

Appendix

A. Interview Agreement

This document confirms my understanding and agreement with Dr. Elizabeth Waterhouse (“Interviewer”) with respect to my participation in a series of interviews conducted for the SNSF Project “Auto_Bio_Graphy as Performance” at the University of Bern:

With these interviews, Dr. Elizabeth Waterhouse would like to create and collect recorded interviews (video and audio recordings) as source material to better document and research dancers’ lives.

I hereby confirm my willingness to participate in such an interview and agree that the interview will be recorded and processed by the person responsible. Dr. Elizabeth Waterhouse will create a raw version to be archived for further evaluation and use. I have the right to see this raw version and, if there are any discrepancies, to withdraw or adapt parts of the interview or the entire interview. Any revocation of the interview or individual statements must be made within twenty-one days of the raw version of the interview being sent to me for review and examination.

I consent to give the Swiss Archive of the Performing Arts (SAPA) the right to make the interview documents (video and/or sound recordings, film stills, and interview transcript) with my name available to users of the archive.

I also agree that the interview documents (video and/or sound recordings, film stills, and interview transcript) may be broadcast, published privately or published publicly for further purposes of ongoing research and for disseminating the content and methodological findings.

Additional Usage

I consent that the interview documents (video and/or sound recordings, film stills, and interview transcript) including my name, be made available online to SAPA users through the online catalog and archive website.

☐ Yes

☐ No

I consent to give SAPA the right to use the interview documents (video and/or sound recordings, film stills, and interview transcript) with my name available for use in its own projects.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Full Legal Name of Interviewee:

Location and Date, Signature

B. Biographical Data

Personal Data

First name:

Last name:

Artist name (if different):

Date of birth:

Place of birth:

Gender:

Nationality:

Race:

City, country of current residence:

Religion:

Occupation:

Education level/institution:

Family History

Mother's name:

Nationality:

Profession:

Education:

Father's name:

Nationality:

Profession:

Education:

Siblings:

Language(s) spoken at home:

Notes on home context/artistic influences:

Describes their family class as:

Marriages:

Children:

Immigration History

Please list the cities that you have lived in with dates to the best of your memory.

C. Life Story Interview Questions for Dancers

Beginning to Dance

- When you consider your biography, what initial events or experiences led you to the arts and dance?
- What are your most vivid childhood memories of dancing?
- How did your family members react to your dancing? Was anyone in your family also an artist?

Education

- What are your most vivid memories of learning to dance?
- What dance styles did you explore? Do you remember the rooms or contexts where you practiced?
- How did your body change during your dance education? Can you remember the feeling of dancing as a child or young adult?
- Were there any events, positive or negative, that stand out as seminal in your development as a young dancer?
- How much did dance lessons cost at that time?
- Which teachers had a seminal influence on you and why? Can you show me some movements you remember learning?
- Do you remember any specific artists or performances having a particular impact on you as a young adult?
- If you could change your dance education or do it over, what would you have wished for?
- How are dance teachers today different than the teachers you had? Or how are dance students today different from how you were?
- How did you adapt when your family moved from [city] to [city]? Were your dance lessons different in these places?

Professional Experience

- When and why did you choose dance as your profession?
- Where did you work initially?
- How did your body, or your sense of others' bodies, change while working in that context/company, or with that choreographer?
- Were there any specific training practices that had a strong impact on you? Can you show me or dance together with me, as you remember it?
- Did any performances that you witnessed as an audience member dazzle or disturb you?
- How did you arrange your finances?
- How did you train and care for your body during that time?
- Were there any difficult moments or turning points in your dance career that you would be willing to discuss?
- Did you feel like you belonged, when you worked in [that context] as a dancer?
- Can you please show me, or explain to me, some examples of the dances you remember?

Choreography

- When was your first impulse or invitation to choreograph?
- Where have you produced and presented your choreographic work, and when?
- How would you describe your choreographic process?
- What qualities were important to you in choosing your performers?
- How did you work with your dancers?
- How did you approach the other aspects of the production, such as music, costumes, and lighting?
- What do you wish for the audience when you present a work?
- How have critics responded to your work?
- How has your work as a choreographer been remunerated financially?
- Did you experience any failures or challenges that you would be willing to discuss openly?
- Could you describe one key piece in your evolution as a choreographer?
- How do you define the art of choreography?
- How are dance performances today different from the ones that you choreographed?

Dance Teaching

- When and why did you decide to become a dance teacher?
- In which contexts have you taught?
- Can you show me some of your exercises, or demonstrate aspects of movement that are important to you?
- What is your teaching philosophy and approach? How do you structure your lessons?
- What aspects of your dance heritage do you strive to pass on when you teach? What bodily principles or competences are important to foster in young dancers?
- How are your students' bodies different, both from one another and from how your body was when you were a younger dancer?
- How has your work as a dance teacher been remunerated financially?
- What challenges have you faced as a teacher?

Documentation

- How have you approached archiving your work—as a dancer, choreographer, and dance teacher?
- Are there any photographs, videos, or teaching notes that you would like to share within our discussions?

Health

- Were you ever injured or seriously ill during your dance career?
- How did you heal or get well again?
- Do you remember the feeling of your body during the injury or illness, and the changes you experienced thereafter?
- Did you receive workers' compensation? Were you part of a union?
- How did these challenges impact your work and career?

Embodiment

- What bodily capacities are most important for dancers to develop, as children and then as young adults?
- How would you describe your body—to another dancer, as well as to a nondancer?
- What senses or skills have you developed as a dancer? What came easily to you, and what was more difficult?
- Are there any bodily experiences or events outside of your dance career that you would be willing to discuss that shaped your understanding of your body or strongly influenced your dancing?
- Do you consider the body primarily a physical or a biological phenomenon?
- Has bodily knowledge or have practices outside of dance (such as studying anatomy, sports, or somatic practices) influenced your understanding of your body?
- Are there other people whose bodies have strongly influenced you?
- Can you describe the feeling of dancing to someone who has never danced before?
- If you could change your body, what would you wish for?

Identity

- In what ways has your dance career influenced your relationship with your body and your sense of who you are? How do you think you would have been different if you had pursued another profession?
- Have you experienced or witnessed authoritarian practices, harassment, or discrimination within the dance profession? Would you be willing to discuss the impact of these events on your life stories on record, or by anonymously describing persons or institutions?
- Do you see changes in how dancers are able to gain access to career opportunities today compared to when you were a younger dance artist?

- Were any aspects of the body and sexuality taboo during your dance education?
How are these different today?

Family

- How have you balanced family or caregiving responsibilities alongside your career?

Aging

- Is dance a profession for the young, or for all ages?
- What has been your philosophy of aging as a dance artist?
- How has your dancing body changed with age?
- How is the dance field different today compared to when you were active?

Life Review

- What are the major turning points in your life and career as a dance artist?
- If you could relive aspects of your life, either for pleasure or to change something, what would they be?
- Do you have any regrets you would like to discuss?
- Would you like to clarify any of the stories that we have discussed?