

Mher Kandoyan

Dancer

Educator
Choreographer

Mher Kandoyan

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Statement

I am an Armenian/Lebanese dancer, educator, and choreographer who explores dance as a tool of healing intergenerational trauma. I challenge Eurocentric dance forms, center joy, and have a background in Latin Dance.

Teaching Experience

American College Dance Association, College Park, Maryland

Instructor for "Salsa Fundamentals" and "Salsa Cubana"
March 2025

University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

Instructor of Record (Graduate Teaching Assistant) for Global Dance Forms; Latin Dance
Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Winter 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023

Teaching Assistant for Sound Design with Samuel Crawford
Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Instructor of Record (Graduate Teaching Assistant) for Introduction to Dance
Spring 2024

Teaching Assistant for Choreography I/Improvisation with Sara Pearson
Fall 2022

Little Rising Stars Schools, Falls Church, Virginia

Education Coach & Trainer

Trained Early Childhood Educators utilizing DEL Fundamentals in Early Childhood
Fall 2024 & January 2025

Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Kaslik, Lebanon.

Instructor of Record for "Introduction to Latin Dances and Improvisation"
January 2018 - May 2021

The Backstage, Jounieh, Lebanon

Instructor for competitive Latin, Ballroom, and social dances: Salsa, Bachata, Kizomba
October 2011 - July 2022

Haigazian University, Beirut, Lebanon

Choreographer for annual end-of-year recitals
October 2013 - May 2018,

Salsa Viva, Yerevan, Armenia

Instructor for intensive workshops in Salsa and Bachata
May 2022, August 2019 & May 2019

Egypt International Dance Congress, Cairo, Egypt

Instructor for "Fundamentals of Bachata" and "Musicality"
Dec 2017 & Dec 2016

Ras Al Khaimah Dance Festival, Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

Instructor for “Advanced Bachata” and “Salsa Tricks”
March 2018

Varna Dance Festival, Varna, Bulgaria
Instructor for “Bachata Fusion”
May 2018

Abu Dhabi International Dance Festival, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Instructor for “Bachata Fundamentals” and “Advanced Bachata Techniques”
January 2019 and January 2018

Hamburg Salsa Festival, Hamburg, Germany
Instructor for “Salsa Fundamentals” and “Salsa Musicality”
June 2016

Cyprus International Dance Festival, Ayia Napa, Cyprus
Instructor for “Salsa Fundamentals and Musicality,” “Bachata Body Moves,” and “Bachata Musicality”
March 2019, March 2018, March 2016, March 2015, March 2014

Salsa Spring Festival, Loutraki, Greece
Instructor for “Bachata Fundamentals” and “Bachata Body Moves”
June 2016

Khanito Dance Academy, Jounieh, Lebanon.
Instructor of competitive Latin, Ballroom, and social dances
October 2007 - October 2011

Education

University of Maryland / MFA in Dance
August 2022 - present, College Park, Maryland
Expected graduation: May 2025

Dance Education Laboratory / Dance Fellow
July 2023, New York

Haigazian University/ MBA in Management
January 2013 - May 2021, Beirut, Lebanon

Haigazian University/ BA in Economics
September 2007 - May 2011, Beirut, Lebanon

Performances

What Remains

Director, Choreographer, Dancer & Sound Designer
Spring MFA Dance Thesis Concert - 7 performers, 30 minutes
February 14-15-16, 2025
The Clarice Smith Center of the Performing Arts, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

We Shall Not Inherit The Earth

Choreographer, Dancer, Drone Duet
Anti Surveillance Opera - 10 performers, 30 minutes
November 18, 2024.
Directed and created by Stephanie Mercedes
Commissioned by the Center for Privacy and Technology, Georgetown Law, Washington, DC

Journey

Director, Choreographer, and Dancer
40th Annual Choreographer's Showcase - 1 performer, participatory, 10 minutes
November 4, 2023
Prince George's Publick Playhouse, Hyattsville, Maryland

NextDance Festival - 1 performer, participatory, 10 minutes
September 7 & 8, 2023
The Clarice Smith Center of the Performing Arts, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

Seen Unseen

Sound Designer
Choreography by Alvin Mayes - 5 performers, 30 minutes.
December 8,9,10, 2023
The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Kay Theatre, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

Stock Motion Performances: Gestural Publics and Digital Intimacy

Sound Designer
Choreography by Kate Ladenheim - 4 performers, 25 minutes
December 8,9,10, 2023
The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Kay Theatre, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

Informal Showing of New Work

Dancer
Choreography by Mark Caserta - 25 dancers, 12 minutes.
Blacklight Summit
October 15, 2023
The Clarice Smith Center of the Performing Arts, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

Dark Passion

Choreographer and Dancer - 2 performers, 5 minutes

Abu Dhabi International Dance Festival
January 2019
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Cyprus International Dance Festival
March 2019
Ayia Napa, Cyprus

Ras Al Khaimah Dance Festival
2018
Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

Varna Dance Festival
2018
Varna, Bulgaria

Egypt International Dance Congress
Dec 2017
Cairo, Egypt

Bachata Fusion

Choreographer and Dancer - 2 dancers, 5 minutes

Hamburg Salsa Festival
2016
Hamburg, Germany

Cyprus International Dance Festival
March 2018 and March 2016
Ayia Napa, Cyprus.

Salsa Spring Festival
2016
Loutraki, Greece

Kiss - Chacha

Malta Dance Festival
2012
Valletta, Malta

Tango

Istanbul International Dance Festival
2013

Awards

Maya Brin Research Grant

Awarded by the Brin Institute for Research
February 2025
Research conducted in Nevada

Grantee for the “40th Annual Choreographers Showcase”

November 2023
Hyattsville, Maryland

2023 Arnhold Summer Fellow

July 2023
New York City

Research Grant for "Going back to the Roots, and the Exploration of Modernized Salsa."

Awarded by the International Program for Creative and Collaborative Research
June 2023
Research conducted in Milan, Italy

Digital Art Exploration Grant

Awarded by the Brin Institute for Research
March 2023
Research conducted in Miami

“Best Show Award” for “Dark Passion”

Egypt International Dance Congress
December 2017
Cairo, Egypt

Honoree for President’s Reception at Haigazian University

Recognized for extraordinary services to the university
June 2011
Beirut, Lebanon

Most Committed Student Award

Haigazian University
May 2009
Beirut, Lebanon

Champion of Lebanon in Latin Dance

2011, 2010, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003
Beirut, Lebanon

Other work experience

Graduate Assistant with Sam Crawford

Archived, organized, and consolidated the sound effects library into a shared drive for universal access.
August 2023 - December 2023
College Park, Maryland

The Backstage

Co-Founder and Director of Dance Studio
October 2011 - present
Jounieh, Lebanon.