

**Sharon Leahy**  
**Choreographer • Dancer • Director • Teacher • Yogi**

**MAJOR WORKS AND COMMISSIONS**

2022: *One Heartbeat* - an immersive site specific, interactive arts experience using dance, song, tunes and musical sculptures, to inspire self and group expression. The interactive experience conveys its message by encouraging physical participation. The creation of One Heartbeat was assisted by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) American Rescue Plan (ARP) intended to support artists in their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

2019: *Jump Shot* - commissioned by the Basin Dance Collective, this work blurs the line between dance and basketball in a playful yet competitive romp. Everyone is a winner. Created with support of an ARTSPARK grant from the Acadiana Center for the Arts.

2016: *Ground Fine* - a screendance delving into the complicated relationship between food and mood. This work was a part of a collaboration between choreographers and chefs, commissioned by Runaway Dish, Basin Arts, and the Acadiana Center for the Arts, Lafayette, Louisiana.

2013: *Knuck 'n Futz* - a classic vaudeville duet created for the World Buskers Festival in Christchurch, New Zealand, featuring musician, Rick Good and Cirque DuSoleil artist, Nate Cooper.

2013: *Carry it on...* - a screen dance focusing on the sacred power and potential of place and our relationship to it. Moving through, with and around open fields, a pine grove and an old stage, the cast of dancers and musicians explores humankind's relationship to the environment and our universal need to gather. This work was commissioned by the Wheatland Music Organization in Michigan, in celebration of their 40th anniversary.

2010: *Bolero* - the Zen of Tap; *Adieu Mes Amis* - a farewell work to the community of Dayton with original Cajun music, created for Rhythm in Shoes in collaboration with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra and inspired by the paintings of Jack Vettriano.

2007: *The Wild Party* - dance theater to Milhaud's *Le Boeuf sur le toit*; *Ragtime Dance* - tapping to Scott Joplin; *Harvest Home* - old time dance theater with Jay Ungar & Molly Mason, created for Rhythm in Shoes collaboration with the Dayton Philharmonic.

2007: *Banjo Dance: a Celebration of American Spirit* - an evening length program surveying and celebrating the evolution of Appalachian culture (itself a fusion of British Isles, African and Native American cultures) from the 1880s to the 21st century, created for Rhythm in Shoes in collaboration with composer, Rick Good.

2006: *RedScent* - a concert tap work fusing North and South American rhythms.

2004: *Brandenburg Concerto #3* - classical tap trio; *Brubeck's Take Five & Blue Rondo ala Turk* - dance theater work examining family dynamics; *Gershwin Suite* - ballroom/tap duets, created for Rhythm in Shoes collaboration with the Dayton Philharmonic.

2003 & 2004: *Doctor Goodfellows Traveling Vaudeville Entertainment* - a re-creation of vaudeville acts from the early 1900s, commissioned by the National Aviation Heritage Foundation for Dayton, Ohio's Centennial of Flight Celebration.

2002: *William Tell Overture* - physical comedy dance theater work; *Morton Gould Tap Concerto* - a recreation of 1952 score for tap dancer and orchestra, created for Rhythm in Shoes in collaboration with the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra.

2002: *Rambleshoe* - created for Rhythm in Shoes in collaboration with the Red Clay Ramblers of North Carolina, based on concepts of family and home, with support from the New England Foundation for the Arts and the National Dance Project. This work toured nationwide from 2003 through 2005.

2001: *Hoagland* - a study of character and situation (a constant theme in my work), inspired by the music of Indiana composer, Hoagy Carmichael, translated his classic melodies and rhythms to movement, interactions and visual exchange.

2000: *Walk With Me* - a 45-minute work in six movements with original music by Rick Good. Commissioned by Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, in memory of their founder, Jeryldine Blunden, who, through her unbending support, had a major impact on my life and career.

2000: *Nova Town* - a dance/music/theater piece created in collaboration with writer/composer Rick Good, and a cast of fifteen dancers, actors and musicians. The work fuses elements of film noir, science fiction, beat poetry and astrophysics to portray a slice of life as it is mirrored in the heavens; funded in part by the Dayton Foundation.

2000: *Harvest Home* - a dance theater piece with classically arranged music by Jay Ungar, commissioned by the University of Akron and Wright State University.

1999: *Time Shifts* - a look at our understanding and use of time, created in collaboration with Keith Terry and Crosspulse, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project. Premiered April 10, 1999, at Memorial Hall in Dayton, Ohio.

1997: *Do You Remember This?* -an evening length's work focusing on the passing of women's knowledge from one generation to the next, in collaboration with sound sculpture artist and musician Michael Bashaw, composer Rick Good and forty women of all ages from my community. The piece was funded through Cultureworks of Dayton.

1995: *Reach* - a modern, rhythmic work expressing multicultural themes of work, prayer and play, commissioned by Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, with music created by Rick Good.

1995: *Baltimore Girls* - a whimsical look at Catholic school girls.

1994: *Streets of the Capitol* - a work in three movements that examines the issues of civil war, commissioned by Jacob's Pillow in Massachusetts, the Flynn Theater in Burlington, Vermont and Cityfolk in Dayton, Ohio, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, with music composed by Rick Good and Peter Sutherland.

1993: *Water from the Well* - incorporating gospel music and body rhythms, a collaboration with composer Rick Good and choreographer Keith Terry

1992: *I Live..*, created with the alternative rock band, the Horseflies, commissioned by Cityfolk of Dayton and funded through a New Work Grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

1991 – *Rhythmic* - a contemporary, rhythmic work created through the study of the sacred geometric figure, the enneagram, and Baka Pygmy singing.

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

2016 – 2020: Dance Instructor, resident choreographer Basin Arts, Lafayette, LA.

2015 – 2018: Yoga Instructor Little Creek Yoga at Camelia House, Lafayette, LA.

2012 – 2013: Director and Choreographer of Carry it on... a 40th Anniversary Celebration of Wheatland Music Organization. This work included a cast of over 80 artists, professional, student and community dancers and musicians; the mentorship of a student choreographer and the creation of a new work for both live performance and film.

2008 – 2010: Yoga Instructor Practice Yoga, Dayton, OH.

1987 – 2010: Artistic Director, choreographer and dancer with RHYTHM IN SHOES, a Dayton, Ohio-based touring company of musicians and dancers with a repertory of dance/theater works based in traditional and innovative step dance, tap, clogging and contemporary dance theater.

2003 – 2010: University of Dayton Artist in Residence, working to cultivate cross curriculum collaborations, design and implement dance and theater classes, choreograph ensembles, co –teach arts appreciation, host international performing artist on campus and facilitate annual Rhythm in Shoes concert with student participation.

1987 – 2001: Ohio Arts Council Arts in Education Artist in Residence designing and implementing one week to month long elementary and high school residencies in dance, music and theater.

1984 – 1986: Artistic Director, choreographer and dancer with FOOTNOTES, a NYC-based company of contemporary American step dancers.

1980 – 1983: Soloist and ensemble member with the VANAVER CARAVAN, a NY based company performing world dance and modern dance theater, Denishawn reconstructions, step dance and tap.

1979 – 1980: Ensemble member with the GREENGRASS CLOGGERS, a North Carolina-based company of traditional Appalachian clog dancers.

1978 – 1979: Commedia actor with the PEOPLE’S THEATRE CO. of Bethlehem,PA.

### **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- National Endowment for the Arts Choreography Fellowships, 1991, 1992 - 94, 1995 - 97
- Ohio Arts Council Choreography Fellowships, 1989, 1992, 1994, 1996
- 100 Top Irish Americans, 2003 - Irish American Magazine
- Cultureworks Opus Award for Artistic Excellence, 1996
- Ruth St. Denis Creative Choreography Award, 1983

### **SELECTED FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS**

- Dance for Camera, Lincoln Center, New York, NY - 2014
- Movies by Movers, American Dance Festival, Durham, NC - 2014, 2018
- San Fransisco Dance Film Festival, San Fransisco, CA - 2014, 2018
- Portland Dance Film Festival, Portland, OR - 2018
- Outlet Dance Project, Hamilton, NJ - 2018

- Tipperary Dance Platform, Ireland - 2018
- Experimental Dance & Music Film Festival, Toronto, Ontario - 2018

### **SELECTED STAGE PERFORMANCES**

University of Limerick, Republic of Ireland  
 Earthquake International Dance Festival, Belfast, Northern Ireland  
 Filene Center, Wolftrap National Park for the Performing Arts  
 “Face of America” Project  
 Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Lee, MA  
 Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua, NY  
 Washington Center for the Performing Arts, Olympia, WA  
 Arlene Schnitzer Performing Arts Center, Portland, OR  
 Irving Arts Center, Dallas, TX  
 1000 Oaks Performing Arts Center, Ventura, CA  
 University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA  
 Carver Cultural Center, San Antonio, TX  
 Northrup Auditorium, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN  
 Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Urbana, IL  
 Flynn Theater, Burlington, VT  
 Walton Arts Center, Fayetteville, AR  
 Wexner Center for the Visual Arts, Columbus, OH  
 Victoria Theater, Dayton, OH  
 Suzuka Circuitland, Suzuka, Japan  
 Spoleto Festival, USA, Charleston, SC  
 International Children’s Festival, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
 Winter Olympic Games 1980, Lake Placid, NY  
 National Folk Festival, Washington, DC and Dayton, OH

### **SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- Basin Arts - Lafayette LA: 2017 - 2020
- Camelia House - Lafayette , LA: 2014 - 2017
- Rhythm in Shoes Studios – Dayton, OH: 1995 – 2010
- University of Dayton: 2004 - 2010
- Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH: 1994, 2000, 2003 - 2004, 2006 - 2007
- Muse Machine Teacher Training - Dayton, OH: 1993-1997, 2001 - 2003
- Ohio Arts Council Artist in Residence: 1990-2010
- Association for the Advancement of Arts Education Teacher Training - Cincinnati, OH: 2000 - 2001
- Kodaly Music Educators Conference - Manitowac, WI: 1995
- Stivers Arts Magnet Middle School - Dayton, OH: 1992 – 1995

- Jeraldyn's School of the Dance - Dayton, OH: 1992 - 1994
- New York Council on the Arts Education Residency: 1985, 1986, 1989
- St. Benedict's Prep - Newark, NJ: 1983 - 1988
- McBurney YMCA - New York, NY: 1982 – 1988
- American Dance and Music Week - Pinewoods, MA: 1984
- Johnson State College Summer Dance, - VT: 1981 - 1982
- \* Miles of Music Camp - Lake Winnepesaukee, NH: 2018, 2019
- \* Augusta Heritage Center - Elkins, WV: 1985, 2017
- Ashokan Fiddle and Dance Camp, Olive Bridge, NY: 1980 - 1986, 1988 - 2023
- Wheatland Music Organization Dance Camp - Remus, MI: 1989, 1990, 2006, 2008, 2011, 2014
- Swannanoa Gathering - Warren Wilson College, Black Mountain, NC: 2011, 2020
- Festival of American Fiddle Tunes – Port Townsend, WA: 2011, 2023

### **CHOREOGRAPHY FOR THEATER**

- *Brother Wolf*: Human Race Theater Co. - Dayton, OH
- *Bat Boy, the Musical*: Human Race Theater Co. - Dayton, OH
- *Children of Eden*: Human Race Theater Co. - Dayton, OH
- *Quilters*: Human Race Theater Co. - Dayton, OH
- *Zombies from the Beyond*: Human Race Theater Co - Dayton, OH
- *Dancing at Lughnasa*: University of Dayton Theater Department

### **PANELIST/LECTURER**

- Culture Within Our Borders: Midwest Arts Conference - Indianapolis, IN: 2005
- National Endowment for the Arts - Dance on Tour
- Ohio Arts Council - Performing Arts General Operating Support
- University of Dayton - Annie T. Thornton Women in Business Conference: 2006

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