

MY VISION OF COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY

By Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

Guest Artist, *Urban Bush Women Dance: Movin' it to the Next Level*

I work in community. Since Urban Bush Women's inception I have worked in a collaborative process with the dancers. Over the years my vision has expanded to include visual artists, composers, writers, and lighting designers. For the past four years, I have been involved in a collaboration with Compagnie Jant-Bi of Senegal, directed by Germaine Acogny. This is the first time I have collaborated with another company. It has been a great experience. I continue to explore the collaborative process because I love the collective creative thinking that emerges from a talented and smart group of people. My themes continue to be how a community (or individuals) examines itself, struggles with its history, and finds a transcendence or healing. This does not necessarily mean resolution. I work to listen and help uncover the under-told perspectives of people who have often been told they have limited power and potential. Much of my work has its basis in the southern experience. Tallahassee is in north Florida, 20 miles from the Georgia border. I live part time in Tallahassee because it keeps

me connected to my interest in southern history and culture.

My collaborations have gone from the familiar to the unfamiliar. In the beginning the dancers and I were all African American from the south and Midwest and of the same age group. Now the company members are from the African Diaspora, 30-35 years younger than me, and have different generational references. This is very exciting. I now create from their bodies and their physical imaginations that reflect a different world than mine. This is leading me more in the direction of choreographic director, and I am discovering that my creative and teaching strength lies in assembling many diverse people with many visions into one cohesive vision.

This is what excites me about returning to Summer Arts. The diversity of the students and the support of the entire community allow the emergence of new ideas and breakthrough innovation.



Jawole Willa Jo Zollar © Crush Boone



Urban Bush Women in *Batty Moves* © Ayano Hisa

SUMMER ARTS 2010 CLASSES:

VISUAL ART/DESIGN

Drawing and Painting in Florence

June 13 to July 3

- Study, sketch and paint in the streets, piazzas, and museums of Florence, Italy – the home of the greatest examples of Renaissance painting, drawing and sculpture.

Telling Stories with Multimedia and Publishing Your Photo Book

June 27 to July 10

- This multimedia storytelling workshop is for photographers who want to combine still images and sound for the web, DVD or TV, and create a photo book.

Clay as a Medium for Sculpture

June 27 to July 10

- Learn and practice approaches to working with clay through the use of molds, construction methods, refinement of surface and installation-based work, while improving idea development and technique.

Building Reactive Sculpture:

Spaces & Objects, Sound & Movement

July 11 to July 24

- Learn to build sculptures that electrically and/or mechanically activate an environment via kinetic/aural, sensory/reactive, and electronic controls.

Toy Design: Concept to Product

July 11 to July 24

- Develop characters for action figures and play sets, and design and produce working toy prototypes by turning 2-dimensional concept drawings into a 3-dimensional physical model.

THEATRE

Ensemble Intensive with Steppenwolf Classes West

June 27 to July 24

- This ensemble-oriented intensive draws from three core courses of the Chicago School at Steppenwolf; Viewpoints, Improvisation for the Actor, and Ensemble Scene Study.

Sword and Forcery: Armed and Unarmed Stage Violence

June 27 to July 10

- Experience unarmed combat, rapier & dagger, "acting the fight," safety, illusion, misdirection of attention, thrusts and parries, weapon history, trick moves, and "skill" moves.

Solo Performance:

Writing, Performing, and Touring a Solo Show

July 11 to July 24

- Receive small group and individual mentoring with successful touring artists who will guide you through writing and devising solo performance pieces, as well as marketing and touring a solo performance. All writers and performers welcome!

MUSIC

Auditioning for the Broadway Musical with Paul Gemignani

June 27 to July 10

- Receive hands-on training in all aspects of musical theatre performance from Paul Gemignani ("Dr. Broadway") including auditioning, acting, singing, and dancing.

String and Piano Intensive

July 11 to July 24

- Intense daily instruction, master classes, ensemble experience, coaching and performance opportunities with renowned master artists.

DANCE

Urban Bush Women Dance: Movin' it to the Next Level

June 27 to July 10

- Study contemporary dance, Zollar technique, conditioning, movement from the African Diaspora, text, vocal improvisation and process, and partnering.

Diavolo: Redefining Dance

July 11 to July 24

- More than just dance – push beyond your own limits and develop new tools to approach your life through trust, teamwork, and individual expression.

WRITING

Writing the Memoir: Transforming Truth into Art

June 27 to July 10

- Experiment with memories in playful ways to make visible what has been lurking beneath the surface, and create powerful storytelling.

Writing Hybrid Narratives

July 11 to July 24

- Learn new ways to tell stories by combining different narrative forms and designs, inventing impossible languages and narratives to sing in prose and rupture traditional expectations.

NEW MEDIA

Animation:

Making a Hand-Drawn Animated Commercial

June 27 to July 10

- Learn how to animate traditionally with pencil and paper, then on the computer, as you work in a team to write, storyboard, design and animate a 30-second commercial.