

SANDY SILVA

Just as Aaron Copland and Belà Bartok took traditional tunes and interwove them into refreshingly new musical genres, Silva does the same with percussive dance. Through improvisation and original choreography, she draws from the drum and dance traditions of Celtic stepdance, Spanish flamenco, American tap, Hungarian legenyés, Appalachian buck dance and modern dance. The result is rich and riveting, full of rhythmic and visual inventiveness.

Selected Independent Projects and Choreography

2011	New duo show with Dominic Desrochers, premiere at Tangente, Montreal, Qc
2010	International Body Music Festival - Sao Paulo Brazil
2009	<i>Do I Know You?</i> Tangente, Montreal, Qc
2009	<i>National Theater Production</i> , Istanbul, Turkey, <i>el Triciclo</i>
2008 – present	<i>Red Rabbit Project</i> with Charmaine Leblanc
2007	<i>Vanaver Caravan</i> , Christmas show for disadvantaged children, New York. <i>Bishop's University</i> , Lennoxville, Quebec, Special project with graduates from the Department of Theatre
2007 - present	<i>Les 7 doigts de la main</i> , percussive dance for <i>Projet Fibonacci</i> , Spain, Denmark
2005	Artist in Residence with New York composer Guy Klucevsek Exploration and Creation, Villa Montalvo, Saratoga, California
2004	Canada Council for the Arts grant recipient for choreography
2003	Canada High Commission Gala, Edinburgh, Scotland
2001	<i>Txalapata Concert</i> - guest artist for televised concert (San Sebastian, Spain)
2000	<i>My Dance</i> - self-produced independent dance performance with Laura Risk (violin) and Francis Covan (accordion)
1998 – 2000	<i>KLAK Percussive Dance Ensemble</i> with five independent percussive dancers (Festival d'été de Quebec and Francofolies Festival in Montreal)
1999	<i>Human Rhythm Project</i> - guest performer
1998, 1999, 2000	<i>Appalachian Strings</i> theatre project - performer in musical history of immigration from Ireland to Appalachia
1990, 1995	Belfast and Sligo Folk Festivals - guest performer with Altan and Martin Hayes
1990	RTE Gaelic television special - Sandy Silva travels to Ireland (Dublin, Ireland)
1989	Project Troubadour tour - PBS documentary film (Amazonia, Recife, Sao Paulo, Brazil)

Selected Performances

2010	International Body Music Festival, Sao Paulo, Brazil
2010	Winter Olympics, Vancouver, B.C. – Closing Ceremonies
2005	Montreal International Jazz Festival, Bobby McFerrin
2005	Montreal International Jazz Festival, Remi Bolduc
2005	Dance Mission Theater, San Francisco, Guy Klucevsek

La Bottine Souriante 1997- present - Solo dance percussion with nine piece instrumental vocal band
Commonwealth Games, WOMAD Festival (Australia)
December tours throughout Quebec (Canada) and frequent festival, theatre and television appearances in the USA, United Kingdom and Canada
Celtic Connections (Glasgow, Scotland)
USA Western tour (California, Utah, Colorado, Oregon)
Live at Rideau Hall and Canada Day (CBC Television, live from Ottawa)
United Kingdom-Ireland tour
Annual European tours (Spain, Portugal, Norway)
Glen Gould Studio (concert recorded and broadcast by CBC radio), Toronto, Canada

Sandy Silva and Laura Risk 2002-2005

Solo dance percussion with solo violin
Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival (Maine, USA)
Chico World Music Festival (California, USA)
Makor Center (New York City, USA)
University of Minneapolis (Minnesota, USA)
Erie Art Museum (Pennsylvania, USA)
Philadelphia Art Museum (Pennsylvania, USA)

Open House 1990-1995

Sandy Silva (percussive dance), Kevin Burke (violin), Mark Graham (harmonica), Paul Kotapish (guitar)
Celtic Connections (Glasgow, Scotland)
Vancouver Folk Music Festival (Canada)
Avante Festival (Lisbon, Portugal)
Purcell Theatre (Paris, France)
WOMEX (Brussels, Belgium)
Falun Festival (Sweden)
NPR's A Prairie Home Companion (Minneapolis, USA)
Winnipeg Folk Music Festival (Manitoba, Canada)

Recordings

Sandy Silva has participated in the following recordings - percussive dance, hand claps and body percussion
2004 *Magneto*, Rick Haworth CD released May 2004
2003 *Les Triplettes de Belleville* - Oscar and Grammy nominated original soundtrack by Benoit Charest for feature animation
2003 *J'ai jamais tant ri* - La Bottine Souriante (Productions Mille Pattes)
1990, 1992, 1994 *Open House, Second Story, Hoof n'Mouth, Open House* (Green Linnet Records)

Dance Education

Sandy Silva has spent the last twenty years honing her skills by seeking out music and dance masters from various cultural backgrounds. With a tape recorder and notebook she travelled across North America and Eastern Europe immersing herself in distinct traditional cultures. After transcribing steps, rhythmic patterns and music, Sandy would transpose these elements into her performance work with musicians, developing her own innovative style. Through her current work with contemporary choreographers, she not only explores the quality and intention of sounds but also the visual content of the space between them and the finished line of the body itself in space, adding emotional depth to her work as a body percussionist and percussive dancer.

Selected Study:

2011 Grant recipient to study theatre with Michoue Sylvain
2006-2009 Dave Laing – jazz rhythm fundamentals, drum set to body
2001-2004 Movement choreography with Howard Richard (Montreal, Canada)
2002-2003 Tap with Brenda Buffalino (New York, USA)
1998-2000 Choreography with Julie Lachance (Montreal, Canada)
1994, 1996, 1998 Body music with Keith Terry (California, USA)
1992, 1994 Flamenco with Robina Carmona (Washington, USA and Seville, Spain)
1992, 1994 Hungarian legenyés with Orban Lazlo and Roman Sandor (Budapest, Hungary)
1988, 1992 Buck dancing/hambone with John D. Holman (North Carolina, USA)
1986, 1988 Stepdancing with Minnie MacMaster (Cape Breton, Canada)

Selected Teaching:

2010 International Body Music Festival, Sao Paulo, Brazil
2005, 2006 The National Circus School (Montreal, Canada) - Music and rhythm
2005 Cirque du Soleil - Rhythm workshops
2004 Choreography for Vishten, international touring music and dance group
2003 Erie Art Museum (Pennsylvania, USA) - public school and community lectures
2003 Wyoming State Arts Council and University of Wyoming, USA -public schools, senior centers, world music class lectures and demonstrations
2002 University of Minnesota (USA) - Lecture and demonstration: ethnomusicology program
2002 University of Limerick, (Ireland) - Lecture and demonstration: ethnomusicology program
2001 The National Circus School (Montreal, Canada) - Body percussion and choreography
Experience Music Project Museum (Seattle, USA) - Roots of body percussion workshop
Evergreen State College (Olympia, WA) – Lecture, performance - World Arts in Culture
2000-2004 Vanaver Caravan- Traditional elements of percussive dance and choreography workshop (New York, USA)
1999 Human Rhythm Project (Minnesota, USA) - Roots of body percussion workshops
1995 Association of Professional Dancers (Dublin, Ireland) - Percussive dance styles of North America
1994 Augusta Heritage Dance Festival (Virginia, USA) - Cape Breton stepdance, buckdance workshops