

Curriculum Vitae

Jess Allen

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Equity PLI £10 million



I'm an aerialist and performance artist. My aerial practice focuses on corde lisse, sling and aerial yoga, teaching peripatetically in rural Wales but principally at Syrcas Byd Bychan. I have a background in aerial dance performance (harness/bungee) through my work for inclusive companies Blue Eyed Soul and EVERYBODY Dance, which gave me extensive experience co-teaching workshops for disabled and nondisabled children and adults. My art practice is characterised by durational and collaborative art in rural landscapes. I work across forms, typically combining walking art with one-to-one performance but I also use movement, film, installation, food and crafts. Unusually, I have two PhDs – one in biology, one in eco-activist performance – that bookend a decade of professional practice in conservation, arts facilitation, performance and lecturing. I am a certified AeroZen aerial yoga instructor.

Employment

Aerial performance			
Performer	Small World Theatre	Aerial performer (rope/sling) in cabaret and outdoor performance events.	2019-present
	EVERYBODY Dance Company	<i>Great Outdoors</i> – forthcoming outdoor show and aerial retreat experiences for people living with physical, learning, sensory impairment, mental health, and long-term health issues and those living on a low income.	2022
		<i>Our Man in the Moone</i> - outdoor aerial dance performance co-created with learning disabled actors and young people, with workshops (see Workshop leader below).	2021
		<i>Lovely Bugs/Kingfisher & the Damselflies</i> – outdoor ecologically-themed, inclusive (disabled/nondisabled) aerial performances touring UK/Europe; alongside an extensive programme of workshops and residencies (see Workshop leader below).	2013-17
	Full Tilt Aerial Theatre	<i>Flow/Sight:Unseen</i> – outdoor, site-based and experimental aerial performances, M32/Circomedia (Bristol)	2012
Blue Eyed Soul Dance Company	<i>TAKE; a dance in the park</i> – outdoor inclusive (disabled/nondisabled) aerial performance, UK touring and Kennedy Center, USA.	2009-10	
Teaching, lecturing and facilitation			
Trainer	Syrcas Byd Bychan Small World Theatre	Teaching aerial circus and aerial yoga in a vibrant rural community circus school, ages 6-70+	2018-present
Visiting lecturer	University of Manchester	Visiting lecturer for Drama delivering workshops for Activist Performance and Performance Practices 2 (Physical Devising) modules.	2018-present

Workshop leader	EVERYBODY Dance	Outdoor aerial dance and movement workshops (harness/hammock) and guided nature trails for disabled and non-disabled children and adults, including week-long residencies at special schools working with PMLD children.	2013-17
Lecturer	University of Plymouth/ City of Bristol College	Lecturer on foundation degree (FdA) in Dance Theatre Performance. Modules including dance theatre history, community dance and professional practice, contact improvisation, somatic practice, study skills.	2009-12
Arts facilitator	AHRC Multi-Story Water (UWE Bristol/Environment Agency)	Facilitator and event producer for interdisciplinary research project (geography/drama) exploring site-based participatory performance as a means to build resilience in urban communities at risk of flooding. Responsibilities included: project and budget management; devising and facilitating community arts events; building community links; producing large-scale community promenade performance and outdoor film night under M32 motorway.	2012
Conservation			
Landscape & conservation officer (Jobshare)	Worcestershire County Council	Curation and promotion of county Landscape Character Assessment as planning policy tool: digital mapping (GIS); contribution to planning policy; website management; training delivery; collaboration with statutory agencies, NGOs and community groups.	2006-12
Lifescapes project officer	Herefordshire Council	English Nature/LEADER+ project to map strategic and community objectives for habitat restoration and facilitate community-led biodiversity projects.	2003-5

Aerial teacher training

Circus Mobility Cardinal – Aerial Coaching Mentorship – Jessica John, UK – Feb-Aug 2022

Dynamic Rope Teacher Training – Alex Allan, UK – August 2020

AeroZen Aerial Yoga Teacher Training – Amy Linda Miller, ZenBody Yoga, Tulsa, USA – July 2018

Education

PhD (Drama, practice-based)	<i>'Tracktivism: walking & talking in rural landscapes as eco-activist performance.'</i>	University of Manchester (Prof. Stephen Bottoms)	2012-17
MA (Distinction)	<i>Dance Making & Performance</i>	Coventry University	2008-10
FdA (First)	<i>Dance Theatre Performance</i>	University of Plymouth/ City of Bristol College	2006-08
PhD (Biology)	<i>'Metabolic footprinting: a novel approach to yeast functional genomics.'</i>	Aberystwyth University (Prof. Douglas Kell)	1998- 2002
BSc (Hons) (First)	<i>Biology</i>	Aberystwyth University	1995-98

Selected art works

[Drop in the Ocean](#) (2013-18) latterly for SPILL Festival of Performance, Ipswich 2018

[Water Treatment Walks](#) (2016) commissioned by AHRC Cymerau/Hydrocitizenship

[Trans-missions](#) (2015)

[All in a Day's Walk](#) (2012-13)

[Tilting at Windmills](#) (2010)

Selected publications

Allen, J. (2021) 'Drop in the Ocean: On Walking with Water as Affective Activism', in *Movements, Methods and Pedagogy* ed. Anne Harris and Stacy Holman Jones. London: Routledge. pp. 25-40.

Allen, J. (2020) Tracktivism: Eco-activist Walking Art as Expanded Choreography in Rural Landscape. *Choreographic Practices*, 10 (2), pp. 175-195.

Allen, J. and S. Penrhyn Jones (2012) '*Tilting at Windmills* in a changing climate: a performative walking practice and dance-documentary film as an embodied mode of engagement and persuasion', *RiDE: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance*, 17 (2), pp. 209-227.

Allen, J. (2009) 'Positive Altitude: Hidden Disabilities in Integrated Dance Performance', *Animated*, Winter, pp. 34-35.

Scholarships, prizes and bursaries

With For About Bursary, Heart of Glass, 2018

President's Doctoral Scholarship, University of Manchester, 2012-2015

BBSRC CASE PhD Studentship, Aberystwyth University, 1998-2001

Elizabeth Thomas Prize for Zoology, Aberystwyth University, 1998

Daily Telegraph Young Science Writer of the Year, Runner-up and Finalist 1998-1999

Evan Morgan Scholarship, Aberystwyth University 1995-1998

Referees

Available on request