

# ANA MARÍA ALVAREZ

Choreographer, Director, Dancer, Educator and Movement Artist

---

## Education

- 2005 MFA in Choreography, UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures. Los Angeles, CA.
- 2000 Dunham Institute, led by Katherine Dunham. New York, NY.
- 1999 BA in Dance and Politics, Oberlin College. Oberlin, OH.
- 1998 Urban Bush Women Summer Leadership Institute. Tallahassee, FL.
- 1995-2009 Studied Cuban sacred and social dances. Cutumba Baile Foklorico de Santiago de Cuba.

Currently working towards Dunham Certification and level one certification of Responsive Body: Biodynamic Movement Practices and Somatic Therapy for All Bodies (projected certification for both in 2022). Completed Coaching for Transformation Program with Leadership that Works, in 2019. Completed the entire curriculum of Landmark Education in 2010 and became an introduction leader.

## Artistic Work

- 2005 –present Founding Artistic Director/choreographer/performer. CONTRA-TIEMPO Activist Dance Theater. Los Angeles, CA. Developing CONTRA-TIEMPO's movement technique rooted in the intersections of Afro-diasporic movement forms and social dance vernacular. Building community based artistic work rooted ancestral resilience building practices and cultivating a future of justice and joy. Visit [contra-tiempo.org](http://contra-tiempo.org) for a complete list of engagements, tours and honors.
- 2020 Choreographer & Movement Director. Rio Reveals. 13Exp and a team of more than 40 leading artists from across entertainment in partnership with River LA. 2 weeks of performances on the LA River. Los Angeles, CA.
- 2019 Choreographer. Created a work deconstructing masculinity in Flamenco with Jesus Carmona, world renowned Spanish Flamenco dancer. Commission by the Adrienne Arsht Center in Miami, FL.
- 2018 Choreographer. Commission by Sarasota Contemporary Dance Company and Leymis Bolanos, Founding Artistic Director. Sarasota, FL.
- 2018 Director of YoungArts West Spring production. Working with 25 award winning teens to create an original production of Dance, Music, Theater and Film with the theme: "what does it mean to be free?"
- 2018 Artistic Director and Choreographer, "joyUS justUS", collaborative evening length work by CONTRA-TIEMPO premiered by University of Southern California, Visions and Voices and California State University in Long Beach, Carpenter Center. Toured over 20 cities all over the United States and Latin America. Lead funding by NEFA's NDP, mapfund and the Ordway in St. Paul, MN.

**(Ana Maria Alvarez Artistic Work continued)**

- 2017 Choreographer, "Noise", musical theater production by Cesar Alvarez, being workshopped by the Public Theater and NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Playwrights Horizons.
- 2016 Choreographer and Director. "Agua Furiosa", evening length work by CONTRA-TIEMPO premiered by UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance and UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures with a two week run. Toured for two years, in over 18 cities all over the Southern U.S. and presented internationally in Bulgaria. Lead funding by NEFA's NDP.
- 2015 Choreographer. Dance Film, Submerge, in collaboration with Marcus White.
- 2015 Choreographer and guest artist. Policylink's Equity Summit.
- 2012 Choreographer. Cornerstone Theater and Homeboy Industries production of "Café Vida". The first play of their six year Hunger Cycle dealing with food justice and hunger in LA.
- 2010-present Choreographer & Movement Director; commercials/music videos including Tiempos del Amor by Las Cafeteras, "99 problems" for the 99 cents store franchise, "Racecar" by Yuliana and "Stand up to Cancer" public service announcement among others.
- 2010 Performer and choreographic consultant for comedian, Maria Costa's HBO Special, "Macho Men and the Women Who Love Them" at the Kodak Theater. Hollywood, CA.
- 2008 Choreographer/Performer – *FEAR – A Fairytale*, project with the Sherwood Fellowship recipient and original cast member of "STOMP", Ameenah Kaplan.
- 2004 - 2007 Choreographer/Performer. Hollywood Bowl/Summer Sounds. Shared with over 2,000 young people the culture of Cuba, using live music, dance and interactive performance techniques. Los Angeles, CA.
- 2002 Choreographer/Performer. "Sides/Lados". In IX Festival Internacional de Musica Electroacustica. La Habana, Cuba.
- 2002 Choreographer. Kids Café Festival by Dancewave, BAX Teen Arts Festival, Tribeca Performing Arts Center. Brooklyn and Manhattan, NY.
- 2001 Cuban American Cultural Guest Artist and Liaison. Brooklyn Academy of Music. (BAM) Brooklyn, NY.
- 1994-2001 Performed with various choreographers in NYC, NC, Argentina and Cuba. Including Julio Jean (Afro-Haitian), Susana Cook (Performance Art/Lesbiango Tango), Narcisco Medina (Cuban Contemporary), Las Pintas (Tango), Dr. Elenor Gwynn (West African, Afro-Haitian, Afro-Cuban, Dunham) among others.

## **Teaching (Ana Maria Alvarez continued)**

- 2008-2019 Dance Specialist at UCLA's Lab School. Design and develop dance curriculum for all grades in collaboration with university researchers. Help produce and present the Day of Music and Dance, a yearly all school dance event celebrating the power of dance to create community.
- 2006 -present Teach and train both students and company members in CONTRA-TIEMPO's teaching pedagogy. Direct and develop core curriculum and social emotional learning (SEL) strategies and practices, for CONTRA-TIEMPO's Arts Programs and touring residencies. Have worked directly with over 50 different schools and thousands of K-12 and college students across the United States and Latin America.
- 2003 -2019 Guest Faculty/Lecturer/Choreographer at University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), El Camino College, Cal State LA, Cabrillo College and Pepperdine University, CSU Summer Arts in Monterey, CA and CSU Summer Arts in Fresno among others.
- 2008-2010 Guest lecturer for Skirball Cultural Center. Designed and developed curriculum to guide core subject teachers in integrating movement strategies into their classrooms.
- 2007-2010 Program Director for CONTRA-TIEMPO's Cuba Cultural Exchange Program. Directing 22 artist delegates each year from North America to dance, study and perform with several of Cuba's most prominent dance companies. Building bridges between the people of Cuba and the US using dance and cultural exchange as our primary tools.
- 2008-2011 Teaching Artist and lecturer for SmART Schools West. Designed and developed curriculum for students, teaching artists and teachers, integrating performing arts and core curricular areas.
- 2005 - 2007 Full time faculty member. UCLA Lab School. Dance, Language arts, history and arts integration. Working with researchers to bring to arts and movement into core curriculum.
- 1999-2002 Dance Specialist and resident choreographer. "Life Lines" Community Arts Center and the Center for Family Life (*were given the Coming up Taller award while I was on staff*).

## **Awards/Honors/Other accomplishments:**

- ~ Dorris Duke Artist Award 2020
- ~ DanceUSA Fellowship recipient 2019
- ~ Guest presenter/performer/artist at the 2019 Belonging and Othering Conference in Oakland, CA
- ~ Two time recipient of the NEFA, National Dance Project Production Grant 2015/2017
- ~ Six time recipient of National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding
- ~ Bi National Residency Artist, BNAR, Connecting communities across the Sonoran Desert through arts.
- ~ Guest Choreographer, set work on students at NC State University, UW Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts, UC Los Angeles, El Camino College, Pepperdine University, Loyola Marymount and University of Southern California to name a few

**(Ana Maria Alvarez Awards/Honors/Other accomplishments continued)**

- ~ 2016 Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival Rainbow Award
- ~ 2014 Dance Ambassador with DanceMotionUSA
- ~ Guest Speaker for Unapologetically Radical (New Haven Cultural Arts)
- ~ Keynote speaker and panelist for CABE (Coalition of Bilingual Educators)
- ~ Recipient of LA Opinion's Mujeres Destacadas Award
- ~ National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures Grant nominee/recipient for four years in a row
- ~ Two-time National Performance Network (NPN) Conference Scholarship recipient
- ~ Panelist/Speaker at: DanceUSA, APAP, NPN and International Perf. Arts for Youth Conferences
- ~ Grant Panelist USA Artists, Culver City Dept. of Cultural Affairs, LA City Dept. of Cultural Affairs, Hewlett Foundation and New England Foundation for the Arts to name a few
- ~ LA County Arts Education Resource Directory Panelist
- ~ Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) Emerging Leaders Institute Participant and Grantee
- ~ Choreographic honor, Festival Internacional de Teatro de Los Angeles' (FITLA's) Mexico Border Tour
- ~ Invited curator for UCLA's Fowler Museum's Fowler Outloud Series and RedCat Disney Hall's Studio
- ~ Grant recipient from: Dorris Duke Charitable Foundation, DanceUSA, National Association for Latin Arts and Cultures (NALAC), mapfund, James Irvine Foundation, Ahmanson Foundation, Puffin Foundation, Flourish Foundation, Durfee Foundation (ARC), LA City Dept. of Cultural Affairs, Culver City Cultural Affairs, Instituto de Cultura de Puerto Rico, California Community Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Los Angeles County Arts Commission and Silicon Valley Family Foundation to name a few.

For complete list of references, awards and speaking engagements contact Ana Maria directly at [anamaria@contra-tiempo.org](mailto:anamaria@contra-tiempo.org)