! Arts Festival
 “Between the Lines” selected to be featured at the 2016 Democratic National Convention Opening Welcome Event
 “Souvenirs de Movement” selected for the annual Flying Horse Gala at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts
 First Place Ensemble Award for “Movement for Seven” at Youth America Grand Prix Denver Regional
 First Place Ensemble Award for “Dreamscapes” at the American Ballet Competition
- 2015 “Solstice” Invited to the Lodz International Ballet Competition for its European Premiere
 Division II Grand Prize Finalist for “The Empress”
 18th Annual McCallum Theatre Choreography Festival
 Top 12 Global Ensemble Award for “The Empress”
 International Youth America Grand Prix Competition
- 2014 Selection of “Solstice” to have its world premiere at the 60th anniversary of the Beijing Dance Academy Gala Celebration

- Division II Grand Prize Finalist for “Echorus” and “Stairway”
17th Annual McCallum Theatre Choreography Festival
- 2013 Division II Grand Prize Winner for “Concentric Harmonies” at the
16th Annual McCallum Theatre Choreography Festival
- GMA TV Filipino Channel feature for “Power ng Pinoy” TV Show
- 2012 Honored as one of the Top 100 Filipino Americans in the
Category of “Performing and Creative Arts”
- Outstanding Choreographer Award, Youth America Grand Prix
- 2011 Asst. Chor. Patricia Zhou’s solo on ABC’s “Dancing with the Stars”
- Outstanding Choreographer Award, Youth America Grand Prix
- Finalist, Dance Under the Stars Choreography Festival, Division II
McCallum Theatre for “Jazz – Tango”
- 2009 Finalist, Dance Under the Stars Choreography Festival, Division I
McCallum Theatre for “Dream’s on Me”
- Selected and performed at the American Regional College Dance Festival
for “Nocturne Studies”
- 2008 Finalist, Dance Under the Stars Choreography Festival, Division I
McCallum Theatre for “Untitled Duet”
- Selected and performed for the Presidential Scholars Gala at the Kennedy
Center for “Tango en Pointe”
- 2007 Best Choreography (Pacific Region), National Regional Dance America for
“Configured Echoes”
- 2005 Charles S. Bennett Choreography Fund for “Suite Vivaldi”
- 1995 Choreographer’s Award for University of Washington Dance Program
- 1994 Choreographer’s Award for University of Washington Dance Program

PROFESSIONAL DANCE EXPERIENCE

- 2005 – 2006 California Ballet, San Diego, CA
Repertory performed:
“Swan Lake” by Thor Sutowski
“Coppelia” by Maxine Mahon

- 2005 – 2006 National Choreographers Initiative, Irvine, CA
Works performed:
 “No Fixed Points” by Ron de Jesus
 “Broken” by Gina Patterson
 “Subject Forgotten” by Luca Vegetti
 “Untitled” by Christopher D’Amboise
- 2002 – 2005 Ballet Pacifica, Irvine, CA
Repertory performed:
 “Love Intr-fear” by Dominic Walsh
 “Unknown Territory” by Choo San Goh
 “im print” by Shaun Hounsell
 “Jardin Aux Lilas” by Anthony Tudor
 “The Naughty Ones” by Stephen Mills
 “The Nutcracker” by Molly Lynch
 “In the Ruins” by Rick McCullough
 “LIVE” by Sarah Slipper
 “We Awake in Mourning” by Robert Sund
 “Building Bridges” by Adam Hundt & Molly Lynch
 “Blackberry Winter” by Ann Marie D’Angelo
- 1998 – 2002 Philadelphia Dance Company, Philadelphia, PA
Repertory performed:
 “Pretty is Skin Deep” by Talley Beatty
 “Conversations for 7 Souls” by Gene Hill Sagan
 “Echoes” by Milton Myers
 “Enemy Behind the Gates” by Christopher Huggins
 “Southern Landscape” by Talley Beatty
 “Mourner’s Bench” by Talley Beatty
 “Elegy” by Gene Hill Sagan
 “Joy” by Milton Myers
 “Unspoken” by Milton Myers
 “Dreamtime” by Elisa Monte
 “La Bess” by David Brown
 “Tribute” by Dwight Rhoden
 “My Science” by Bebe Miller
 “Beattyville” by Fred Benjamin
 “X-mas Philes” by Daniel Ezralow
 “Ode to Ellington” by Ronald K. Brown
 “Hand Singing Song” by Jawole Zollar
 “Suite Otis” by George Faison
- 1998 Salt Lake City Olympic Committee
Performed as a soloist in “Contrast, Culture, Courage” at the
Winter Olympics Closing Ceremonies, Nagano, Japan
- 1996 – 1998 Repertory Dance Theater, Salt Lake City, UT
Repertory performed:
 “Dance for 2 Army Blankets” by Shapiro & Smith
 “Summit” by David Parsons
 “Erosion” by Zvi Gotheiner
 “Karyo” by Susan McClain
 “Watermark” by Ford Evans
 “Liquid Interior” by Margaret Jenkins

“Skylight” by Laura Dean
“Rhythm Plus” by Lucinda Childs
“Passengers” by Viola Farber
“Sine” by Yacov Sharir
“Chairs” by Zvi Gotheiner
“Turf” by Shapiro & Smith
“Separate Journeys” by Lynn Wimmer
“Jukebox” by Bill Evans
“Castor & Pollux” by Elizabeth Waters
“Folksay” by Sophie Maslow

1995 – 1996 Chamber Dance Company, Seattle, WA

Repertory performed:

“Four Brubeck Pieces” by Murray Louis

“Tensile Involvement” by Alwin Nikolais

Spectrum Dance Theater, Seattle, WA

Repertory performed:

“Grusin Suite” by Frank Chavez

1994 – 1996 The Seattle Opera, Seattle, WA

Repertory performed:

“The Pearl Fishers” Corps Dancer for Bizet’s Opera

Leaving Ground/Dance, Seattle, WA

DANCE TRAINING

2006 – Present Ballet classes with Gisela Genschow, Alaine Haubert, Reid Olsen, Leslie Carrothers, Nader Hamed and Tanya Durbin

2002 – 2005 Ballet classes with Molly Lynch and Gillian Finley

1998 – 2002 Horton Technique with Milton Myers
Graham Technique with Patricia Thomas
Dunham Technique with Joan Myers Brown and Kim Bears
Ballet Technique with Delores Brown Abelson and Lisa Sundstrom, Maqui Manosa and Company Class with Pennsylvania Ballet

1997 – 1998 Ballet for men’s technique with Adriano Welch
Ballet partnering with Conrad Ludlow and Adriano Welch

1993 – 1997 University of Washington Dance Program
Ballet: Hannah Wiley
Modern: Jim Lepore, Rip Parker, and Hector Vega
Contact Improvisation: Jim Lepore
Jazz: Hector Vega and Jaylene Dunning

ARTISTIC DIRECTORSHIPS

2020 – present	Zeitgeist Dance Theatre, Founding Co-Artistic Director
2019 – present	Francisco Gella Dance Works, Chief Creative Officer/Owner
2019	The Ballet Company Intensive, a joint program with Ballet Idaho Co-founding Director
2017 – Present	Preprofessional Dancer Institute, Founding Artistic Director Seattle Dance Advance, Founding Director
2016- Present	New Century Dance Project Festival, Founding Artistic Director New Years Training Camp, Founding Director
2015-Present	Aria Ballet Intensive, Founding Director Ballet+ (beyond technique) Workshops, Founding Director/Owner
2012 – Present	COLABO Youth Dance Collective, Founding Director/Owner
2008-2014	NUEVO School of Contemporary Dance, Founding Director/Owner

TEACHING

2023	Artist-in-Residence Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, Los Angeles, CA Guest Teaching Artist New Mexico School for the Arts, Santa Fe, NM Columbia City Jazz Conservatory, Lexington, SC Artistic Motion Dance, Gilbert, AZ Heidi Knight School of Dance, Huntsville, AL The Dance Awards, Las Vegas, NV
2022	Guest Teaching Artist New Mexico School for the Arts, Santa Fe, NM National Dance Institute, Santa Fe, NM Windward School, Culver City, CA Ballet West Academy, Salt Lake City, TX Pulse Dance Center, Vancouver, BC, Canada The Dance Kollektive, Houston, TX The Dance Studio of Fresno, Fresno, CA Artistic Motion Dance, Gilbert, AZ 3D Dance, Tuscaloosa, AL
2021	Guest Teaching Artist Ballet West Trainee Program, Salt Lake City, UT Ballet West Academy, Salt Lake City, UT

The Dance Kollektive, Houston, TX
Center Stage Performing Arts, Orem, UT

- 2020
Guest Teaching Artist
Orange County School of the Arts, Santa Ana, CA
The Windward School, Los Angeles, CA
Studio C, Boise Idaho
Bay Area Dance School, Los Altos, CA
Studio Fusion, Huntington Beach, CA
San Juan Dance Center, Los Altos, CA
Pulse Dance Center, Vancouver, BC, CN
- 2019
Artist-in-Residence
The Palm Springs Dance Festival, Palm Springs, CA
The Dance Studio of Fresno, Fresno, CA
Guest Teaching Artist
Ballet Idaho, Boise, ID
Westchester Dance Academy, Westchester, NY
Orange County School of the Arts, Santa Ana, CA
Pulse Dance Center, Vancouver, BC, CN
Studio Fusion, Huntington Beach, CA
Masters Upper Level Academy, Houston, TX
- 2018
Artist-in-Residence
Utah Valley University, Orem, UT
Performing Arts Academy of Marin, Mill Creek, CA
The Dance Studio of Fresno, Fresno, CA
National Dance Institute, New Mexico
Male Dancer Conference, New York, NY
Guest Teaching Artist
Leighton Dance Project, Sacramento, CA
Dance Institute, Austin, TX
Center Stage Performing Arts, Orem, UT
Heidi Knight School of Dance
Aspen Santa Fe Ballet School, Santa Fe, NM
The Point Academy, Highland, UT
Columbia City Jazz Conservatory, Lexington, SC
DanceWorks CR, Escazu, Costa Rica
Yoko's School of Dance, Fremont, CA
Bay Area Dance School, San Jose, CA
Winner School, Holladay, UT
- 2017
Artist-In-Residence
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Jacksonville, FL
National Dance Institute, Santa Fe, NM
The Male Dancer Conference, New York, NY
Windward School, Los Angeles, CA
Performing Arts Academy of Marin, Mill Valley, CA
Guest Teaching Artist:
DansArt, Monterrey, MX

Cary Ballet Conservatory, Cary, NC
The Dallas Conservatory, Dallas, TX
The Dance Zone, Toronto, CN
Master Ballet Academy, Scottsdale, AZ
The Dance Studio of Fresno, Fresno, CA
Danceworks, Escazu, Costa Rica
Dancemakers Atlanta, Atlanta, GA
The Dance Institute, Austin, TX
Columbia City Jazz, Columbia, SC
Studio Fusion, Huntington Beach, CA
Hawkins School of Performing Arts, Castro, CA
Dance Connection, Scottsdale, AZ
Academy of Ballet and Jazz, Tuscaloosa, AL
Heidi Knight School of Dance, Huntsville, AL
Dancetown, Miami, FL

2016

Artist-In-Residence

Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing & Visual Arts

Guest Teaching Artist:

Philadelphia Dance Company, Philadelphia, PA
The Dance Teacher Summit, Long Beach, CA
Jazz DanceFest, Escazu, Costa Rica
The Directors Cut Ballet Intensive, Austin, TX
Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, Los Angeles, CA
Danceology, San Diego, CA
The Dance Connection, Phoenix, AZ
The Dance Institute, Austin, TX
Touch of Class Dance Studio, Philadelphia, PA
The Southern Strutt, Irmo, South Carolina
Academy of Ballet and Jazz, Tuscaloosa, AL
Dancemakers, Atlanta, GA

2015

Artist-In-Residence

Repertory Dance Theatre, Salt Lake City, UT

Guest Teaching Artist:

Philadelphia Dance Company, Philadelphia, PA
The Dance Teacher Summit, Long Beach, CA
Jazz DanceFest, Escazu, Costa Rica
Danceworks Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica
Academy of Ballet and Jazz, Tuscaloosa, AL
Danceology, San Diego, CA
Master Ballet Academy, Phoenix, AZ
Columbia City Jazz, Columbia, SC
New World School of the Arts, Miami, FL
STARS Dance Company, Miami, FL
Bunker Dance Center, Las Vegas, NV
The Dance Studio of Fresno, Fresno, CA
The Southern Strutt, Irmo, SC
Creative Arts Academy, Bountiful, UT

2014 - 15 Artist-In-Residence:
 Center Stage Performing Arts, Orem, UT
 Dance Industry Performing Arts Center, Plano, TX

2012 – Present 24 Seven Dance Convention Principal Ballet Faculty

2014 Principal Instructor: NUEVO School of Contemporary Dance, Chino, CA
 Ballet Intensive Lead Faculty:
 Denise Wall's Dance Energy, Virginia Beach, VA
 Michelle Latimer Dance Academy, Greenwood Village, CO
 The Southern Strutt, Irmo, SC
 Columbia City Jazz, Columbia, SC
 Guest Teaching Artist:
 BODYTRAFFIC, Los Angeles, CA
 University of California Irvine, Irvine, CA
 Northern California Dance Conservatory, Roseville, CA
 Master Ballet Academy, Scottsdale, AZ
 Bunker Dance Center, Las Vegas, NV
 The Rock Center for Dance, Las Vegas, CA
 Hawkins School of Performing Arts, Folsom, CA
 The Southern Strutt, Irmo, SC
 Michelle Latimer Dance,
 Columbia City Jazz, Columbia, SC
 Murrieta Dance Project, Murrieta, CA
 Temecula Dance Company, Temecula, CA
 Creative Arts Academy, Bountiful, UT
 The Dance Awards, Las Vegas, Nevada
 Lead Outreach Master Teacher for High Schools and Studios
 McCallum Theatre Choreography Festival, Palm Desert, CA

2013 Principal Instructor:
 NUEVO School of Contemporary Dance
 Guest Master Instructor for:
 Be Discovered, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
 Center Stage Performing Arts Center, Salt Lake City, UT
 Principal Instructor for:
 "A Dancer's Life: The Summer Intensive Alternative"

2012 Guest Instructor (Ballet, Modern & Contemporary Technique):
 Northern California Dance Conservatory
 Be Discovered, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
 San Diego Academy of Ballet
 Founder and Principal Instructor for:
 "A Dancer's Life: The Summer Intensive Alternative"

Summer 2011 Contemporary and Modern Technique for:
 California Dance Theater Summer Intensive
 Long Beach Ballet Summer Intensive
 Laguna Dance Theater Summer Intensive

- 2007 – 2011 Ballet Instructor, Coastal Dance Rage Convention North American Tour
- 2003 – 2005 Adjunct faculty for Orange County High School for the Arts
- 2002 – 2010 Guest instructor for:
 SUNY Binghamton Summer Dance Institute
 Extravadanza, Montreal, Canada
 West Coast Dance Academy
 Lula Washington Dance Company & School
 California Ballet Conservatory
 Ballet Pacifica Summer Intensive
 Festival Ballet
 Tucson Regional Ballet
- 2002 – 2008 Ballet Program Director and Instructor, Dance Precisions, Yorba Linda, CA
- 1998 – 2002 Master class at The Philadelphia School of Dance Arts and instructor representing The Philadelphia Dance Company for numerous colleges and universities during national and international tours
- 1996 – 1998 Faculty and company class Instructor for Repertory Dance Theater's Professional Company and Community School

CONSULTING

- 2018 – Present Francisco Gella Dance Works
 College Dance Admissions and Search Advisement and
 College Prep Workshops
- 2016 - 2017 Francisco Gella Dance Works
 Ballet Program Assessment and Training, Performing Arts Academy
 of Marin, Mill Valley, CA
- 2014 Francisco Gella Dance Works.
 Ballet Program Assessment, The Southern Strutt, Irmo, SC
 College Counseling and Coaching for Aspiring Professional Dancers

ADJUDICATION

- 2012 - Present Lead Adjudicator, 24 Seven Dance Convention

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 1984 – 1992 Competitive Gymnastics
 Coached by Mircea Badulescu, UCSB High School Extension Program;
 Mark Russo, Head Coach, University of Washington Gymnastics Club; and
 Eric Gelfand, Cascade Elite Gymnastics