

# Sarah Chien

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## EDUCATION

**2010**

**Barnard College, New York City**

*B.A. Sociology with Dance and Spanish Concentrations  
Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa*

**2017**

**David Zambrano, Passing Through Only: Catania, Sicily**

*One month residential training focusing on David Zambrano's group improvisation score, Passing Through. Participants received 3 weeks of full time instruction with David Zambrano and then continued collective collaborative practice for one more week. Juried admission with 40 international participants. Only American invited to attend this residency.*

**2016**

**EXIN David Zambrano, Spain– Certificate, 2016**

*168-hour residential training in Flying Low and Passing Through with the founder of this technique, David Zambrano. Juried admission with 60 international participants. Only American invited to attend this residency. Only one other American has ever achieved this level of certification with the technique.*

## TEACHING

**2018**

**Princeton University: Princeton, NJ**

*Part-Time Lecturer, DAN 401: Building Contemporary Literacies*

*Taught a mini-course of eight lectures as part of a comparative contemporary dance practices course in the spring semester.*

**2018**

**Ballet Nacional de Ecuador: Quito, Ecuador**

*Master Classes for the two of the four national dance sub-companies. Part of a collaboration with international producer, Taxi Danza.*

**2013- Present**

**Floor Friends**

*Founder*

*Floor Friends is a network of dancers and teachers, creating a platform for contemporary floorwork within the New York City professional dance training scene. Floor Friends produces roving, pop-up classes, workshops and performances that all focus on highly- athletic, three-dimensional, momentum-based, acrobatic floorwork. It is the only dance teaching organization consistently promoting floorwork classes on the East Coast. Partners have included: Mark Morris, 100 Grand, Chez Bushwick and the Playground. Teachers have hailed from New York, Seattle, Los Angeles, Ecuador, Argentina, Denmark, and Sweden.*

**2017**

**Princeton University: Princeton, NJ**

*Master Class for DAN 401, Flying Low Technique*

- 2017- Present**      **Gibney Dance Center: New York City, NY**  
*Faculty, Contemporary Forms*
- 2017-Present**      **Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Brooklyn, NY**  
*Master Class for Creating Space Series curated by Dance to The People*  
Seasonal series. Taught Flying Low in 2017 and proposed two new classes in 2018 on focused on footwork and on on solo improvisation.
- 2017**      **DanceAction/Carmen Caceres: Brooklyn, NY**  
*Weekly company class teacher for the month of August*
- 2017**      **Gallim Dance: Brooklyn, NY**  
*Guest Artist for Morning Class Series*
- 2016**      **Brooklyn Studios for Dance: Brooklyn, NY**  
*Faculty, Fall-Winter Season. Taught weekly Flying Low & Passing Through class*
- 2015- Present**      **Chez Bushwick: Brooklyn, NY**  
*Teaching, curating, producing pop-up classes through Floor Friends*
- 2015**      **Mark Morris Dance Center: Brooklyn, NY**  
*Invited to teach & curate a weekly guest series of contemporary floorwork classes*
- 2016**      **Kinesis Dance Theater: New York City**  
*Guest Teacher, Company Class*
- 2016**      **Sydney L. Mosley Dances: New York City**  
*Guest Teacher, Company Class*
- 2016**      **Cornerstone Dance Academy: Peoria, IL**  
*Master Class for Pre-Professional Youth Company*

## TEACHING MEDIA EXPOSURE

### **Dance Magazine**

Interviewed as one of 3 experts in floorwork for Dance Magazine's July 2016 Issue article, "Friends with the Floor" by Zac Whittenburg. <http://www.dancemagazine.com/friends-with-the-floor-2307026759.html>

# CHOREOGRAPHY & COLLABORATION

Work samples found at <https://vimeo.com/sarahchien>

- 2017**                    [Tethered, Part 1.](#)  
The Brick Theater, Brooklyn  
*A "supported solo" exploring how structural limitations can both be problematic and freeing. Curated by the Brick Theater*
- 2016**                    [Tethered \(In Progress\)](#)  
Brooklyn Studios for Dance, Brooklyn  
The Woods Cooperative, Brooklyn  
*Improvised duet. Curated by Coco Carroll and Kay Ottinger for the collaborative event "Let Light In" at Brooklyn Studios for Dance.*
- 2016**                    [Hover](#)  
Actors Fund Theatre, Brooklyn  
Lalita Devi, Spain  
Arts on Site, NYC  
*Improvised solo. Curated by Brooklyn Ballet/Remi Harris for their "First Look" series at Actors Fund Theatre. Also performed at EXIN in Sierra de Gata, Spain.*
- 2016**                    [Pendulum](#)  
LAVA, Brooklyn  
Big Sky Works, Brooklyn  
*Contemporary circus solo on aerial silks*
- 2016**                    [Run, Trust, Echo](#)  
Triskelion Arts, Brooklyn  
*Improvised duet in three parts created in collaboration with Hannah Wendel. Commissioned by the Never Before Never Again Festival*
- 2015**                    [Sketches](#)  
Center For Performance Research, Brooklyn  
*Producer, creative collaborator and performer in this evening-length improvised work under the direction of Elia Mrak. Created in a unique three-week intensive residency process we call Teach.Train.Perform, combining publicly offered classes with rehearsals, research and performance. <http://www.cprnyc.org/events/sketches/>*
- 2014**                    [Centering](#)  
AppNexus Headquarters, NYC and video  
*A site-specific installation atop a cafe table at AppNexus (tech startup office). The surprise installation challenged the performer and the audience to question the lines we draw between spaces for work and art.*
- 2012-2015**            [The Dance Postcard Project](#)    (dance on camera)  
Virtual (Vimeo)  
Dome of Visions, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*Series of site-specific improvised dance videos using movement to capture a personal impression of a new (s)p(l)ace for a future audience. Showcased on vimeo. "Look Up" was screened in Copenhagen, Denmark at Dome of Visions in May 2015.*
- 2012**                    **Dance Citizenship Laboratory,**  
**The Diana Center at Barnard College, New York City**

An evening-length experiment in rendering visible the complicated process of international artistic collaboration over the course of a 3 week intensive laboratory . Brought in collaborators Cristina Baquerizo (Ecuador) and Martita Abril (Mexico).

**2010**

**Yo tambien tengo porque protestar**

**Humanizarte, Quito, Ecuador**

A short solo originally created as a collaboration with spoken-word poet, Candace Tabbs in NYC. Reset in Quito with an Ecuadorian actor reading the words of protest poet, Jaime Galarza.

## DANCE PERFORMANCE

Performance Reel: <https://vimeo.com/85629194>

**2013- 2017**

**Company Performer, Andre Zachery/Renegade Performance Group**

6-person dance and performance company founded by Andre Zachery. Founding collaborator of The Inscription Project (2014) an evening length work that has been performed at the Irondale Theater, and NYC Summerstage. Other work includes Hidden Tracks (2015), Neon Cross (2015) Aerodrome (2016) performed at Judson Church and Danspace Project.

**2016**

**In Persistence of Memory**

*Kinesis Project, Melissa Riker*

John Jay College Rooftop, New York City

**Bringing the Arctic Home**

*Jody Sperling/Time Lapse Dance*

**2015**

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C.

**2014**

JCC Manhattan

**2014**

**Elia Mrak & Friends**

*Elia Mrak*

Chez Bushwick, Brooklyn

**2013**

**Wood and Silk**

*Jody Sperling/Time Lapse Dance*

Danspace Project, New York City

University of Massachusettes, Amherst

**2013**

**The Window Sex Project**

*Sydney L Mosley Dances*

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Penn State University, State College, PA

Red Carpet Theater, Harlem, NY

**2013**

**The Pretender (Music Video)**

Directed by Corydon Wagner, Music by Rags and Ribbons

**2012**

**Wind-Up Circus**

*Emily Faulkner/Wind Up Dances*

Barishnikov Arts Center, NYC

2012

**Synthetic Action**

*Isabel Lewis*

Danspace Project, NYC

**Turbulence**

*Jody Sperling/Time Lapse Dance*

2012

Spring of Culture Festival, Manama, Bahrain

2011

Barishnikov Arts Center, NYC

2010

**La Linea**

*Stephanie Sherman*

Humanizarte, Quito, Ecuador

2009

**Champions League Cricket Opening Ceremony**

*Jody Sperling/Time Lapse Dance*

Bangalore, India

2009

**Cuerpos con Piel de Rosas**

*Terry Arraujo*

Frente de Danza Independente, Quito, Ecuador

Performances during B.A. at Barnard College:

2010

**Bill Young's Strung, Miller Theatre**

2010

**Laura Dean's Skylight (Reconstructed by Rodger Belman), Miller Theatre**

2009

**Brian Brook's Relay, Dance Theater Workshop**

2009

**Camille Brown's Tempest Tapestries, Miller Theater**

2009

**Donlin Foreman's Standing, Miller Theater & the Tenri Center**

2008

**Bill T Jones' Mercy 10x8 on a Circle, Alvin Ailey Theater**

2008

**Keith Thompson's A Splintering of Idea, Dance Theater Workshop**

2008

**Amanda Loulaki's "Your's,", Dance Theater Workshop**

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

### INTENSIVE STUDY & RESEARCH PROJECTS

2015 Deltebre Dance Festival: David Zambrano,

2014 David Zambrano: Flying Low & Improvisation at International Dance Dialogues, NYC

Elia Mrak, Viko Kaizen, Martin Piliponsky- The Samurai Project (NYC- Seattle - Mexico)

2013 David Zambrano: Passing Through, Brussels

SEAD Move Mentors, Austria

2012 David Zambrano: Flying Low at Movement Research NYC

Hofesh Schechter: NYC Intensive

David Dorfman Dance Winter Intensive

2011 Bates Dance Festival (merit scholarship)

### MOVEMENT TRAINING

Ongoing: Floor Friends NYC (founder of contemporary acrobatic floorwork classes in NYC)

2015-present: QiGong with Daria Fain

2015-present: Aerial Silks & Harness, The Muse Brooklyn

2011- 2015: Aerial Silks with Laura Witwer

2010: Compañía Nacional de Danza del Ecuador: invited company guest

2009-2010: Independent classes in Quito, Ecuador

2006-2010: Barnard College Dance Department

2006-2005: BalletMet Post-Grad Program

#### OTHER MOVEMENT PRACTICES

Qi-Gong, Aerial Silks and Harness (Wall Running), Lindy Hop (Swing) & Blues Dance, Latin Social Dances

## BIOGRAPHY

Sarah Chien is a dancer, improviser and world traveler. She spent the last 4 years as a performer with Andre Zachery/Renegade Performance Group and now creates her own improvised works with various collaborators. She has also been a company member of Sydnie L. Mosley Dances (founding collaborator of The Window Sex Project), and toured internationally with Jody Sperling/Time Lapse Dance. Among her influential training experiences she counts living in Ecuador, studying at Barnard College, working with Elia Mrak, practicing qigong with Daria Fain and participating in Deltebre Dansa.

Her solo and collaborative work has been shown at Brooklyn Studios for Dance, Center for Performance Research, Triskelion Arts, Arts on Site, The Brick, Eden's Expressway and Chez Bushwick. Recent solos include *Tethered, Part 1* (2017) and *Hover* (2016).

In 2016, she was the only American invited to study Flying Low and Passing Through intensively with David Zambrano at EXIN Spain. This September, she will travel to Sicily, joining a group of 40 international dancers who will work with Zambrano to research his large group improvisational score, Passing Through.

In 2013 she founded Floor Friends, an organization through which she curates and produces classes, workshops and occasional performances. She has taught contemporary floorwork and improvisation classes at Chez Bushwick, Mark Morris, Gibney Dance, Brooklyn Studios for Dance and Princeton University.

Other movement influences include contemporary circus (silks and harness), blues and swing dancing, latin social dances, and NYC's global bass dance party scene.

When not dancing, she works as a User Experience Researcher, applying ethnographic research techniques to software development.

## TEACHING AREAS

Flying Low and Passing Through (David Zambrano)

Solo and Group Improvisation

Contemporary Floorwork

Modern Dance

Ballet