

# Sean Feit Oakes, PhD

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## Curriculum Vitae

2017

### EDUCATION

- 2016 PhD, Performance Studies, UC Davis, with a Designated Emphasis in Practice as Research  
Dissertation: *This Very Body is the Bodhi Tree: The Performance of Contemplative States in the Western Jhāna Revival & Contemporary Movement Theater*
- 1993 BFA, Music Composition, California Institute of the Arts

### PUBLICATIONS

- 2016 “Commit, Amplify, Inquire: Dark Work & Remix as Contemplative Rehearsal Practices,” *Dancing with Dharma*, ed. Blum (McFarland)
- 2016 “Her Heart Moves Mountains by Beating: Form & Formlessness in Contemplative Theater,” *Sentient Performativities of Embodiment: Thinking Alongside the Human*, ed. Hunter, et al. (Lexington)
- 2016 “Yoga,” *Encyclopedia of Asian American Religions and Spiritual Cultures (ABC-CLIO)*
- 1999 “Highnoon: A Public Space Performance Project,” *Contact Quarterly* 24, no. 2

### ARTS & CONTEMPLATIVE TRAINING

- 1991- Training and performing as a musician, dancer, and performance artist, Bay Area & Europe  
[See Grants, Residencies, Teaching, and Performance, below]
- 1999- Training in Theravāda Buddhism & Insight Meditation,  
Spirit Rock Meditation Center, Woodacre, CA & Chammyay Yeiktha Meditation Center, Burma  
2+ years of silent retreat; monastic ordination, Burma (2002); teaching authorization (2010)
- 1993-99 Training in Rinzai Zen with Joshu Sasaki, Roshi, Mt. Baldy and other Zen Centers  
1 year total in residence, including 2 3-month training periods & 9 *sesshin* (intensive retreats)

[Personal experience in movement-based performance art and intensive meditation practice is the basis of my fieldwork in both Buddhist and arts communities, and I engage in research from the position of the scholar-practitioner embedded in, and responsible to, my communities.]

### AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2008 Isadora Duncan Dance Award: Best Music/Text (for *Circo Zero, Sol Niger*)
- 1995 John James Blackmore Prize in Composition, Cornell University

### GRANTS

### *Academic Grants*

2014 Dissertation Writing Year Fellowship, Bilinski Educational Foundation, UC Davis  
2010-12 Graduate Study Research grant, UC Davis (winter 2012, winter & spring 2011, fall 2010)

### *Arts Grants*

2003 Meet the Composer Fund & Zellerbach Family Fund  
2002 Meet the Composer Fund  
1999 SF Hotel Tax Fund/CA\$H Grant & Zellerbach Family Fund

### ARTIST RESIDENCIES

2008 Mama Calizo's Voice Factory, San Francisco (with Seth Eisen/Eye Zen)  
2007 Les Subsistences, Lyon (with Keith Hennessy/Circo Zero)  
Centre Choréographique Nationale, Belfort (with Keith Hennessy/Circo Zero)  
2005 Counterpulse, San Francisco (as solo performer)  
1998 848 Community Space, San Francisco (as Rujeko Performance Collaboration)

### CONFERENCES

#### *Papers Presented*

2013 "The Listening Subject: Phenomenology, Meaning, and Subjectivity in Music Listening,"  
Performance Studies International, Stanford, CA (June 27-30, 2013)

### CAMPUS TALKS

2013 "Inner & Outer Object, Inner & Outer Gaze: Paradoxes of Buddhist Performance,"  
Performance Studies Symposium, UC Davis  
2011 "You are the music: Improvisation, practice, research,"  
Interdisciplinary Graduate and Professional Student Symposium, UC Davis  
2010 "Never... decide: Improvisation, practice, silence,"  
Methods and Materials in Performance Research Symposium, UC Davis

### TEACHING (ACADEMIC)

#### *UC Davis, Lecturer*

Diversity and Global Cultures: Race and Religion in/as Theater (spring 2017)

#### *UC Davis, Associate Instructor (sole teacher)*

Asian Theatre and Drama: Contexts and Forms (winter 2016, spring 2014, spring 2013, winter 2012)

Introduction to Dramatic Art (fall 2012, fall 2011)

*UC Davis, teaching assistant*

Introduction to Music Theory [sole teacher of sections] (winter 2011)

Introduction to Film Studies (spring 2016, winter 2014)

Introduction to Documentary Studies (fall 2015)

Introduction to Technocultural Studies (fall 2013, fall 2010)

Introduction to Dramatic Art (spring 2012, spring 2011)

Religions of South Asia [Reader] (winter 2011)

#### TEACHING (ARTS & BUDDHIST COMMUNITIES)

*Contact Improvisation & postmodern dance*

1997-04 as part of Rujeko Performance Collaboration, mostly at 848 Community Space, SF

Rehearsed and taught at many dance studios in SF now closed (Brady St, Footloose, Cell Space)

Curated performance at Studio Valencia, SF

*Buddhism & Yoga (philosophy, history, practice)*

2002- East Bay Meditation Center, Oakland; Spirit Rock Meditation Center, Woodacre

Piedmont Yoga Studio, Oakland; Yoga Tree & Yoga Garden, San Francisco

*Trauma Counseling*

2016- Faculty for Organic Intelligence® (Human Empowerment and Resilience Training)

#### SERVICE

2013- Inward Bound Mindfulness Education (teen retreat teaching assistant)

2013-15 Somatic Experiencing® professional training assistant

#### LANGUAGES

French (Reading, basic)

Sanskrit (Reading, basic)

#### SKILLS

Contact Improvisation and postmodern dance technique

Authentic Movement (lineage of Janet Adler)

Piano (classical and improvisation)

Music theory & composition, including counterpoint and choral ensembles

Meditation, mindfulness, and philosophy (Theravāda, Zen, and Tibetan)  
Yoga, including classical Haṭha (*prāṇāyāma, bandha, mudrā*) and modern Vinyāsa  
Yoga Alliance certification: Experienced Registered Yoga Teacher (E-RYT 500), 2013  
Trauma Counseling:  
Somatic Experiencing Practitioner (SEP) certification, 2010  
Organic Intelligence Faculty, including Expert (OIX) and Mentor certification, 2015

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2013- Body Politic Think Tank, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco  
2012- Yoga Alliance

#### PERFORMANCE (selected)

##### *Solo Performance*

2014 *Luminous is This Mind*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco  
2005 *When the Heart's an Empty Room*, Counterpulse, San Francisco  
1995 *Lear*, Center for Theater Arts, Cornell University, Ithaca

##### *Director, Ensemble Theater*

2012 *The Midnight Club*, UC Davis [PhD “Practice As Research” (PAR) project]  
2003 *When Light Falls*, 848 Community Space, San Francisco  
2002 *High Noon*, Rujeko Performance Collaboration  
1999 *As Flowers in the Gloaming Sky*, Rujeko Performance Collaboration  
1998 *StoneSandTea*, Rujeko Performance Collaboration  
1997 *Breaking Light*, Rujeko Performance Collaboration

##### *Music Director/Composer-Performer*

2011 *The Book*, Avy K Productions  
2010 *Traces of Grace*, Anne Bluethenthal & Dancers, with Eric Glick iReman  
2008 *Blackbird*, dir. Seth Eisen  
2008 *Scrap Soup*, Avy K Productions, with Albert Mathias  
2007 *Sol Niger*, Circo Zero, dir. Keith Hennessy  
2004 *.grab.land.hold.fly.*, with Frieda Kipar & Melecio Estrella  
*Sutro Baths*, BodyCartography  
2003 *Chapel of the Chimes*, BodyCartography  
2002 *On the Rebound*, Scott Wells & Dancers  
*Nine Days on Dark Water*, Angus Balbernie