

Joy-Marie Thompson
Press and Media Kit
contact@joymariethompson.com
Joymariethompson.com

Biography

Joy-Marie Thompson is a performing artist, writer, and educator from Pittsburgh, PA. After receiving her BFA from SUNY Purchase's Conservatory of Dance in 2018, she professionally performed work by Shamel Pitts, STAYCEE PEARL dance project & Soy Sos, and Sidra Bell. From 2020-23 (considering the COVID-19 pause), Joy-Marie was a resident at The McKittrick Hotel in *Sleep No More* (NYC) performing choreography by Maxine Doyle. In 2017, she collaborated with dance photographer, Rachel Neville, for the project *Interpretations*. In 2018, she founded the popular Instagram account "issadancelook". As a choreographer and collaborator, she has presented work at: August Wilson Center, American Dance Guild, the Women in Dance Conference, Festival PRISMA, Derida Stage, PearlArts Studios, and many film festivals including Dance Film Association's #mydancefilm at Lincoln Center. Joy-Marie's writing has been published by [Imagining: A Gibney Journal](#) and [Thinking Dance](#).

Short Biography

Joy-Marie Thompson is a performing artist, writer, and educator based in New York, NY whose work is rooted in the curiosity, spirit, and advocacy of our bodies.

Artist Statement

As a Black woman who was born via the roots of spirit, legacy, trauma, and lost stories, I am interested in the following question: How can I practice a life that embodies the Spirit of Liberation? I use dance improvisation, meditation, somatic and psychology methodologies, African Diasporic history, awareness of trauma, and Black aesthetics to get me to that answer.

These practices bring me to constantly acknowledge and uplift the Black forerunners (some of who are my ancestors) who paved the way for me to create the work that I do today. They passed the torch of Liberation to me.

The least I could do is get the torch prepared, to light it in a blissful fire, and one day pass it on.

Awards and Achievements

Academic Awards

SUNY Purchase College Senior Excellence Award
2018 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence
2018 SUNY Purchase College Bert Terbough Dance Award

Grant Awards

2019 Pittsburgh Foundation in Investing in Professional Artists Grant Winner

Professional Certificates

2019 Flying Low and Passing Through
2020 Animal Flow (Level 1)

Press

LINKt

2020

LINKt: Dancing with purpose; An interview with Joy-Marie about race, gender, and expression

"Watching Joy-Marie dance I found myself, and the others around me, mesmerized by her ability to improvise. The way she exposes emotions and vulnerability revealing the unapologetic presence of the individual. She undeniably stands out and that is saying a lot considering we are a culture with our eyes glued to screens dealing with information overload and short attention spans."

-Alyssa Scott, True T, Mar 12, 2020

<https://www.truetpgh.com/news/linkt-dancing-with-purpose-an-interview-with-joy-marie-about-race-gender-and-representation?fbclid=IwAR3jLL4vCrVKEei9Why2XbytTV-anNZpf9DpPIWeNnLLfHwabPSkMYla78s>

Episode #40: No More Handshakes

"Before everything shut down in the US, Joy-Marie was part of Sleep No More, an immersive theater experience retelling Shakespeare's Macbeth, which we talk about in-depth, along with Joy-Marie's experiences in Europe, her many collaborations, and thinking about the exotification of black culture."

-Zhiwan Cheung, Seeing Color (podcast), Apr 7, 2020

<https://seeingcolorpod.com/2020/04/07/episode-40-no-more-handshakes-w-joy-marie-thompson/>

Photos:upload upload JOYMARIE THOMPSON

Video: <https://vimeo.com/395779369>

Photos: Upload JOYMARIE THOMPSON

Description:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s-L2EPv3uVf1jWSGs0EXlV3OfSEHRbeTz4r3Nf00pG8/edit?usp=sharing>

Issa Dance Look

2019

Five Instagram Accounts You Should Follow

"Founded in 2018 by the freelance dance artist Joy-Marie Thompson, Issa Dance Look (@issadancelook) chronicles what dancers wear in and out of the studio, a source of fashion inspiration whether you dance or not."

-Siobhan Burke, The New York Times, Sept 10

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/10/arts/dance/instagram-dance-accounts.html>

2018

#FollowFriday: @issadancelook Is the Dance Fashion Account You're About to Be Obsessed With

"Our story begins on January 3, 2018, when an account called @issadancelook suddenly appeared on the Insta-horizon. Almost immediately, the page was chock-full of artsy shots of SUNY Purchase dancers in their quirkiest, most stylish classwear and rehearsal wear. Barely half a year later, the page has an intensely engaged base of followers and plans to highlight looks from dancers around the world.

-Helen Hope, dancespirit.com, Jul 20

<https://www.dancespirit.com/issadancelook-is-aninstaphenomenon-2588448358.html?rebelltitem=3>

Link: <https://www.instagram.com/issadancelook/>

LIBERATION [in progress]

2018

On Stage: PearlArts Festival

"Joy Marie Thompson's *Liberation [in progress]*, grabbing us like a modern-day Josephine Baker."

-Jane Vranish, Dance Currents, Aug 20

<https://dancecurrents.com/2019/08/20/on-stage-pearlarts-festival/>

Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/NaKY3KjEMGn135taA>

Video: <https://vimeo.com/356815066>

Description: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SrNylX8m5y61PFE9CnH93gIaVCpeFg8fq8_r8w2dHA/edit?usp=sharing

Interpretations

2021

City Spotlight: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

"A dancer in that work [race and inequality] and burgeoning artist themselves is Joy-Marie Thompson, who trained at Pittsburgh's CAPA arts school and held her first exhibition at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center while completing undergrad at SUNY Purchase's Dance Conservatory."

-slowdanger (anna thompson & taylor knight),
Dancegeist Magazine, February 2021 Edition

2017

Rochester Dancer featured in August Wilson Center Exhibit

"The photography exhibit, 'Interpretations,' includes Thompson's stretching, sweeping articulations of artists like Jazz Age singer-dancer Josephine Baker, Broadway star-turned-TV's "Catwoman" Eartha Kitt, and Tony Award-winning choreographer and Kennedy Center Honors recipient Bill T. Jones."

-Scott Tady, Beaver County Times, Jan 13 2017

<https://www.timesonline.com/b07434be-d449-11e6-b4c3-3f99edeb811d.html>

CAPA grad pays homage to African American dancers

"Joy-Marie Thompson, a Rochester, N.Y., native and a junior at Purchase College, State University of New York, is the star of 'Interpretations,' an exhibition on display through Feb. 26 at the Downtown venue."

-Jane Vranish, Pittsburgh Post Gazette, Feb 15
2017

<https://www.post-gazette.com/ae/theater-dance/2017/02/15/Pittsburgh-CAPA-grad-pays-homage-to-African-American-dancers-in-Interpretations-exhibit-at-August-Wilson-Center/stories/201702280010>

This Student Reenacted Classic Photos of African-American Dancers, and the Results Are Stunning

"Dance history can sometimes be a hard sell, since part of what makes dance so thrilling is that it's all about being in the moment. But Joy-Marie Thompson, a junior dance major at SUNY Purchase College, has found a beautiful, compelling way to bring dance's past into the present: In a new exhibit called *Interpretations*, she reenacts classic photos of her African-American forerunners, from Katherine Dunham to Carmen de Lavallade to Desmond Richardson."

-Margaret Fuher, Dance Spirit Magazine, Mar 23

<https://www.dancespirit.com/student-reenacted-photos-african-american-dancers-2326913179.html>

Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/eEsyaxQqBSStwJZCA>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0Hzmkky9so>

Description:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DQbiYPGmeDGBZLu2J2s396yZ_o5dX0L1XvFOEw3e4OI/edit?usp=sharing