

# JASON VU

b. 1995 in Fremont, California (he/him/they/them)

Jason Vu is a Vietnamese performance artist who choreographs with dance, sound, and sensory attention to move with and through formations of identity and grief. His work anchors in Vietnamese aesthetic logics of space/time/materiality while in dialogue with BIPOC artists, activists, and theorists in search of binding forces that can mobilize collective liberation. Jason's undergraduate studies in Biology (Brown University) and his active studies in somatic practices orients his research on the body as the site of possibility. His choreography is known for groove, open-heartedness, a permeating softness, a queering of time and space, and rich sensorial landscaping.

## EDUCATION

- 2013-17      Brown University, Providence, RI  
                  B.A. Health and Human Biology: Dance as an Alternative Form of Healing
- 2021-23      University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA  
                  M.F.A., Dance

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- 2021-Present      *Adjunct Assistant Professor*, University of the Arts, School of Dance | Philadelphia, PA  
Undergraduate Courses:
- Sophomore Studio Practice - Contemporary/Modern Dance | Fall '21, Spring '22, Fall '22, Spring '23, Fall '23, Spring '24  
Studio-based course required for Sophomores in the Modern Dance curriculum. Students engage dance as phenomenological and sociopolitical research, with a particular focus on anatomical, energetic, temporal, and spatial articulations to prepare them for professional careers in performance.
- Body Pathways Research Lab || Fall '23, Spring '24  
Studio-based course required for Sophomores in the Modern Dance curriculum. Students engage dance as phenomenological and sociopolitical research, with a particular focus on anatomical, energetic, temporal, and spatial articulations to prepare them for professional careers in performance. Research Module: Body as
- Research Module: Body As Possibility | Fall '22, Spring '23  
Seminar course on somatic practice as phenomenological research. Students cultivate sensorial attention and explore partnered improvisation through verbal and non-verbal communication. Embodied inquiry is grounded in texts on process philosophy, phenomenology, racialized and gendered body-politic, and neuroscience research.
- Junior/Senior Studio Practice - Contemporary/Modern Dance | Spring '23  
Advanced studio-based for juniors and seniors. Students engage dance as phenomenological and sociopolitical research, with a particular focus on anatomical, energetic, temporal, and spatial articulations to prepare them for professional careers in performance.
- Performance Pedagogies (Rehearsal Director)  
Upper-level course for “students to make connections across multiple access points through rehearsals & performance. Designed to help students recognize the tools and methodologies used in the development of the expanding field of dance works.” – POD UArts Syllabus

Rehearsal director for works by Jenn Nugent (Fall '21), Doug Varone (Spring '22), & Netta Yerushalmy (Spring '23).

Director & Choreographer for original work in Spring '24

Senior Thesis Workshop | Fall '21, Spring '22, Spring '24

Senior capstone course designed to be the culmination of their research at UArts. Students propose a project, develop goals for the semester, and language their research methods, and present their work. Students also create a website and write an artistic statement for the work. This course is co-facilitated by two professors for a group of less than 10 students.

Languaging Dance & Thinking Choreography | 'Spring 22

First-year dance making course that studies choreographic methodologies. Students explore the work of contemporary artists whose practice and research explore topics such as race, gender, spectatorship, music, chance operations, protest, and social justice. Students create choreographic studies in individual and collaborative research.

2015-16 *Undergraduate Research and Teaching Assistant*, Brown University, Theater and Performance Studies Department | Providence, RI

Artists and Scientists as Partners | Prof: Julie Strandberg and Rachel Balaban | Fall '15, Spring '16

Developed course design and curriculum for Brown University undergraduate course "Artists and Scientists as Partners". Guided students in discussing implementations of ethnography, mindfulness, dance pedagogy, musicology, and public health research to establish funding and support for recurring DAPpers classes. Instructed ballet and movement improvisation in recurring DAPpers classes to encourage neuro physical development and community support for people with neurological and aging disorders.

## CHOREOGRAPHY (selected)

- 2024 *Through Noise, Log #2*, work created for UArts spring series 2024 as part of Artist in Residence | premiered at Annenberg Theater University of Pennsylvania
- 2023 *Through Noise*, solo directed and performed by Jason Vu, commissioned by Asian Arts Initiative
- 2023 *Sometimes, Let Go*, dance film, directed by Jason Vu and Nico Shears, shown at Asian Arts Initiative's Spring 2023 exhibition 'The Body You Want'
- 2022 *Trăng Tàn Trên Hè Phố*, solo directed and performed by Jason Vu in collaboration with Paul Matteson, MFA Philadelphia Residency at University of the Arts
- 2021 *Princess*, dance film, directed by Jason Vu and B Gosse, original score by Amanda Yamate  
Selections & Screenings: Leeds International Film Festival 2021, New Orleans Film Festival 2021, NewFest LGBT Film Festival 2021 | Los Angeles Diversity Film Festival 2021 | Festival of Recorded Movement 2021 | Streaming on Nowness.asia | shown at Asian Arts Initiative's Spring 2023 exhibition 'The Body You Want'
- 2019 *qwe're*, theatrical choreography, produced in residency with Brockus Project Studios | performed at Brockus Project Studios in Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 *We Live Like Water*, evening length work, produced with the Brown Arts Initiative | performed at The Granoff Center in Providence, RI
- 2017 *Polychrome Plastics*, choreography for Fusion Dance Company | performed at Alumni Hall in Providence, RI
- 2017 *Are We On A...?*, choreography for Impulse Dance Company | performed at Alumni Hall in Providence, RI

- 2016 *A Chorus Line*, reimagined original Broadway choreography by Michael Bennett and Bob Avian for PW Theatre | performed at Production Workshop Theatre in Providence, RI
- 2016 *Darling, Who Am I For You?*, theatrical choreography for Fusion Dance Company | performed at Alumni Hall and Stuart Theatre in Providence, RI

## PERFORMANCE CREDITS

- 2024 *Movement*, (2022 premiere, evening length work), choreographed by Netta Yerushalmy, American Dance Festival, Durham, NC
- 2021 *Melanie Martinez at Outside Lands*, festival music performance, directed by Jas Lin and Robbie Blue, San Francisco, CA
- 2021 *Daybreak*, dance film, directed by Charles Slender White | FACT/SF & Haven Screening
- 2020 *Dana Foglia Dance*, evening length work, directed by Dana Foglia | Ailey Citigroup Theater, New York
- 2019-20 *Melanie Martinez: The K-12 Tour*, live music performance, directed by Brian Friedman | US & Europe tour
- 2019 *Beyonce: "Black is King"*, skeleton crew film, directed by Dana Foglia | West Coast Dance Theatre, Los Angeles
- 2019 *Melanie Martinez: "Strawberry Shortcake"*, television performance, directed by Brian Friedman | Jimmy Kimmel Live!
- 2019 *Paula Abdul: Billboard Awards*, skeleton crew film, choreographed by Nika Kljun | 3rd Street Dance, Los Angeles
- 2019 *New Movement Residency*, film recording, directed by Tony Testa | University of Southern California, Los Angeles
- 2019 *Valerj Pobega 'Kabuki in Berlin'*, site-specific performance, directed by Charissa Kroeger | The Badd House, Los Angeles
- 2019 *Luxury Problems*, dance film, directed by Dana Foglia | Los Angeles
- 2019 *Pleasure*, dance film, directed by Dana Foglia | Los Angeles
- 2019 *Dana Foglia Dance*, evening length work, directed by Dana Foglia | Movement Lifestyle, Los Angeles
- 2018 *Dana Foglia Dance*, evening length work, directed by Dana Foglia | Actors Gang, Los Angeles
- 2018 *Paris By Night 126*, television performance, directed by Shanda Sawyer | Mystic Lake Casino, Minneapolis

## ADDITIONAL TEACHING

- 2021 *Independently Produced Classes - Contemporary Dance and Movement Research*  
Ripley Grier Studios | NYC
- 2019-20 *Guest Instructor - Contemporary Dance and Movement Research*  
Full-Out Studios | Oakland, CA
- 2018-19 *Faculty - Ballet, Hip-Hop, Jazz, Jazz-Funk, Contemporary Dance and Movement Research*  
Elite Dance Studio | Rolling Hills Estates, CA
- 2013-17 *Company Choreographer and Instructor - Hip-Hop, Jazz-Funk, Contemporary Dance*  
Fusion Dance Company | Providence, RI
- 2013-17 *Company Choreographer and Instructor - Hip-Hop, Jazz-Funk, and Contemporary Dance*  
Impulse Dance Company | Providence, RI
- 2012-13 / 2015 *Instructor and Choreographer - Jazz-Funk and Contemporary Dance*

## REHEARSAL DIRECTION

- 2023 *presenting and absenting*, Choreography by Netta Yerushalmy for performance pedagogies at University of the Arts | performed at the Annenberg Center in Philadelphia, PA
- 2022 *Democracy*, Choreography by Doug Varone, Restaged by Aya Wilson for performance pedagogies at University of the Arts | performed at the Annenberg Center in Philadelphia, PA
- 2021 *we do*, Choreography by Jenn Nugent for performance pedagogies at University of the Arts | performed at FringeArts in Philadelphia, PA

## CREATIVE DIRECTION

- 2018-19 *Artistic Director*  
*Evolution Dance Company at Elite Dance Studios, Rolling Hills Estates, CA*
- Led all creative and administrative direction for youth dancers (age 7-14) in dance curriculum including ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and contemporary improvisation and focusing on individual artistic development and mind-body well-being. Choreographed 21 performance works to compete at regional and national competitions, receiving acclaimed awards at all events.
- 2015-16 *Executive Co-Director (partnership w/ Jason Addy)*  
*Impulse Dance Company at Brown University, Providence, RI*
- Oversaw all artistic direction of evening length concert *RUN(A)WAY* (2016) to fully sold-out performances and managed all administrative roles for company performances, rehearsals, workshops, fundraisers, social events, and business correspondences. Primary focus on building Impulse as Providence's leading Hip-Hop dance company centered on BIPOC community, anti-racist practices, and queer-affirming values.

## RESIDENCIES, GRANTS, AWARDS

- 2023-24 *Artist-in-Residence University of the Arts*
- 2023 *DEIA Fellowship Thesis Fellow University of the Arts*
- 2021 *MFA Tuition Fellowship University of the Arts*
- 2021 *HAVEN Fact/SF Dance Mentorship Scholarship*
- 2020 *Brockus Project Studios SHIFT/west Residency*
- 2017 *Brown Arts Initiative Grant*

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING & CREDENTIALS

- 2023-26 *Feldenkrais Training*, Feldenkrais Institute Ann Arbor, Michigan, instructed by David Zemach Bersin and Raz Orsi
- 2022 *Somatic Communication – How Contact Improvisation Prepares Us for the 21st Century*, instructed by Nita Little
- 2022 *Somatic Experiencing Practitioner Training (1 year)*, Somatic Experiencing International, instructed by Linda Stelte

- 2022 *Pilates Mat Certification*, University of the Arts, instructed by Patricia Dominguez
- 2022 *Tanzwerkstatt Europa Festival (Scholarship Participant)*, instructed by Jurij Konjar & Joe Moran
- 2022 *6 Week Intro to Qigong*, instructed by Mimi Kuo-Demmar
- 2021 *HAVEN + Fact/SF Dance Mentorship*, directed by Lillian Barbeito and Charles Slender-White
- 2020 *200 Hour Certified Yoga Teacher Training*, Yoga Farm Ithaca
- 2020 *Motus Dance Company*, dance mentorship program, instructed by Diana Matos
- 2019 *No)one Art House CIPHER*, instructed by Chris Emile
- 2018 *Ate9 Winter Intensive*, instructed by Danielle Agami
- 2018 *Dana Foglia Dance Summer Mentorship Season 5*, dance intensive, instructed by Dana Foglia, Jose “Boyboi” Tena, and Lisa Ebeyer
- 2018 *The Gypsy Project*, dance intensive, instructed by Erica Sobol, Tilman O’Donnell, Spenser Theberge, Jermaine Spivey, Adi Salant, Medhi Walerski
- 2017 *Dana Foglia Dance Summer Mentorship Season 4*, dance intensive, instructed by Dana Foglia, Jose “Boyboi” Tena, and Lisa Ebeyer
- 2015 *Broadway Dance Center Summer Professional Semester*