

Shannon Gillen

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Through a prolific body of work that activates the body's potential to express intellectual and emotional concepts, Gillen has pioneered a recognizable artistic language that combines heroic physicality, electric emotional life, and cinematic imagery. In The Santa Barbara Independent's review of FUTURE PERFECT, Gillen was championed for the "not only beautiful, but also unfamiliar, amazing, and even inexplicable" creation. And Brooklyn Magazine named her as one of NYC's top 20 artists, calling her choreography "emotionally compelling". In addition to creating works for traditional performances, Gillen is also the in-house choreographer for contemporary women's fashion line PHELAN, and was lauded by VOGUE for her "mesmerizing" movement installation at New York Fashion Week.

Prior to founding VIM VIGOR, Gillen was a full-time company member in the Johannes Wieland Company at the Staatstheater Kassel, Germany. While there she danced in 56 international performances and was singled out in the press for being, "in top form, a feat of strength" (HNA, German News). In addition to dancing in Germany, Gillen burst into the choreographic scene receiving 3rd Prize at the International Solo-Tanz Competition in Stuttgart, and continued with a commission at the Mainfranken Theater Würzburg and through Choreografische Werkstatt at the TIF Theater in Kassel. She was also selected as a THINK BIG choreographer in residence with the Staatsoper in Hannover, creating a piece that premiered at the TANZ Theater International Festival.

Upon returning to NYC she founded the non-profit organization VIM VIGOR. Interested in forming a collaborative think tank where innovative and profoundly gifted artists can come together to create cutting edge dance theater, the company is committed to exploring the limits of the medium. VIM's performers propel living characters through vivid shifting landscapes - moving, speaking, and manifesting realities. In the last four years, Shannon has been invited to bring VIM's creations and educational offerings across the United States, Canada, Central America, South America and Europe.

An insatiable creator, Gillen has choreographed 30 new works since 2010 with notable commissions with L. A. Dance Project, b12 Festival in Berlin, Hubbard Street's International Commissioning Competition, the Lobero Theatre/DANCEworks, PRISMA Festival in Panama, Ruvuelo in Concepcion, Chile, Treffpunkt- Rotebuehlplatz, Springboard Danse Festival, New York Live Arts, Dance New Amsterdam, Judson Church, PULSE Art Fair as part of Art Basel, NYC's River to River Festival, Bryant Park Presents, HERE Arts Center, Festival Oltre Passo in Italy, The Gibney Dance Company, and Steps Repertory Company for the The Joyce Theater and Jacob's Pillow.

Gillen graduated from The Juilliard School with her BFA (2003) and from Tisch School of the Arts/NYU (2013), where she was awarded a full fellowship to obtain her MFA. Dedicated to the advancement of movement based education, Gillen holds faculty teaching positions at SUNY Purchase College and Princeton University. She is a regular guest teacher at The Juilliard School, The Hartt School, and New York University/ Tisch School of the Arts. She has also established VIM VIGOR as the source for physical dance theater / Tanz-Theater education in NYC, with ongoing contemporary classes, workshops, week-long intensives and the company's immersive summer program. Gillen also teaches internationally at the b12 workshops in Berlin.

EDUCATION:

New York University, Tisch School of the Arts (DEAN FELLOWSHIP), MFA: 2011-2013

Modern, Ballet, Choreography, Performance, Graduate Seminar, Anatomy, Music Theory/History

Cherylyn Lavagnino, Sean Curran, Gus Solomons Jr., Deborah Jowitt, Phyllis Lamhut, James Sutton, James Martin, Pam Pietro, Renee Redding-Jones, Kay Cummings, Irene Dowd, Joy Kellman

The Juilliard School, BFA: 1999-2003

Modern, Ballet, Choreography, Performance, Anatomy, Alexander Technique, Music Theory, Art and Politics, Production, Lighting Design

Benjamin Harkavy, Lawrence Rhodes, Alexandra Wells, Stephen Pier, Martha Clarke, Pat Catterson, Terese Capucilli, Jacquelyn Buglisi, Laura Glenn, Risa Steinberg, Irene Dowd, Stan Pressner

Maggie Flanigan Studio: 2007

Conservatory based professional acting training dedicated to Meisner Technique

Finger Lakes School of Massage, Licensed Massage Therapist: 2004

Swedish Massage, Myofascial Release, Neuromuscular Therapy, Hydrotherapy, Kinesthetic Awareness through Movement (KAM), Bartenieff Fundamentals, Anatomy and Kinesiology

RESIDENCIES and AWARDS:

- **DANCEWORKS/Lobero Theatre**, Santa Barbara, California, 2016
- **New Jersey Dance Theatre Ensemble AIR program**, 2015-current
- **TANZ Theater International Festival/THINK BIG Artist in Residence**, Hannover, 2014
- **18th International Solo-Dance-Theatre Festival, Stuttgart, Germany:** 3rd Place Dance, 2014
- **Random Collision/Grand Theater**, Groningen, Netherlands, Artist Residency, 2013
- **BROOKLYN MAGAZINE:** Top 20 Artists, Culture Issue 2013
- **First Emerging Choreographer for The Steps Ensemble:** Selected by Christopher Wheeldon
- **DEAN FELLOWSHIP, Tisch School of the Arts, NYU:** Full Scholarship, 2011-2013
- **Stella Adler 'MAD' Artist in Residence**, 2011
- **Springboard Danse Montreal**, E-Choreographer/Artist in Residence, 2011, 2010
- **The Field**, Space Grant Artist
- **The AWARDS Show!:** Joyce SoHo, Finalist, NYC
- **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Swing Space Artist in Residence**, 2009
- **Dance New Amsterdam**, Artist in Residence, 2009, 2008
- **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council**, Sitelines Artist, 2008
- **Dance Theater Workshop**, Fresh Tracks Artist in Residence, 2008, 2007

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- VIM VIGOR DANCE COMPANY** - contemporary dance, improvisation, composition, contact partnering, and acting (2015-present)
- SUNY Purchase College** - contemporary dance faculty (2014-present)
- Princeton University** - contemporary dance faculty (2018)
- The Juilliard School** - partnering, contemporary dance, and recurring guest master class teacher (2010-present)
- Barnard College** - contemporary dance faculty (2017)
- Springboard Danse Montreal** - contemporary dance faculty (2017-present)
- b12 workshops / Berlin, Germany** - teacher (2016-present)
- Prisma Festival / Panama** - guest contemporary master class teacher (2016-present)
- Revuelo / Concepcion and Santiago, Chile** - teacher (2017 present)
- Johannes Wieland Company / Staatstheater Kassel, Germany** - guest teacher (2014)
- Ailey/Fordham School, BFA** - contemporary master class teacher (2014-present)
- University of Michigan** - contemporary teacher / choreographer (2017)
- Marymount Manhattan College** - contemporary master class teacher (2014-present)
- New York University/Tisch School of the Arts** - contemporary master class teacher (2011-present)
- Movement Invention Project** - improvisation, composition, partnering, acting and contemporary faculty (2010-present)
- University of Hartford - Hartt School** - choreographer and contemporary master class teacher (2011, 2012)
- Steps on Broadway, Peridance Capezio Dance Center, Mark Morris Dance Center** - recurring contemporary master class teacher (2008-present)
- Festival Oltre Passo: Lecce, Italy** - guest choreographer and contemporary master class teacher (2005)

CHOREOGRAPHY (2014-present):

- **L.A. Dance Project** - RUN FROM ME (2018 soft premiere Musco Center, Premieres Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris 2019)
- **Princeton University**- new creation (2019)
- **Springboard Danse Festival Montreal** - new creation (2019)
- **VIM VIGOR / Moss Theater** - new creation (2018)
- **b12 festival, Berlin** - ABYME
- **Springboard Danse Festival Montreal** - MYSELF EVERYTHING
- **Gibney Dance Company** - PASTORAL
- **Barnard College** - MORE PERFECT
- **University of Michigan SMDT** - VOX
- **Manhattanville College** - NEW DAWN
- **Springboard Danse Festival Montreal** - VOX
- **VIM VIGOR / Jack Crystal Theater - NYU Tisch School of the Arts** - 'SEPARATI'
- **Lines Ballet Training Program** - VOX
- **Fine Arts Center, South Carolina** - dóthain
- **VIM VIGOR / Baruch Performing Arts Center** - 'FUTURE PERFECT'
- **VIM VIGOR / PRISMA FESTIVAL, guest company** - 'SEPARATI' (Central America Premiere)
- **VIM VIGOR / Lobero Theatre/DanceWorks, Santa Barbara** - 'FUTURE PERFECT'
- **New York Fashion Week - PHELAN**, Cedar Lake
- **The Juilliard School Summer Program** - 'Necivilizovany'
- **Springboard Danse Festival, Place des Arts, Montreal, Canada** - 'Necivilizovany'
- **Lines Ballet Training Program, San Francisco** - 'KEEL'
- **New York Fashion Week - PHELAN**, La Mama
- **VIM VIGOR / Gelsey Kirkland Arts Center** - 'SEPARATI'
- **Hubbard Street 2, International Commissioning Competition** - 'Long White Line' (Switzerland)
- **Springboard Danse Festival, Usine C, Montreal, Canada** - 'Long White Line'
- **Second Avenue Dance Company/NYU** - 'SONS+DAUGHTERS'
- **SUNY Purchase Conservatory** - 'SIELAND'
- **TANZ Theater International Festival/THINK BIG, Hannover**- 'Empty Chair Technique'
- **Mainfranken Theater Würzburg** - 'COLD BRIGHT SHE'
- **International Solo-Dance-Theatre Festival 2014, Stuttgart** - 'COLD BRIGHT SHE'
- **TIF, Staatstheater Kassel Germany** - 'Flesh'
- **/// choreography prior to 2014 available upon request ///**

CHOREOGRAPHY/PERFORMANCE PRESS QUOTES:

'A fluid mover, **the fearsome Ms. Gillen has an electrifying theatrical presence.**'

Claudia La Rocco, The New York Times

The sheer intensity of choreographer Shannon Gillen's yearning for more of everything — more life, more danger, more awe — became manifest as the five performers tore through this molten composition. Part indie-film-like play and part immersive electronic music concert, *Future/Perfect* is nevertheless all about dance and the heat, physicality, and raw emotion that contemporary dance portrays so directly.'

Charles Donelan, The Independent

'**Gillen's choreography blisters with volatility**'

Erin Bomboy Dance Enthusiast

'As Shannon Gillen's *Separati* for her VIM VIGOR DANCE COMPANY unfolds, I think of Edward Hopper's paintings of bleak, deserted city streets, or of people in restaurants or hotel rooms who are together only in the sense of temporarily sharing the same space... **The level of risk is high, and the performers—whether dancing, speaking, lip-synching, or being pitched through the air and hammered to the ground—rise to it magnificently.**'

Deborah Jowitt

'Gillen has training in theater as well as dance and perhaps this is why the dancers interact with each other in a way that is somewhat atypical in its emotional immediacy. Their **emotional presence resonates with the audience, forcing you to the edge of your seat, breath held, hands clenched.**'

Kristin Iversen, L Magazine

'She has placed conceptual and choreographic layers on top of the dancers' natural inclinations, found a way to contextualize their vocabularies and built a house for it all to live in. **Gillen is definitely a choreographer to watch.**'

Andy Horwitz, CULTUREBOT

'**So much hardship, so much power in the jump, so much defense, the four dancers Laja Field and Martin Durov, Shannon Gillen and Michal Czyz in top form, a feat of strength.**'

HNA, German News on 'Ich Bin Du' premiere at Staatstheater Kassel

'The **most satisfying dance** on the bill turns out to be MFA candidate **Shannon Gillen's sharp clear quartet "DEEP SEQUENCING"...**'

Elizabeth Zimmer, METRO

'Get ready to hear a lot more about Phelan: The show, seated theater style, was led off by an **extraordinary four-woman performance choreographed by Vim Vigor Dance Company founder Shannon Gillen**'

Maya Singer, VOGUE