



INTERNATIONAL
CONSORTIUM FOR
ADVANCEMENT IN
CHOREOGRAPHY, INC

ATLAS
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



ICONS CHOREOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE AT THE ATLAS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

THEATER SEASON & ACADEMIC COHORT 2022-23

Be among the special ones to earn an
ICON SMARTSM DIPLOMA CERTIFICATION IN CHOREOGRAPHY
applicable across dance genres

CULTIVATE CHOREOGRAPHIC SKILLS AND UNIQUE ARTISTIC IDENTITY

A POST-GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EMERGING CHOREOGRAPHERS

A modern curriculum designed by Vladimir Angelov, Founding Director, Dance ICONS, Inc.

This twice-a-week residency program for busy professionals takes place on evenings/weekends
9 months: full winter and spring semesters: 54 lectures in 28 weeks

September 7, 2022 – May 10, 2023

Sessions meet on Wednesdays 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM & Sundays 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
(Except Thanksgiving week, December holidays, and Easter Week)

THE COMPLETE PROGRAM PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Lectures, in-studio assignments, mentoring, and work-in-progress feedback sessions
- A safe and supportive environment fostering artistic experiments in the format of a creative laboratory
- Develop and premiere a new 12 to 25-minute group work in a fully-produced concert at ATLAS' LANG THEATER – May 2023
- Dedicated costume and lighting designer for the Thesis Concert dance piece
- 4-5 hours per week free rehearsal space at ATLAS, starting in February 2023, during weekdays, and weekend mornings and evenings
- Winter casting/audition session with local and affiliated DC Metro Area dancers
- Free 2-year membership in Dance ICONS, Inc. – a \$150 value, featuring access to global choreographic resources and opportunities
- Priority for free Choreographic Conferences with prominent guest speakers. Past conferences have included Rennie Harris, Debbie Allen, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Kyle Abraham, Liz Lerman, Mats Ek, etc., prominent guest lecturers and scholars.
- Official ICON SMARTSM DIPLOMA CERTIFICATION acknowledging the completion of the program
- Digital filming and photography of the performances of the new works with a copy available on Dropbox
- Discount on tickets at performances at the ATLAS.
- Free signature ICONS T-Shirt and, closing season receptions, and celebration dinner- May 2023

REQUIREMENTS:

- Age 21 and up by September 7, 2023
- Formal dance training in school/college and performance experience in any dance style or genre
- Artistic drive and passion to choreograph!

TOTAL TUITION FOR NINE MONTHS: \$4,500

Includes all lectures, training sessions, workshops, rehearsal space rental, and fully producing new work for the Thesis Concert

An initial deposit of \$650 will reserve your place in the program. An additional \$650 will be due by the start of classes on September 7, 2022, and the remaining payments will be due in **8 monthly installments** of \$400.

All tuition payments will be conveniently made through online invoices sent by email from the Dance Loft.

To express interest and get more information, please complete the Inquiry Form on the
ATLAS website, or write to vladangelov@gmail.com

REGISTER SOON – SPACE IS VERY LIMITED!

What does ICON SMARTSM mean?

ICON SMARTSM

INSTRUMENTS OF **C**HOREOGRAPHY, **ON**ORMS -

SYSTEMATIC **MA**RTISTIC **RRAININGSM**

STRUCTURAL CONTENT OF THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The craft of choreography is as old as human history. However, there are only a couple of ways dance making is currently taught: the “experiential” way – inheriting wisdom from master choreographers and then self-learning by trial and error – or the “intellectual” way – studying patterns and formulas simplified by academic researchers with good intentions but limited professional choreographic careers. Both learning processes might lack modernity and opportunities for choreographers to find their own artistic identity.

ICON SMARTSM APPROACH

The approach offers a pioneering, multidimensional, and cross-disciplinary approach that integrates **modern scientific processes**, such as brainstorming, problem-solving, innovative thinking, business, statistics, human development, psychology, neuroscience, and computer science. Choreographers educated through this method will be equipped to create new unique dances relevant to the 21st century.

ICON SMARTSM TRAINING

Educes a choreographer on how to:

- Understand the historical development of choreography as a profession
- Learn the fundamentals of dance making and construction
- Foster creative habits and proficiency in dance composition
- Conduct artistic research and expand intellectual repertory about the craft of choreography and advancements in the field
- Cultivate a unique artistic identity and choreographic individuality

ICON SMARTSM DEVELOPMENT OF CHOREOGRAPHIC SKILLS

A practical and affordable choice for emerging artists who wish to immerse themselves in the processes and practice of choreography. It combines:

- Structured in-class academic lectures with PowerPoint presentations
- Practical training via choreographic assignments and in-studio creative laboratory
- Mentorship, evaluation, and constructive feedback by guest professionals and cohort peers
- Discussions and meetings with master choreographers across genres to engage in diverse perspectives and examine the choreographic process
- Tools and practices to conduct artistic research in preparation for the creative process
- Cultivating skills and the experience to produce an original artistic dance work in a shared and safe environment
- Creative time with dancers to experiment, invent, edit, and finalize ideas to make artistic work of the best possible quality

ICON SMARTSM PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA CERTIFICATION IN CHOREOGRAPHY

The certification process confirms that the choreographer has completed the fundamentals of study and practice required for choreographing professionally, and it enables a choreographer to: a) implement the fundamentals of creative practices, b) exercise professional competency in choreography, and c) educate others and advocate for standards of excellence in the choreographic field.

ICON SMARTSM CURRICULUM

The Curriculum unfolds over **nine months** and contains **fall and spring semesters** of **14 weeks, each** with weekly lectures – a total of **58 engaging lectures**. Every few weeks, different “units” are presented, and each lecture is followed by homework – choreographic assignments of increasing complexity.

The professor presents the midweek lecture using PowerPoint presentations and accompanying handouts. The lessons conclude with a choreographic assignment. The weekend lecture consists of movement practices for the choreographic assignments/showings with constructive feedback and discussion with the professor and cohort choreographers/peers.

BELOW ARE SAMPLES OF THE CURRICULUM, POWERPOINT, HANDOUTS, AND THE CERTIFICATION DOCUMENT

ICON SMARTSM

INSTRUMENTS OF CHOREOGRAPHY, OBJECTIVE, AND NORMS – SYSTEMATIC METHOD FOR ARTISTIC RESEARCH AND TRAINING

CURRICULUM

Curriculum of One Academic Year in Choreography and Dance Composition – 1st and 2nd Semesters



- Lectures



- Practical assignments, shared exercises and showings

Semester 1 : "Learning About the Craft" - number of weeks and bi-weekly lectures & exercises													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Introduction(s)	Ancient - Art	Baroque - Culture	Modern - Revolution	Choreo-Physiology	Creative Approach	Concept & Content							

Stone Age - Ritual

Medieval - Folklore

Industrial - Expression

Conceptual - iDance

Choreo-Phycology

Art of Brainstorming

Identity & Individuality

History of Choreography Unit

Body, Mind & Process Unit

Innovative Thinking Unit

Semester 2: "Learning the Craft" - number of weeks and bi-weekly lectures & exercises													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Move-Structures	Phrase Making	Comp-Tool-Box	History of Music	Working w Music	Costuming/ Props	Demos & Feedback							

Time/Space/Force

Improvisation

Concept of Unity

Sound, Noise, Text

Title/Notes

Light/Stage

Final Project

Rough Dance Material Unit

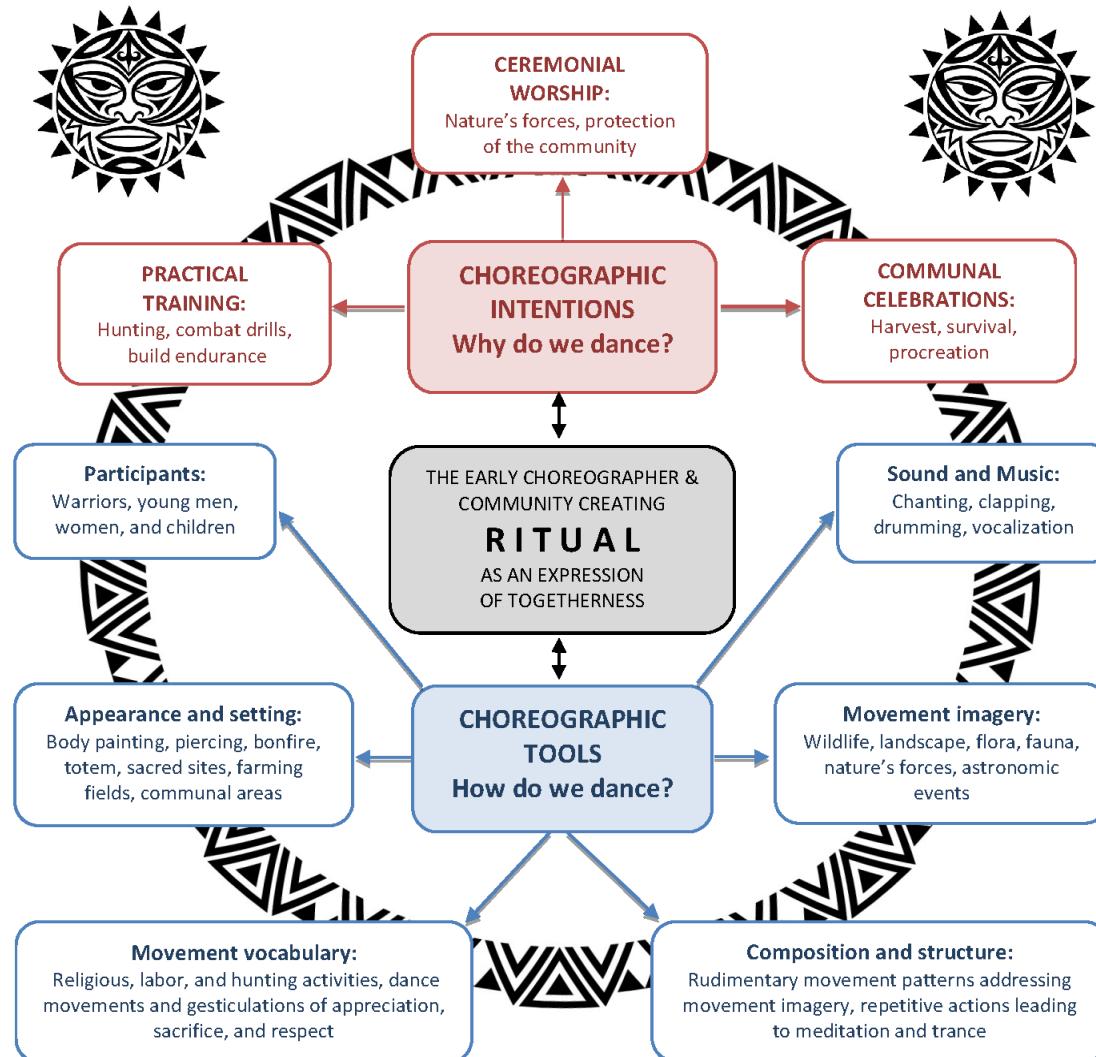
Dance Construction Unit

Dance Soundtrack Unit

Dance Production Design Unit

LECTURE SAMPLE

SEMESTER 1, LECTURE 2: How to Choreograph a Ritual?



ASSIGNMENT SAMPLES



SEMESTER 1, LECTURE 2: How to Choreograph a Ritual?

- Research Assignment:** A. Use online, library, and video resources to do a choreographic study of an early ritual. This ceremony could originate and still be in practice worldwide by indigenous African tribes, Tibetans, Papua New Guineans, or other early cultures.
- B. Research and describe in writing the themes of the ritual, the motivation behind it, and the movement images driving the action. Then, analyze and explain how and why the specific movement vocabulary expresses the meaning and purpose of the ritual.
- C. What were the strongest movement images you have discovered? Present a short movement demonstration summarizing the ritual.
- Creative Exercise:** A. Choreograph a short dance ritual presentation. Imagine being placed in the prehistoric age, where you are in charge of choreographing a ritual. Choose one of the ritual themes listed under "Choreographic Intentions" from the graph above. Pick one of the choreographic intentions and **envision and outline dance action** to support your choice.
- B. Refer to the "Choreographic Tools" from the graph above. **Create movement vocabulary expressing the content of your ritual** and generate a short dance sequence. Continue developing the dance patterns through the space and conceive a beginning, middle, and end..
- C. In the "Choreographing Tools," you will also find various **production aspects**. What are the objectives of the participating dancers, and what kind of musical accompaniment would suit your dance ritual? Consider using supportive elements such as: stage configuration, the natural surrounding or environment, the audience arrangement or participation, the use of props and tools, costumes, masks, and the body/skin/face appearance.
- Comparative Challenge:** A. Create a **ritual based on your own current daily life** and composed of casual gestures. The target content might include: morning wake-up, making breakfast, doing homework, taping social media, getting ready for an outing, and favorite activity with a friend.
- B. Explore creatively how you can turn your daily contemporary repetitive movements and gestures into a ritual expression of survival, training, worship, and celebration.
- C. Compare and analyze your contemporary dance ritual with an authentic prehistoric one. What are the differences and the similarities?

LECTURE SAMPLE

SEMESTER 1, LECTURE 9: The Body as the Work of Art KINESIOLOGY + CHOREOGRAPHY = DANCING PHYSICS



LECTURE SAMPLE

SEMESTER 2, LECTURE 6: The Concept of Unity!



THE ART OF DANCE COMPOSITION & CHOREOGRAPHY

CONTENT: WHAT TO DANCE ABOUT?

FORM: BUILDING COMPONENTS AND STRUCTURES

Pose + Shape + Posture = MOVEMENT

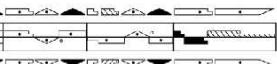
.... Movement + Movement + Movement = PHRASE

.... Phrase + Phrase + Phrase = SECTION

Section + Section + Section = DANCE PIECE

WORKING WITH THE MUSIC

Selection → Experimentation → Visual Approach



PROCESS: CREATIVE PRACTICE

Improvisation

Construction

Composition

PRODUCTION

Costumes

Lighting Design

PERFORMANCE FORMATS & SIZE

Solo(s) & Duet(s)

Quartets & Group Work

Multiple Dances & Movement Scenes

Large Dance Work

CHOREOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE AT THE DANCE LOFT - CIDL

SAMPLE OF

ICON SMART FORMAL CERTIFICATION DOCUMENT

ICON SMART™ USA
INSTRUMENTS OF CHOREOGRAPHY
AS OBJECTIVE NORMS
SYSTEMATIC METHOD FOR
ARTISTIC RESEARCH
AND TRAINING™

DIPLOMA CERTIFICATION

No. 2017NF0520737
MAY 20, 2017, WASHINGTON, DC

CONFIRMING THAT THE CHOREOGRAPHER BELOW

NANCY FLORES TIRADO

HAS COMPLETED AN INTENSIVE STUDY PROGRAM OF ONE ACADEMIC YEAR, WHICH INCLUDES ALL REQUIRED READING, RESEARCH, ASSIGNMENTS AND FINAL THESIS PROJECT, AND HAS GAINED BASIC KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND INTELLECTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE CRAFT OF CHOREOGRAPHY, AND THEREFORE IS AWARDED THIS DIPLOMA CERTIFICATION IN THE ICON SMART™ USA METHOD.



ICON SMART™ is the officially recognized choreographic learning method of Dance ICONS, Inc., a nonprofit 501-(c)-3, which is an equal opportunity educational organization and professional associations

Vladimir Angelov, Founder and Director, ICON SMART Chorographic Institute

Dance ICONS, Inc. information at www.danceicons.org and contact at: info@danceicons.org